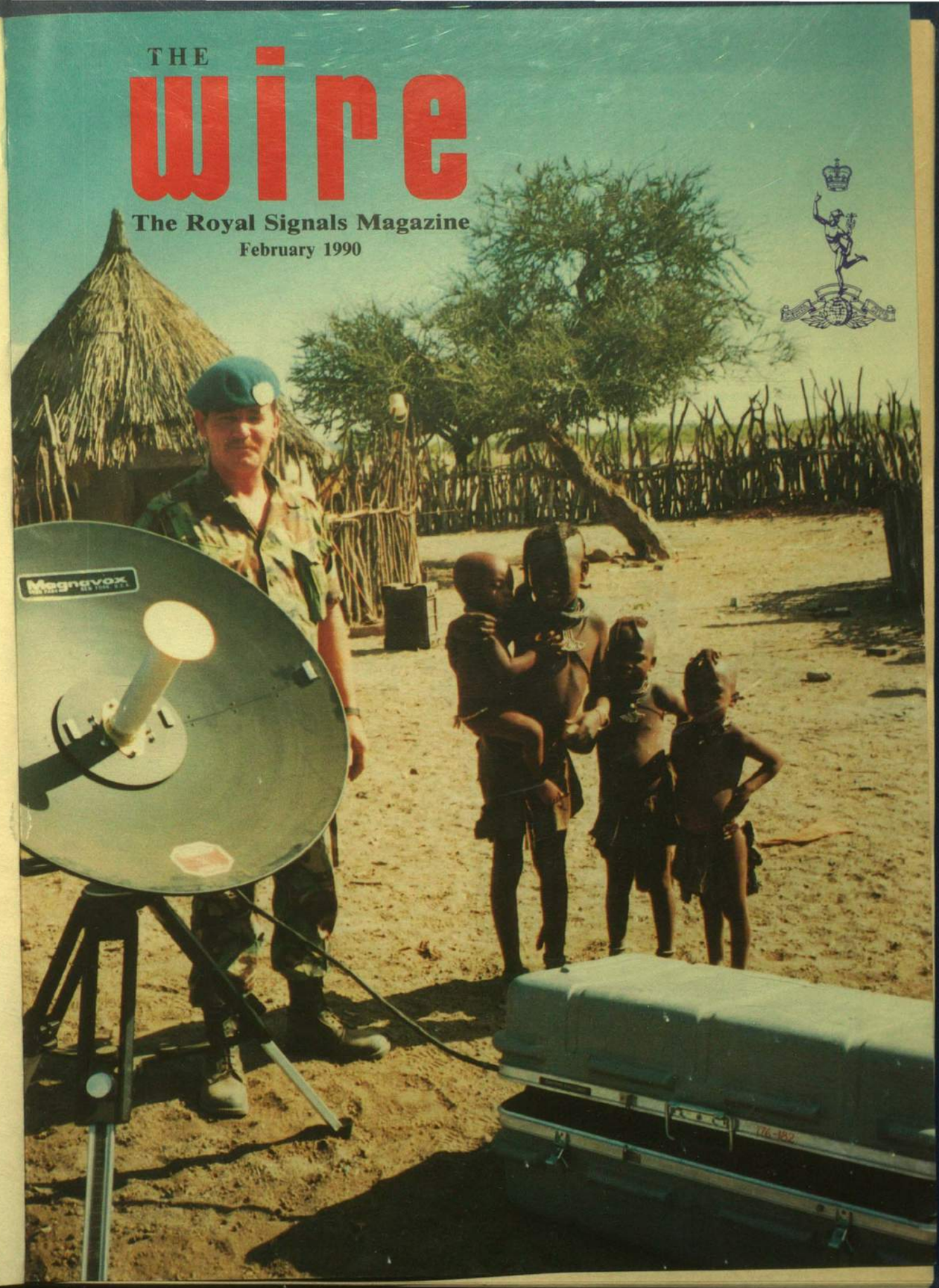
THE

# wire

**The Royal Signals Magazine**

**February 1990**





# How do you feel about leaving the Army?

As you're well aware, serving in the Forces isn't just a job. It's a way of life. So, it's no surprise, that after leaving, many people feel as though they're high and dry, like a fish out of water.

But there's no need for you to feel this way. It's perfectly possible for you to keep up with old friends, make use of the unique skills you've acquired, *and* make a vital contribution to the nation's defence into the bargain.

How? Simply by becoming a member of the Volunteer Forces, which make up a third of our Army and represent a significant part of our commitment to NATO.

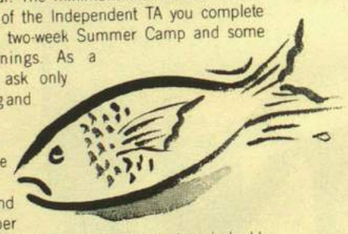
There are three options open to you.

Firstly, you can join one of the Territorial Army Independent Units based in the TAVRA region in which you have decided to settle. An ideal route for those leaving Infantry or Cavalry regiments.

Secondly, if you are leaving a Corps, you could retain your capbadge and become a member of either an Independent Unit or a TA Specialist Unit. In either, you can maintain and extend the special skills that you have learned.

Thirdly, you could join the HSF, which fulfils a vital role in our home defence, and in particular is suitable for people with limited spare time.

You can contribute as much time as you want in any one year. The minimum that we ask is that as a member of the Independent TA you complete 6 weekends, a two-week Summer Camp and some weekday evenings. As a Specialist we ask only 15 days training and two weekends.



And, as a member of the HSF, 6 to 10 days training and one evening per month. In return you will receive payment equivalent to the rates paid to Regular Army soldiers plus an annual tax-free bonus.

If you would like more information about how you can stay in the swim of things, write to the address below, giving details of which option you are interested in, your current age and address, your intended county of residence, and of the regiment you have left or are leaving.

The Territorial Army, Freepost, 4335 (Ref: 9000), Bristol BS1 3YX.


The Royal Signals Magazine

*February 1990 Vol. 44 No: 1*

# The Wire

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**Editor Lt Col K. E. P. Andrews MBE**
**Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs**
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## NEW YEAR HONOURS

We warmly congratulate those who received awards in the New Year Honours List.

**OBE**
**Lt Col G. N. Donaldson**

**MBE**

**Maj W. J. L. Fiskel**
**Maj N. C. Jackson**
**Capt P. A. Owens WRAC Royal Signals**
**Lt P. J. Doherty**
**Lt N. C. Mapp**
**WO1 R. C. Hunt (V)**

**BEM**

**SSgt G. H. Fraser (V)**
**SSgt J. Hodgson (V)**
**SSgt (YofS) C. K. Luckham**
**Sgt C. L. Johnson**
**Sgt R. B. Reid**
**Sgt To Yuen Sun QGS**
**Cpl M. F. Smith**

## PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST MASTER OF SIGNALS AWARD TO HERR RICHARD BECKERS RETIRING BURGERMEISTER OF TONISVORST

**Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal GCVO** presented the Master of Signals Award to **Herr Richard Beckers** the retiring Burgermeister of Tonisvorst during a visit to 28 Signal Regiment.

The presentation of the Masters Award took place at a short ceremony in the Officers' Mess.

**Herr Beckers** has been involved with the Regiment for 25 years. In 1976, as Burgermeister, he was instrumental in the Freedom of Stadt Tonisvorst being granted to 28 Signal Regiment. Throughout this time he has sustained a keen interest in the every day life and the well being of people in the Regiment. He has ensured that the Regiment has had the opportunity to integrate into the local community in a harmonious way. It was for such sustained, outstanding service that the Corps Committee made this inaugural award to **Herr Beckers**.



HRH The Princess Royal presenting Herr Richard Beckers with the Master of Signals Award

### CONGRATULATIONS

We offer warm congratulations to **Major (Retd) P. H. Bolton MBE** on his appointment to be a Military Knight of Windsor.

# THE VISIT OF THE COLONEL IN CHIEF, HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ROYAL GCVO TO 13TH AND 28TH SIGNAL REGIMENTS



Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal arrives at RAF Wildenrath en route to 28 Sig Regt. The picture shows HRH receiving a posy from five year old Christine Patrickson daughter of SSgt and Mrs Patrickson of 4 Sqn, 21 Sig Regt



Members of Papa Troop 28 Sig Regt being presented to HRH
*(Left to right):* Sig Devlin, Forsyth, LCpl Bond, Sig Smith, LCpl Turner, Sig Anderson, Inglis and Cpl Giles



HRH, signing the visitor's book in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess 28 Sig Regt. Also in the picture WO1 (RSM) Bob O'Hara and WO2 (SSM) Bill Woodmason

**Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal GCVO** honoured 13 Sig Regt with a day long visit on 15 November 1989. After much preparation and activity supervised by **Major G. R. Elliot MBE** the day was suddenly upon us.

**The Princess Royal** was welcomed on arrival at the Rathaus by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant Colonel A. M. Wallace** the Regimental Sergeant Major, **Warrant Officer Class I M. Dobson** and the **Burgermeister, Herr Stieve. Her Royal Highness** was invited to sign the Golden Book and was presented with a gift by **Herr Stieve** to mark the occasion.

On arrival in the Regiment **Her Royal Highness** was briefed by **Major W. Nelson** before visiting 1 Squadron and 2 Squadron. **Her Royal Highness** was so absorbed that this part of the visit was extended by 50 minutes!

Next came a visit to the gymnasium to see the Detachment Commanders Course being put through its paces. There followed a brisk walk to the Satellite Ground Terminal but on the way **Her Royal Highness** stopped to greet a group of flag waving children who had gathered on the roadside. In reply to a question 'do you like school?' one small girl replied boldly 'Well, I suppose it is all right'. Her Headmaster was standing immediately behind her!

At the Satellite Ground Terminal **Her Royal Highness** was met by Commander 4 Signal Group, **Colonel P. E. A. Chaddock** and escorted into the building to receive a short briefing from **Mr Ben Morgan** prior to unveiling a plaque to mark the official opening of the terminal.

There then followed a short break from the military side of life with a visit to the Hive. Here, **Her Royal Highness** was met and escorted by **Mrs Sue Thain** and **Mrs Wendy Sipson.**

The next stop was the Mercury Hall where **The Princess Royal** presented the Meritorious Service Medal to **Warrant Officer Class II J. Chudleigh** in recognition of over 30 years' service. **Her Royal Highness** then met some of the soldiers and their families stationed with the Regiment. At the conclusion of this part of the visit **Her Royal Highness** received a bouquet which was presented by seven year old **Andrew Coghlan,** the son of **Staff Sergeant Coghlan,** whose birthday was on 13 November.

**The Princess Royal** then proceeded to the Officers' mess to meet the officers and their ladies, before taking lunch prepared by **Mr Mike Crilley** and his staff.

15 November 1989 was a very happy and memorable occasion and will be long remembered in the Regiment.



WO2 Chudleigh 13 Sig Regt after receiving the Meritorious Service Medal



HRH enjoying the company of families of 13 Sig Regt at the Mercury Hall
*(Left to right):* Mrs Clancy, LCpl Tuplin and Mrs Tuplin and Sgt Roberts

# CORPS CAROL SERVICE DECEMBER 1989

The resounding success of the Carol Service held at the Corps' Church of St Stephen with St John, Westminster, on Tuesday 19 December 1989, has established it as an annual Corps Family gathering.

A Choir was formed especially for the occasion from members of the Corps, both Regular and Territorial, serving and retired, their families and friends. Thirty-three choristers from Blandford, Catterick, Bristol and surrounding areas, having learned their music beforehand, gathered at 1600 hrs on the day for a final rehearsal under the direction of **Maj John Chambers,** the Organist and Master of the Choristers. Whilst the congregation assembled the Organist played 'Nöel X' by Louis-Claude Daquin. The Service started with the first verse of Once in Royal David's City beautifully sung by **Vicky Lavies**. Other well known carols were interspersed with the Choir items 'Poverty' by Caradog Roberts, a Polish carol 'Hear the Glad Tidings', Peter Cornelius's 'The Three Kings' with a delightful, haunting solo from **Col Bill Backhouse**, and 'The Shepherds' Farewell' from 'L'Enfance du Christ' by Hector Berlioz. The story of Christmas was told in traditional biblical readings by **Sgt Peter Gribble** of 71 Sig Regt (V), **Capt Max Knobel** 238 Sig Sqn, **Maj Tony Russ** 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, **Lt Col Mike Sharp** 39 Sig Regt (V), the SOinC and the Master. It was worth the journey to the Church simply to hear the address by the **Rev Richard Chartres**, who so adeptly linked Christmas with the Polish carol and unrest in Eastern Europe and the responsibility of the Military. The service ended with a full-bodied rendering of 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' and the playing of 'The Christmas Pastorale' by Arcangelo Corelli.

We all repaired to Napier Hall for sherry and mince pies, and the chance to meet up with old friends, exclaiming how much we had all enjoyed listening to the Choir and joining in the carols, and saying that there had better be a Carol Service in 1990!

COVER PICTURES

The front cover picture shows **Sgt Steve Welding** working 'high tech' Inmarsat communication equipment in Namibia with some of the Ovamhimba tribe (said to be one of the five most primitive tribes in the world) in the background. See page 84.

THOSE MAGNIFICENT MEN ON THEIR ANCIENT MACHINES

The back cover picture, taken by the son of one of the riders, shows ten members of the 1937 Royal Tournament Royal Signals Motorcycle Display Team, provided that year by the 56th City of London Signals (Territorial Army), who rode again 50 years later, as part of the White Helmets act in the 1987 Royal Tournament.

Here, with **Roy Castle** *(top left)* as a guest performer sitting on 70 year old **Jim Law**'s shoulders, the 'boys' show that with an average age of 73½, they are still young enough to take part in the White Helmets' performance for the 1989 Royal Signals Reunion at Catterick. The 'lads' featured on Record Breakers on BBC 1 on Friday 8 December, as the Oldest Motor Cycle Display Team. The programme also included some footage of their pre-war exploits and of their 1987 performance at Earls Court.

In November they featured on BBC 2 in 'In the Highest Tradition' and they have just been invited to take part with **David Jacobs** in 'Prime Time'. Their achievement as the 'Most Durable Motor Cycle Team' is recorded with a picture in the 1990 Edition of the Guinness Book of Records.

Of the ten in the picture, six were awarded the Africa Star fighting with Montgomery's 8th Army, four of those got the Italy Star as well, another two got the Burma Star, the ninth the France and Germany Star and the tenth somehow found his way into the RAF, became a very successful bomber pilot, eventually commanding his own Squadron and being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Two of the gang had to escape from Dunkirk before they could fight again. In addition to their Campaign Stars, they all hold the 1939-45 Star, Defence Medal, Victory Medal and the TA Efficiency Medal.

They continue to serve as magnificent ambassadors for their Corps and for their generation. See page 6.

# NOTES FROM THE OFFICE OF THE REGIMENTAL COLONEL

**Colonel Michael Jennings** has retired from the appointment of Regimental Colonel after four years sterling work. He was only the second incumbent in the post and under his energetic guidance the influence of the Regimental Colonel has flourished. In organisational terms, largely due to **Michael**'s untiring efforts, the Corps is now in reasonable recruiting shape to face the 1990s. His was a confident departure, vacating the desk on Friday 1 December and on Saturday stepping on an aircraft bound for five weeks in Australia. We wish him a healthy retirement and renewed success when he takes up his post as RO1 in the Directorate of Army Recruiting in February 1990.

In his place we welcome **Colonel Roger Thompson**, recently Commander 4 Signal Group. Noted for his quiet charm and sensitive diplomatic skills, he will need both in full measure as we face, in recruiting terms, the black vortex. One idea which was quick to gain endorsement was the resurrection of the Royal Signals Officers Rugby team—the PRONTOS. The idea is to raise a team to play UOTC XV at weekends, spreading a carnival spirit through academia as we go. There is no playing age limit, we are an equal opportunities team, women may apply and members of the Territorial Army would be most welcome.

**SOLDIER RECRUITING UPDATE**

The increased priority given to many of our trades by DAR has resulted in an improvement in the Adult and Young Soldier figures for the first two intakes of the second half of the recruiting year. The target for the period 1 October 1989 to 31 March 1990 is 500 spread over five intakes. The total achieved for the October 1989 and January 1990 intakes was 192 out of 200, and the overall total is likely to be in the region of 350-370, which is a 77% success rate as opposed to 50% in the first half of the year. The juniors and apprentice figures for January 1990 are less good and may reflect the greater interest in GCSE and hence the lack of December school leavers. The likely final figures are:-

| | Tgt | Achieved |
|---|---|---|
| Junior Signalmen | 74 | 25 |
| Apprentices | 35 | 17 |
| Junior Leaders | 46 | 34 |

**SPECIAL RECRUITERS**

Eleven of our 12 Special Recruiters are now in post, the last **Sgt Fox** deploying to Chatham in April 1990. The complete list is:-

| | ACIO | In Post |
|---|---|---|
| **Sgt Newman** | Nottingham | June 1989 |
| **Sgt Mackey** | Darlington | December 1988 |
| **Sgt Swan** | York | June 1989 |
| **Sgt Styles** | Glasgow | August 1989 |
| **Sgt Redstone** | Exeter | June 1988 |
| **Sgt Fox** | Chatham | April 1990 |
| **Sgt Hodge** | Portsmouth | June 1989 |
| **Sgt Oatley** | Warrington | August 1988 |
| **Sgt Postings** | Manchester | July 1989 |
| **Sgt Twells** | Cardiff | May 1988 |
| **Sgt McIntyre** | Chelmsford | November 1988 |
| **Sgt Paterson** | Hull | November 1989 |

Although six of them have only been in post six months or less, there are already positive signs of benefit from several offices. It is always dangerous to quote statistics as opportunities and circumstances vary from office to office, and district to district, but **Sgt McIntyre** (who has been in Chelmsford for the past year) has been instrumental in raising the number of Royal Signal recruits from that office from five in 1987, one in 1988, to a very creditable eighteen in 1989. Of our El recruiters, **Sgt Mayne** in the small two recruiter office at Burnley has achieved a marvellous total of fifty-five Royal Signal recruits in the last two years.


## THE VITAL LINK

### The Story of Royal Signals 1945-1985 by Philip Warner

*(340 pages illustrated—pictures and maps)*

This important book is a must for all associated with Royal Signals.

The Vital Link examines the variety of tasks carried out world-wide by the Corps and traces the complex developments in techniques, technology and signal tactics since the Second World War. It records the growth of the Corps through the achievements, both personal and professional, of the high quality men and women of the Regular and Territorial Army, who serve in Royal Signals. It is prsented in an attractive and enjoyable way as a story rather than a historical record.

Order now by writing to: Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Blandford, Dorset DT11 8RH enclosing a cheque for £18.50, which includes postage, payable to Royal Signals Corps Funds.




**– From our "In" Tray –**

# THE ROYAL SIGNALS DISPLAY TEAMS







The 1989 season for the Royal Signals White Helmets began in reality in November 1988, when volunteers for the new team attended selection. The Selection Course lasts 16 consecutive days and consists of a first week of riding on the moors on Can Ams followed by a week of intense 'show training' on the airfield at RAF Catterick. In the first week those who have never ridden a motor bike before are quickly taught to do so, after which as rider confidence develops, skill increases with it. In the second week, the volunteers train with the Teams' Triumph Tiger 750 show bikes. By the last Saturday of the course, they are capable of putting on a 10 minute display which reflects the skill they have acquired in just two weeks. The successful applicants remain in Catterick. Along with the residue of the previous year's team they take a well earned Christmas leave and return fresh and rested at the beginning of January to start show training.

The months between January and May are the most 'non-glamorous' in the White Helmets' year. It's a five day week, an 0800 till 1700 working day like that of many others, the difference is that we spend our working day riding bikes. First we learn the rides, the tricks and the arena drills and then we practise them constantly. There is always the threat of accidents and perhaps injuries, especially in the early days and there are few members of the team who reach the end of April unscathed. However the key to success is based on guts, determination and persistence, the very qualities that we have checked are present in the new riders. Before too long the show routine is beginning to take shape and everybody knows what is expected of him.

These are nerve-racking days for the new riders. They do not wear White Helmets. They are forced to wear different (red) helmets (by coincidence they just happen to be identical to the display helmets worn by a lesser known rival team). They long for the day when they will be presented with their own White Helmets. There is a lot of hard work to be got through before that day arrives. By the end of April, the format for the show has been run through many times and nerves are building up in anticipation of the first public performance.

The big day, when it eventually dawns is a very special one for a lot of people. It is the occasion of the 'Commander's Opening Show' by all of the Royal Signals Display Teams. This takes place on the first Friday in May at Catterick in front of a large crowd consisting of the Teams' sponsors, relatives and friends of the new riders, children from local schools, families from Garrison Units and invariably BBC and ITV camera teams and the press are present. Quicksilver is already on parade and the Show starts with a marching display by the Corps Band, the Blue Helmets Parachute Team then drop in and finally it is the turn of the White Helmets. Halfway through their performance, comes the moment that the new riders have been waiting for when the Brigadier presents them with their prestigious White Helmets. I'll now hand over the story of the 1989 season to **LCpl Terry Bowers**, who passed selection in November 1988 and who was to receive his White Helmet at the 1989 Opening Show.



The fastest and the second fastest 'pyramids' in the world. (Guinness Book of Records, page 116) at the Thame Show with the Leyland DAF Pantechnicon

**by LCpl Terry Bowers**

The day of the Opening Show dawned clear and bright. It was to start at 1100 hrs, but there was much to do before then. We rode our bikes across to 11 Sig Regt and set up the arena well in advance. Many of the lads had relatives coming to watch us perform and see us receive our White Helmets, so there was quite a bit of nervousness as we got into our Blues and put the final touches to our uniforms. As we waited for the Corps Band to finish playing and the Blue Helmets to appear there were many butterflies. The Blue Helmets didn't help matters by having to use three reserve parachutes, but finally it was our turn. As we marched out onto the square and took our places by the bikes we could hear the OC beginning his commentary, but once the bikes started all our nerves vanished and we were soon being presented with our shiny new White Helmets. We had worked and trained for five months for this and it was a proud moment for me when **Brig Eastburn** presented me with my helmet. The rest of the show went without a hitch and soon over. The team photos were taken and that was that—I was a White Helmet!

There wasn't much time though to reflect on my new status. As 'first years' are expected to do many of the loading and unloading



The Royal Signals Freefall Parachute Display Team
The Blue Helmets

Capt Malcolm Coupar introduces his Team to Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal GCVO at a Save The Children Monster Gala *(Left to right):* Cpl Steve Hicks, Capt George Devine, LCpl Dave Chapman and Sgt Mick Honeyman

jobs, our first job was to clear up the square and load all the bikes on to the truck before the celebrations began. Such is life!

The Opening Show over, the season began in earnest. After a quick weekend trip to Blandford for the Royal Signals Reunion there, we were off abroad. We performed at RAF Wildenrath for 21 Sig Regt and then moved to the Belgian City of Mons for the International Festival of Military Music.

There were military bands there from Belgium, France, Holland, Italy, Germany and United States and for the first time, the Russians sent a band. We were representing the United Kingdom as there was no British Army band there at all. On the Sunday we performed at the Mons football stadium and our bikes were a huge attraction to the Russian bandsmen who all wanted to be photographed with us and our bikes. The Russians presented us with badges and medals in return for White Helmets plastic bags and 10 year old brochures! Of all the bands the Russians were by far the most popular and got the crowd cheering wherever they went. Our next performance was in the town square in Mons which was a very tight and difficult arena. The atmosphere was excellent and the Belgians were very friendly, with people hanging out of windows and cheering. The Team was sad to leave Mons the next day.

From the glamour of Mons, we returned to the UK for shows in Stafford, Banbury, Leeds, Northumberland and Ripon. By now we were working well as a team and the miles were passing quickly. June saw the team on the Continent again, this time with the Blue Helmets for the Queen's Birthday Celebrations at SHAPE, a show at Krefeld and then the annual Rhine Army Summer Show. This is definitely one of the Teams' favourite shows. By now the summer had really arrived and it was very hot and dusty. **Capt Lewis** found out exactly how hot it was when he burnt himself on the fire jump. Never mind boss, you looked just like Freddy from Nightmare on Elm Street!

Once the Rhine Army Show was over we headed back to the dubious delights of a KAPE tour in the Perth area. The highlight of the trip was the weather, or lack of it. It rained Scottish cats and dogs and to cap it all we had our coach broken into and the TV and Video stolen!

The start of July saw the team at the Old Comrades Reunion in Catterick where the 'Old Boys', our alternative team of 74 plus year olds, went through their paces for Roy Castle's Record Breakers'. They are now the oldest Motorcycle Display Team still performing! At the Kent County Show the team were lucky enough to meet **Barry Sheene** and to have him take the salute. He rode out of the arena on the back of **Sgt Gary Elliston's** bike. **Barry** told the local BBC TV interviewer that we were 'right nutters', that was surely praise indeed! The end of the month saw the Team back in Scotland, this time based in Aberdeen. This enjoyable trip gave us a chance to ride down the main street in Aberdeen each morning. Our police motorcycle escort was 'shattered' to look in his mirror and find **LCpl 'Tonka' Richardson** doing stand-up 'wheelies', but the locals loved it! The next day saw the OC being interviewed without coffee by the local Superintendent, but he was released soon afterwards.

Next on the agenda was a performance at Gatcombe Park where we were honoured when the salute was taken by **HRH The Princess Royal GCVO.** From there we moved on to the next large show at Stoneleigh, the venue for the Town and Country Festival. Here **Cpl Andy Whitmore** and **LCpl Don Brebner** set a new team record by jumping three cars and sixteen bikes, a mammoth jump, especially when you consider that we use a hand-held ramp.

By now we had reached September and the Royal Marines Eastney Tattoo. In 1988 the Team had two nasty crashes because of difficulties with the floodlighting. This year we were one of the first acts in the arena and able to take advantage of the remaining daylight. There were some nervous faces prior to the show, but once the Team had seen that it was possible to work with the floodlights then the shows went very smoothly.

By the middle of October we were rapidly reaching the end of my first season. Our last show was to be at the NEC for the Birmingham International Tattoo. This was an indoor arena with the crowd very close to the arena edge. The older Team members told us that the atmosphere was a lot like the Royal Tournament, although the surface was painted concrete instead of packed earth. The two shows went well, although the noise of the bikes almost drowned the sound system and the fumes from the bikes were quite thick after 20 minutes!

When we returned to Catterick there were 30 volunteers ready to begin selection and the year was over, I'm no longer a first year rider. I won't have to unload the truck anymore or build the fire jump. Next year I'll be in more of the fast rides and in fewer tricks. And of course, I've got a month's Christmas leave to look forward to first! Life in the Team can be hard work, we've travelled about 35,000 miles this Summer Show season, given over 100 performances at over 60 venues. I've seen a lot, a lot of people have seen me, but there hasn't been much rest. It's hard to remember detail from the beginning of the season as it all seems so long ago.

Would I swap? No way! Come along and try it for yourself. You never know, you might actually enjoy it!



Barry Sheene, with borrowed hat takes the Salute at the Kent Show. On the right is Sgt Garry Elliston



White Helmets—Red Army
Mons International Festival of Military Music
Creating a Little Glasnost

*(Left to right):* (White Helmets): LCpl Gary Hall, Sig Billy Johnson, Lee Sharp, Taff Evans, LCpl Tonka Richardson, LCpl Terry Bowers and LCpl Mick Raddie



# 32 (SCOTTISH) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS) PIPES AND DRUM BAND

We were piqued to read in a recent edition of *The Wire* that a certain TA Regiment has the only Royal Signals TA Band. What, we ask, do we have north of the border?

The Regiment is proud to have its own Pipes and Drum Band which is partially funded by the Officers of the Regiment. The Band is proud to possess seven pipe banners, four of which are Royal, presented to it or its antecedents, to commemorate various important occasions. These banners are carried by the pipes on parade or other ceremonial occasions.

**51st (Highland) Signal Regiment TA Banner**
This Royal banner was presented by Princess Mary, The Princess Royal, on the occasion of the Empire Exhibition at Bellahouston Park, Glasgow in June 1938.

**52nd (Lowland) Signal Regiment TA Banner**
This Royal banner was presented by The Princess Royal at Bellahouston Park, Glasgow in June 1938.

**61st (City of Edinburgh) Signal Squadron TA Banner**
This Royal banner was presented by The Princess Royal at Scarborough on 11 June 1964.

**City of Glasgow Banner**
This banner was presented to 52nd Sig Regt by the Lord Provost in 1959 to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the formation of its antecedent the Lanarkshire Engineer Volunteers.

**The Gurkha Signals Banner**
This banner was presented by Gurkha Signals in 1979 in recognition of their affiliation to 32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V). A similar banner was presented by the Regiment to Gurkha Signals.

**The City of Aberdeen Banner**
This banner was presented to 32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V) by the Lord Provost of Aberdeen at the Town and County Hall, Aberdeen on 15 January 1983.

**The Royal Pipe Banner**
The Royal Pipe Banner was presented to 32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V) by the then **Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne GCVO** at Cultybraggan on 27 April 1985.

It is with considerble pride that we can report that our band completed a tour of BAOR in 1988 and has always been available for duties throughout the United Kingdom. The photographs show past and present members of the band in our Regimental tartan The Red Grant.

Many members of the Corps will have seen our Pipes and Drum Band Beating Retreat, and playing at Dinner Nights and other social events. All will, we know, speak of the style and presence that it brings to these occasions.



Pipe Major Ian Mortimer with the Royal Pipe Banner





The Pipes and Drums on their tour of the American Zone, West Germany

# ROYAL SIGNALS GAMES CLUB SUMMER SEASON 1989

## ATHLETICS

The Corps again enjoyed an excellent season on both track and field. Although the Army Team Championship was lost to 50 Msl Regt RA a measure of the depth of Corps talent is that teams from 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt, 21 Sig Regt and 22 Sig Regt appeared in the Major Units finals and Comms and Sy Gp (UKLF) in the Minor Units finals.

Individual performances were such that the Corps had eight Army standard and four Combined Service standard athletes. Furthermore, **Cpl Callender** (2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt) represented GB regularly as a member of the 4 × 100m relay team. He gained a silver medal in the European Cup Championships in Gateshead. **SSgt Killen** (21 Sig Regt) continued to represent Northern Ireland in decathlon, 110m hurdles and pole vault.

## CANOEING

16 Sig Regt led by **SSgt (FofS) Dobson** continued its success and was narrowly beaten into second place at the Army Slalom Championships in June by 19 Field Regt RA. The team includes some keen young paddlers and looks promising for the future. AA Coll Harrogate won the Army Junior Slalom event and finished third at the Senior competition. A team from the School of Signals finished third at the Army Sprint and Marathon Championships.

**Capt Jackson** continues his run of achievement, winning the Inter-Service Marathon in K2 with **Rct Partner** despite the handicap of being appointed British Olympic Team Manager. This and other canoeing commitments has forced him to hand over the position of Corps Secretary to **Capt Bunce**.

Individual Slalom has been dominated this season by **Capt Bunce** who in September 1989 became the first Army paddler to win the Inter-Service K1 event for 15 years. He goes on to captain the Combined Services team at the Llangollen International Slalom. The Corps has six paddlers in the Army Slalom team including **Sig Clayton** fresh from AA Coll Harrogate.

Results this season were:-

**Army Junior Slalom Championships Llandyssul**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Unit Team | Winners | AA Coll Harrogate |

**Army Slalom Championships Llangollen**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Open K1 | Winner | **Capt Bunce** |
| Open K1 | 3rd | **Cpl Dobson** |
| Open Unit Team | 2nd | 16 Sig Regt |
| Open Unit Team | 3rd | AA Coll Harrogate |

**Army Sprint and Marathon Championships Monmouth**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K2 1,000m Sen A | Winners | **Capt Jackson/Dvr Pritchard** |
| K2 Marathon Sen A | Winners | **Capt Jackson/Dvr Pritchard** |
| K2 500m Sen B | Winners | **Capt Bunce/LCpl Lloyd** |
| K2 Marathon Sen B | Winners | **Capt Bunce/LCpl Lloyd** |
| WWR Marathon | 2nd | **Capt Wood** |
| SL Marathon | Winner | **Lt Davies** |
| Ladies SL 250/500M | 2nd | **2Lt Wadsworth** |
| Ladies SL Marathon | 2nd | **2Lt Wadsworth** |
| Unit Team | 3rd | School of Signals |

**Inter Service Marathon Championships Newark**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K2 | Winners | **Capt Jackson/Dvr Pritchard** |

**Inter Service Slalom Championships Nottingham**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K1 | Winner | **Capt Bunce** |
| C2 | Winners | **Sig Bonniface/Capt Hepworth** |
| K1 Team | Winners | **Capt Bunce/Cpl Dobson/ Lt Atkinson RA** |

## CRICKET

See full report on page 124.

## GOLF

For the first time in many years we had sufficient golfers with competitive handicaps to enter two teams in the Army Championships; The Royal Irish Rangers Bowl. Though not succeeding in the main competition, the teams, a mixture of youth and experience, met in the semi-finals of the plate with the A team of **Maj Brewin, Maj Yates, WO2 Carveth** and **Cpl Boyd** getting the better of the B team and eventually losing by one hole in the final. The real achievement was that **Maj Brewin** and **WO2 Carveth** reached the Army individual quarter finals and **Sigs Gowe** and **McCrane** the last 16.

The AOGS meeting at Gullane and North Luffness saw even more success. **Maj Meekings** won the Grenadier Guards Challenge Cup and **Lt Col Waumsley** the Veterans Cup and if this was not enough the A and B teams both reached the finals of the Ordnance Cup and Egypt Cup respectively. The A team was beaten by the RCT and the B team the RE. To date we have lost but one to the RE. We halved with the RAF and have beaten RAPC, RN, RCT, RMAS, RA, REME, RAOC and Ironsides with only one more match to play against the Medical services.

Summary of results for the season: Played 10 Won 8 Lost 1 Drew 1.

## GLIDING

Another very low key year for Corps glider pilots, with few new recruits. Although this summer was markedly better than 1988, we are still suffering from its effects with glider pilot recruiting being generally low throughout the UK for Army, RAF and civilian clubs.

Although few in number, Corps pilots are flying in the UK, BAOR, Cyprus and France. **WO2 Baker**, based in Northern Ireland, flies with a RAF gliding club at RAF Syerton.

The Corps is prominent in introducing motor gliding to Army Units through the Army Gliding Association (AGA). An AGA motor glider is currently being discussed for the Malcolm Award Scheme. If this bid is successful, many more Corps potential pilots can be reached. The Corps also provided a motor glider instructor to assist the RAF in running a JSATC Cyprus motor gliding course.

**Maj Harkins** represented the Army in the Inter Service Gliding Championship with **LCpl Pritchett** and **Sig Arnopp** as crew. A best day position of second was achieved with a final overall position of sixth after an extremely hard and closely contested competition with some tasks in excess of 300km. He was also top Army pilot in that class.

## LAWN TENNIS

In the Army Lawn Tennis League we finished a disappointing 10th, however with many of the regular players in Namibia this is perhaps not surprising. As in previous seasons many matches were lost by having only a scratch third pair.

The synopsis is again better for next season with **Capt W. Miles** now in the UK and about to become Secretary and another group of players from Harrogate the Corps has the potential to do well.

Both the Corps Junior and Corps Tennis Championships produced a very high standard of tennis, the best perhaps in a number of years. A number of new players were again noted. In the Army Championships the Corps was doing very well in the doubles until **Capt Mason** had to withdraw with an injury, **Cpl Coleman** was the runner-up in the under 21 final. In the Army Junior Championships a pair (**ATCpl Hope** and **AT Whiftford**) from Harrogate won the doubles.

Results for the season were: Played 13 Won 1 Drew 0 Lost 12.

## SHOOTING

1989 has been a good year in terms of results for Corps shooting, despite the fact that we have lost the services of stalwarts in Target Rifle such as **WO2 (YofS) Brian Haywood** to Oman. Likewise known shots such as **Lt Col R. J. Evans** were unavailable due to overseas tours. Corps SAM saw a record number of competitors (13) with QG Signals holding off 7 Sig Regt to win the Major Unit Championship and Comms and Sy Gp (UK) narrowly winning the Minor Units from 259 Sig Sqn.

RASAM saw a good number of Corps teams (six major and six minor) entered and again QG Signals performed well winning every match in the Series B championship. **SSgt Krishna Gurung** is to be congratulated on his outstanding individual performance where he was Champion-at-Arms, winning The Old Contemptibles Cup, second in the Army 100 losing the Queen's Medal by one hit and first in Match 4, the Association Cup. **Capt Iain Standen** was seventh in the Pistol XXX, **Maj Colin French** was second in the Sniper Rifle Match and 259 Sig Sqn won the Pistol Tiles.

The Nationals saw some success in the Service Weapon events which were regrettably dogged by abandonment due to splash back in the butts which led to several of the butt party being injured. **Sgt Navindrabikram** is to be warmly congratulated on winning The Standing, The Rapids Aggregate and taking fourth place overall in the Rifle Championship. **Sgt Navindra** won some £40, eight Medals and Bars throughout the meeting. The Corps team won the SMG Team Match and four NRA Silver Medals. **Capt Jim Body** from the School won the McQueen Cup in the Sniper Match.

A weaker team than in the past represented the Corps in the National Target Rifle Meeting but produced some very creditable results. **Sgt Murrell** from the School and **Cpl Taff Alden** of 16 Sig Regt won places in the Regular Army Short Range Team while **Capt Jim Body** made the Long Range Team. **Cpl 'Taff' Alden** won the Tate Cup and NRA Silver Medal by one point from **Capt Jim Body** with an aggregate score of 543 in the Royal Signals Championship.



This year's results add weight to the impression that overall individual scores are improving! This is mainly due to increased Senior Officer interest, individual application and dedication from team managers who at last have realised that success in top level competition requires thorough preparation, physical fitness and a will to Win.

The summary of the seasons results is:-

**Regular Army Skill-at-Arms Meeting, Bisley**. The Corps was represented by six Major Units and six Minor Units. Notable results were:-

**Series B (Non Infantry) Major Unit Championship**

Winners—QG Sigs. They won every match in the series B Championship.

**SSgt Krishna Gurung**. Champion-at-Arms, Winner of The Old Contemptibles Cup, Winner of Association Cup and runner-up in the Army Rifle Championship.

**Pistol XXX Match**. Seventh individual—**Capt Standen**,259 Sig Sqn.

**Sniper Range Match**. Second individual—**Maj French**, 259 Sig Sqn.

**Pistol Tiles**. Winners—259 Sig Sqn.

**Woolwich Bowl**. (Triangular match between RA, RE and R Signals) — Winners, R Signals.

**National Rifle Association Meeting**. A Corps team was entered. Notable results were:-

**SMG Team Match**. Winners—R Signals.

**Sniper Match** ('McQueen Trophy'). Winner—**Capt Body**, School of Signals.

**Sgt Navindra Navindrabikram**. Fourth overall in the Rifle Championship and outright winner of 'The Standing' and 'The Rapids Aggregate' rifle matches.

**Target Rifle**

Notable achievements were:-

**Sgt Murrell** (School of Signals) and **Cpl Alden** (16 Sig Regt) selected for the Army Short Range Team.

**Capt Body** selected for the Army Long Range Team.

**Tate Cup**. (R Signals target rifle championship) won by **Cpl Alden**. Runner-up **Capt Body**.

## TA

37 Sig Regt (V) achieved the following in the TA Championships at the South West District SAM in May:-

Major Unit Championship winners.
Champion Team winners (53 Sig Sqn (V)).
Fire Team winners (57 Sig Sqn (V)).
Team rifle, LMG and falling plate winners (53 Sig Sqn (V)).
Pistol Match winner—**Capt Newton** (57 Sig Sqn (V)).

## PARACHUTING

This year has been the Corps Team's most successful Display season to date with 61 parachute displays being performed and only nine being cancelled because of bad weather. These figures highlight the demand for parachute displays at public events and the success of the Blue Helmets as an active recruiting team over the last two years (7 displays in 1987, 35 in 1988 and 61 in 1989).

Sports Parachuting within the Corps is becoming an increasingly popular adventurous training activity. The move of the Royal Signals Blue Helmets to Catterick has proved a huge success in the promotion of the sport in the Corps. The availability of parachute courses locally has enhanced the opportunity for soldiers off duty in Catterick. Over 100 students have started training at the Merlin Parachute Club at Topcliffe and the JSPC Netheravon. The majority of these students were from 8 Sig Regt but several more were from other Units in Catterick Garrison.

## MOTORCYCLING

The Team has had a successful year both in terms of stimulating interest in the sport and numbers competing in Enduro events. The season still has some three months to run. New blood is coming through, two individuals posted into 8 Sig Regt next year have already registered interest after reading of the team's success in *The Wire*. The team currently holds four Maico motorcycles 2 × 250cc, 1 × 320cc, 1 × 500cc.

The majority of events undertaken by the team are civilian and the standard of competition extremely high. The team has featured quite often in the *T&MX News* which is the UK's largest selling motorcycle newspaper. R Signals team clothing is worn at all events and of course the bikes carry Corps stickers. **Cpl Mosley**, a member of the Royal Signals Display Team and cornerstone of the Enduro team, will be attending the International Bike Show at the NEC in Birmingham. **Cpl Mosley** will be present on the Dunlop trade stand with a Triumph and his Corps Enduro machine. This show is the largest motorcycle show in the UK and when staged last year, attracted over half a million visitors. This will be an excellent advertisement for the Corps and the Enduro team. No other Corps motorcycling team has achieved this kind of publicity.

16 Sig Regt hold one Maico 500 and three Huskqvarna motorcycles for BAOR use. Events would appear to be few and far between and support for the sport generally lower than UK, probably because of exercise commitments, etc.

At present **Cpl Mosley** is leading the Yorkshire Enduro Championship with two more events to ride. He won this series last year. He is also lying second in the North of England Championship with two rounds still to complete and seventh in the National Enduro Championship Clubman 500cc class with one event to ride.

A summary of results:-

| Events Entered | No of Riders | Awards Gold | Silver | Bronze |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15 | 28 | 13 | 4 | 6 |

## SWIMMING AND WATER POLO

In recent years the only Swimming and Water Polo fixture for the Corps has been the match against RAF Signals. This year this fixture was hosted by the RAF at Cranwell on 16 June 1989 and resulted in an overwhelming win for the Corps.

The best results were:-

| Swimming | Water Polo |
|---|---|
| R Signals 40 pts RAF 24 pts | R Signals 14 RAF 5 |

The Corps played in a Quadrangular Water Polo Tournament held at PMColl Arborfield on 16 November 1989. Other Corps participating were RE, REME and APTC.

## OTHER SUCCESSES

**Canoeing**. The individual results in the Army Canoe Surf Championships were:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Army Novice Canoe Surf Champion | — | **Cpl Watterson** |
| Army Junior Canoe Surf Champions | — | AA Coll Harrogate |
| Army Individual Canoe Surf Champion | — | **AT Springett** |
| Army Junior Canoe Surf Champion | — | **AT Springett** |

**Cricket**. The AA College Harrogate were the Army Junior Cricket Cup Champions.

**Cycling**. 7 Sig Regt won the BAOR 100km Cycling Championships and **Cpl Connelly** of 7 Sig Regt is the BFG Open Cycling Champion.

**Decathlon**. 21 Sig Regt won the Army Decathlon Championship. **SSgt Killen** and **LCpl Key** represented the Army in the Inter Services Competition.

**Swimming**. A combined team from 16 and 28 Sig Regt's won the Army (Womens' Services) Inter Unit Championships.

AA Coll Harrogate were the Army Junior Champions.

**Tug of War**. 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt were third in the 660kg competition at the Royal Tournament Championships. In the inaugral Inter-Corps Championships their results were:-

560kg—Champions
640kg—Runners-up
660kg-Champions

## SPORTS—ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to **SSgt (SQMS) Curran WRAC**, for winning the British Army Female AWRA .22in shooting.

**LCpl Nirmal Bhattachan**, 1 Sqn, won the Superplate in the Royal Signals open squash championship.

**SSgt (YofS) Williams**, TTS, and **LCpl Hinson**, 1 Sqn, won the North East District Badminton doubles championship.



SSgt Curran 8 Sig Regt receiving her medal as Top Shot AWRA, from Col M. Ridlington

# — Movements —

## Officers

JANUARY 1990

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| Lt Col J. H. Lowe | Project Team Malaysia |
| Maj D. R. Bannister | RMCS Shrivenham |
| Maj R. W. Batho | MOD (DSS (A)) |
| Maj M. Butler | HQ 1 (BR) Corps |
| Maj T. W. Canham | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Maj H. N. S. Colborn | HQ Int Centre |
| Maj A. T. Evans | MOD (DSS (A)) |
| Maj I. R. Fielder | RMCS Shrivenham |
| Maj P. K. Gorford | MOD (DI 24(A)) |
| Lt Col N. K. P. Hope | School of Signals |
| Maj B. M. Hudson | 13 Sig Regt |
| Maj T. G. Inshaw | 212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn |
| Maj B. M. M. Jackson | 32 Sig Regt |
| Maj A. H. Johnstone | 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Maj C. W. Lockwood | 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Maj I. W. Mackenzie | RMCS Shrivenham |
| Maj T. R. Manders | MOD (DSS (A)) |
| Maj D. McDowall | 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Lt Col M. S. Reid | NACISA |
| Maj T. P. Rimell | 30 Sig Regt |
| Maj D. J. Robertson | RMCS Shrivenham |
| Maj J. C. B. Simpson | DGGWL (A) (PE) (AE) |
| Maj V. T. Smedley | 30 Sig Regt |
| Maj J. W. Stabler | HQ 2 Sig Bde |
| Maj C. R. Treeby | HQ 2 Sig Bde |
| Maj S. J. Turpin | 14 Sig Regt |
| Maj A. J. Tuson | 14 Sig Regt |
| Maj P. G. Walker | RMCS Shrivenham |
| Maj R. T. Weston | QG Sig Regt |
| Maj R. N. Clapp | 14 Sig Regt |
| Maj N. Keen | HQ NW Dist |
| Maj J. K. Mckee | RMCS Shrivenham |
| Maj S. J. Richardson | RMCS Shrivenham |
| Maj P. R. Towers | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Maj R. C. Yeomans | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Lt P. J. Davies | 204 (4 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn |

## WOs and SNCOs

DECEMBER 1989

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| WO2 A. Dipple | Comms and Sy Gp (UK) |
| AWO2 D. A. M. Bennett | Aberdeen UOTC |
| AWO2 T.P. Hannon | 13 Sig Regt |
| AWO2 W. J. Ironside | 225 Sig Sqn |
| AWO2 J. Smith | 9 Sig Regt |
| SSgt I. A. L. Dales | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| SSgt M. R. Denny | 632 Sig Tp |
| SSgt K. J. Dunn | 9 Sig Regt |
| SSgt R. Gilbey | 8 Sig Regt |
| SSgt M. J. Scull | 7 Sig Regt |
| SSgt R. Taylor | 9 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt R. H. Ibbotson | 9 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt T. A. McCutcheon | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt C. Allen | Army School of Mech Transport |
| Sgt K. Boxall | 22 Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. Cherry | 238 Sig Sqn |
| SSgt P. Clarkson | ACIO Middlesbrough |
| Sgt N. B. Cole | 608 Sig Tp |
| Sgt S. Couzzins | 1 WFR |
| Sgt P. A. Edon | 13 Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. Gane | HQ Int Corps Depot and Centre |
| Sgt T. J. Gigg | School of Signals |
| Sgt L. T. Hardy | 32 Hy Regt |
| Sgt M. H. Leitch | 225 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt M. Nuttall | School of Signals |
| Sgt D. G. Richardson | QG Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. Q. Richmond | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt W. W. Roberts | MOD (DMA) |
| Sgt I. G. Savage | Comms and Sy Gp (UK) |
| Sgt S. A. Shaw | Comms and Sy Gp (UK) |
| Sgt P. Tasker | 251 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt E. W. Thomson | 225 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt S. Wilde | 259 Sig Sqn |
| ASgt N. J. Baughan | 210 Sig Sqn |
| ASgt J. T. Cauldwell | 11 Sig Regt |
| ASgt P. Fleming | 21 Sig Regt |
| ASgt C. R. Hobday | 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| ASgt S. G. Jackson | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| ASgt L. S. Jenkinson | 16 Sig Regt |
| ASgt V. R. Miller | 11 Sig Regt |
| ASgt V. W. Smith | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |

JANUARY 1990

| Rank and Name | Unit to which posted |
|---|---|
| WO1 A. M. Campbell | School of Signals |
| AWO1 G. Douglas | 11 Sig Regt |
| AWO1 (YofS) P. J. Wykes | HQ 2 Sig Bde |
| WO2 (YofS) S. J. Baldwin | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| WO2 C. A. Clark-Darby | 28 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (FofS) R. A. Downie | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| WO2 W. L. Gordon | 71 Sig Regt (V) |
| WO2 (YofS) J. P. M. Jarvis | 8 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (FofS) A. R. McCartney | 642 Sig Tp |
| WO2 (FofS) R. J. Walton | 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| AWO2 (YofS) J. R. Arkley | 602 Sig Tp |
| AWO2 M. G. Chapman | 11 Sig Regt |
| SSgt P. J. Addison | 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| SSgt R. I. Coleman | Comms and Sy Gp (UK) |
| SSgt P. Ratcliffe | 14 Sig Regt |
| SSgt R. C. Shortis | 37 Sig Regt (V) |
| SSgt T. Singleton | QG Sig Regt |
| SSgt G. M. Tilley | 8 Sig Regt |
| SSgt D. A. Witchell | School of Signals |
| ASSgt (FofS) D. S. Alexander | 259 Sig Sqn |
| ASSgt (FofS) L. G. Bowlby | 31 Sig Regt (V) |
| ASSgt (FofS) M. G. Davies | 22 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt (FofS) M. G. F. Dighton | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| ASSgt (FofS) R. D. Griffiths | 16 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt (FofS) J. S. Hiorns | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| ASSgt (FofS) S. C. Johnston | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| ASSgt (FofS) T. J. McNeice | 28 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt (FofS) S. A. Overton | 13 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt G. C. Pocock | 14 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt S. P. D. Rodriguez | 8 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt (FofS) N. K. Shikle | 7 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt R. J. Stanton | 30 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt (FofS) C. M. Tyson | 14 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt (FofS) S. Wardle | 9 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt J. K. Williams | 8 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt (FofS) R. C. Windows | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| ASSgt (FofS) A. G. A. Woolaston | 13 Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. Anwyll | 33 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt S. T. Bennett | QG Sig Regt |
| Sgt C. M. Cheesman | 608 Sig Tp |
| Sgt R. Counley | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. R. Davey | AA Coll Harrogate |
| Sgt A. J. Dixon | FSS Stenigot |
| Sgt K. Dyer | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt K. K. Enfield | 28 Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. Finch | AA Coll Harrogate |
| Sgt J. E. Finister | 36 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt D. H. Fraser | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt B. J. Geddis | FSS Mossy Hill |
| Sgt N. M. Gibson | 239 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt N. C. Goodwin | HQ Afcent (ASG/CRSG) |
| Sgt D. R. Harris | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt K. R. Hibbins | 30 Sig Regt |
| Sgt R. K. Hughes | QG Sig Regt |
| Sgt D. G. Hughes | Comms and Sy Gp (UK) |
| Sgt R. G. W. Jamieson | 38 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt I. K. Johnson | 30 Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. D. Kennedy | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt G. W. Marshall | 9 Sig Regt |
| Sgt R. Nelson | QG Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. J. Neves | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt G. C. Norris | 14 Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. F. O'Crowley | Comms and Sy Gp (UK) |
| Sgt M. J. Philo | School of Signals |
| Sgt A. D. Quinn | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. C. Ridlington | AA Coll Harrogate |
| Sgt M. A. Shirley | 22 Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. Suttie | 71 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt F. Thompson | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. L. Thomson | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt K. F. Tunstall | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt P. Wallace | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. E. Wareham | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt R. J. Weeks | School of Signals |
| Sgt K. Wightman | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt S. Wilde | 259 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt G. M. Wilkinson | 35 Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. N. Wratten | 1 D and D |
| Sgt P. Youd | 8 Sig Regt |
| ASgt G. Croudace | SHAPE ACE Commsec |
| ASgt S. Day | 7 Sig Regt |
| ASgt D. N. Fuller | EWOSU |
| ASgt S. L. Smith | EWOSU |
| ASgt G. J. Stoker | AA Coll Harrogate |


### HOLIDAYS OR PROPERTY IN SOUTH WEST FRANCE

After leaving the Corps last summer Janet and I have settled in a stone farmhouse in the Charente, about 70 miles north of Bordeaux. The Charente offers French country life, beautiful wooded river valleys, fields of sunflowers, good wine and a fine climate. Between French lessons we are setting up a small organisation to manage holiday cottages (gites) in this area, and can offer accommodation throughout the year with prices ranging from £70-£300 per week according to the season and the facilities provided.

If you would like to holiday in this area or are considering buying property here we could find accommodation for you and arrange contacts. Its a far cry from the frantic buying we hear about in Normandy. The Charente is a place to unwind, and there are still bargains to be found.

**Lt Col (Retd) Ian Penny**
**Terrebourg, St Angeau, 16230 Mansle, France. Tel: 45 39 23 42**




## ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during November 1989:-

| | |
|---|---|
| In memory of Col M. Seys-Phillip | £1,325.00 |
| 3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn & 2 Bn UDR | £ 77.77 |
| Capt S. R. Sharman | £ 75.00 |
| Capt J. Way | £ 25.00 |
| J. L. Power | £ 20.00 |
| Misc | £ 19.15 |
| | £1,541.92 |

The following donations were gratefully received during December 1989:-

| | |
|---|---|
| In memory of Col M. Seys-Phillips | £630.00 |
| In memory of Maj E. J. Thomas | £100.00 |
| 33 Corps Sigs SEAC Assoc | £ 30.00 |
| In memory of Sig M. Clavey | £25.00 |
| Mr D. I. Bull | £ 20.00 |
| In memory of Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe | £ 20.00 |
| In memory of R. N. Hutchings | £ 20.00 |
| F. E. Stagg | £ 10.00 |
| In memory of R. S. Greenstreet | £ 10.00 |
| Misc | £ 23.30 |
| | £888.30 |

# NOTICES

## DEATHS

**Akehurst—Mrs M. D. Akehurst**, widow of **Brig C. Akehurst CBE**—died 3 December 1989.
**Beale—Maj B. W. Beale**—served 1923-62—died 19 November 1989.
**Bell—ex WO2 (RQMS) E. Bell**—died 1 October 1989.
**Brookes—Capt J. W. Brookes**—died 11 August 1989.
**Church—ex Sgt S. Church**—served 1947-72—died 19 November 1989.
**Foulds—Sig F. E. Foulds**—served 1941-46—died 12 September 1989.
**Fryer—LCpl A. Fryer**—died 13 November 1989.
**Greenstreet—WO1 R. S. Greenstreet**—served 1934-60—died 2 November 1989.
**Haas—Sgt (ATS) A. E. Haas**—served 1943-46—died 10 December 1989.
**Harry—Maj L. A. Harry**—served 1941-46—died 23 November 1989.
**Howard—Maj R. E. Howard BEM**—served 1942-84—died 4.1.1990.
**Minshall—Lt Col N. J. H. Minshall**—served 1928-52—died 20 December 1989.
**Morrison—Maj Gen A. E. Morrison CB, OBE**—served 1922-57—died 20 December 1989.
**Parker—Mrs E. Parker**—wife of **Lt Col F. Parker**—died 3 January 1990.
**Polley—Cpl E. J. Polley**—served 1939-46—died November 1989.
**Preston—LCpl M. J. Preston**—served 1984-89—died 25 November 1989.
**Swindells—Lt Col J. W. Swindells**—served 1954-89—died 29 November 1989.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**Mrs Serena Froggett** and her children, **Emma, Lian, Jonathon** and **Michael** would like to thank the very many people in the Corps who sent cards and messages of sympathy to them. They are deeply grateful to everyone for their very kind words.

## OBITUARIES

**Keating—Capt T. Keating** Irish Guards. Many ex-Apprentices from Harrogate will be sorry to learn of the death of **Ted Keating** which occurred on 4 July 1989. **Ted Keating** was Sergeant Major of Phillips Sqn 1966-68 and during his time the Squadron regularly won both the Junior and Senior Drill Competitions. In recent years **Ted** was Housing Commandant, West London District.

**Lt Col N. J. H. Minshall—Nick Minshall** was a Devon man who was educated at Cheltenham College. He was commissioned from Sandhurst into the Corps in 1928 and served until 1952. His service with the Corps took him to India for three consecutive tours—a total of 15 years, during which time he earned the North West Frontier Medal. He died on 20 December 1989.

He returned to Europe during World War 2 and saw service in Greece, France and Norway where he was awarded a commendation by King Haakon for gallant service in the liberation of that Country.

In his final tour of duty with the Corps he commended 10 Wireless Training Sqn at Garats Hay Barracks, Woodhouse, near Loughborough, and in his retirement settled down in the village with his wife **Eillish (Pinette)** and two sons.

**Nick** was a keen sportsman during his service, and over the years won a number of trophies for tennis and running. He stayed in touch with the Corps through the Association, and was an honorary member of the Mess at Garats Hay.

**Preston—LCpl M. J. Preston**. It is with deep regret that 259 Sig Sqn reports the death of **Mick Preston** as a result of a road traffic accident in Limassol on 25 November 1989. **Mick** enlisted in the Corps on 25 June 1984 and served with 14 Sig Regt, 244 Sig Sqn, 262 Sig Sqn and 259 Sig Sqn. He was very keen on skiing and adventurous training and was also a motor cycle enthusiast.

He will be missed by many friends in Cyprus. Our sincere condolences go to his parents **Jim** and **Maria** and all members of his family.

**Smith—Sig Grant William Smith**. It is with great sadness that the Regiment records the death of **Sig Grant William Smith**, 3 Sqn. He was killed in a road traffic accident at Cockburnspath in the Scottish Borders on 4 November 1989.

**Grant** was a cheerful and popular young soldier who had shown an early interest in the military by joining his local Army Cadet Force in Blairgowrie, Perthshire. He then joined the Army as a junior signalman and underwent his basic training at 11 Sig Regt. He had been at 8 Sig Regt since 31 July 1989 and had recently completed his Driver Lineman Course.

**Grant**, who was to have celebrated his 18th birthday on 9 December 1989 will be sadly missed by all who knew him. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

## CORPS DATES

Please make a note in your diary of the following Corps events which will take place in 1990:-

| | |
|---|---|
| 8 May | Corps Officers' Dinner at the London Press Centre |
| 20 May | Blandford RSA Reunion |
| 16 June | Corps Officers Lunch—Blandford |
| 23/24 June | Catterick RSA Reunion |
| 18 December | Corps Carol Service in London affiliated Church |

Further details will be published nearer to each event.

## HM THE QUEEN'S GARDEN PARTY AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Our **Colonel-in-Chief HRH The Princess Royal GCVO** may attend the Garden Party on Thursday 19 July 1990.

Any members of the Corps who receive invitations to attend on this date are asked to notify the Regimental Secretary at RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD in order that they may be included in the Corps organised party and presented to the Colonel-in-Chief.

**CORPS DINNER**

The dinner will be held at the London International Press Centre, 76 Shoe Lane, London EC4 on Tuesday 8 May at 1900 hrs for 1930 hrs. Dress: Dinner Jacket.

The cost of the dinner is £16.50 which includes wines at table. A Pay Bar will be open for pre-dinner drinks from 1745 hrs. Limited NCP Car Parking is available free of charge.

All Royal Signals Officers, Regular or Territorial, serving or retired are eligible to attend. WRAC Officers who are serving, or who have served with Royal Signals are also eligible to attend.

Applications for tickets to the Regimental Secretary, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. **Cheques to be made payable to Royal Signals Corps Fund.**

**CORPS LUNCHEON**

The luncheon will be held at the Headquarter Mess, Royal Signals, Blandford Camp on Saturday 16 June 1990 at 1200 hrs for 1300 hrs. Dress: Lounge suit.

The cost is £10 which includes pre-luncheon drinks and wines at table.

All Royal Signals Officers, serving or retired, their wives and grown up children are eligible to attend. WRAC Officers who are serving, or who have served with Royal Signals, their husbands and grown up children are also eligible to attend. The widows of Regular Officers are also eligible to attend and those wishing to do so will be guests of the Corps. As far as possible invitations are sent directly to widows, but any reader who is aware of a widow not having received an invitation is asked to notify the Regimental Secretary of her name and address. **Cheques to be made payable to Royal Signals Corps Fund.**

## REUNIONS

**1940 DUNKIRK VETERANS ASSOCIATION**

In 1990 the 50th Anniversary of the evacuation of the BEF from the beaches of Dunkirk in 1940, will be commemorated.

The 1940 Dunkirk Veterans Association, not surprisingly, is organising a major Pilgrimage to the beaches, to take place during the weekend of 26 May-28 May inclusive.

Large crowds are expected to attend together with some 50-60 'Little Ships' of The Association of Dunkirk Little Ships, with a Royal Navy escort and, hopefully, Royal Patronage.

The programme will include: On Sunday 27 May—Parade and March Past in Dunkirk Town, Memorial Services and wreath laying at the Memorial on the beach, and in the British Cemetery.

On Monday 28 May—Parade and March Past in Le Panne, Memorial Service and wreath laying.

The Pilgrimage is open to all, and if you would like further information of the Pilgrimage please contact: Galina International Battlefield Tours, PO Box 143, Hull, North Humberside HU6 7JF. Tel: (0482) 804409.

Further commemorative events planned for 1990 include: On Wednesday 18 July, Grand Parade of Dunkirk Veterans only, in Aldershot. 14-16 September, Channel Ports Reunion of Dunkirk Veterans only, in Margate. For further information on these events please contact the Hon General Secretary, 1940 Dunkirk Veterans Association: **Mr J. E. Horton**, White Wickets, Parkgate Road, Neston, South Wirral L64 6QQ. Tel: 051-336 3530.

Intending visitors to Dunkirk are advised to act quickly.

**TOUR OF NORMANDY 1990**

The proposed Tour of Normandy 3 to 9 June 1990 is alive and well! The response to the original announcement was poor and the Corps Committee decided not to support the venture. So the organisation of the Tour has now been taken over by Reading Branch of the Association.

There are still a few vacancies on the 1990 Tour and interested persons should submit their provisional bookings as soon as possible. The original itinerary still stands; it will include visits to all the landing beaches, the two airborne DZs, various invasion museums and some of the war cemeteries, including the main British War Cemetery at Bayeux, where a wreath will be laid on 6 June 1990.

All enquires to: **Alan E. Foot**, 96 Chiltern Crescent, Earley, Reading, Berks RG6 1AN. (Tel: (0734) 61952).

**51 (HIGHLAND) DIVISION PILGRIMAGE TO FRANCE**

A Pilgrimage which will include tours of the Somme Battlefields ceremonies at Beaumont-Hamel, Abbeville, St Valery-en-Caux and tours of the Normany Bridgehead is being arranged between 6 and 12 June 1990. Those interested in taking part are asked to write to **Lt Col (Retd) A. Rose**, at Army Headquarters Scotland, PO Box 85, Edinburgh EH1 2YX. Members of units and formations who fought with the Highland Division in 1940 and in North West Europe in 1944-5 are very welcome to take part in this reunion.

**244 Signal Squadron (Air Support)**

**The Red Hand Gang**

**7 April 1990** — **RAF Brize Norton**

**Reunion**

**A NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY**

To all members past and present of 244 Signal Squadron (AS) who are currently serving or have retired to civvy street. A reunion will be held on Saturday 7 April at RAF Brize Norton.

Anybody wishing to attend and receive further information is requested to write to The Red Hand Gang Reunion 1990, 244 Signal Squadron (AS), RAF Brize Norton, Oxon OX8 3LX.



## FOR SALE

**THE FORGOTTEN BATTLE**

The Liberation of Overloon and Venray in 1944.

'The Forgotten Battle' is a video production based on an idea of Jac van Sinten. In cooperation with the Working Group Liberation Venray 1944 a fascinating and moving film with a duration of two hours has been produced. The production took four years.

This film tries to convey something of the reality and the emotions of those apalling days of October 1944 to later generations, in particular the younger people of today.

Available on VHS only, order form to be sent to, and payment to be made to: **J. van Sinten**, Pr Marijkestraat 19, 5802 BV Venray, Holland. Tel: 04780-81161. Price per copy inclusive postage and bankcharges Dutch guilders F75.

Payment to be made by International money order, check or through a bank, our bank account nr 15.39.65.738 Rabo Bank, Venray, Holland.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY FALKLAND ISLAND DEFENCE FORCE (FIDF) PSI**

The FIDF is looking for a SNCO to teach tactics, drill, weapon handling etc. A good pass on the Royal Signals Staff Sergeants' course is the standard required. The contract would be for an initial period of two years, renewable with mutual agreement to age 55. Remuneration is £15,000 a year (local tax compares favourably with UK) with a gratuity of 25% of annual pay after two years. Housing will be provided but rent is payable. Interested parties should contact the Government Secretary, Stanley, Falkland Islands for full details.

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS VACANCIES**

2 Sig Bde has vacancies for the following:-

Telecom Ops at Andover, Bicester, Central London, Chatham, Grantham, Wilton and Winchester.

Government Telephonists at Aldershot and Central London.

Maintenance Electrician Telephones (MET) at Aldershot, Castlemartin and Central London.

For further information contact: **Tom Winsborough**, Civil Manager, HQ 2 Sig Bde and Cotswold Garrison, Park Lane, Corsham, Wilts SN13 9NR. Tel: (0225) 814220.

## CAN YOU HELP

**Mr Frank Smith** would like to get into contact with **CSM John Robson** who served with 6 AB Div Sigs. If you know his whereabouts please write to **Mr Frank Smith**, 24 Green Lane, St Peters, Broadstairs, Kent GT10 2RP or c/o Editor, *The Wire*.

**Mrs Susan Johnson** (nee **Bailey**) would like to hear from former ATS she served with 1942-1946. Please write to her at 'Sandbanks' 17 Deganwy Road, Deganwy, Gwyneed LL31 9DH.

## PERSONAL

**From: WO1 Brian Wilson**

**FAREWELL TO SSGT J. HEHIR**

WO1 Brian Wilson writes: I am writing in my capacity as the senior Late Royal Signals now LSL Soldier in Arborfield Garrison (REME). I thought I ought to let everyone know that **SSgt Jimmy Hehir** is leaving the service after 35 years. **SSgt Jimmy Hehir** joined the Corps as a boy in September 1955 at Denbury and served in the following Units: between 1955 and 1958, 6 Boys Trg Regt—Denbury. 2 Trg Regt Catterick. 1958 to 1962, Cyprus and North Africa. 1962-1967 Air Formation Sig Regts in Germany and the Far East. 1967-1970 Air Support Sig Sqns in UK and abroad. Between 1970 and 1986 BAOR and UK. Since 1986 Princess Marina College Arborfield.

**Jimmy** leaves the Army and Corps in April 1990 on retirement to Folkestone Kent. Any member or ex-member of the Corps wishing to get in touch with him can do so by writing to me at Princess Marina College, Arborfield, Reading RG2 9NJ.

## BOOK REVIEW

**'INSIDE STORY'**
**by David Greaves**

**David Greaves** served with 22 Armd Bde Sig Sqn, (No 4 Squadron, 2nd Middlesex Yeomanry) and saw action at Sidi Rezegh, the relief of Tobruk, and took part in the advance across the desert to El Agheila during the Winter of 1941. He was in action again in May 1942 when Rommel attacked the Gazala Line, and was captured by the Afrika Korps at 'Knightsbridge' in June 1942. This is where 'Inside Story' begins.

It is not just another war book but the story of a soldier who suffered the horrors of pestilence and disease in the transit camps, the endless waiting to be transported across the Mediterranean at a time when the Royal Navy was hounding all enemy shipping; and of his life in captivity in Italy and Germany after being restored to near health by the caring Nuns of Caserta Hospital.

How many of us gave serious thought for those who were 'Put in the Bag' as Rommel pushed his way across the Western Desert towards El Alamein?

They might have been out of the war only to find themselves the centre of hostility.

'Inside Story' is told without rancour or exaggeration and it could be the story of many who suffered a similar plight in prisoner-of-war camps throughout occupied Europe, but above all it tells of the indomitable spirit of the British Soldier when faced with adversity.

This slim volume should be read by all who were lucky enough to survive the war without being captured—and by others too.

'Inside Story' can be obtained from **David Greaves**, 69 Reymead Close, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex CO5 8DN. Price £3.95 plus p&p 50p.

## MALTA—THE GEORGE CROSS ISLAND

**Mr F. Rixon BEM**, on behalf of the George Cross Island Association, would like to hear from those who were in Malta during the period 11 June 1940-13 May 1943. Please write to him at 10 Nepaul Road, Tidworth, Hampshire SP9 7EU. Telephone: (0980) 42402 if you would like to hear more about the Association and its aims.

## IMPORTANT

**AS THIS ISSUE GOES TO PRESS THERE ARE SOME 700 SUBSCRIBERS FROM WHOM WE HAVE RECEIVED ONLY £4.20 FOR THE 1990 ISSUES.**

**UNLESS WE RECEIVE THE BALANCE OF £1.80 THESE SUBSCRIBERS ARE ASKED TO NOTE THAT THEIR COPY OF *THE WIRE* WILL CEASE AFTER THE AUGUST ISSUE.**

# REPORT FROM ULSTER

## HQ Northern Ireland
## BFPO 825

**TOT/FofS/SNCO CONVENTION**

Due to one reason and another April 1987 was the last time all the Province's TOTs and Foremen gathered together. Meantime things had altered, not least, all the faces. With the constant changes in comms procedure and the re-formation shortly of 15 Sig Regt all the technical SNCO were invited to attend this Convention. The assembled throng met in 39 Bde Sergeants' Mess for a lunch with **Col D. Hunt OBE** who met some of his JNCO's of past days. A good turnout of around 65 people included TOTs **Capt Steve Farrow** and **Jim Hanifin**, ably supported by Foremen **WO1 Stan Grimmett, WO2's 'Noddy Baugh'** (8 Bde), **Al McCartney** (3 Bde), **Russ Moren** (39 Bde), **Billy Hughes** and **Dave Long** (233), **'Bev' Beverly** (HQNI), **Bob Walton** (3 Bde (Des)) and **SSgt 'Shuggie' Barclay** (40 Sig Regt (V)).

The afternoon began with the Comd Comms, **Lt Col S. M. Siddall**, opening the briefings (debates) on the way ahead for the communicators in NI. Some subjects did raise the odd eyebrow or two as the questions rained in. As the afternoon wore on briefings by Staff Officers from Comms Branch were quickly rescheduled into shorter time slots (tech talk) with the excellent finale on Home Defence given by **Maj Stabler**, something everyone present will remember.

Later that evening everyone met for dinner in 39 Bde Sergeants' Mess together with Acting **RSM Stan Grimmett**.

It was most interesting to see so many of us cram into a small alcove (kindly arranged by FofS 39) for the photo. (Did everyone get on we ask?) The excellent dinner was enjoyed by all, not least Mr Vice, promoted into the Mess the previous day. **Sgt Armstrong** did himself proud.

All who attended bade fond farewell to **WO1 (FofS) Stan Grimmett**, soon to leave for the dizzy world of 30 Sig Regt as TOT. Good luck **Stan**, nothing can be as taxing as your present life. Our thanks to **WO2 Russ Moren** and 39 Bde for the excellent dinner and facilities provided (including the Bunks). We also thank the new FofS of 233 Sig Sqn (not yet in station) for volunteering to organise next year's event.



Foremen at the dinner

XV

## 15 Sig Regt
## BFPO 801

15 Sig Regt reformed in Northern Ireland on 1 February 1990.

**HISTORY**

15 Sig Regt was first raised in Cairo in 1940 as the 8th Divisional Signals. Whilst it was being formed the Division was disbanded and its title and role was changed to 3 GHQ Signals, responsible for the communications at GHQ Middle East.

The Regiment spent the next seven years in the Western Desert and Nile area until 1947 when it moved to Fayid in the Canal Zone, where it was engaged in internal security operations.

In 1955 the Regiment moved to Cyprus where it was again involved in IS operations, this time during the EOKA/Enosis period. It was redesignated 15 Sig Regt on 1 September 1959 when all signal units were renumbered. 31 March 1962 saw the disbandment of the Regiment as part of the run-down of British forces in Cyprus.

The reformation of the Regiment in January 1965 saw it operating again against a background of terrorist attacks and civil unrest, this time in Aden. It disbanded on the withdrawal of British forces from Aden in 1968.

**REFORMATION**

15 Sig Regt is now reforming from the present 225 and 233 Sig Sqns. (They will both be retaining their present numberings however.) As with the 2 Sqns it will continue to provide communication for Units throughout Northern Ireland.

Past members of the Regiment will be interested to know that it is the intention to reissue the 'Grenade Tie'. The Grenade Tie was awarded to those who have been the target, or within wounding range, of a terrorist attack.

We would be very happy to hear from any old members of the Regiment and look forward to reporting on events from the Province.



## 225 Sig Sqn
## BFPO 801

**SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Sqn** | **Maj Hugh Bardell** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Ron Clay** |
| **AO** | **Capt Andrea Perks WRAC** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 'Taff' Cox** |
| **RQMS** | **WO2 Wyn Gordon** |
| **CC** | **Sgt Howie Ripley** |

On Friday 18 September, the OC **Maj Hugh Bardell**, was dined in by the Officers and SNCOs of the Squadron albeit, some six months late. The evening also gave members of the Squadron the opportunity to say farewell to several members of the Squadron, namely **Capt Alec Gaw, WO2s Dave Andrews, 'Taff' Edwards, SSgt Rog Farmer** and **Sgts Rick Auton** and **John Riley**. An excellent meal and enjoyable evening was had by all.

**MERCURY CUP—SHOOTING**

After much shuffling and changing about of the Shooting team the Squadron finally managed to send six members to Magilligan ranges to take part in the Mercury Cup Skill-at-Arms Meeting 1989. The event lasted a whole day and comprised four practices. The team was in good spirits throughout the competition and received just rewards for its efforts by making a clean sweep by winning the Mercury Cup, the SLR competition and the Pistol competition. The team comprised **Sgts Mick Tate** (Capt), **Steve Bennett** and **Rick Auton, Cpls 'Mac' McLaren, Graham Richmond** and **LCpl Lee Warn**.

**MT SECTION PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **MT Sgt** | **Sgt Mick Tate** |
| **Mt Cpl** | **Cpl 'Max' Maxwell** |
| **Details NCO** | **LCpl Mick Church** |

**Sig 'Willie' Carson** (Standby VCP man), **Dave Ward** (Man at Q and M) and **Gordon Kuczerepa**.

After a pretty hectic month the Section has settled down to a relatively quiet and normal routine, maybe the lull before the storm or just plain wishful thinking. **Sgt Jim Moody** has left us for Berlin and **Sgt Mick Tate** has taken his place. The Squadron welcomes **Sgt Tate** and wishes **Sgt Moody** and his family all the very best in his tour in Berlin.

**GOLF TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC/FofS** | **WO2 (FofS) Dave Long** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Ian Richardson** |
| **R and I** | **Sgt A. J. Ridley** |
| **Radio** | **Sgt A. D. Knight** |

Golf Tp has undergone a change of format in recent months with **WO2 (FofS) Dave Long** now ruling the roost in Tech Wksps and **Capt Paul Towers** flexing his muscles as Tech Adjt.

**FAREWELLS**

In the past few months the Troop has said goodbye to the following: **WO2 (FofS) Dave Andrews**, who finally got his posting to Glasgow TA, **SSgt Rog Farmer**, off to 13 Sig Regt (no more long weekends **Rog**), **Sgt Ian** (Flip) **Flippance** to his Foreman of Signals course, **Sgt 'Smudge' Smith** to sunny Cyprus, **Cpls Billy Redman** and **John Boreman** to their T1 course at 8 Sig Regt and in the very near future, **Cpls Ian Lee** and **Simon Lambert**, also off on their T1 in sunny Catterick. We wish them all the very best.

**ARRIVALS**

We welcome the new Foreman of Signals, **WO2 Dave Long, Sgt A. D. Knight** and his family, **Sgt Chris Gill** and his wife **Lyn, Cpls Nigel Frith, Steve Lacey** and **Jeff Jefferson**. We hope their stay with the Squadron is a happy one.

**SPORT**

The Troop managed to come equal first in the Summer Shield Competition, with some fine performances in swimming, badminton, cricket and athletics which, had it not been for the rugby tackle in the 4 × 100m relay, we would have won.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Our congratulations go to **Cpl Chris Greaves** and **Sarah** on their recent marriage and to **Sgt 'Taff' Cassells** and **WSgt Lesley Swanwick** on their engagement.

**SWIMMING**

During 1989, the highlight of the swimming scene was the remarkable achievement of **WLCpl Alison Cable** who virtually cleaned up the Northern Ireland League and Individuals Championships. In the league she took first place in both the backstroke and freestyle and second place in the breaststroke, whilst in the Individual Championships she won all four events, backstroke, breaststroke, freestyle and individual medley.

In the Northern Ireland Championships, a half team consisting of **Sgts Dave Roberts** and **John Smith, Cpl Chris Greaves** and **Sig Kenny Ward**, took on an equally depleted team from 175 Provost Coy, RMP. After individual wins by **Sgt Dave Roberts** in the breaststroke and **Sig Kenny Ward** in the 100m freestyle, the points were equal going into the last event. With a last minute change, the freestyle relay became the decisive event and, with a bit of good fortune and a lot of hard graft, we won the championship.

On 2 August the Squadron held its Inter-Troop Swimming and Water Polo Competition at Alexander Barracks, Aldergrove. This was a novel event with some unique rules invoked to allow both men and women to compete in the same event. The standard of competitor varied greatly from the 'Old and Bold' **SSM 'Taff' Cox** to former WRAC Corps swimmer **Capt Andrea Perks**. The eventual winners were Delta Tp comprising, wait for it, **WO1 Cliff Davey, SSgt Mick Reehal, Sgt Dave Roberts, Cpls Adey Storey, 'Leo' Sayer** and **LCpl Bob Hollamby**.

On the whole it was a keenly contested and enjoyable half-day out for members of the Squadron.

**COMMCEN NOTES PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **SNCO IC** | **Sgt Steve Bennett** |
| **2IC** | **Cpl Andy Burns** |
| **A Shift** | **Cpl Geoff Glover** |
| | **LCpl 'Oz' Hewson** |
| **B Shift** | **Cpl 'Cass' Cassidy** |
| | **Cpl Ian Taft** |
| **C Shift** | **Cpl Ian Foulkes** |
| | **LCpl Andy Glennie** |

The Commcen has recently moved from Golf Tp to Admin Tp. We have yet to decide which is the better choice, being with the 'board swoppers' or the 'paper pushers'. On current form it would appear that the Techs win by a short head.

Despite having only a small number of operators in the commcen we are still able to contribute to most of the Squadron activities throughout the year.

**Sgt Steve Bennett**, used to be a swimmer and water polo player, however, after the recent Inter-Troop Competition, when he was the last man in the race he has decided that he is 'past it' and has removed his swimming colours from his tracksuit.

**Cpl 'Cass' Cassidy**, as well as representing the Corps at rugby, also plays rugby, football and hockey for the Squadron and has actually managed to turn-up for the occasional shift.

**DEPARTURES**

We say farewell to **Sgt Steve Bennett** and family who are off to Hong Kong (after the choice of AFNORTH, SHAPE or Hong Kong he obviously has friends in high places). Also leaving are **Cpl Ian Taft** and family who are off to 28 Sig Regt and **Cpl Andy Burns** who is off to sunny Belize. We all wish them the very best for the future.

**ARRIVALS**

We welcome **LCpl 'Murgs' Murgatroyd** who has made the epic journey all the way from 233 Sig Sqn. We hope he enjoys his tour with the Squadron and is not too baffled by all the high tech kit and bright lights.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

We would like to congratulate **LCpl 'Oz' Hewson** on his engagement to **WPte Michelle McNulty** of 233 Sig Sqn and wish them both the very best for the future.

# 233 Sig Sqn
# BFPO 801

It all started when **LCpl Billy Ingram** came into my office and said 'Yeoman, you are supposed to organise things for the lads so they do not get bored. Can you organise something?'

What could I say but 'Yes, of course I can.'

After a bit of thought I had a couple of ideas on what could be done but discarded them as being unimaginative. I wanted to arrange an event that they would not forget for a long time.

Then a thought formed as I watched a distant aeroplane fly past. We can go parachuting.

A few telephone calls and a couple of letters later and all but the fine details were arranged; now all I needed was the people to go.

An excellent response to my first notice requesting volunteers for the weekend parachuting course. A maximum of 15 people could be taken and I had already started a reserve list.

I should have known that closer to the date when people had had some time to consider what they were going to be doing they would get cold feet. With a week to go before the jump the range of excuses was fascinating to hear. From 'My wife won't let me go' to the honest 'I'm scared and I've changed my mind' and of course the whole range of injury excuses as well.

It transpired that with two days to go before the jump I no longer had my list of 15 names and three reserves, just 10 names, no more.

An early start on Saturday morning had us arriving at the Army Parachuting Centre at Ballykelly at 0830 hrs all ready to go.

Initial administration completed, our training began. The falling over bit, known as the Parachute Landing Fall (PLF), was the first lesson. Throughout the day we covered mostly practical work and a bit of theory. The most amusing part of our training was when we all had to enter a wodden mockup of a Cessna 206 to practise the exit from the plane. Although only a model and only 4ft off the ground, people were shaking uncontrollably with nerves as though it was the actual jump.

Training ended at about 1530 hrs and we were all prepared physically and mentally for our first jump. Alas, the wind speed was increasing and the pilot of the plane did not want to come to Ballykelly to jump us. (An expression used in parachuting circles). Our spirits dropped as we heard this news. One of the instructors, **SSgt Tim Andrews** of the Royal Artillery, persisted in his efforts to get the pilot and plane and at 1830 hrs he walked in and said '15 minutes to take off'.

A buzz of activity as people started to get ready, then over to the runway where we were all shown how to put the equipment on correctly and how to adjust the straps (not for comfort). All of us were given a radio to strap to our parachute harness so directions and instructions could be transmitted to us while we were descending. Then the big moment, the first four names were called forward.

The van that conveyed us to the Cessna was blacked out on the inside, I had the feeling of being a prisoner on his way to be executed.

We boarded the plane and took off. As I was jumping number one I sat next to the open door, I tried to look unperturbed as the Cessna ascended quickly and banked to the left. My knuckles started to resume a bit of their rosy colour again as we levelled off at 2,500ft. What a lovely view, but I didn't have much time to think about that. 'Feet out of the door' I adopted the position that I had learnt in the wooden mock up only hours before. 'GO'.

'1,000, 2,000, 3,000, 4,000, Check Canopy.' It really does work.

**Cpl Paul Sinderberry** decided he was not going to wait to be told to jump, he was instructed to put his feet out of the door, as soon as he had them there he went, much to the instructors surprise, not to mention his own.

Everybody jumped and everybody thoroughly enjoyed it, they proved that later in the evening when they requested another jump the following morning. I approached the instructors with the request and returned minutes later with a thumbs up sign.

The conclusion was that it was less nerve racking departing from the plane than it had bleen from the wooden training Cessna.

The evening's entertainment consisted of a barbecue and a few wets and of course a lot of different opinions and versions of stories of the day's events.

The following morning we were up and packing parachutes by 0800 hrs. Those with confidence in the parachutes they had just packed used them, others were noted trying to find alternative parachutes.

A point that came to light when packing. It is all so simple in its mechanism, elastic bands and pieces of string, a couple of canvas bags and a parachute. The parachute opening, relying upon little bits of string to break.

It has been said that the second jump is always worse than the first but for the majority of us the second jump was just as much fun and equally as exhilarating, the only incident was when **Pte Caroline Towers**, who was jumping number one, was told to get her feet out in preparation for the jump, she replied, 'I don't think I really want to . . .' but the instructor said 'Of course you do' and she went.

**Cpl Chris Wilson** looked a nice shade of white on the second jump, his eyes fixed to a spot on the ground, not responding to any conversion, nevertheless he did another 'Good all the way' (GATW) jump.

Everybody debriefed on the second jump we had our newly acquired Parachutists log books updated to contain our first two jumps. Next time it's on to the Dummy Pulls (DPs) to practice opening the parachutes ourselves in preparation for freefall. We are looking forward to the next one in a week's time.

All those who took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves, even if they never do it again they can always say they have 'done it'.

All those who took part deserve to be mentioned: **Cpls Chris Wilson, John 'interesting' Evans, 'Andy' Moody, Paul Sinderberry, Keith Geddes, LCpls 'Rick' Stacey, 'Billy' Ingram, Sig 'Benny' Benson, 'Moff' Moffett** and **Pte 'Moose' Towers.**



Cpl 'Ady' Moody posing?



LCpl Rick Stacy



**TECH TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp OC** | **Capt Jim Hanifin** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 (FofS) Bill Hughes** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Ralph Maddison** |
| **SSgt FRT** | **SSgt Nev Flintham** |
| **SSgt Inst** | **SSgt Steve Gillham** |
| **CSC** | **SSgt Dave Smith** |
| **IC Riggers** | **Sgt Pete Bagnall** |
| **IC Radio** | **Cpl Pete Wilkinson** |
| **R&I** | **LCpl Ian Johnstone** |

**NOTES FROM THE SECTIONS**
**TM SECTION**

Avid viewers of the A Team will appreciate the problems Hannibal has getting BA into an aircraft. Well we have similar problems with **Cpl 'Biggles' Boucher**. On a recent visit to Forkhill OP our intrepid flyer was forced into the helicopter not knowing that **LCpl Jim Kerr** had already briefed the pilot to circle for 10 mins to wait for the second helicopter to take off. When they eventually reached Forkhill 'Biggles' was muttering about bringing back Navy pilots and how he was walking back to Bessbrook Mill.

**TECHNICAL INSTALLATION TEAMS**

This is a new section which was dreamed up one night by the TOT. Ably led by **SSgt Gillham** who joined us recently from BAOR, members include **Sgt 'Windscreen' Ball, Sgt 'Floyd' McCormick, Cpls McIntyre** and **'Charlie' Threadgold.**

**FORWARD REPAIR TEAMS**

We have recently said farewell to **SSgt Willie Ironside** who left us on promotion to 225 Sig Sqn, **Cpls Chalkie White** and **Charlie Rigg.** Welcome to **SSgt Nev Flintham** who has joined us from BAOR, and **Sgt Neil Parkinson** from the TA. Congratulations go to **Cpl Mick Simcock** on his marriage to **Tracy**, and to **Cpl John Sutton** on passing his driving test.



Tech Tp

**COMMCEN TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Capt Jim Hindle** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt (YofS) MacKenzie** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Tony Bottomley** |
| **CDA** | **SSgt Archie Arbuckle** |
| **Crypto** | **Sgt Vinie Hunter** |

Commcen Tp continues to beaver away behind the scenes providing the essential services to the Staff of HQNI and Province based Units. Any opportunity to get involved in sporting or social events is well received, as can be seen from the following:

**WRAC BADMINTON**

WRAC members of the Troop, assisted by the AO, **Lt Jackie Pollock**, won the Northern Ireland Inter Unit Badminton Championships against hard opposition and will now represent Northern Ireland in the Army Womens Inter Unit Championships to be held on the Mainland in February 1990. **LCpl Sandy Sockett** has been selected to represent Northern Ireland in the Zone Championships. Well done to all. The team consisted of the following: **Lt Jackie Pollock, Sgt Julie Heaton, LCpl Sandy Sockett, Ptes Kate Scargill** and **Kerry Thomas.**

**R AND R IN BALLSCALLOCH**

C Shift's intrepid group of nine led by **Sgt Julie Heaton** set off on a blustery Saturday morning for a remote and exclusive country retreat a few miles from Stranraer. Conditions were spartan as can be seen from the photograph! but provided an ideal base to tour the local area which we did over the weekend and which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. **LCpl 'Ods' O'Dell** enjoyed his meal in the Indian restaurant, to the delight of the management.

A shift, led by **Sgt Gus Murray**, believing that Ballscalloch was a holiday chalet, were somewhat deflated by the sight of the 'Blockhouse'. After the initial shock they spent their time visiting Port Patrick and Ayr, sampling the local fare and brews. All in all, a worthwhile break from the Province.



A shift on R & R

**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

The Troop has seen quite a changeover during the last two months. Best wishes go to the following on their departure: **Sgt Gibson, Cpls Newell, Williams, LCpls O'Dell, Prichard, Murgatroyd, Bolder, Allan-Burns, Connolly, Sig Fullerton, Ptes Baker, Craig, Boulton** and **Allen.**

Welcome to the Troop and Northern Ireland: **Sgt Marshall, Cpl Gardiner, LCpls Lissemore, Saunders, Ribbons, Pte Ducker, Sig Crabtree, Ptes Smith, McHugh, Cooper, Murison, Sig Whittaker** and **Craker.**

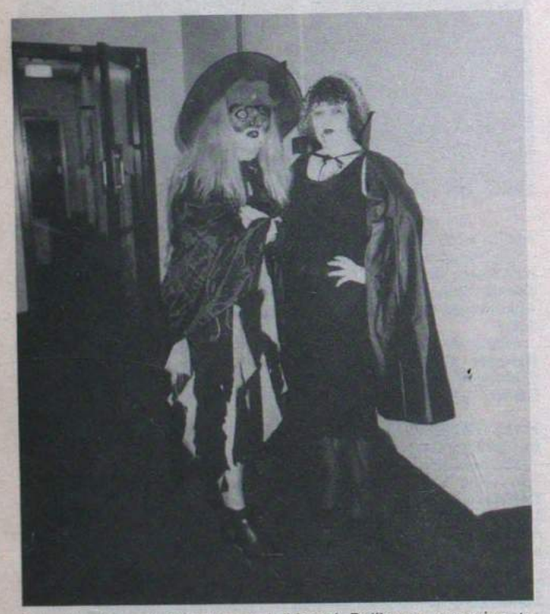
**HALLOWEEN PARTY**
**by Cpl Lisa Cook**

The usual monthly Troop 'thrash' took the form of a Halloween Party held in the Peake Inn. **Cpls Caroline Crossley** and **Janette Dallimore** were 'The Management' for the night, assisted by **Pte Donna Murison** colouring in hundreds of hanging bats and witches during her night shifts. With the smell of marker pen fumes in the air, no one needed the wine to get high!

'The Wicked Witch of the West', **Cpl Caroline Crossley**, was hubbling and bubbling around the cauldron, while **Cpl Janette Dallimore** used her pressure sales technique to sell even more raffle tickets, in between dyeing her hair and freshening her make-up. Supported well by a crowd of 'Witches and Dracs' a brewing good time was had by all.



Cpl Lisa Cook displaying her wares!



Cpls 'Red Eyes' Crossley and 'Vamp' Dallimore preparing to 'Hubble and Bubble'

**EXERCISE JIMMY'S REVENGE**

Summer Camp this year was to take place in the Aviemore area of Scotland and consisted of two one-week camps starting 8 September. Personnel from each Troop within the Squadron attended (all willing, I may add!) and at a cost of just £40, I'm sure that everyone certainly got more than their money's worth.

**THE JOURNEY**

Being in the first week's camp, is usually regarded as the 'Guinea-Pig' week due to the mistakes and mishaps, no one really knew what to expect for the next seven days. I think that our first shock was the early rise at 0600 hrs on the morning of our departure, and after a bus journey to Larne, we soon found ourselves on the two and a half hour ferry journey across to Stranraer. On reaching the port, we managed to spot our coach which wasn't too difficult as all the other coaches there were luxury ones! The bus journey north took approximately six hours and with **LCpl 'Wardy' Ward** and **Sig Ritchie McNaught** taking turns at the wheel, the journey proved quicker than originally thought!

**OUR HOME!**

After many three point turns in the middle of Scottish villages, we finally managed to find the small town of Newtonmore whose centre was to be our home for the next week. Well done to **'Wardy'** for manoeuvring the bus there, as I'm sure that the only vehicles which use that specific road are either tractors or horsecarts. My idea of living it rough is a camp bed and a black and white TV, so you can imagine our surprise when we had bunkbeds, hot showers and a colour TV. Our DS were there to greet us, smiling as well! Evidently, they knew what was in store for us. Oh dear!

**THE AIM**

The exercise was aimed at taking us away from work for a week to try our hands at some adventure training pursuits and, of course, to get to know everyone else and have a good laugh at your own and other's expense. 'Bang, Bang', on the door each morning at 0700 hrs is definitely one way of waking up early, although not recommended. It was a race between the 'lads' and the 'lassies' as to who'd use the showers first but as long as we all beat **LCpl 'Smeds' Smedley,** no one was really bothered. All meals were done by the DS and, I mean either 'over-done' or 'well-done', (only joking!). A large cooked breakfast first thing set us up well for the day and packed lunches were provided for our day out. The first three days were spent either rock-climbing, canoeing or walking with the help of an instructor and the following days were spent on activities of our own choice.

**ROCK CLIMBING**

**Sig 'Joe' Devitt** was the man responsible for dragging many of us up the rocks and without the assurance of the many safety ropes present, which he kept having to show us to convince us that there is life after climbing, many of us managed to attempt both the climbing and the abseiling parts. There is definitely no time limit for the actual climb which as just as well as **Cpl Caroline Crossley** certainly didn't rush matters! Definitely not a human fly although she did manage to find the correct ledges when they scraped against her nose! **Sig Ritchie McNaught** believed that he had done enough when he reached the top, but managed to get down quick enough when someone threatened to eat his lunch. I'm sure everyone would agree that an excellent day out was had by all.

**HILL WALKING**

**SSM Williams** had the pleasure of doing the same walk three days in a row, but with his trusty stick, he managed to propel himself through the hills and dales of the surrounding countryside, like a born shepherd! Each group left for the walk wearing the appropriate clothing at 0900 hrs and completed at 10 mile walk which took us along country roads and into the hills and by running streams with the end being forever 'just around the next corner'. The fresh air certainly managed to tire us out, although we did manage a 'wee dram' before setting off back to the hostel.

**CANOEING**

**Cpl 'Sammy' Anderson** was our illustrious canoeing leader and certainly looked the part with the appropriate waterproofs, equipment and, of course, his windsurfer. A few of the more daring attempted this watersport although the thought of getting hypothermia from the freezing Scottish water certainly made the majority of us head straight for the restaurant instead. Congratuations must also go to **'Sammy'** who managed still to look cool even though he had a bit of a road accident with another car. Well done!

The days left to ourselves were either spent doing more of the previous activities or heading to Aviemore to try our hand at ice-skating, swimming and go-carting. Go-carting certainly proved the favourite although **Cpl Caroline Crossley** received some whiplash to the neck when **Sig Ritchie McNaught** smashed into the back of her (by mistake, of course).

Some budding John Waynes tried pony-trekking at a small farm outside the town, but once **Cpl Neil Perham**'s horse rubbed him off under a low-hanging branch, that idea was not very popular.

The OC, **Capt Hindle,** and **SSgt 'Big Tex' Forbes**—'Big Tex' as he seems to know all the old country hits—tried fishing each day, and although the OC managed a few good catches, **SSgt Forbes** had to make do with the odd tadpole or two.

**SOCIALLY SPEAKING**

The social life in Scotland proved extremely friendly, loud and unfortunately pretty expensive. Each night, we either headed to the discos in the Aviemore Centre or more often than not, spent a lot of nights in the local bars in Newtonmore which were within easier walking distance. The night the whole course went to the 'local' in beachwear kit was one of the highlights and I'm sure we kept the locals and the barman amused for the whole night. Everyone was very friendly and on one night there was also the added attraction of a piper, although not many of us knew the words of the songs well, but we got by.

**SSM Williams** proved to be a bit of a 'compere' on the side and completely took over the 'Lodge' by announcing everyone who was singing although he didn't know them. Scottish folklore was abundant on our last night there and with the hospitality set out for us, many would-be singers emerged from the Squadron and combined well with the locals who, I'm sure, had recently just come from an 'Andy Stewart' concert. A very good evening was had by all, and the bar staff certainly had no reason for under-employment.

All good things unfortunately come to an end and after our usual raid on the kitchen at 0200 hrs, it was time to pack and get on the bus ready for our long journey back to Stranraer. Everyone had a great time and thanks again to our DS for making it an excellent, fun-packed and well-organised week; for cooking all the meals; and even doing a traditional Scottish breakfast on our last morning compete with 'tatie scones'. Cheers!

**INDIA TROOP**

Partying hit India Tp in a big way in October. **LCpl Rob Heaps** and **Cpl 'Geordie' Reid** organised two very successful bowling nights for the Troop down at RAF Aldergrove. The second night was a run away victory, much to the dismay of Whisky Section, as Victor Section's only representative on the night, **Sig 'Benny' Benson,** bowled his way into the Troop Hall of Fame, and claimed his trophy.

Halloween, of course, couldn't be ignored. The Troop 'Partying Committee', consisting of **LCpl Rick Stacey, Paul Prosser, WLCpls Caroline Jeffreys** and **Wendy Gooding** got their heads together and organised a Fancy Dress party in the Squadron's Peake Inn. Again the night was a complete success. The attendance was high and day to day worries disappeared as the evening wore on.

A celebration is also called for as **YofS Bob** and **Caroline Smith** mark the birth of their son **Martyn**. Let this be a lesson to all those trying to solve the Royal Signals Manning problem. Congratulations!

It has been a fair while since our last contribution, so to update you, Who's Who in India Tp, welcome to: **Sgt John Prowse** and family, **Cpl Mark Whitehead, LCpl Piff Lyons, Sig Gaz Brogan** and bye bye to: **Sgt Baz Roberts** and wife **Cath, Cpls Dave Bryant, John Evans, Noott** and **Sig 'Moff' Moffett**. Best of luck in your new postings.

And lastly, after a year of hard work (so he keeps telling us) **YofS Gary Stratton** and family decided to jet off to the Caribbean for a well earned three week break in November. Where better to relax than with the relations in sunny El Salvador? Keep your head down, if not from the mother-in-law, Gringo, and come back safely, all is forgiven, and no, you won't get another medal,

PS **LCpl 'Smeds' Smedley** of 7 Sig Regt fame is on a diet after his lightweights started complaining, and just in case someone forgets, bye bye, **LCpl Rick Stacey**, all the girls will miss you.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| | |
|---|---|
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| EDUCATION EXPENSES | —for present or future children |
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# 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
# BFPO 807

A big hello to 1990 and all our readers. This month's notes have an added piquancy; very shortly now 15 Sig Regt will make the huge leap from 'interesting concept' to 'unavoidable reality', the contribution of 8 Bde to this august journal will be reduced to the same scale as that submitted by one of those Squadrons in any other Signal Regiment that no-one ever knew existed—this really is the sort of idea which makes the job worthwhile. No more fevered tapping of the keyboard in the middle of the night! No more long hours spent converting the Line Section's report into English! No longer the quizzical 'what d'you mean, you'll get round to it?' from the OC on 'W-1' day! **Capt Howard Flint**, presently SO3 (Admin), shortly to be Adjutant, deserves a big thank you in anticipation from both myself and my compatriots at 3 and 39 Bdes—Cheers **Howard**, and the curly arrow means 'carriage return'.

Enough of this mindless (though very entertaining) drivel. What's been going down? What's happening? Who's been sacked? Read on . . .

**OPERATIONAL SUMMARY**

Comms Tp has been much to the fore; **Cpl Tony Scoines** and **LCpl Mick Stout** have lent their expertise to several surge Ops, which generally involved **Tony** strolling between Ops room and cookhouse whilst **Mick** sat on top of the highest mountain in the Sperrins waiting for the RAF to rescue him—a clear case of RHIP. Meanwhile, our brand new Radio SSgt, **Ian Taylor** has learned a thing or two and has given up riding in motor cars.

Rover Gp has now settled firmly into the role of 'Road Warriors of the Gobnascale', and have earned more than a few plaudits from Waterside Coy 1 R HAMPS—keep it up.

Overall, another year of hard work and good results for the Squadron, and we hope to keep up the same standard throughout 1990, working for and with the slippered soldiers of 15 Sig Regt!

**WHY WE ARE NEEDED (A TRUE STORY)**

(Knock on SYSCON door):

**LCpl Andy Buckle** (on shift): 'What's the problem mate?'

1 R HAMPS Private: 'Can I send this confidential signal on your fax?'

**LCpl Buckle**: 'No, sorry, its insecure.'

Private: 'Well, would it help if I put it in an envelope then?'

**SYSCON—JUST YOUR TYPICAL SATURDAY**

**(LCpl Dusty Miller** reporting)

0800 hrs: Stringfellows (well all right, the Browning Drive RUC disco) kicked out the last of the Friday night revellers a few hours ago now, and the night shift, **LCpls Phil Boot** and **Terry Bowen** keenly await the arrival of their relief. Only half an hour late, and here they come; **LCpls 'JC' Jones** and **'BD' Buckle**, bleary-eyed as ever, singing their well known Saturday morning song; 'Coffee, coffee!' The phone rings. **'JC'**, efficient as ever, is the first to pick up. 'Sshhyshcon, SShirr!' The reply is instantaneous: 'Black, two sugars, my office, now!' Ah, good morning Sir, it's the 2I/C himself, **Capt Jake Thackray**.

1000 hrs: All's well. The shift is going smoothly, as you'd expect from these two. How could something go wrong when they've switched off all the nets. A pounding on the stairs that gets louder and louder, the door is thrown open and . . . 'Where's the BART teams? If they're out, good! if they're not, send 'em out!' **WO2 (FofS) Baugh** has arrived. **'BD'** jumps to attention and speaks the words ingrained in the souls of all Syscon operators: 'Yes Fos'.

1200 hrs: **'JC'** enquires of **'BD'**, 'want 'owt from 'NAAFI, Chuck?'

'What are you getting?'

'Oh, nothing much, a ham, cheese, mushroom and pineapple pizza, with extra onions, sausage and anchovies.'

'Just get me a diet Coke.'

1400 hrs: The 'Ops staff' are all well entrenched by now:

**Sgt Ian Taylor** 'My intellect matches my physique, er . . .'

**WO2 (YofS) Ron Coburn** 'Which way is my office?'

**Lt Mike McGinty** 'Germany was so much better than this, honest.'

The Brinton phone rings:

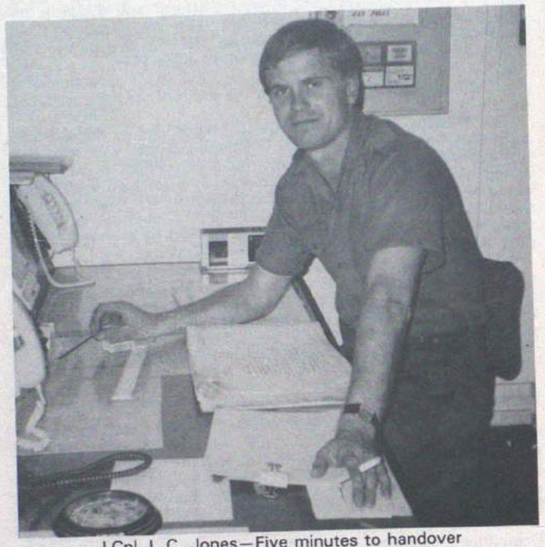
5 UDR Watchkeeper: 'Help, help, all the radios are duff!'

**'BD'**: 'OK, calm down, there's a red button on the side that says 'on'. Press that will you?'

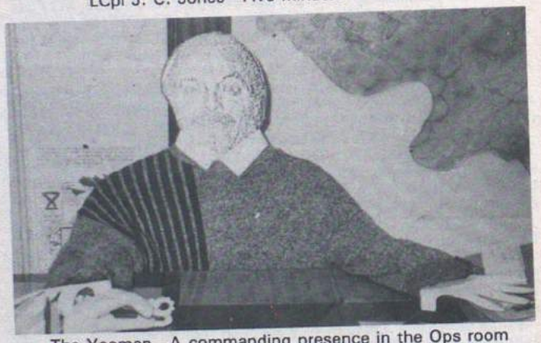
Watchkeeper: 'Hey, it works again. You scaleys are really on the ball!'

1700 hrs: The cups are clean. The bin is empty. Even the waste has been burnt. It's handover time. Here comes **Cpl Shean Dewar** and **LCpl Dusty Millar**. 'Have you left us any scoff then?' They eagerly embark on a 15 hour journey through the twilight zone of a typical night shift.

So that's the life of Syscon: a fighting patrol across the uncharted frontiers of new technology. It needs men who can handle stress, pressure and a big kettle. It demands the very best, but if it can't get them it manages with the wasters we've got now! Hello to **Cpl Tony Bennett, LCpl Andy Monger** and their wives.



LCpl J. C. Jones—Five minutes to handover



The Yeoman—A commanding presence in the Ops room



LCpl Dusty Millar auditions for 'laid-back Operator of the year'





The Troop—'Just one big happy family'

**TM TROOP—1989 WIND UP**

Herewith an end of the year round up of what's been happening to TM Tp and its three Sections: Radio, Line/Riggers and TE. The views contained do not necessarily reflect those of the management.

**BRIGADE LINE/RIGGING SECTION**

And so 1989 comes to a close . . . A busy year for the Section, with the installation of several new Ops rooms and the commissioning of a number of masts throughout the TAOR.

We're all looking forward with eager anticipation to 1990, particularly those of us who will (however regretfully) be posted out. **Cpl 'Dai' Treeby**, for example, will shortly be leaving us for the REME (at last); we wish him and half the Troop expense store the very best at Arborfield. **LCpl 'Jonah' Jones** leaves in January to get married before getting some sun in Cyprus, and **LCpl 'Mac' MacDonald** has also decided to make some young local girl very happy. He's posted out.

Elsewhere in the Section, **Cpl Billy McKelvie** has managed to pass his safe to climb course, and is now fully qualified to play golf with **Cpl Ian Church**, whilst **Sig 'Gerry' Fitt** has spent a very busy first year practising his hobby of area cleaning under the tutelage of the RSM, **WO1 'Dixie' Dean**.

One of our most notable recent events was the massive stoning of **Cpl 'Max' Maxwell**'s car whilst in Carrickmore, which according to him at least was a potentially sticky situation which he survived by a mixture of quick thinking and coolness under pressure. According to the Department of the Environment, however, the road had been gritted that day—never mind, a good tale **Max**, and it gets better at every telling.

Two new members are welcomed; Nebi the dog, who almost refused to be photographed with the Section for fear of compromise, and last and most definitely least, **Sig Delbert** 'Hubcaps' **Wilkins** from 21 Sig Regt. Welcome both.

An so another year disappears. Roll on 1990. There's a rumour it'll all be over by Christmas . . .

**GOODBYE 1989—RADIO SECTION**

It took a while to plan, but we've eventually got rid of two of the Corps' 'hardest workers' (their own description): **Cpl Wayne Freeman** is now terrorising 8 Sig Regt with his desire to drink anything and everything and **Cpl Dave Griffin** woke up early for the first time in his career in order to catch the flight to the Caribbean or wherever Belize is.

These two stout warriors were promptly replaced by **Cpl Neil Phillips**, only one PVR attempt so far but plenty of time to catch up with the rest of us, and **LCpl Phil Darlington**, who has already impressed with his dynamic pace round the BFT circuit; 'er . . . you actually have to do two laps, **Phil**'.

**Cpl Dave Harris** continues to display a phantom pregnancy and he is shortly to be relieved of his responsible post of Troop storeman by **Cpl 'Tubbs' Kendall**, who has just taken his T1 entrance (again!), in the desperate (and false) hope that it will increase his chances of parole. **Cpl Dave Kidd** has been sighted during the last week, and so I can say with a fair degree of certainty that he's still on held strength.

Otherwise, the Troop struggles on under the eagle eye of **SSgt Kev Bailey**, when he manages to fit us in between his visits to the leading fashion houses of Europe. For the last time Staff, flares are not coming back in, OK!

Which just leaves myself, **Cpl Jess Thompson-Hughes**. If I survive the publication of these character assassinations, I should be joining 16 Sig Regt in the near future. I have, however, a cunning plan . . .

**TE SECTION—THE DISAPPEARING WORLD**

(And not just to the NAAFI at 1030!)

Its been a quiet period; just the move of the workshop, several Brinton installations, calls out and the inevitable 'last minute jobs' from the FofS (and all this during one weekend). The Section is preparing for the big move down to the Lisburn Hilton and 15 Sig Regt, although some of us unfortunately will not be going (ha ha). Let's have a list of postings in and out (and I promise to be probably the only one in this magazine not to include all those silly nicknames: **Sgt Pete McCormick** has gone to Lisburn (and that's the last of the 'Fos Squad'. **Sgt Pete Szeremeta** has arrived from Lisburn (just in time to go back to Lisburn—hold that MFO). **Cpl Andy Dawson** goes to 2 Div and awaits his T1 with anxiety. **Cpl Ian Travers** goes to 8 Sig Regt via RSDCC.

As we move inexorably toward non-existence and one month-long FRTs, we wonder will it ever be the same again without the old mule himself in charge? It will be interesting to find out.

Well, it would be, but I just won't be around to enjoy this voyage of discovery; this is **Cpl Sean Boyd** signing off to a nine to five job and a company car.

# 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
# BFPO 801

**SHQ**

October and November have not only brought a change of season, but a change of personnel in the following appointments: RSM **WO1 J. W. Mackey**, RQMS **WO2 R. A. Rack** YofS **WO2 B. D. Colvin** and last but not least, **LCpl 'Penfold' Denny** to the Orderly Room in what is probably the most important appointment: *Leave* and *Movements* Clerk! We wish them all an enjoyable tour in the Province.

**COMMS TROOP**
**ROVER GROUP**

September saw the Comds Rover Gp's fastest crashout to date. It took just under five minutes to be dressed, loaded and ready for action. What was all the fuss about? The Group had been asked to participate in the making of a video for HQNI on APV driving and debussing drills. There were no 'Hollywood stars in the making or Oscar nominations but **LCpl Scott Ovenstone** ensured that there were a few retakes. He reversed his APV so close to the other vehicle that we couldn't open his doors! Undoubtedly the star of the show was **Dvr Jim** 'I'm so good looking' **Heron** who fell off the bonnet during the final pose in front of the camera.

In this issue of *The Wire* we say farewell to the Brigade Commander, **Brig B. H. Dutton OBE**, and welcome our new Commander, **Brig M. D. Jackson MBE**.

Welcomes are also extended to **LCpl Geordie Aspery** who joins us from 3 Div and **Pte Ian Tully** from Bicester. On the farewell side we say goodbye to **LCpl Pete** 'the jester' **Clark, LCpl Frank** 'Hayfever' **Williams**.

Congratulations are extended to **LCpl Scott Ovenstone** and his wife **Marie** and **LCpl Eddie Reynolds** and **Joanne** on their recent marriages.

On a closing note it must be mentioned that **LCpl Paul Storey** is on his AIPT Course. He rang up to say how easy it was. **Cpl Taff Chappell** (RPC) has now bid for 15 places so the whole of Rover Gp can have a go!

**SYSCON/COMMCEN**

Once again we've had a big changeover of personnel on the Syscon shifts. Firstly, we've said goodbye to **Cpl Rob Hood, Jill** and **Nick** who are off to sunny Gibraltar. Also farewell to **LCpl** 'ET' **Tait, Sig 'Jock' Andrew, Sig 'Paddy' Johnstone, Sig** 'Toilet' **Lavery, Cpl 'Taff' Burge** (we still don't know how you got posted to Hong Kong) and **Cpl Colin Williams**.

Welcomes go to **LCpls Ginge Woodworth, Geordie Bartlett, Sig Brossette Messenger, 'Scotty' Scott** (original nickname), **Scooter Burns, Phil Hewish** and **Cpl Rab Graham**. We also said a brief hello to **Cpl 'Biddy' Baxter**, who after extensive training decided he'd waste his talents here and move into Rover Gp! There's no accounting for taste.

The shifties 'Chunder Book' got off to a slow start but is now racing along. Little things make us laugh like . . . what certain members of a shift can do with a shedful of beer, some sheets, a hoover and a bass broom. Answers on a postcard please . . .

Syscon is now under the guidance of **Sgt Chas** 'Nuts and Bolts' **Tolton** who totally denies being forever away on Comms Trials. Strange how he always gets back at 1605 on a Friday and misses the OC's run.

**CRYPTO**

Life beyond the green door continues at quite a pace with all the comings and goings within the Section. Firstly, goodbye and good luck to **Sgt 'Shakey' Shakespeare** who leaves to go on his Yeomans Course. Also to **Cpl** (now Sgt) **Graham** 'PPL' **Gee** who is now at 20 Maritime Regt RCT.

Welcome to **Cpl Pete Frazer** and **Jackie** who join us from 30 Sig Regt.

Work in the office has now quietened down as **Sgt 'Scouse' Shiled** is on his RSSSC and we are no longer collared to re-decorate his house for him.

**AND FINALLY**

A big thank you and goodbye from all the Troop to **Capt Steve 'Davies' Felton** and his wife **Joanna** who leave for 30 Sig Regt after some education at JCSC.

**TM TROOP**

The last few weeks have, as always, been most eventful in Technical Maintenance Tp. **Cpl Vince McNaught** and his rigging Section 'volunteered' recently to accept responsibility for all rigging in the Brigade's TAOR. They have been ably assisted by our colleagues in Syscon. Don't worry lads, it's all in a day and night's work.

On the radio front, the Techs led by **Sgt 'Murph' Murphy** have been seen working hard to keep the UDR and roulement Battalions comms up to the usual high standard. All the ops rooms fits etc would not have been possible without the expertise of the TE Techs and Telemechs under **SSgt Mick Couston**.

The Troop has seen a lot of comings and goings recently. Starting with our illustrious leader **Lt Matt Fensom** without whose considerable leadership qualities the Troop would have floundered long ago—or so he'd have us believe! **Lt Fensom** has now jumped into the hot seat as Comms Tp Comd on the departure of **Capt Steve Felton**. Good luck to him and thanks to **Lt Fensom** for guidance and leadership of the finest quality over the last six months—sorry only three months—but it seemed longer!

The Troop has lost two more members. **Cpl 'Morph' Brown** and his wife **Jane** have gone to 21 Sig Regt and **Cpl 'Mac' McGowan** and **Sarah—Mac** has changed Corps and is posted to Berlin.

Rumour has it that **Cpl 'Morph' Brown** has left the Province. One rumour that is confirmed is that **Cpl 'Dill' Dillon**'s five stitches were necessitated when hit by low flying dustbins. He was last seen explaining to **WO2 (FofS) Russ Moren** that his pseudo concussion could greatly reduce his chances on his T1 extrance exam. However, the Foz reckons there's more chance of them pulling down the Berlin wall than that happening. As they say, seeing is believing.

The Troop has also seen some newcomers and welcomes **LCpl John Roberts** to the Rigging Section and **LCpl Phil Graham** to Radio Section. We hope your tour here is a happy and safe one.

**ROYAL SIGNALS LEADERSHIP COURSE**

On a different note, three members of the Squadron have recently returned after spending five weeks away on the Royal Signals Leadership Course.

**Cpls Frank Nevens, Shuggy Hughes** and **Vince McNaught** left for Catterick one Sunday morning. All three unsure as to what to expect.

The accommodation was fantastic! It was considerably different from that in the Province. From day one onwards we had no idea about what would happen next, which made the course very interesting indeed. One week you would be running on the moors, the next abseiling in the Lake District. The course was very rewarding and we would go so far as to say that it's probably the best course we have done—which isn't so hard when it's the only one!

Physically it was very hard and kept you on your toes. Anything that can be carried usually is—by us! The instructors have a favourite saying 'more effort, less miles', and effort is exactly what is required if you want to pass.

Whilst on adventure training we were called upon to use our talents in caves. They have very small entrances. This part of the course was not enjoyed at all by **Cpl Vince McNaught** and almost gave him his first sense of humour failure. **Cpl Shuggy Hughes** was quite happy and quite enjoyed **Vince**'s discomfort.

PS Details of course content have been omitted in the interests of security—and also because **SSgt Tony Salter** would undoubtedly give us hell!



Cpl Vince McNaught deciding that he would rather be somewhere else right now



Cpl 'Shuggy' Hughes emerges from a pot hole having obviously enjoyed the experience

**SQUADRON FOOTBALL**

In spite of our heavy commitments the football team continues to be a major force in NI Minor Units football. The team has made another successful start to the new season being unbeaten in all league and cup games so far this season. The team is top of the league and has progressed to the final of the Minor Units Cup. In the quarter final against 26 Sqn RCT the Squadron came back on three occasions to win 5—4 with **Cpl Paul Elwood** scoring a last minute winner. Before the quarter final there was some concern from the team that **LCpl Mick** (Mr Punctual) **May** had turned up on time for the first time this season . . . the reason . . . the Squadron Photographer was present.

In the semi's against 176 Pro Coy RMP the Squadron left it to the second period of extra time before scoring a well earned 2—1 win, **LCpl Scouse Campbell** (REME) scoring a penalty. The Squadron played Depot Kings Division in the final and won 3—1 the scores were **Cpl Wief Williams**—1 and **LCpl Scouse Campbell**—2. Congratulations to all members of the team on an outstanding performance in a very hard fought competition.

Soon to depart are **Sgt Dave Harris** (Team Manager and Capt) and **LCpl Jim** 'Top Scorer' **Campbell**. **Cpl Rob Hood** has already left and we say hello to **WO2 (YofS) Brian Colvin**.



The Team: Sig Scott, Cpl Elwood, WO2 Colvin, Cpl Nevens, Maj Johns, LCpls Johnston and Mordue, Cpl Chappell, LCpl May, Sgt Harris (Capt), LCpls Campbell, Dutton and Baxter
Cpl Williams absent (again!)

**EXERCISE 'TOPHAM HATT'**
**THE CHARACTERS**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Lt Matt PB (The Terminator) Fensom** |
| **Ex Organiser** | **Sgt Frank Roberts** |
| **The Workers** | **Sgt Mick Murphy** |
| | **Sgt Gaz Copley** |
| | **Cpl Vince McNaught** |
| | **Cpl Colin Burgess** |
| | **Cpl Colin Williams** |
| | **Cpl Frank Nevens** |
| | **LCpl Mick May** |
| | **LCpl Gaz Clapham** |
| | **LCpl Jason Kietly (244 Sig Sqn)** |
| | **Sig Dave Gough** |
| | **Sig Stig Richards** |
| **The Hired Help** | **LCpl Sue Wilson** |
| | **Mrs Ali Murphy** |
| | **Mr Tim Fensom** |

Ex 'Topham Hatt' was a four-day 'live' exercise which took place between 1 and 6 November in which various members of 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn went to Swanage Railway in Dorset to help set up and improve the communications along the line.

The railway itself was set up when BR closed down the line in 1972 and a group of volunteers began making plans to reopen it and run steam engines. One of the volunteers was **Sgt Frank Roberts** whose idea it was for members of the Squadron to go to Swanage and help out. As well as being of benefit to the railway it also gave us a chance to practise skills in a live environment which would also be of benefit to the community.

And so it was that on the first day of November our intrepid band set off on the first stage of our journey to RAF Lyneham led by 'The Terminator' himself, **Lt Matt PB Fensom**. After a night at Lyneham we were met by our driver, **LCpl Jason Kielty**, kindly donated by 244 Sig Sqn, and we set off on the long and arduous journey to Swanage.

We arrived later that day and were shown into our sumptuous sleeping accommodation and our very own buffet car. After an initial briefing we travelled down the line to survey the scene and get an idea of the graft ahead. On returning to the base camp we sat down to an amazing meal of spaghetti bolognese prepared by our very own wok **LCpl Sue Wilson** and that amazing man in the kitchen, **Sig 'Stig' Richards**.

The next day dawned bright but chilly (through blurred eyes for some of the team) but heads were soon cleared and **Sgt Frank Roberts** detailed troops to tasks. We were split into three teams led by **LCpl Mick** 'mind your head' **May, Cpl Vince McNaught** and **Sig Stig Richards**. The tasks to be undertaken were line laying, pole straightening and pole planting. Off we chugged up the line, dropping off **Cpl Vince McNaught**'s team at the end of the line. They did a very nice job dressing poles and almost as nice a job sticking them into the ground! **Sig Richards**' team was then dropped off to straighten some poles. It was thought that with the combined weight of **Sig Richards** and **Cpl Colin 'Slim' Burgess**, they wouldn't need a winch but even their large proportions needed mechanical help.

**LCpl May**'s team set off to lay line along the track. At least that was the idea but he did in fact spend all morning at Swanage Hospital getting his head stitched up. This was much appreciated by his team of **Cpl Gaz Clapham** and **Cpl Frank Nevens** who spent that morning drinking cups of tea. Eventually we began work and by the end of the day the teams had straightened a number of poles, dressed and planted 10 new ones and laid and rigged about 2 miles of cable.

We headed back to the station and sat down to a well earned meal.

Later in the evening it was decided to sample some of the local ale and watched **LCpls Mick May** and **Gaz Clapham** leave dressed to kill.

We started again on Saturday nice and early and continued with our jobs. Unfortunately **LCpl Mick May**'s fortune didn't improve and he had to go to hospital again to have his thumb lanced. But his team cracked on and met up with **Sig Richards**' team to complete the rigging of cable along the line. Meanwhile back at the end of the line, **Cpl Vince McNaught**'s team continued its pole planting and was rigging more cable from the station to the end of the line.

During the day we were passed several times by the steam trains that run on the line. For many of us it was the first time we had actually seen a steam train at close quarters and although not avid train spotters, it was quite an impressive sight.

Lunch was dropped off from the train by **LCpl Sue Wilson** ably assisted by **Sgt Mick Murphy**'s wife **Alison** who was also a big help in the kitchen. After lunch we continued with our jobs and by the end of the day had completed all the rigging and actually done quite a bit more than was expected in the four days. On return to the station we had another wonderful meal prepared by our delightful cooks.

And so to the final day which was to be the easiest so far with the majority of jobs being the termination of the cable at the junction boxes along the line. This was where 'The Terminator' came into his

own and he thrived on the demands of such an important job, until he terminated one cable too many and the pressure got to him. He quickly beat a hasty retreat back to Swanage and left the mess in the capable hands of **LCpl** 'What colour code' **Clapham**. But all was not lost and he soon had the job completed.

We worked our way up the line, reparing a span here and there and then got to the last station where **Cpl Vince McNaught**'s team was finishing off its cable.

Now the moment of truth. Did they work? Well, actually not all of the extensions did, but enought were operating to satisfy the railway staff and give them communication from Swanage to the end of the line.

So all in all it was a successful weekend which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part. We thank Swanage Railway for their hospitality and hope to return to the railway to help out in the future.

The venture was videoed for us by **Mr Tim Fensom**, the OC's father, who also generously provided the team with some refreshments.



The boys (and girl!) ready for action



Sgt Frank Roberts directs operations—Cpl Vince McNaught looks puzzled! What's new?



Sgt Frank Roberts and LCpl Gaz 'I want to be a Liney!' Clapham



Cpl Colin Burgess terminating along the pole route



Cpl Frank Nevens—where's the video?

**STOP PRESS**

Yorks & Lancs Minor Units Cup Final results:-

39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn . . . 3
Depot Kings Div . . . 1.

Congratulations go to all members of the football team on an oustanding performance against very competitive but sporting opponents.



## — News from Headquarters —

### Army Apprentices' College Harrogate



89B Recruit Troop—Penney Sqn

**PENNEY SQUADRON**
**CHAMPION RECRUIT TROOP INTAKE 89B**
**Report by Recruit Brocklehurst**

On 5 September 1989 I was a member of the 89B intake to the College. When we arrived we were put into one of four Squadrons, depending on which trade we were going to be trained to do.

Penney Sqn got all the Linguists and Special Operators, there were 46 of us in all. To look after us we had two Troop Sergeants, **Sgts Fradley** and **Leather** and **AT Sgt Searle, AT Cpls Elderbrant, Merchant** and **Marsh** and our Troop Commander was **Lt Elliott**. The first few days consisted of getting to know each other and being issued with all our equipment for the basic recruit training that was soon to start.

On the first Monday it was the first bull night and the first time that we had to work as a team. I thought that we had done this well however the Troop Corporals thought differently and let us know about it!

The first competition for the Champion Recruit Troop Trophy was the swimming. This consisted of 15 events and the Troop came either first or second in every race and won the competition with some excellent swims by **Rcts Brocklehurst, Burton, Hutchings** and **Tulk**. Rugby was the next competition. This was a hard fought competition with Penney Sqn being pipped into second place by Scott Sqn by one try. However, there were some outstanding performances from **Rcts Doherty, Janvier, Brocklehurst** and **Tulk** and, this meant that we were still in first place overall in the competition. Penney Sqn continued to produce outstanding performances in all the remaining events and came either first or second in all of them. The sixth week of BRT was soon upon us and it was time for the Inter-Recruit Troop Drill Competition. This was the one competition that we were not looking forward to. However, all our hard work paid off and we rewarded the Troop Sergeants by winning this and the Champion Recruit Troop Trophy for sport to become Champion Recruit Troop for intake 89B. Everyone felt proud to be in Penney Sqn and in the Royal Corps of Signals.

**RAWSON SQUADRON**
**THE QUIZ NIGHT**

After much hard grafting by the ATs and GDs under the supervision of **Sgt Roe** and **Cpl Woodland**, Friday 20 October saw the return of the 'Killer Quiz Night' for Rawson Sqn.

The evening started with just about the whole Squadron suffocating **Sgt Dooley** who lovingly looked after the bar, and the dosh!!

The first teams to suffer under the hail of tortuous questions from **Capt** 'Bamber Gasgoine' **Radford** and **SSM** 'Magnus' **Metcalfe** was Queens' College Scunthorpe and the Harold Bishop Fan Club. Representing QCS were **AT Coombe, AT Cpl Armstrong** and **AT Bremner**. Representing the HBFC were **AT Wyllie, AT LCpls Davis** and **Royle**.

Next to be tortured by the 2IC and the SSM were The Bullets, starring **AT Cpl Scott, AT LCpl Williams** and **AT Nicholls**. Starring in the Manouvre Groovers were **AT Barnes, AT Cpl Parkes** and **AT Richardson** who convinced us all he was totally mad and deranged.

After battling through the questions QCS came through the Grand Final as the 1989 Rawson Quiz Night winners. The Shield was presented by the Commandant.

Many thanks to **Linda** for doing the scoring, **Cpl Woodland** for supplying a lot of equipment for the Quiz Night, **Sgt Dooley** for running the bar and **Capt Radford, SSM Metcalfe, Sgt Roe** and all the others who helped to organise it.



The Commandant presenting the trophy to the Games Night winners. The wooden table came a close second!



Drunk on coca cola, this team were later told to wear masks for fear of frightening the female score mistress

**THE RAWSON RUN**

On Tuesday 14 November 1989 Rawson Sqn invited the recipients of our endeavours to a presentation ceremony in the College Jimmy Club.

The Chief Instructor welcomed all the various charities, which benefited from a sum of £2,600. Our acting OC Squadron, **Capt M. J. Radford MBE**, then invited those who ran the Great Rawson Run to donate the cheques. The charities who received the money were: The Scanner Appeal, The Victim Support Group, St Michael's Hospice, Arthritic Care, British Heart Foundation, The Ian Tetley Memorial, and St John's Ambulance.

Afterwards a light buffet supper was enjoyed. All the charities who benefited have expressed their thanks to the Squadron and the runners in particular.



**BRADLEY SQUADRON**

It has been a busy period with 85 recruits arriving on 5 September 1989, split into two Troops (Rapier Tp commanded by **Lt Bowers** with **Sgt P. Harris**; Whitespear Tp commanded by **Lt Fraser** with **Sgt W. McPhee**) who finish their Basic Recruit Training and Pass Off on 9 December 1989.

The third intake for the year arrived on 31 October 1989. These formed Quadrant Tp, commanded by **Lt Urwin** with **Sgt K. Sheppard**. Meanwhile, Lightning Tp, commanded by **Lt Bewsher** with **Sgt J. Torrie** are on the closing straight, and graduate from the College on 21 December 1989.

It is not just the Troop Commanders who have been playing musical chairs. We said farewell to **Maj Fisher** on Friday 13 October 1989, with his replacement being **Maj Hunt** due on 6 December 1989. So, in the meantime **Capt Wallace** has been elevated to Squadron Commander and **Capt Young WRAC/RAEC** borrowed to fill the slot of Second in Command.

**MAJ FISHER'S VALE TO THE JUNIOR LEADERS OF THE CORPS!**

**A Philosophical Farewell to Command or 'Tiddly Om Pompom' with Apologies to Pooh**

*Sometime when you're feeling important,*
*Sometime when your ego's in bloom:*
*Sometime when you take it for granted*
*You're the best qualified man in the room:*
*Sometime when you feel that your leaving*
*would create an unfillable hole,*
*Just follow these simple instructions*
*and see how they humble your soul.*
*Take bucket . . . and fill it with water,*
*Put your hand in . . . right up to the wrist,*
*Pull it out . . . and the hole that remains . . .*
*Is the measure of how much you'll be missed.*
*You may splash all you please as you enter,*
*You may stir up the water galore:*
*But stop . . . and you'll find in a short while*
*That it looks just the same as before.*
*The moral to this is quite simple,*
*You must give of your best at all times:*
*Be proud of yourself and of others,*
*But remember . . . there's no indispensable man.*

**LIGHTNING TROOP**

After the excitment of the Royal Tournament, it was time for the Troop Commander to settle down and organise the main Troop Commander's Exercise for the year; Ex Vanguard. Those of you who are former Junior Leaders, and who have participated in the exercise may be surprised to know that the format has now changed, and that



it is now an 'Adventurous Training Exercise'. The aim of the exercise being to introduce the JL's to a sport or hobby normally run at Garrison level. To Lightning Tp this meant a choice between Off Shore Sailing, Parachuting and Caving.

The 12 who opted for the Off Shore Sailing spent a week aboard the Corps Yachts, *Skywave* and *Quicksilver*, learning about sailing in and around the Solent and the Isle of Wight. Our thanks must go to **Maj Wannell** and **Cpl Jones**, who volunteered to skipper the boats and teach the lads for the week.

The Joint Services Parachuting Centre, at Netheravon agreed to run a special five day course for 14 JLs. Unfortunately, the weather did not agree to play, and so nobody jumped, but hopefully the seed has been sown and some members of the Troop will return to have another go.

Caving is a new activity to the Corps, but one which should become increasingly popular as graduates of the Corps' new External Leadership Centre, in the Yorkshire Dales are posted to Units. Sixteen JLs used the Centre as a base for hill-walking and caving in the area. For anybody who has never tried crawling down a dark wet hole, under a hillside, let me assure you it is a real test of 'bottle'. Everybody spent a couple of days caving under the watchful and enthusiastic eyes of **Capt Pendlenton WRAC/RAEC** from the College and **Cpl Johnstone** of 11 Sig Regt, while for the remainder of the week, **Lt R. G. Bewsher** took the group for some gentle strolls in the Yorkshire Dales. Everybody walked the Three Peaks in about nine and a half hours which, given the conditions, was a very creditable effort.

Ex Vanguard introduced 42 JLs to new and exciting sports, two of which are almost guaranteed to be run in most Garrisons. We hope that when the present members of Lightning Tp arrive in their Units, they will pursue their new hobbies in their free time. In the meantime, we prepare for the end of the course.

**DUKE OF EDUNBURGH AWARD BARBECUE AND DISCO**

Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants **AT Cpl Mark Parr, AT LCpl John Campbell, ATs David Mackay** and **Carl Nelson** all of Rawson Sqn helped to organise a Barbecue and Disco for disabled people who are members of the Wheelers and Walkers section of the Harrogate PHAB Club. The College Commandant, **Col Burke** and **Mrs Burke**, gave their support to the event and **Col Burke** opened the evening's activities by making our guests welcome.

The barbecue cooking was carried out by **Mrs Jean Thomas**, wife of the College Duke of Edinburgh's Co-ordinator, and **Mrs Carol Williams** Youth Club Leader. The Coffee Bar was run by **Mrs Viv Harris**, wife of **Sgt Harris** of Bradley Sqn.

**AT Cpl Mark Parr** presented the Wheelers and Walkers Club with a bronze 'Jimmy' which was paraded in the hall led by **AT Pipe Maj Scott**. The 'Jimmy' will be presented each year to the most outstanding member of the Wheelers Club. A draw was made where each disabled guest received a prize.

**Mr Colin Towse** of Harrogate, who has been a voluntary helper at the Penney Pot Youth Club this past five years and before that a keen member and supporter of the Senior Youth Club, and his brother **Kevin** were the DJs who gave their services for the very popular and enjoyable disco.

We said goodbye to our guests at 2230 hrs after what was a very enjoyable evening. Before leaving all the organisers were thanked for the evening by **Mr Michael Parry** a disabled member of the Wheelers and Walkers Club.

**HARROGATE BUDO ACADEMY**

We have changed our name! After long deliberations it was decided we were incorrectly named. As we actually train in almost every form





of martial art, we decided that we were a 'Budo' (martial way) Club, and to call ourselves just a karate club was misleading. Although it must be said that a change of name is not a change in our method of training. One big bonus is that our gradings now give a dual rank, one in karate and one in budo. But that also means more to learn. We are all agreed, that's what we want.

After a very tense and hard grading session the following have passed to their new rank: **AT White** to second kyu, brown belt, two tabs; **ATs Dent** and **Haffenden** and **Maj Hopwood** to seventh kyu, orange belt; and **AT Norman** to eighth kyu, yellow belt, congratulations to them, their grades were well deserved.

We welcome our new members from intake 89B. We hope they will enjoy our training and comradeship.

The video taken by **Mr John Perkins** and his video hobby has added to the rumour that sensi **Steve Barnett** has a bald patch where the Japanese language cassette was implanted. Vicious lies!

Any visitor to the area, wishing to train with us should contact **Steve Barnett**, second dan, Ops Wing, or just come along on a Thursday at 1800 hrs.

**THE HARROGATE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**

On 27 October 1989, young **Emma Donaldson** received a cheque for £200 on behalf of the Harrogate Child Development Centre. The money was raised at this year's College Open Day, from stalls run by Bradley Sqn thanks to the hard work of **Sgt Phil Harris** and his wife, **Viv**, and the Junior Leaders of the Corps. Both **Sgt Harris** and **Cpl Donaldson** have handicapped children under the care of the centre.



*Left to Right:* Sig Davidge, Maj M. S. Fisher SO2 Co-ord, Marie Donaldson, Emma, Pam Kirby (Head Occupational Therapist) and Sgt (Phil) Harris

**CANOEING**

In August we said goodbye to 90% of the College Canoe Squad. They had all served us well but **Messrs Parry, Clayton** and **Chapman** who had achieved honours at the highest level were going to be particularly missed. **AT Chris Clayton** went off on his leave to compete with the Senior Army Team and paddled in the Inter-Services Slalom at Holmepierrepoint. Reports suggest he did very well.

**ATs Springett** and **Weaver** and **JL Paton** were left to fill the gap. Their enthusiasm quickly attracted other canoe groupies and by October the squad was prepared for the Army Canoe Surf Championships at Croyde, North Devon. Regular rolling sessions in the pool under the watchful eye of **Lt Sarah Pipe WRAC/RAEC** and **LCpl Paul Watterson** ensured that most of the team could eskimo roll—a skill which would stand them in good stead. Regular trips to sunny Scarborough had whetted the appetite for the big stuff.

The Exercise prior to the Championships was called Big Wednesday after the cult surf film. It wook place between 2 and 8 October at Croyde. After an initial lull, 35 mile an hour westerly winds pushed in big storm surf by mid week. It was character building stuff. The canoeists found it impossible to 'get on the outside' but at least there was surf.

Hard work, enthusiasm and team work meant the College Team **(AT Springett, AT Batley** and **JL Paton)** retaining the Junior Team Championship for the four year in succession.

**AT Springett** was outstanding in winning the Junior Slalom Canoe Final and Surf Ski Final. **LCpl Watterson** surprised everyone (but not himself) by winning the Novice Slalom Canoe Championship.

It was a tremendous week. On the final day the sun shone and it was just like California.

**ARCHERY—STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE**

On Sunday 19 November three young Royal Signals soldiers shocked the Northern Archery Civilian Contingent. The event was the Northern Counties Junior Indoor Archery Championships. The venue was miles and miles from Harrogate, Catterick or even York. **Sig Leon Masterman, Alan MacDonald** and **AT Aidan Williams** proved on that day that the Army, and in particular the Royal Signals, is a force to be reckoned with.

Against the top juniors (under 18s) in the North of England, with some 36 on the line: **AT Williams**—led the field from loosing his first of 60 arrows. At the three dozen stage he was only two points ahead of the Cheshire County Champion. **Sig Masterman**—at this stage was in third place, closely followed by **Sig MacDonald**.

With just three arrows left, **Williams** put in a disastrous 27 out of 30 points. The Cheshire lad needed 30 points to win. First arrow . . . 10, second arrow . . . 9, last arrow . . . a line cutting . . . 10, equalling **Williams**'s final score of 522 out of 600 points. Tragically the title went Cheshire, this young Champion having scored 13 inner golds to **Williams** 12.

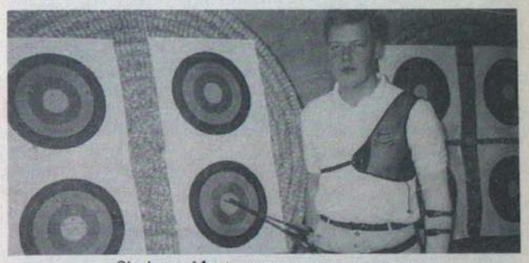
Royal Signals archers . . . second place, third place **MacDonald** and sixth place **Masterman**.

They all qualify for the National Junior Indoor Championships to be held at Coventry on Sunday 3 December 1989.

Good luck lads . . . Go for Gold!

**STOP PRESS**

**Sig Masterman** came third in the National Championships—Well Done!



Sig Leon Masterman—a rare moment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## ARMY APPRENTICES' COLLEGE INDIVIDUAL NOVICE BOXING FINALS

**Report by AT LCpl Campbell**

The rain was cold. The College spectators shuffled their way into the Indoor Areana. Crowding around the ring waiting for the battle to start. The atmosphere was relaxed as the teams made their way to the changing area. Inside the little rooms the atmosphere changed. Tension lay heavily in the air. Each boxer awaiting his fight, trying to imagine what his opponent was like.

The Arena had been totally transformed, silken parchutes hung everywhere. The time taken to prepare the ring showed as the canvas shone a brilliant white. The old frame painted, the ropes painstakingly wrapped with tape.

The Prelims were hard fought by all competitors. At the end the finalists stood proudly awaiting the finals the following Saturday.

The matches were as follows:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Class 'B' | Light Welter: | **JCpl Wilkie v AT Gardner** |
| Class 'B' | Welter: | **JLCpl Gale v JLCpl Russel** |
| Class 'B' | Light Middle: | **JL Rennie v AT Abraham** |
| Class 'B' | Middle: | **AT Morland v AT Penfold** |
| Class 'B' | Heavy: | **JL Walsh v JLCpl Neill** |
| Class 'C' | Feather: | **AT Elliott v AT Murray** |
| Class 'C' | Light Weight: | **ALCpl Brady v AT Mileham** |
| Class 'C' | Light Welter: | **AT White v ALCpl Lomax** |
| Class 'C' | Welter: | **ACpl McGoldrick v ACpl Hickman** |
| Class 'C' | Light Middle: | **AT Morrison v AT King** |
| Class 'C' | Middle: | **AT Honeywood v ALCpl Maxwell** |
| Class 'C' | Light Heavy: | **AT LCpl Campbell v AT Combe** |
| Class 'C' | Heavy: | **AT Cpl Dowd v AT LCpl Eaves** |
| Novice | Light Middle: | **AT SSgt Butler v AT Cpl Parkes** |
| Novice | Middle: | **AT Cpl Birchall v AT Dore** |

**FINALS**

Again the atmosphere was relaxed, but as soon as the first boxers came to the ring fanfared by the College Band playing the Rocky theme the atmosphere became tense. Everyone started cheering, then they went quiet as they were introduced but as soon as the fight started the crowd went wild.

Eventually the last fight came and went with **AT Cpl Birchall** the winner for Rawson Sqn, one of few.



AT Cpl McGoldrick (Scott Sqn) v AT Cpl Hickman (Rawson Sqn). McGoldrick won



AT LCpl Campbell (Rawson Sqn) taking one of AT Coombes (Rawson Sqn) punches. Campbell won

### FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM

The Corps Museum is now firmly established on the tourist map of Southern England and the number of visitors attending the Museum has greatly increased and is still increasing.

Unfortunately the Museum is not open at weekends which means that many would-be-visitors are turned away.

To help overcome this problem a voluntary society, 'Friends of The Royal Signals Museum', was established in 1987 whose members agree to man the Museum shop and supervise visitors during the weekends between May and September.

Interested volunteers can also help in Research, Cataloguing, Preservation and identifying objects.

This scheme worked very well in 1988 but unfortunately a number of Friends have been forced to pull out this year and we need some new recruits to take their place.

Any member, or wife, who is interested in helping the Corps Museum are asked to contact: **Maj (Retd) Leslie Taylor MBE**, Secretary, Friends of The Royal Signals Museum, c/o The Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.





**VISIT OF MAJ GEN W. A. EVANS**

As part of the ARU inspection programme the Group was honoured by a visit on 25 October by **Maj Gen W. A. Evans** the GOC Eastern District.

The GOC was met on arrival in the Unit by the CO **Lt Col J. R. Berry** before joining other members of the welcoming party, **Maj W. J. L. Fiskel** (2IC), **Capt F. Mackender** (Adjt) and **WO1 (RSM) I. Thorneycroft** at Group HQ.

The programme for the day included visits to 2 Coy Ops where the GOC was briefed by **Capt Bob White**, tours of the Special Projects Agency and soldiers accommodation blocks. The GOC also took the opportunity to see some of our young soldiers undergoing their mandatory military training before visiting the NAAFI, Group Restaurant, Community Centre and our local Church St Mary-in-the-Elms.

One of the highlights of the day was the Medal Presentation Parade when **Maj Gen Evans** presented the following awards:-

BEM to **Sgt T. W. Smith**
MSM to **WO1 J. Sharrock**
LS & GC to **WO2 (CSM) J. Riley**

Following the presentation parade the GOC was escorted to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess where he met the families of the recipients and other Mess members.

At the end of what was an excellent visit the GOC stated he was delighted with everything he and seen and was happy to declare the Unit Fit For Role.



The GOC, CO and Medal recipients in happy mood after the official presentation
*Back Row L-R:* WO2 (CSM) J. Riley, Maj Gen W. A. Evans, WO1 J. Sharock, Lt Col J. R. Berry and Sgt T. W. Smith BEM
*Front Row L-R:* Mrs Freda Riley, Miss Kirsten Riley, Mrs Carol Sharock, Mrs Sara Jane Smith

**2 COMPANY UPDATE**

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj R. J. Sheldon** |
| **CSM** | **WO2 J. Riley** |
| **CQMS** | **SSgt P. Williams** |

Our contribution this month reflects the deluge of departures and arrivals the Company has experienced over recent months.

Notable departures include the OC **Maj Bill Clark** and his wife **Pat** and **WO2 (CSM) Jerry Nation** and his wife **Nuala**, both couples embark on new careers in 'civvy' street and take with them our best wishes for the future.

The Company welcomes **WO2 (CSM) John Riley** and his wife **Freda, WO1 'Geordie' Doughty** and his wife **June, WO2 Jan Sykes, SSgt Steve O'Dare, Sgts Howard Swift, Rose Raybould, Dave Carnell** and **Cpl 'Kav' Kavanagh**.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

To **Maj Bob Sheldon** on his promotion and appointment as OC 2 Coy, **Capt Bob White** on his promotion and appointment as OC Ops Pl, **Cpls Graham Davies, Taff Evans, Larry Newell** and **Steve Spencer** on their selection for promotion to Sgt and last but not least **Sig Alan Martin** and **John Akesson** on promotion to LCpl. Our congratulations also to **LCpl Marty Boston** on his marriage to **Carol, Sgt John Bell** and his wife **Christine** on the birth of their son **Thomas** and finally **Cpl Steve Spencer** and wife wife on the birth of their second child.



Maj Bill Clark on his last day in the Army was wheeled out of Station by the CO Lt Col J. R. Berry and SSgt 'Taff' Williams



WO2 (CSM) Jerry Nation *(right)* handing over to WO2 (CSM) John Riley is this the only Company Sgt Major appointment within the Corps?

**ATHLETICS TEAM**
**SEASON OF SUCCESS**

Comms & Sy Gp (UK's) 20 strong athletics team has beaten off all challengers to become Eastern District Minor Unit Champions and even better, Zone Winners and a creditable third place in the Army

Minor Units Athletics Finals held at Aldershot. From a blustery Group meeting at Loughborough University in April the team has run, jumped and thrown itself into the Army Finals after weeks of arduous training and some stiff competition.

**MORRISON CUP WINNERS**

Initial team selection was first tested in the Royal Signals (UK) Morrison Cup Competition. Comms & Sy Gp beat four other Royal Signals Units in this keenly contested event so they travelled to Colchester for the EDIST Championships in confident mood.

CSG v Queens Div. Typically wet and windy conditions at Colchester did not affect the teams spirit but the opposition did. Last years winners, Depot The Queens Div challenged very strongly in every event, with 187 (Tancred Coy) RPC snapping at both teams heels. At lunchtime the Group team was only a narrow two points clear and confidence was ebbing somewhat as our athletes weakest events had yet to come. Did I say weakest? Whatever **SSI Steve Grimwade** (Coach/Trainer) and **Capt Ari Weaver** (Athletics Officer) said at the break certainly did not contain the word 'lose'. The first two events of the afternoon produced better-than-expected performances by **LCpl Christopher**, throwing 53m in the javelin and by **Pte Dixon** (400m) who both gained maximum points. **LCpl Kev Ross** became the hero of the day in the next event—the 100m. Completely forgetting he was the second string runner, he stormed home in first place. His will to win and determination lifted the team and as the last event—the 400m Relay—approached, we only had to finish fourth to secure the championship. A fine second place earned the Group 'EDIST Minor Unit Champions 1989' with a total 61 points and Depot The Queens Div runners-up with 57.

**NOT FOR THE FAINT HEARTED**

Two weeks of yet more training followed as preparation for the Zone Finals at Aldershot where the competition was going to be much tougher. So it turned out with every point hard-earned and the lead changing hands several times during the morning, this was not an event for the faint-hearted. On level pegging at lunchtime, Comms & Sy Gp were given a flying start to the afternoon disciplines by **Cpl Robinson** who won the long jump and later, the high jump. **Pte Dixon** secured another 400m win and **LCpl Ross** gained valuable points in the 100m. Excellent second places from **LCpl Thomas** (shot) and **LRO Gormon** (1,500m) meant that once again we had to finish at least fourth in the relay.

Having seen the other 400m runners in earlier events our team—**Sgts Burrows** and **Zanelli, LRO Gormon** and **Pte Dixon**—was not too confident. Just imagine their feelings when with a personal best time they scraped that vital fourth place.

After checking the scores several times their jubilation was complete—a one point victory over PCD RE and Depot Queens Div who both finished on 73.

**ARMY FINALS**

As a result of winning the Zone competition the team qualified for the Army Minor Unit Finals at Aldershot. Another day of stiff competition saw the Group team achieve a creditable third place. In congratulating the team **Lt Col J. R. Berry** stated that 'It is a measure of the outstanding commitment of the team that six of its members had achieved personal bests' and further added that the Army Championships had proved to be a fitting finale to what has been an outstanding season.



The very successful Comms and Sy Gp (UK) Athletics Team proudly display their tropies
*Back Row L-R:* Cpl Robinson, LRO Gordon, Pte Dixon, Sig Sloan, LCpls Thomas, Christopher and Ross, Sgt Burrows and Sig Offord
*Front Row L-R:* LCpl Bell, Sgt Zanelli, Sig McCallum, CO Lt Col J. R. Berry, WO1 (RSM) Thornycroft, Sig Brooke and Raines and WCpl Allen

**SUPPORT**

Thanks are due to all who supported the team, particularly the Gym staff, the coach and bully **SSI Steve Grimwade** and of course to the athletes themselves, especially the reserves who have endured all the weeks of training without being called upon to make an appearance. Let us hope we can be equally successful next year.

**GROUP CRICKET**
**Report by Sgt Ivor Moore**

It was apparent early in the season that the Group cricket team had a strong well balanced squad of players who were keen to succeed in the forthcoming league and cup competitions. The question of course was—would they realise their potential.

A good start to the league season in winning the opening few matches added to the team's confidence and provided the springboard needed. Success breeds success the saying goes and this certainly proved true as the team went on to win all but one fixture, losing to 9/12th Lancers who were the eventual league champions. The Group team having to be satisfied with runners-up position which nevertheless was an excellent performance.

**EDIST MINOR UNITS CUP**

In the Eastern District Minor Units Cup competition the squad went one better than their league result by reaching the final and beating 19 Bde HQ & Sig Sqn with a superb score of 191 for 2 off 37 overs including 97 not out by **Sgt Steve Webb** (RAPC). Following this success the Group team represented EDIST in the zone final against London District winners The Royal Military School of Music where the Group team won by 60 runs in a low scoring match and subsequently qualified for a place in the semi-final stage of the Army Minor Units Cup. The Group was drawn against stiff opposition in the shape of Depot Regt RE and in a keenly contested match was defeated by 16 runs and therefore an appearance in the Army final eluded us. Nevertheless it has been an enjoyable and successful season and the Group retains its position as Eastern District Minor Units League—Runners-up; Eastern District Minor Units Cup—Winners; and EDIST/LONDIST Zone—Winners.




The victorious team having just won the Eastern District Cup
*Standing L-R:* Sig March and Davison, Sgt Moore, Cpl Whitehead, Sgt Webb and LCpl Bunce
*Kneeling L-R:* Lt Col J. R. Berry, LCpl Jackson, Sgt Williams, Sig Haltam, WO2 Hutchins and Cpl Sullivan

**STATISTICS**

**Sgt Ivor Moore** leads the bowling averages with a mere 10.35 runs per over closely followed by **Cpl John Sullivan** with 12.17 runs. Top batsman was **Sgt Steve Webb** with an average of 55 runs per innings followed again by **Cpl John Sullivan** with 45.6 runs.

**SHOOTING TEAM**
**by Sgt 'Kav' Kavanagh**

The 'Competition' season started with the Eastern District Skill at Arms meeting (EDSAM) held at Colchester where a good team performance secured the Group Runners-up place in the Minor Unit Competition.

Encouraged by this performance we put in a lot of training as preparation for the Royal Signals Skill at Arms Meeting scheduled to take place at Bulford 9-16 June. Our target (sorry) here was to win the Minor Unit Championship Cup. The event was keenly contested, the main opposition being provided by 259 Sig Sqn. It was here that our



early mornings, wet practice days and endless run-downs were finally rewarded as we triumphed to take home three trophies: The LMG Cup, The Section Match Cup, and The Minor Units Champions Cup.

A special mention must go to **Sgt Andy Carver** who was runner-up in the 'Gurkha Trophy'—presented by the Queen's Gurkha Signals to the best non-Gurkha shot at the meeting. Our success at the Corps meeting earned the Group team a 'hallowed' place at the Regular Army Skill at Arms meeting (RASAM) at Bisley and so at the end of June off we went to match our skills with the real pro's. The team gave a good account of itself achieving a very respectable 14th place in the Minor Unit Competition and a noteable 8th place in the LMG Match. Furthermore we gained a lot of experience and enjoyed the competitions.



Shooting Team
The SOinC Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook presenting the Royal Signals Minor Units Champions Cup to WO2 Bob Simpson with Sgt Chris (We'll win this) Sinnett, Sgt Colin 'Kav' Kavanagh, Cpl 'Robbo' Robinson and Sgt Andy 'Top Gun' Carver eagerly awaiting their trophies



The team display their hard earned silver—The LMG Cup, The Section Match Cup and The Minor Units Champions Cup

**EXERCISE STAUNTATHLON**
**by Sgt Bob Bell**

It was early in the year that the Unit received a plea from the 'Staunton Harrold' home for terminally ill patients for assistance in a charity fund-raising event. The event was to take the form of an obstacle course set within the picturesque grounds of Staunton Hall and 24 civilian teams were to be invited to compete for the best time over the course.

Comms and Sy Gp (UK) was asked to plan, design and build the course and also to provide marshals on the day of the event. The architectural 'team' was selected from a cast of thousands and consisted of the following 'experts': **AWO1 (RSM) Adam Fleck, SSI Steve Grimwade BEM (APTC), LCpl 'Muscle Buster' Bell** and me. After several recce's and a lot of head scratching we planned a course that could best be described as somewhere between the Krypton factor and the cross country phase of a three day event. The route covered approximately three miles, started with a boat assisted water crossing and included natural obstacles such as trees, ditches, fences and streams as well as the more familiar man-made obstacles ie: a net crawl, greasy pole, log crossing and firing range. The course ended with a stretcher carry complete with casualty over the final 400m to the finishing line.

Having completed the planning and design phase the next few weeks saw our erstwhile team, together with a band of helpful volunteers, beg and borrow the equipment and materials required and actually build the course.

On the day of the event the course steward briefed the teams and one could see their initial high spirits and good humoured demeanour evaporate, to be replaced by a gritty determination (or was it fear?) once they realised what they had let themselves in for. The event was competitive but good humoured and enjoyable and amid cheers of encouragement from spectators there were some fine performances.

Understandably there was no shortage of volunteers to play the part of the 'Body' on the stretcher carry phase. The final placings seemed immaterial as everyone agreed the real winner was the 'Staunton Harrold' home which benefited by £6,500 thanks to the efforts of all concerned.



Sig Cochrane holding the assault boat steady at the start of the Stauntathlon



The band of Stauntathlon volunteers

## HQ 4 Sig Gp
## BFPO 140

The Group has said farewell to **Col Roger Thompson OBE** and **Aureole**. They are moving back to England where **Col Thompson** is taking over as Regimental Colonel. We wish them all the best and hope that they soon find a lake big enough for water skiing. We welcome our new Commander **Col Peter Chaddock** and **Shirley** and wish him all the best in this appointment.

**EXERCISE PLAIN SAILING**

Ex Plain Sailing saw the full might of the Group deployed. Ptarmigan and Euromux communications were established from Zeebrugge to Hildesheim where the Corps Ex Second Summit connected in. It was very successful and provided the first opportunity for the staff to see the tremendous flexibility of Ptarmigan and its partner Euromux when working together.

**SPORT**

The Group golfers have been extraordinarily busy since the last update. Yeoman **Brian Prichard** was only a whisker off winning a competition that would have won him a trip to Spain and tuition from one of the Ballesteros family. Having seen his golf we all wondered whether Sevy's Gran would have been kind to him!

**Capt Jan Jasiok** kept the Rheindalen Garrison Commanders Trophy in the Group by taking it from **Maj Nick Lynn**. The trophy was presented by the Garrison Commander on 1 November 1989.

**Col (Retd) Sam Wyatt** ran a very successful RCZ Golf championship but could not massage the rules enough to allow him to enter; much to his dismay.

Foreman **Martin Case** has begun his campaign to be the RCZ champion orienteer again. Together with **Capt David Weston, SSgt Martin Leighfield** and **LCpl Peach** he participated in the Royal Signals championship. The Foreman ran the fastest time in the relay event.

**Maj Miles Stockdale** claimed his five pounds for spotting **Capt** 'Sailing Steve' **Herstell** but his claim was disallowed as the sighting was only a picture in 'Sixth Sense'. However, the news that he has broken his leg training for rugby has brought a predictable amount of sympathy and made up for the disallowed claim.

**IN BRIEF**

A reward is offered to anyone producing a picture of **Capt David Weston**'s caravan in France rolling along on only one wheel . . . One wheel on my wagon . . .


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**T. FROST (Saddlers)**
SOUTH PARADE, BAWTRY
DONCASTER, SOUTH YORKSHIRE


## RMCS Shrivenham

This was meant to be no more than an introduction to the reports, which follow below, of the adventurous training activities undertaken by Royal Signals undergraduates at Shrivenham during the summer vocation. However it seemed a pity to miss the opportunity to give a quick round-up of general news of interest to the Corps from RMCS.

The Corps is unusually well represented at Shrivenham at the moment, and our presence here starts right at the top. **Maj Gen Sam Cowan** arrived by way of Fleet Street and Whitehall in March to become the first late Royal Signals officer to take up the post of Commandant. He made an immediate impact with his opening address to the Army Staff Course, which turned out to be just the first of a series of talks to the Course as it progressed through the Shrivenham 'system'. His opening gambit of a short, sharp question session on the previous talk is guaranteed to focus the mind (although I understand that a brisk trade goes on in written notes of earlier Commandant's addresses!).

**Col Nigel Wood** is the head, and longest serving member of Electronics and Guided Weapons Division, the 'home base' of the Royal Signals directing staff (DS) here. His long tenure must surely be intended to provide stability, as the Division's turnover is faster than Tesco's. At the time of writing (and with a bit of luck this will be unchanged by the time this goes to press, but . . .) the EGW corridor is populated by four Corps DS. The communications posts are filled by **Lt Cols Brian Chubb** and **Gordon Hughes. Lt Col David Wills** is styled 'DS ET' (Emerging Technology), and one of the two Information System posts is currently filled by **Lt Col Mike Rice. Col Martin Roberts** had a brief tour as one of the resident surveillance experts, before leaving us for Catterick Camp and promotion to Brigadier.

We have a number of well-known retired Corps people here, too. **Professor (Brig) Reg King** continues to push the frontiers of technology as head of the Military Communications Research Unit. **Professor (Col) Tony Sammes** heads the Computing Science Group, whose staff includes one Captain (**Capt John Hunter**).

And so to the students; the Corps is represented on Divisions 1 and 2 of the Army Staff Course, and we usually have the odd one or two representatives on Division 3 when they are here early in the year. Three Signallers are currently taking the MSc Course in Design of Information Systems (DIS), and one the MSc in Military Electronic Systems Engineering (MESE). At present we have undergraduates reading for degrees in Electronic Systems Engineering, Applied Science, and the more recently introduced degrees in Information Technology (IT) and Command, Control, Communication and Information Systems (CIS).

One of the opportunities presented to undergraduates at the College is that of organising and taking part in adventurous training, particularly during their second summer vacation. This year, Signallers at the College were deployed on a variety of expeditions, from the Arctic Circle to the foothills of the Himalayas. Let them tell their own stories . . .



Graduation Day 1989



GRADUATION DAY 1989



**EXERCISE ATLAS RESCALE**

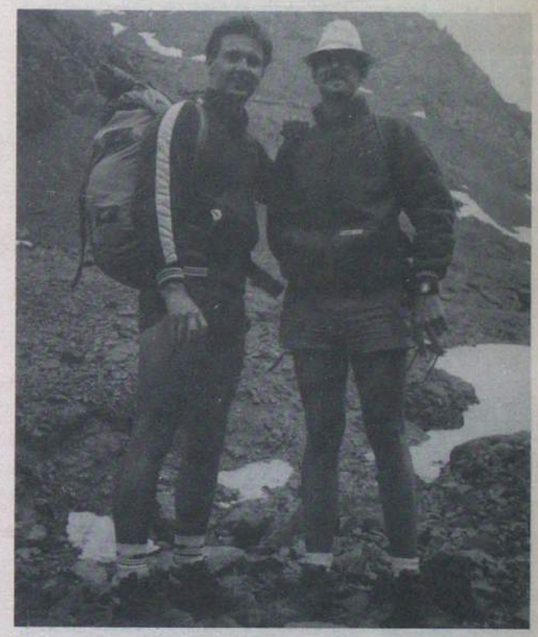
**Capt Ian Favager, Lts Tim Jones** and **Roy Freeman** joined forces with two REME colleagues—**Lts Norman Halladay** and **Colin Mclean**—to mount an expedition to the High Atlas Mountains of South East Morocco. **Tim Jones** takes up the story as the team arrives in Morocco after a short acclimatisation period in Gibraltar:

'Our first day's walking in the uncompromising landscape of the High Atlas started with the preparation for the assault on Jebel Toubkal (4,167m), the highest peak in North Africa and the second highest on the whole African continent. From the peak, it is said, the sands of the Sahara Desert can be seen on a clear day. During this period we visited other high, rugged peaks with equally rugged names such as Tichki (3,753m), Afekhoi (3,755m), Taghart (3,442m) and Tifni (2,820m). The arrival at each summit felt like a real achievement, and we would heroically survey the vast range of harsh surrounding peaks, only to be brought back down to earth with a thud by the sight of a local goathered tending his flock, having scaled the same peak in moulded rubber shoes held together by sticking plaster. Often they would approach us for medical attention to septic wounds on hands or faces.

We spent a memorable day with Mohammed, a local 'businessman' and his family, helping them to celebrate the Festival of the Lamb. This is a Moslem religious festival during which each family slaughters a lamb, a kid goat. We felt privileged to be allowed to share in this occasion, and were overwhelmed by the outstanding hospitality of these basically very poor people.'



Lts Roy Freeman, Colin McLean and Capt Ian Favager practise 'Hearts and Minds' with Mohammed



Lt Tim Jones and Capt Ian Favager above the snowline en route to Jbel Toubkal (4,167m)

**EXERCISE ALPINE BLADERUNNER**

**Lts Andy Cameron** and **Colin Hinsley** took part in one of the two canoeing expeditions mounted this summer. In the company of three RAF undergratuates from RMCS and a medical student, they set out for the white water rivers of the French Alps on Ex Alpline Bladerunner. **Colin Hinsley** reports:

'The first phase of the expedition was a warm up period at Haut Allier, Les Gorges. Although we had been travelling non-stop through Holland, Belgium and France we could not resist the temptation, once the tent was up, to go straight to the river and clear away some of the cob-webs that had grown during our exams. This session included some rolling practice, and testing of all the equipment. The next day, when faced with an awesome, man-eating stopper I was forced to swallow my claim 'I never swim'; being unable to roll, I ended up swimming to the bank. Four days on the River Allier gave us enough confidence to move on to the Alps, in search of more extreme white water.



Lt Andy Cameron on the R. Verdon, Alpes Maritimes

Our next stop was at Bourg St Maurice on the R Isere, the location of the International Slalom site. We made a brief excursion into Italy from there, where one of the high spots was the conquest of 2km of twisting river, boulders and stoppers on the R Dora de Verney.

At Briancon, 200km further South of Bourg, we had some memorable experiences on that area's most notable, or notorious river, the Gyr. **Andy** and I had some unexpected exercise on one stretch as we chased our boats along the bank for 3½km—not far, I hear you say, but try doing that wearing a wetsuit, jumper and cagoule, when the temperature is 30 degrees C! We had a particularly exciting, if not very technically difficult paddle down a short stretch of the R Guil, through the Gorge de Chateau Ouevras. It was an incredible feeling going into the Gorge, quite unable to stop and able to see only 10m ahead at most as it twisted and turned its way downwards. In places the sheer walls are 50m high, and there is not enough room to turn the boat. The sensation of solid rock a few feet either side made it an amazing experience.

In the Aples Maritimes we had hoped to have a chance to paddle the Verdon Gorge. Unfortunately there was no guaranteed water release, and we had to settle for a day paddling the stretch above the Gorge. This was mostly flat, but did include one superb waterfall, which we all shot. We finished our trek South on the coast, surf canoeing in the 10ft waves of the Cote d'Argent. This, after 200km of white water on 11 different rivers, was an excellent way to round off a very successful and satisfying expedition, in which every member managed to broaden his experience.'



Lt Colin Hinsley 'Popping out' of the surf of the Côte d'Argent

**EXERCISE FINNISH FLOUNDER**

The other Royal Signals paddler this summer was **Lt David Drinkall**. He teamed up with **Lt Andy Syme** REME and an all-girl support team to tackle the Arctic Canoe Race. Here is **David**'s report:

'It is claimed by the race organisers that the Arctic Canoe Race, is the world's toughest canoe marathon. The 473km route follows the entire Finnish/Swedish border along the R Tornealven. We set out to see if the claim was true; our aim was to complete the race with as few injuries as possible, and in so doing to improve our canoeing techniques.

During 10 days devoted to pre-race practice on the R Tornealven, we were able to compensate for the lack of training in the UK before our departure, which resulted mainly from the need to work, sit exams etc! The river was much harder than expected. In our essentially flat-water canoes the Grade III water was very difficult, and the Grade V looked impossible! We managed to break both boats in training, but had the feeling that it would 'come together' eventually.

Race day dawned as gently as the mists on the dark arctic lakes, but quickly crescendoed into action. The starting horn cut the still morning air, the first blades cut the still ice-cold waters of Lake Kilisjarvi and the first of six hard days of racing had begun.

Day 1 was an episode of disasters, starting with a broken rudder after 10 miles. This was fixed by the support team after 8 difficult, rudderless miles, and some catching up was done. An accident at the 40 mile point smashed the boat completely in half and brought the first day to a premature close. This shaky start did not deter us, and after achieving a fourth place on day 2, we went on to finish in the bronze medal position on both days 3 and 4. In between these two very successful racing days we spent a rest day patching up our ageing fibreglass kayak. At times like that, the advantages of the modern boats made from Kevlar become all too apparent.

Day 5 was disappointing. On the first and last rapids of the day we capsized, and could only managed fourth place. Perhaps the previous 200 miles were starting to take their toll. This was nothing compared with our problems on the last day, when we again smashed the boat in half and destroyed the steering gear. Using a gas cooker and more fibre glass we repaired it, but this took well over an hour and the boat was left far too weak to negotiate any large rapids. After nine incredibily chaotic hours we finally limped heroically over the finish line.

This was certainly the best canoeing event either of us had attended, and we think it lives up to the organiser's claim. We would recommend it to anyone with reasonable wild water or long distance marathon experience.'




Lts David Drinkall and Andy Syme enter the arctic region



On the *small* R Tornealven!

**EXERCISE AUSTRIAN EAGLE**

**Lt John Williams** accompanied **Lt S. M. Strain RE** on Ex Austrian Eagle, an expedition to the Hohe Tauern Valley area of Austria, a popular high level mountaineering area. The pair spent nine rain-soaked (and one dry) day walking high-level routes around the snow line at altitudes up to 2,763m.

**EXERCISE ALPINE HURDLES**

Alpine Hurdles was the name of the expedition carried out by **Lts Neil Dewar** and **David Bizley**, with **Lts Mark Dixon RAOC, Gary Graham RCT** and **David Hopkins REME. David Bizley** was the expedition's scribe . . .

'The exercise was the result of our decision to tackle the Alpine Pass Route (APR) across the Swiss Alps, following a route described in a book by Jonathan Hurdle. We made the trek on foot, with all our wordly goods on our backs, and not an elephant in sight.

On its 200 mile journey from Sargans, near the Liechtenstein border to Montreux on Lake Geneva, the APR takes in the entire range of Alpine scenery, from the lush meadows of the Bernese Oberland to the forbidding North Face of the Eiger. We started at the Sargans end of the route on 15 June; this earlier than planned start was to cause some unforeseen problems.



We attempted the first pass on the second day's walking, finding a considerable amount of snow. This did not bode well, as many of the passes to come were a good deal higher. As it turned out, a number of them were blocked by snow and we spent much time and walked many miles finding alternative routes. Our conclusion is that we must recommend anyone thinking of attempting the APR to do so in late July or August, or alternatively, to go equipped with ice axes, crampons and a Winter JSMEL qualification. Also, do not take Jonathan Hurdle's route descriptions too literally. Having completed one climb he described as 'easy but long' we were convinced he must have flown the whole route by helicopter!'



Ex Alpine Hurdles
*Left to right:* Lts Mark Dixon, Gary Graham, David Bizley, David Hopkins and Neil Dewar

**EXERCISE EASTERN ADVENTURE**

Last word goes to the furthest travelled; **Lts Andrew Munday** and **Finlay Maclennan** managed to get as far as Northern India, on their Ex Eastern Adventure. **Andrew Munday** takes up the story . . .

'Our point of entry to the Sub-Continent was New Delhi, where we arrived at 0200 hrs. We were quite relieved to leave the dust and heat after two days to head for the hills of Kashmir, although the journey was incredibly uncomfortable. There we were to spend 15 days trekking in the foothills, keeping below the snow line but relishing some startling scenery. It's obvious why the Victorians used Kashmir as a vacation resort, even if tiger hunting is no longer on the visitor's agenda.

We left the relative peace and calm of Kashmir for the desert at Jaisalmer, near the Pakistan border. The journey, by bus and train, was arduous, to say the least. When the opportunity to take a camel ride presented itself, it seemed too good to miss. After all, as seasoned Troop Commanders' Course 'jockies', we felt well prepared. I have to admit it is not the same as horseriding; it may be a rest for the legs, but it is torture for the body. The agony from the saddle is indescribable!

We were struck by the low cost of living; $2 per night for a double hotel room is not uncommon, but beware the cat-sized cockroaches! Meat seemed to be almost poisonous, so we became vegetarians for six weeks. One skill we soon acquired was that of bartering, although the learning sessions were expensive. This expedition enabled us to trek in some magnificent scenery, and to experience a culture unseen in the developed world. Amongst the unforgettable sights were the open sewers, beggars, and cattle living in the streets alongside children. There is such a violent contrast between the hills and the cities; it was an education to see. We returned to Shrivenham over a stone lighter, and expert hagglers. Having now seen the real thing, the local 'Taj Mahal' restaurant will never be quite the same again . . .



Lts Finlay Maclennan and Andrew Munday at a remote water hole and temple in the desert



Lt Andrew Munday at the base of a glacier at 12,000ft in Kashmir



## School of Signals Blandford Camp Dorset

**TROOP COMMANDERS**

'Young officers leave the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst for a short attachment to a Regiment/Squadron before coming to the School of Signals for their Tp Comds Course. The latest course to arrive is No 16.



No 16 Royal Signals Troop Commanders 23 October 1989-22 February 1990
*Back Row (L to R)*: 2Lts M. W. G. Adams (Mark), J. S. Gunning (Jason), G. H. Hume (Grant) and S. E. J. Parry (Simon)
*Front Row (L to R)*: 2Lts B. Russell (Brian), D. M. T. Shipley (Tarquin) and E. H. Williams (Eddie)

# HQ Queen's Gurkha Signals
# BFPO 1

**BRUNEI SIGNAL TROOP**
**by Sgt Ian Davies**

Most soldiers when asked about Brunei tend to think along the lines 'it's in the Caribbean, isn't it?', or as some far flung out-post. In fact of course it is a far flung out-post on the northern edge of Borneo, three hours flying time from Hong Kong!

Brunei Sig Tp, Queen's Gurkha Sigs, is part of the British Army Garrison at Seria, Brunei, here at the invitation of His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei. The Troop comprises some 21 soldiers, but together with other Signals personnel from 581 RLD and Training Team Brunei, we number 33. Of these all but three are Gurkhas so our way of life is a change from Europe.

The Brunei Signal Officer is **Capt Mick Hannagan**, who has a double hatted role of Brunei Signal Officer and Adjutant of the Training Team Brunei. He will shortly be taking over command of HQ Sqn in Sek Kong, on promotion, a Garrison he knows very well as he was GSM there some years ago. The remaining two British appointments are the crypto posts, currently occupied by **Sgts Ray Short** and **Ian Davies** who, depending on your point of view, are either rushed off their feet trying to get it all done by yesterday, or are busy doing nothing!

The Troop Commander is **Lt (QGO) Chaubahadur Gurung** who although a relative new comer to the Troop has already made his mark. **SSgt Teiman Gurung**, who, as 'Troop Staffy', has a multi faceted job ranging from routine returns to assisting the British NCO with Gurkhas' English language training. This can be very comical when you remember that army colloquial English has been gathered from Benbecula to Berlin, resulting in some Gurkhas possessing strange accents and nicknames such as **Sig 'Geordie' Kumar**.

The Troop has recently celebrated, along with all other Gurkhas world wide, Dashera and Diwali, both being Gurkha religious festivals. Something we have in common is our ability to over eat and drink on these occasions, both of us enjoying each others celebrations. Also recently the Troop managed to send a four man team to Hong Kong for Ex Trailwalker. This is an annual charity event, an arduous 100km march, and this was the first time it included a team from outside the Colony.

Of course to our BAOR brethren shivering in their heated garages, this must seem like a tropical paradise with nothing to do but 'swan' around and count the LOA. Sometimes this isn't far removed from the truth but don't forget that consumption of alcohol is very restricted.

Brunei has a large expatriate community connected in one way or another with Shell Oil which includes several ex-servicemen and some ex-members of the Corps. One of the most flamboyant being **Mr Jimmy Flockhart**, ex 216 Para Sig Sqn, who spent 22 years in the Corps and who is not only an avid reader of *The Wire* but still remembers his colleagues.

To summarise, it's not such a bad place after all!



Brunei Sig Tp Trailwalker Team 1989
*Left to right:* Sig Tilokbahadur Rai, Sgt Ian Davies, Sig Suryabahadur Ghale and Sig Hutson Gurung



'Please tell us where we are Staff'
The authors (again) Lt Paterson *(left)* and Lt Allen *(right)*

**246 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON**
**EXERCISE JUNGLE TROOPER**
**by Lts P. S. K. Paterson and T. J. S. Allen**

It was typical that **Lts C. S. K. Paterson** and **T. J. S. Allen** should find out about Ex Jungle Troop 2/89 after their attachments to QG Sigs had been confirmed. Everybody who had previously been to Hong Kong reported that it was an excellent place in which to recover from the rigours of RMCS examinations. So the two 'subaltern students' drank three cups of coffee whilst trying to decipher the connection between the latter stories of wine, women and song in BFPO 1 and the signal from the 2IC of 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn requesting jungle boot size !?! 'Oh don't worry, its just a wind up'. Or was it? The story unfolds . . .

The first nerve wracking moment during our attachment was deciding whether the pilot of our 737 had been drinking 'industrial strength' gin and tonic or 'decaf'; we seemed to come perilously close to the end of the runway of Kai Tak Airport. The second was watching our baggage disappear on an Army 'white elephant' after a gesticulatory briefing to the driver by **Capt Richard Wilson**. As we had both been at RMCS, Shrivenham for a year, the reassurances of 'trust me' held little credence. Dinner in Gatwick, breakfast in Dubai, luggage in a pawn shop in downtown Kowloon.

So, here were two subalterns who had spent a year at what some call the best country-club in the Army now back to reality on attachment to QG Sigs. **Lt Chris Paterson** had been to Hong Kong on previous occasions so he knew what to expect. I, however, had to be persuaded that I was not in fact standing underneath one of those welcoming heaters inside the entrance to a London Department store.

When we were finally reunited with our baggage we succumbed to jet lag and slept until the obligatory introduction to the Regiment. The CO was away so we began with the Adjutant, **Capt John Rowley** and worked our way round the departments gradually piecing together what we were to do during our stay with 246 Sig Sqn. The signals to RMCS mentioned something about 'infantry platoon commanders during a jungle exercise'. Was this pukka or another jolly-jape from the infamous **Capt Stuart Macrostie**? The true picture of what tales we would have to tell came to light on the South China Sea. The OC, **Maj Richard Hewitt** introduced us to the delights of water skiing, subsequent mastery of the 25 knot 'head-plant turn' and our niche for the next five weeks. So after four days in the Far East, **Lts Chris Paterson** and **Tim Allen** were to board another plane bound for Brunei and Ex Jungle Trooper.

The Squadron training in Brunei was divided into three phases; in camp training, a six-day section exercise and finally a five day platoon phase. The Squadron's Jungle Warfare Instructors managed to pass on their knowledge and experience to the students despite the language barrier. This was not due to the Gurkhali-English phenomenon but to the scouse dialect pertaining to **SSgt Mick Kelly**.

**Lt Chris Paterson** and I met the CO, **Lt Col H. M. Adams MBE** during the river crossing on the Anduki Lakes. This location was nick-named 'Guinness River' due to the scum on the water. Even the SSM, **WO2 Bomkarna Rai** had to keep his own counsel during the crossing so as to prevent a stomach upset. However the SSM was not so lucky a couple of days later . . . The combined strengths of the Officers' and SNCOs' Mess must have been a strange sight that evening! A couple had buckets, a few had torches, and the remainder were armed with small branches. The SQGO, **Capt (QGO) Gambahadur Buduja** held an informal briefing and the crab-hunters set about their task. The torch bearers trapped the creatures in their torch beams and those with sticks raced after the scurrying crabs, attempting to stun them and club them in the general direction of the buckets. The only injured party was the SSM who contracted curried crab stomach cramps the next day.

We were both reminded of the joys of being subalterns during a couple of days in the jungle-school. Guess who were volunteered to taste the monkey-head during the survival demo? McDonalds come back, all is forgiven.

The jungle environment doesn't lend itself to a text-book approach: initiative and improvisation are of paramount importance. For example, who could predict that monster ants would steal my bergen in the night and convert **Lt Paterson**'s A-frame to a more 'down-to-earth' model.

Crocodiles were reported near the river-crossing point prompting two questions: where did that hand-signal come from and did somebody hallucinate so as to stay dry during their river-crossing?

Unfortunately the DS had their problems too. **Lt (QGO) Chandraprasad Gurung** was attacked by a centipede even though he was within the luxury of the five-star DS hotel in the Labi. Despite his sometimes dubious warnings to the 'new boys' **SSgt Kelly** managed to be bitten by something which caused him a swelling sensation, the medic, **Cpl Indrabahadur Gurung** was baffled by this and had to seek a second opinion!

The final platoon exercise seemed to go quickly with the prospect of endex. Navigation in the field didn't get any easier, nor did the tactics. Cries of 'but we did it this way on JWIC' rebounded around the LUP.

All in all, the experience was gained the hard way and we would both recommend anybody to go on attachment to the QG Sigs. However, if you reckon on a 'swan-tour' make sure that you consult the Regimental year planner first.

Finally **Lts Paterson** and **Allen** would like to thank everybody in the Regiment who made us feel welcome and part of a team. Special thanks go to the OC, **Maj Richard Hewitt** and the SQGO, **Capt (QGO) Gambahadur Buduja** who steered us through the potential minefield of Kaida. Last but not least we would also thank our platoon Sergeants, **SSgt M. J. Kelly** and **WO2 Krishnabahadur Gurung** for their patience, support and for some of their advice.



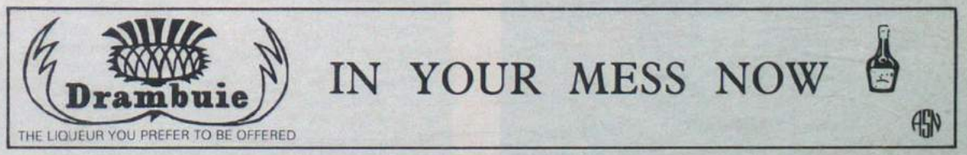
The Authors
Lts Paterson and Allen at the Mosque in Bandar Seri Begawan, the capital of Brunei



Members of Brunei Sig Tp September 1989



Endex
Did we win again?

# News from Regiments

## Berlin Sig Regt
## BFPO 45

**HIBACS IN BERLIN**
**(HIGH BUILDING ABSEILING FOR CHARITABLE SERVICES)**
**Report by SSgt (YofS) Rose**

Earlier this year, a team of 23 people abseiled off four buildings within the British Sector of Berlin to raise money for the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and Save the Children Fund. The team was led jointly by **SSgt (YofS) Steve Rose**, and **Sgt Terry Frankel** both currently serving with 1 Sqn Berlin HQ and Sig Regt. These two were responsible for ensuring that all the happy, willing volunteers got to the ground in one piece!

The buildings concerned were Churchill House—seven storeys, Smuts Barracks Hilton—eight storeys, BMH Berlin—eleven storeys and the biggest was the Glockenturm (Bell Tower) a lofty 68m high and visible from all over Berlin.

The summer holidays ensured that quite a crowd gathered to watch each event and the visiting coach parties to the Glockenturm got an extra spectacle they didn't bargain for when they arrived at the top of the tower.

There were some funny expressions on the faces of many of the participants—some have been captured for prosperity—others will wonder why they ever contemplated going up—let alone abseiling down!

Not all of the team were experienced abseilers. Prior to the 'Big 4', training had taken place in Ruhleben Fighting City buildings. These were five floors high. When everyone felt competent (or as competent as they were willing to admit) then the Big 4 were tacked.

Thanks are due to all those involved including: OC 38 (Berlin) Fd Sqn RE, OC BMH Berlin, BMG and the owner of the Glockenturm for letting a bunch of loonies jump off their buildings. As we go to print the amount collected is DM3100 or £1,096.41. Members of the team were: **Sgt George Murray, WCpl Cath Dickson, Cpls Dave Hindley, Dave Giles, Chas Gregory, Sig Scouse Farrell** and **Lynda Hobday, Cheryl Hickey, Debbie Kassim** and **Jill Rose**. All the girls (with the exception of **Cath Dickson**) were wives of members of the Squadron.

The cheques were presented to the GOC Berlin **Maj Gen R. J. S. Corbett** by **SSgt (YofS) Rose** on 4 December. Both **Yeoman Rose** and the GOC abseiled down the front of HQ Berlin building and upon landing the YofS presented the GOC with the two cheques.

Although not as high as our earlier conquests, the weather (thick fog and rain) made for a decent into the unknown and the shaky legs of the GOC are testament to that!



The Yeoman ties on Sig Farrell at the top of the Glockenturm



The Yeoman presents the General with the cheques

**1 SQUADRON**
**9 NOVEMBER 1989: THE DAY THE WALL CAME DOWN**

As you know, Berlin has been in the news a great deal recently after the relaxing of travel restrictions by the East Germans which began on the night of 9 November. The infamous Berlin Wall has been breached 11 times with the construction of new crossing points; suddenly there are Trabants everywhere. (For strangers to Berlin, a Trabant is a comically small car with a 'orribly smelly two stroke engine).

As HQ Berlin reacted to developments on 10 November, the Squadron was in Ruhleben Fighting City on FIBUA training but was rapidly recalled to establish communications to the Brigade Units.

Considerable logistic support was to be offered to the authorities in West Berlin as it received over one million visitors over the first weekend, some of whom decided to stay for good. In the coming days, the Squadron was to play a full part, assisting at Resettlement Centres and distributing hot coffee and soup from the town hall in Wilmersdorf, our partner district in Berlin.

**EXERCISE RONDO XXXVII**

Ex Rondo is a biannual exercise for communicators from the British, French and American Sectors. The aims are to learn Allied equipment and procedures and to develop liaison between Allied soldiers.

Rondo XXXVII took place in October and was sponsored by the French. Having been split into three man tripartite teams on Monday, the soldiers were trained on Tuesday and began the competitive phase on Wednesday. By this stage, the Brits had sized up the standards of French admin support, freezing water for a stimulating start to the day and a croissant and chocolate milk for breakfast to preserve a lean Gallic figure. The SQMS departed quickly for the French Sector with an immersion heater and some compo.

The competition lasted two days and the Brits found French organisation a real challenge. And so to the final day with the soldiers despatched to the French Commando School for the confidence course. No real problems for the Brits although quite a few others wimped out. **LCpl Titus Reene** got bored and went for an early bath underneath the rope swing.

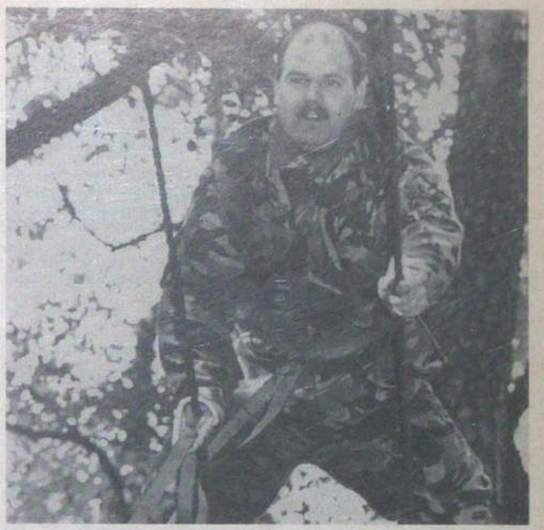
In keeping with tradition, Rondo eneded with a prize giving ceremony and lunch. The winning team was lead by **Cpl 'Steff' Newton**. Second place went to **LCpl** 'I've been everywhere, man' **Hatton** and third to **LCpl 'Chalky' White**. After lunch came singing when, as usual, the Brits were brilliant, the French not so and the Americans left early. Roll on the British Rondo in March.



WLCpl Whyman at breakfast 'Please Francois, can I have some more?'



Cpl Newton gets his prize. 'This is empty Sir'



Cpl 'Geordie' Laverick prepares his *Wire* notes

**RANGE WORK**

Readers may be aware that in Berlin we have some of the best training facilities in the Army. Ruhleben Range complex boasts a 300m ETR, a 100m and 2 × 30m ranges. 1 Sqn makes full use of these excellent ranges; well it would be rude not to, wouldn't it?



Cpl Dave Giles 'Ready'



WO2 Alan Bailey and SSgt (YofS) Rose helping to find the bullets

## BRIGADE TROOP
## 24 HOUR RUN FOR CHARITY

On 1 November, four members of Bde Tp set out for the Grunewald. Aim: to raise money for the British Heart Foundation. One man at a time was to run a 17.2km lap through the forest.

At 1530 hrs, the team posed for a photo call by the Berlin press and the CO, **Lt Col Collins** started the run at 1600 hrs, **Sgt George Murray** being first off the block. The run was highly organised with a control vehicle following each runner.

The next runner was the organiser, **Sgt Dave Iverson**, who shot off at such a pace that he lost the control vehicle. Entering the Grunewald in darkness, he speeded up even more on hearing snorting and grunting from the wild boar who live there (the famous Grunewald pigs).

**LCpl Rick Cummins** took over the next leg. Running off a hangover from his birthday celebrations the night before, he consoled himself with the fact that beer is full of carbohydrates.

The fourth runner was **Sgt Terry Frankel** who put in a fast time of 1 hr 14 mins; not bad for a man in his forties.

With the routine set, the runners clocked up distance throughout the night overcoming fatigue, darkness and the pigs.

Some early risers including the CO and many from Bde Tp turned out at 0600 hrs to run along with the lads.

The run was completed at the end of an exhausting 24 hours, all four runners completing the last 200m together. they wish to thank the admin party of **Sgt Bob Squires, Cpl John Laverick, LCpl 'Yaf' Yafai** and **Sig Jim Grimes** and the Master Chef **WO2 Marr** for his nutritional advice. But thanks most of all to all those who pledged money; the total sum raised was DM1510.



The last 200m! *(Left to right):* Sgts Terry Frankel, Dave Iverson, Cpl Rick Cummins and Sgt George Murray (Grunewald pigs absent from picture)

## SPORT
## REGIMENTAL FOOTBALL

After losing so many key players; **WO2 Brian Colvin, Sgt Tommy Steel** and **Cpl Trev Keen**; the Regimental Football Squad entered the new season with a certain scepticism; was it possible to repeat last season's performance to league and cup double, final of the Stones' Trophy and semi-final of the Army Minor Units Challenge Cup?

As always when you lose players during the closed season, it is not too long before new ones arrive. This time we have the RAPC to thank with the arrival of **SSgt Mick Butcher** and **Sgt Bob Webb** to fill the gaps.

Any doubts the players might have had have certainly been erased now, with seven games under our belt we are top of the Berlin Minor Units league with maximum points and in the quarter finals of the Army Minor Units Challenge Cup. To date we have scored 29 goals, **LCpl Andy Cameron** having scored 11 of them. We have conceded only 4, **Sgt Ian Rutherford** and **Cpl Mark Pinkney** forming a good understanding at the heart of the defence.

Finally, farewell to **Sgt Bob Squires** and **LCpl Mark Taylor**, both stalwarts for the past two seasons, we wish you both good luck in your new postings.

## ORIENTEERING

**Report by SSgt (YofS) Steve Rose**

The Regimental Orienteering Squad has had an outstanding year, our main success was winning the Royal Signals (BAOR) Minor Units Championship. Details of other events are as follows:

1 (BR) Corps Relay event 21 October 1989. Held in a small forest just north of Hannover an ad-hoc team of **Capt Nigel Gill** and **SSgt (YofS) Steve Rose** of Berlin HQ and Sig Regt and **SSgt Paul Seager** of Brixmis and **Cpl Phil Sandford** of 3 Sqn 13 Sig Regt.

The team were guest winners and came a very creditable third overall out of 64 teams.

The next event was the Royal Signals Relays on 3 November. After the Corps relays it was not really known how we would do with a Regimental team but at the end of the day the results were as follows:

**Minor Units**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st Berlin HQ and Sig Regt | 148.44 |
| 2nd 3 Sqn 13 Sig Regt | 169.43 |
| 3rd H Troop 13 Sig Regt | 176.43 |
| 4th 204 Sig Sqn | 177.25 |
| 5th 4 Sig Gp | 186.27 |

In other words a Berlin whitewash!

The last major event of the year was the Berlin Brigade Inter Unit Relays held on 24 November. This event saw hot rivalry between ourselves and 13 Sig Regt, which was after some revenge. Unfortunately one of our team made a bit of an error and this cost us the championship; but that's how it goes in orienteering. The results were:-

**Minor Units**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st 3 Sqn 13 Sig Regt/Brixmis | 3 hrs 2 mins |
| 2nd Berlin HQ and Sig Regt | 3 hrs 18 mins |
| 3rd 14 Fd Wksp REME | 3 hrs 40 mins |

Throughout the year each Berlin Unit has put on League events. The result of the 1989 Berlin League is as follows:-

**Minor Units**

1st 3 Sqn 13 Sig Regt/Brixmis
2nd ORD/EME
3rd Berlin HQ and Sig Regt

Hopefully 1990 will see even more trophies in our cabinet!



# 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
# BFPO 32

## HEADQUARTER SQUADRON
## RHQ

At long last **2Lt Adam Parsons** has been released from his duties in the Adjutant's office and is now happily settled in 2 Sqn commanding Rover Tp. We welcome in his place **Capt Julia Abbott** as Assistant Adjutant.

Also newly arrived is **Sgt Mick Davis** from HQ Northag, who is gradually feeling his way back into the routine of Regimental life! **LCpl Carl Nicholas** has departed for Brize Norton and we wish him well in his new job.

## PAGE TROPHY BADMINTON

HQ Sqn continued its recent run of sporting success with a fine win in the Page Trophy Badminton Competition.

Six Squadrons entered and battle commenced at 0830 hrs on Friday 3 November. The round-robin league system of scoring ensured that everyone was involved until the final game. The general standard was high but the experience of the HQ Sqn team was always evident. After a long hard day's play points were totalled and the final positions were as follows: 1st—HQ Sqn; 2nd—1 Sqn; 3rd—3 Sqn; 4th—2 Sqn; 5th—201 Sig Sqn; and 6th—207 Sig Sqn.

Talent spotters were out in force!

## BAOR INTER-UNIT GOLF

The Regiment has had a very successful golfing year. During the summer months a five man team successfully progressed to the finals of the BAOR Inter-Unit Matchplay Finals. In doing so they won the Divisional Championships.

The BAOR finals were held at Sennelager on 5/6 October 1989. After a day's hard practice and much deliberation, four were selected to do battle against Rheindahlen Garrison. This proved to be a most difficult match, but having scraped through, the passage to the final proved much easier.

So it was that we met our old golfing friends 4 Armd Div on the first tee. The matches were all played in a competitive yet friendly spirit and all produced very close results. The end result, a win by one hole for the Regiment was acknowledged as a true reflection in the state of play, but heartfelt commiserations went out to 4 Div who had lost for the second year running.

A delighted team of: **Maj Pierse Drew-Wilkinson** RS, **Capt Mick Ledwards, WO2 (CSM) Dave Bennett** PWO, **WO2 Paddy Mullen** RCT and **WO2 Arthur Mulholland** RAPC returned triumphant to Verden to celebrate in style.

## ARMY CROSS COUNTRY RELAY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Regiment sent two teams of four runners to compete in the Army Cross Country Relays, held at Aldershot on Saturday 11 November. We were hoping to retain the title after last year's victory in the Major Units event. As the first leg runners came in, **Sgt Dave Gill** found himself in second place by some 38 seconds, behind a member of the Commando Logistic Bn team. **Lt Andy Addison**, running the second leg, could do nothing to close the gap, but **LCpl Mark Vile** then ran one of the fastest laps of the day to put the team into first place by a clear minute. **Sgt Jeff Martin** then ran a comfortable fourth leg to bring the team home to victory.



*Back Row L-R:* Lt Guy Owen, Sgt Dave Gill, LCpls Mark Vile and Paul Nesbitt
*Front Row L-R:* Lt Andy Addison, Sig Kev Conlon, SSgt Pete Griffin and Sgt Jeff Martin

The second team also did surprisingly well to finish eighth in the Major Unit Competition, an excellent result considering that over 40 teams were taking part.

The team is now training hard in a bid to retain its title of Army Champions at the Army Cross Country Finals in February.

## 1 SQUADRON
## SPOTLIGHT ON POWER/MT SECTION
## PERSONALITIES

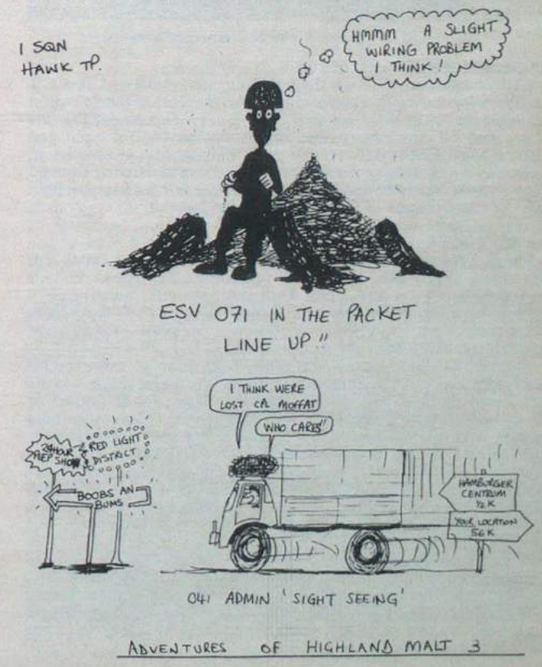
| | |
|---|---|
| **MT Sgt** | **Sgt Al Martin** |
| **Power Cpls** | **Cpl Bamber Downs** |
| | **Cpl John Jenkins** |
| | **Cpl Al Williams** |
| | **LCpl Barney Barnard** |
| | **Sig Al Kehoe** |
| | **Sig Taff Llewelyn** |
| | **Sig Rennie Rennison** |
| **MT Dvr/Lineman** | **Cpl Mac MacMillan** |

Anybody reading the above list would assume that 1 Sqn has a glut of powermen; things however are never the way they seem. Read on and you will discover how difficult it is to control the powermen.

On return from a tour in the Falklands, **LCpl Barney Barnard** managed to fit in four weeks leave before going on his B1. Meanwhile, **Sig Al Kehoe** takes his turn in the Falklands. **Sig 'Taff' Llewelyn** takes a three month break in Catterick, Leconfield and a spot of leave. **Cpl Mac MacMillan** spent six weeks in Leconfield on his TM SNCO's course only to find that Ex White Rhino had been cut to three weeks (hard luck Mac). **Sig 'Rennie' Rennison** spent a month in the Sergeants' Mess to help him towards his B2 then 'volunteered' for three months on the RP staff.

During Battle Camp **Cpl Al Williams** kept the Troops amused with his own version of the Green Goddess and whilst on an undercover mission in Hohne, **Sig Taff Llewelyn** managed to buy himself into the best Section on Battle Camp.

Our return to Verden was just in time to prepare for Ex Highland Malt III. **Cpl Bamber Downs** proves that prior planning and preparation works well. Congratulations to him and **Mrs Downs** on the birth of a baby daughter. One way of missing an exercise! **LCpl Gill** manages to amaze us with his navigational skills by getting the ESV, POL truck, Admin truck (complete with all the rations) lost for 9 hours in a small fishing village called Hamburg. ESV 071 never quite made it on exercise, but that's another story.



**SQUADRON FOOTBALL TEAM—LINDHOOPER ROVERS**

The Squadron has entered a football team in the local German League and although we began in Division 5, the team is doing very well: played 8, won 7, lost 1; goals for 64, goals against 6. We would like to thank all our supporters for their enthusiasm and support and hope it will continue into the New Year.

A very special Merry Christmas from the Rovers to the QM(A) department for letter us use the Forest Ground pitch, but, could we get rid of the moles, install showers, mark the pitch, roll the pitch and find the keys to the changing rooms please!

**2 SQUADRON**
**BATTLE CAMP AT PUTLOS**

During the month of October the Squadron went to Battle Camp at Putlos. The words 'Battle Camp' conjure up all sorts of horrors and nightmares. Full of trepidation the Squadron departed.

Squadron personnel were split into seven and eight man Sections with 1 Sqn being our adversary. Within minutes of arriving at Putlos the lads were immediately sent on a CFT which proved disastrous for some, what with sore feet and the usual blisters. Not deterred, shiny two pressed gallantly on.

The rest of the week went in similar fashion with NBC, First Aid, CQB, Assault and Confidence courses interspersed with periods on the Ranges firing SA80 and, throwing hand grenades (should there be any readers who have held the grenade upside down when preparing to throw, please contact **Lt 'Los' Mannion RPC**, for membership to the 'Upside Down Club'). After what can only be described as a well fought battle 3 Section of Point Sqn won the day, the Section being commanded by **Cpl Davidson-Page**.



'We found it!' 2 Sqn's perfect exercise location!

**EXERCISE HIGHLAND MALT 3**

2 Sqn conducted trials on the new lean mean hard and fast HQ configuration during Ex Highland Malt. All elements of the Squadron including the RRBs practised emergency moves. This caused the nets to go onto HF working. It also meant moving fast, at night and without lights for the AFV crews—good thing we happened to be on a German Army training area with a Cross Country Driving Course! **Capt Alastair Harwell** Squadron 2IC and Recce Officer has now been told the requirements of the perfect exercise location.

**HAWK TROOP**

The last few months have been really rather busy for Hawk Tp, dominated by Ex White Rhino in September. For Hawk Tp this proved to be a three and a half week static exercise, which made a change for a Troop used to rapid movement across the battlefield. Fortunately the 'travelling roadshow' provided some light entertainment with their alternative humour.

With White Rhino over it was time to get down to some serious RSIT preparation, or that was the intention. The major spanner in the works was Battle Camp which , this year, was held at Putlos, or 'Dead-Loss' as it became known, East of Hamburg. There were those though, who still managed to give Battle Camp a severe body swerve, **Cpl Sheer Ali** and **Sig Tom Hoare** being two, through no fault of their own. As usual Battle Camp threw up it's fair proportion of misdemeanours as I'm sure **Sig Sid Coles** and **Cpl 'Cookie' Cook** will testify. At this point I must mention the dedication of the Troop seniors at Battle Camp—**SSgt Dave Bradshaw** even stayed up there for two weeks.

Comings and goings in the Troop have been fairly limited recently. However we would like to extend a warm welcome to **Cpl Mick Ginty**. Finally we would like to thank **Lt Greg White**, who was attached to us from the NZ Signals, for his humour and friendship. From Hawk Tp for another two months, I would like to finish by saying '061s' the name, communication's the game'.

**PAPA TROOP**
**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

The Troop welcomes **Lt Dave Robson** from 9 Sig Regt and **2Lt Kes Russell** from the School of Signals.

Not forgetting the new workers to the colony: **Sgts Steve Brint** from Trg Wing, **Colin Milne** from 14 Sig Regt, **Graham Perch** from AFCENT, **Sig Steve Page, Gary Millington, Chris Marlow** and **Stocks** all fresh from the factory; also **Sig Johnstone** newly claimed by his elder brother **Andy** and **Cpl Adrian Brooks** from 22 Sig Regt. We sincerely hope your tours in Verden are enjoyable.

As always, we have to say farewell to those who move on, our best wishes go to: **LCpl Grant Mather, Sig Guy Craker** and **LCpl 'Mac' McClean**, all taking the soft option.

**ROVER TROOP**
**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

Since August, Rover Tp has lost many of it's members and would like to say farewell to: **Cpl 'Stew' Allister** posted to 1 Inf Bde at Tidworth, **Cpl 'Mez' Merrill** to 5 Inf Bde on promotion, **Sig 'Parky' Parkinson** to 14 Sig Regt on promotion, **Sig Neil Watt** to 11 Ord Bn (EOD) on promotion and **Cpl 'Al' Westhoff** to Civvy Street on demotion to being a civvy.

Rover Tp wish them all the best for the future and would like to welcome: **2Lt Adam Parsons** from RHQ. He has relinquished his position as Assistant Adjutant to become our OC. **Cpl Andy Kennedy** and **Sig Chris Collins** from Papa Tp and **Sig 'Robbo' Robinson** from 249 Sig Sqn.

**3 SQUADRON**

The Page Trophy has figured strongly in the last two months. The worst result was hockey. Despite the Squadron battling valiantly we still got the wooden spoon. Next year we'll be back with a vengance! In Rugby the Squadron came fifth after losing to 207 Sig Sqn and 1 Sqn. The team had been sadly depleted by the loss of **LCpls Rooster Staff** and **Jonah Jones** due to injury. 3 Sqn has now challenged 2 Sqn to a game.

The Squadron fared better in the Page Trophy badminton. Led by **Lt Guy Owen** the team managed a highly creditable third. In the Page Trophy Cross Country the Squadron took the honours after a hard run over a tough course. Well done lads, the next goal is the orienteering.

Hot from the press; congratulations to our Sqn Comd, **Maj Scott Ewing** and his wife, **Nicky**, on the birth of a baby girl, **Kirsty**.

**LIMA TROOP**

The Troop has been out on Battle Camp at Putlos. **Cpl Mark Sala**'s Section came joint first but, after a stewards inquiry the top slot went to the HQ Sqn Section with our Section coming second. Better luck next year lads! **Sig 'Al' Hyland** won the prize for the worst grenade throw of the week. He threw a measley 10m!

Mid November saw Lima Tp in action on Ex Highland Malt. To our delight the route took us through Hamburg, and for some lucky lads down the Reeperbahn. Read the route card next time!

The return from exercise was as much fun as the deployment, albeit by autobahn to avoid Hamburg. **SSgt Graham Miles** and **Lt Andy Addison** managed to follow the wrong convoy back to Verden!

Congratulations to **Sig 'Smurth' Smurthwaite** on his marriage to **Wendy**. We hope you'll be happy with us **Wendy**. Welcomes are also extended to **LCpl 'Jacko' Jackson** and his wife **Maxin**, and **Sig Richard Howard**—all from 8 Sig Regt. Glad to have you all with us, and we hope you enjoy yourselves.

Finally get well soon to **Sgt Gil Lennox** and **Sig Darren Watts**, both of whom are long term BMH patients. We hope to see your back fit and well soon. Hopefully before RSIT, **Gil**!

**OSCAR TROOP**

After the rigours of Ex White Rhino the Troop enjoyed a welcome break before deploying on Ex Western Winds, the Regimental Battle Camp. Oscar Tp provided two infantry Sections. Most of the time was spent firing different weapons including the SA80. At the same time the Section Commanders were able to practise their fire control orders. By the end of the week **Cpls 'Gunnie' Booker** and **'Taff' Burns** had yelled themselves hoarse struggling to be heard over the din of battle. In fact **LCpl 'Rooster' Staff** had to stand in as Section Commander for the live Section attack. He performed with so much gusto that we would undoubtedly have led the charge against the final targets if we had had bayonets to fix!

Ex Highland Malt was a very non standard exercise for Oscar Tp, as we re-roled to provide Divisional Forward headquarters (instead of Step-Up). The reduction in vehicles allowed us the luxury of three-men crews for our Panzers. Even our head powerman, **LCpl 'Scouse' Littler**, helped crew a Panzer. **LCpl Dave Jarvis** managed to keep him off the radios, but couldn't keep him out of the driving seat for the cross-country phase. Also worthy of a mention is **Sig Taff Thomas** who spent five hours on a one hour guard before bothering to find out where his relief had got to.

Two members of the Troop have new additions to their families. **Sgt Paul Marshall**, recently returned from RSSSC, and his wife **Grace** are congratulated on the birth of a son, **Paul. LCpl 'Scouse' Littler** and his wife **Babs** are congratulated on the birth of a daughter, **Jennifer**. We send our very best wishes to both babies.



3 Squadron
LCpls 'Robbo' Robinson, Phil Bruce and Mick Modelely on the Regimental Battle Camp—smiling because they are glad they did not join the infantry



An 'Oscar Tp' infantry section on Battle Camp. Lt Guy Owen *(right)* assumes the correct 'DS Pose'

**MOVING?**

**Have you told RHQ? Your *Wire* will be sent to your old address unless you tell us of a change.**



## 201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 30

Since our last contribution the Squadron has had a very busy time on all fronts, with Ex White Rhino being most successful during the month of September. After Ex White Rhino two adventure training exercises began. The first Ex Mothslock Diamond, a sailing exercise in the Baltic and Ex Ecuador Diamond a climbing and mountaineering expedition to Ecuador, South America.

**SPORTS**

The Squadron's gladiators are once again back to do battle on several fronts. The hockey team, under the expert leadership of the FofS, **'Jay' Allen**, has started off the season well getting to the semi-final's of the Page Trophy and also beating the Scots Guards in the 7/22 Armd Bde League. However just because he'signs for the kit it doesn't mean he has to hog the ball, 'please pass it, FofS'.

The rugby team has a very young and inexperienced following at the moment. However there are some rising stars notably **Sig 'Woody' Greenwood** and **Sig 'Gippo' Gipson** who played out of their skins in the recent Page Trophy Competition.

The cross country team has also started off the season well by coming second in the Page Trophy, and producing several good results in the 7/22 Bde League.

**EXERCISE MOTHSLOCK DIAMOND**
**Report by SSgt P. Smith BEM**

During the period 2-22 October, the Squadron staged Ex Mothslock Diamond. An unusual name but Mothslock is an anagram of Stockholm. However due to adverse weather conditions this port of call had to be abandoned.

The Exercise involved one crew sailing from Kiel to Copenhagen, changing crews, then sailing from Copenhagen to Kiel. The skipper **LCpl 'Jerry' Sharpe** (will he ever get another posting?) taught both crews basic knots and nautical terms. 'It's the bow not the sharp end'.

Eventually we put to sea after waiting for a force six gale to pass, yet it was still pretty rough. **Sig Nigel Stiff** and **LCpl 'Coastie' Coates** had to be prised from the handrail to help rig the sails.

**Cpl 'Taff' Jones** was put to good use in fixing the boat's engine at no extra cost to the Yacht Club, and **Cpl 'Kaffa' Townsend** in providing some unusual, and dare we say, interesting food, some of which he caught himself. Thankfully all the crew survived but the fish in the Baltic have all put on weight.

On 12 October the new crew arrived nice and early and found the other crew still in bed recovering from a touch of the 'mal de mer's' from the previous nights festivities. The SSM soon had them cleaning the boat for the handover after which they returned to sunny Hohne.

The first meal was cooked by the SSM, **WO2 Rod Whateley**, so again the fish ate well while we headed for McDonalds. The sea conditions all week were very rough and even **Cpls 'Wobbly' Owen** and **'Porky' Ruxton** joined the green face gang. This fact was not helped by **Sig** 'Bonks' **Bowker** getting into the Guiness Book of Records for the greatest number of 360 degree turns in a watch. **Cpl**



*Back Left to Right:* Cpl Steve Ruxton and SSM 'Flipper' Whateley
*Front Left to Right:* Sig 'Bonks' Bowker and Cpl Mick Brett

**Mick** 'Never again' **Brett** threatened to throw him overboard but he was too ill to do it!

Eventually the good ship *Petasus* arrived back at Kiel and after thanking the skipper and cleaning up the boat the crew returned to Hohne.

Everyone said they thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of the sea, but some of the green face gang will not be signing on for next year's competition.

**JUNIOR CADRE COURSE**
**Report by Cpl Marchment**

From 22 October to 3 November the Squadron ran its annual Junior Cadre Course. After the students had settled into their accommodation, drill, course photograph and introduction to the course took place.

It was eyes down and look in for the next five days of class work which consisted of fieldcraft and tactics, skill at arms, NBC, first aid, map reading and yet more drill. Over the weekend the students were transported by Chinook to the Soltau training area to do section attacks, battle drills, command tasks and anything else that **Capt Jon Watt** could dream up.

The weekend ended in the section doing heliborne attacks on enemy positions and then a joy ride, by Puma, back to the Exercise harbour area for a debrief and a well earned beer. The beer was hidden in a large water filled pit and the ensuing scramble was a sight to behold.

It was then back to Hohne for a week of range work and preparation for the drill parade on the Friday which was reviewed by **Brig H. W. R. Pike MBE DSO**.

The results of the course are as follows:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Top Student | **LCpl Taylor RE** (PC Hannover) |
| Most Improved Student | **Sig Oulton** |
| Special Award | **Sig Reid** |



'Who said the beer was here . . .?'

**CONGRATULATIONS**

The Squadron wishes to congratulate **Sgt Paul** 'Brillo Pad' **Cook, Cpl Pete** 'Papa Smurf' **Smale** and **Cpl** 'Eddy' **Yates** on the recent additions to their families.

**HELLOS AND GOODBYES**

We say goodbye and good luck to the following: **Cpl 'Toddy' Todd** and **Sig** 'Mickey' **Abel** to civvy street, to **Sgt** 'Nobby' **Neville** on promotion and posting to 1 Inf Bde. **Cpl Willets** (RPC) to Minden, **LCpl Ronnie Dunn** to 28 Sig Regt, **LCpl Tony Sheridan** (RPC) back to the UK via the Falklands, **Sig 'Paddy' Steele** to 244 Sig Sqn and **Vince King** to 202 Sig Sqn.

We welcome to sunny Hohne **Cpl Openshaw** (RPC), **LCpls Anderson** and **Ramahrak, Sig Anderson, Jenkins** and **Oulton, Cfn Anderson** and **Pte Davies**. Yes three **Andersons** in one month, must be some kind of record. Enjoy your tour.



## 207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 37

Once again it is 'that time' and Adjutants all over the world are saying things like *'Wire* notes by end of play yesterday', 'take five, Fortescue—no photos!' and other phrases that are music to subalterns' ears. Sadly—it's strange how that word sounds with one's tongue in one's cheek—these are the present correspondent's very last notes before **Lt Ian Walton** takes over.

**SHQ TROOP**

The exercise season is now almost over with Ex White Rhino behind us and with only Ex Highland Malt 3 and the OC's exercise, Cold Jerboa 2 (just when you thought it was safe to go back on the SLTA) left this year.

In October we had the annual 'Soltau 30' race—a 3 × 10km cross country relay race. This year almost 180 runners came from all over BFG to run a hard course set by **Sgt Bill Surman**. The overall organiser, **Lt Matthew Edwards**, hoped that the computer would work!

5 November, inevitably, saw everyone gathered around a hugh bonfire for Guy Fawkes night. Previous to this, a 'Best Guy' Competition was held by the Jerboa School—the winner's guy gets to sit on the bonfire. This year's competition was judged by the OC, **Maj John Willis**, assisted by the Chief Clerk, **Sgt Tommy Mahoney**. After much deliberation a winner was found, although the Chief Clerk did come a close second: better luck next year **Tommy**!

Finally a few 'hellos' and 'goodbyes': first of all goodbye to **Sgt Joe** and **Julie Marsh**, who are sunning themselves in Harrogate (so there is a solarium there) and welcome to **Joe**'s replacement, **Sgt George** and **Susan Young**. Goodbye as well to **Sgt Stan** and **Anna Jones** (will compo ever taste the same again?) and hello to **Sgt Paul** and **Jacqueline Judman** who have just arrived from Aldershot.

Hello to **Pte Raynor** and **Dvr Bingham** who have recently joined the Squadron and are currently learning all about 'life in the fast lane'; and goodbye to **Sig Sean Fennelly** and **Pte Dave** and **Angela Barley** who have all 'transferred' to 'civvy street'; we wish them all the best for the future.

**ALPHA TROOP**

The talk was all of Ex White Rhino—our lives are meaningless now this 'raison d'etre' has been and gone.

Naturally, all went well for the Troop, move after move, Ptarmigan in, Ptarmigan out, crash in (well, true for **LCpl Wyatt** anyway) and crash out! on the whole White Rhino was quite a challenging exercise and the Troop was glad when 'Endex' was declared. The Troop was even more glad when the recovery phase enabled the Panzers to get back to Soltau before the wheeled vehicles—is this a record?

Finally 'hello' to **Cpl Jim Harvey** and **Sig Richy Pestell**—welcome to the madhouse, and 'goodbye' to **LCpl 'Sleazy' McGrail**, who has managed to get his dream posting—20 Armd Bde Sig Sqn! Goodbye to **Lt Matthew Edwards** who is also off to Detmold, although to a different barracks! Finally, welcome to **Lt 'Rab' Mulholland** and his wife **Gill**—we hope you enjoy Soltau!

**BRAVO TROOP**

Since our last contribution the Troop has been busy as ever, starting off with Ex White Rhino, the Divisional CPX. Not only were we 'main' all of the first week, but were 'forward' all of the second week: this caused **(FofS) SSgt Graham Blondel** a few headaches, having to integrate an Alpha Tp vehicle into the Bravo Tp set-up. Neither **SSgt John Coles** nor **Cpl 'Conky' Conkelt** were impressed: having been 'main' they were looking forward to relaxing at 'Step Up'! This however was not to be and we ended up moving as much as three or four times a day. Tac, watchout!

After the exercise we were looking forward to the slack period of the year, and yet again we were to be disappointed. A two week period of military training came as a shock to some people, but all mandatory training has now been completed and everyone is looking forward to putting their training into practice on the forthcoming OC's exercise! A stall for the Soltau 30, a 12 hour charity football marathon, a Border Patrol, entering a rallycross competition, the visit of **Mr Michael Fish**, the weatherman and bonfire night are among the myriad activities undertaken by the Troop.

Finally, a long hello to the new Troop OC, **Lt Ian Walton**—all the way from sunny Verden!





Alpha Tp with Michael Fish and family



Sig 'Daz' Pallett tightens a 'flange sprocket' while Michael Fish and family wonder why Sig Moffatt has no head!



Michael Fish considers a TRA to Tele Op (RR)!

## 212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 36

**OSCAR TROOP**

Congratulations to **LCpls John Fairley** and **Dave Thompson**, on their promotion to LCpl.

**LCpl Connolly** passed his DMIs Course.

Congratulations also to our attached **LCpl Mattocks ACC** on his promotion.

A big 'well done' to all the lads in the Troop for a very good 2nd line.

We have also had Ex Green Dagger playing enemy to other Units. The exercise turned out to be an aircraft spotting week.

We say farewell to, **Sig Steve Downing** and **Fletcher**. Goodbye and good luck to **Sig Andy Jameson** leaving for civvy street.

**PAPA TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Lt Rob Meinertzhagen** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Kev Jones** |

We provide a main communication Headquarters for the Brigade and in the event of a change of command, a Step-Up Headquarters. To provide the communications, maintenance standards within the Troop and the Squadron need to be very high. To keep these standards, various inspections are carried out throughout the year, one of which is the second line inspection which took place on 2 November. Again the Troop achieved a very good result. It worked hard on all the vehicles and with several people away on tours there was a lot to do. However these standards would not have been achieved without teamwork in the Troop and assistance from TM Tp. Very well done!

**PROMOTIONS**

Congratulations to **LCpl John Fairley** on his promotion and also to **LCpl 'Brummy' Brandrick**. Also congratulations to **LCpl Jason Barsley** on his selection on the E Board to Corporal sometime in the next year.

**POSTINGS IN AND OUT**

Farewell to **LCpl Sammy Wright** who leaves for civvie street and welcome to **Sig 'Charlie' Wells**.

**RUGBY**

After a shaky start to the season, a 19—8 loss to 202 Sig Sqn, we trained hard and were waiting with bated breath to defend our much coveted 'Page Trophy'.

The bid day, 10 October, dawned and we had an added burden in being competition organisers, so our day started early. A favourable draw saw us playing HQ Sqn in our first game. After a scrappy, hard fought encounter we ran out the victors six points to nil.

Our second encounter was against 2 Sqn; needing a win to secure victory of our group, we set about the task. A spirited 20 minute burst of rugby saw us through with an easy 34—0 demolition.

Our semi-final was against 201 Sig Sqn, by then we were on a roll, spirits high, and were going to take a lot of beating. An effortless domination of the match and an easy 14—0 win meant we had a return clash against HQ Sqn in the final.

Having already beaten HQ Sqn and having not conceded a point all day, it all looked good for us. Indeed it was, and with fairly comfortable 18—0 dismissal of injury-ridden HQ Sqn's valiant efforts to take the 'Page Trophy', we successfully defended our prized possession.

All our efforts would have been in vain without the experience and guidance for our Bde Staff, **Maj Andy Murdoch** (R Irish), Man of the Match in the final, **Maj Gary Bourne** (Queens) and **Maj John Wallace** (RCT) as well as **Cpl Mick Humphries** (Int), and **WO1 (ASM) Phil Budge** (REME).

So cock-a-hoop from our Page Trophy victory we set about tackling the Minor Units Cup Divisional rounds. A quarter final clash against 1 Armd Fd Amb saw us emerge victorious 19 points to 6. Our semi final was against 201 Sig Sqn whom we demolished 50 points to Nil.

Just time to mention a few personalities and achievements. **Lt Mike Burke** has achieved a place in the Corps side, **Cpl Dean Hickling** is hopeful of a place in the RCT Corps side and **Cpl Bruce Lee** is contemplating retirement.

**BUNDESWEHR RAFT RACE**

After some members of the Squadron were shovelled out of bed, the teams set out for the canal, most people were still only half conscious. All too soon it seemed, the B team were called to the rafts; at one stage we held the lead, until a navigational error put us back to third place. After we collapsed on the bank, the A team had a go but fared no better. By this time everybody was enjoying themselves.

The B team's next effort was much better, the SSM was seen stalking along the bank, willing the raft to go faster; we were beaten by half a second giving us the second fastest time of the day.

Once again the A team steamed off to a fast start, only to crash and burn 50m from the start line due to over enthusiasm by some of the team.

At the end of the race **LCpl Keith Beveridge** managed to fall overboard, or was he pushed? Was **SSgt Paul Wilson's** head really shaved for aerodynamic gains?

Even though no prizes were won it was an enjoyable morning with a number of supporters turning up. Finally thanks to **Cpl Simon Fell** for organising our part in the event.

**SQUADRON TRAINING DAY**

The training day began with a 'let's get on parade' exercise. The normal run of the mill subjects were covered and some good results, and bad, were achieved. The Chief Clerk, **Sgt Dave Woolley** was given a route card and map and actually found the garages, whereupon he was heard to exclaim, 'It's freezing out here' and had to be restrained from escaping to his sleepy hollow.

A most popular mistake on the day was written assessment of the Map Reading skills of the Unit. When asked to name by studying contours, a saddle, **LCpl Murphys** answer was 'It's two hills'. **LCpl Murphy** also believes that three colour detector paper turns 'Mauve'. What a soldier!

The First Aid test also had some budding Quinceys; **Cfn Henry Ford** when asked the treatment for frostbite, opted for 'Amputation' without hesitation much to the horror of **SQMS Frank Vaughan. Sgt Barney Dawes** although not on the training day asked to state three harmful effects of smoking replied with gusto, (a) Dirties the ashtray; (b) Turns your fingers yellow, (c) Helps dispose of hard earned cash. Not quite the answers we were looking for **Barney**.

Top students for the day were as follows: NBC—**Sgt Taylor RAOC** (must have been a fix); First Aid—**Sig Tanner** and Map Reading—**Dvr Vass RCT**. Well done to them all.

**EXERCISE WHITE RHINO**

This year's Ex White Rhino was very different from previous years in that 12 Bde was largely responsible for Umpiring.

Initially this meant acting as Excon at a nearby German barracks, however, we were soon to move further afield. On the next phase of the Exercise the Squadron moved to Prinz Eugen Kaserne near Arolsen. Here a football pitch, a basket ball court and a gym were all available for our use, and they were widely used during the offshifts. Also available was the Mannschaftsheim and the Officers/SNCO's club both well patronised.

The final phase of the exercise was at the 1 Div Excon in Ruthen which we managed to prove was not quite a communication Black Hole. In summary the exercise was rather quiet and it was a pleasant change to have a relaxing exercise.

**VERDEN 10KM ROAD RACE**

The Verden 10km road race took place on 2 September 1989. The morning after the Squadron Western night, and the same day as the Raft race. As a result the Squadron was low on personnel, but still managed to field a strong tream, and on the day the weather was good.

The Squadron team came third which was an excellent result considering that many of the better runners were unable to run, and bodes well for the coming cross-country season. The result was as follows:-

| | |
|---|---|
| **Pte Tim Butt** | 35 mins 19 secs |
| **Lt Rob Meinertzhagen** | 37 mins 9 secs |
| **SSgt Dave O'Brien** | 37 mins 13 secs |
| **Sig Steve Downing** | 38 mins 18 secs |
| **Cpl Steve Coombs** | 39 mins 30 secs |
| **Cpl Steve Pattenden** | 41 mins 49 secs |
| **Sig Darren Lythe** | 41 mins 59 secs |
| **LCpl 'Murf' Murphy** | 42 mins 9 secs |
| **Sig Tim Parkins** | 45 mins 26 secs |
| **Sig John Fairley** | 46 mins 15 secs |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## 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt York

October and November saw us catching up with all the post-Exercise work and preparing for the CO's inspections of the Squadrons.

Visitors have included the new GOC NEDist, **Maj Gen Rose CBE QGM**, and the CRA, **Brig J. I. Johnston MBE**. The CinC UKLF, **Gen Sir Charles Huxtable KCB CBE**, also found time to present an LS & GC Medal to **SSgt Ratcliffe** during a visit to NEDist.

The ex-Adjt, **Capt Johnny Perks** and ex-OC O Troop **Lt Bridget Perks** (née Pulverman) who left in November are seen here at their wedding in August. Also in the picture are the CO, **Lt Col Griffin**, 2IC, **Maj Peter Richards**, RSM, **WO1 Gerry Hegarty**, the Best Man **Capt Willie Swinton** of the Scots Guards and other members of the Regiment.

We say farewell to **Capt Miller** who leaves the Regiment in November to take up the post of Adjutant at 21 Sig Regt and welcome **2Lt Damian Hampton-Chubb** who takes over as 2IC (and acting OC) 15 Bde Sig Tp.



SSgt Ratcliffe, CinC and Mrs Ratcliffe



**YOUNG OFFICERS' PRESENTATION**

In July of this year, **Lt Bill Adsett** and **2Lt Scott Youngson** gave a presentation entitled 'Rorke's Drift Jan 1879' to the officers. This mini history lesson starred **Lt Adsett** (looking very fetching in boot polish and a grass skirt) as the Zulu warrior Dabulamanzi (King Cetewayo's brother) and **2Lt Youngson** as the British officer, **Lt Bromhead RE**.

**49 BRIGADE SIGNAL TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp OC** | **Capt Graham Complin** |
| **Tp 2IC** | **2Lt Scott Youngson** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Jim Pickles** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt Phil Carroll** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Martin Altham** |
| **Tech Sgt** | **Sgt Phil Wallace** |
| **Tp Introvert** | **Sig David Rogers** |

**SUMMER CAMP**

The Troop deployed to Ambleside on Friday 30 June for a week's Adventure Training in the Lake District.

The weather on arrival was grey and overcast with the likelihood of thunder to follow. However, this soon changed and for the rest of the week the weather was excellent. Our activities during the day included canoeing, sailing, wind surfing, rock climbing and hill walking. The Watersports Instructors were: **SSgts Andy Snaith** and **Grieves, 2Lt Scott Youngson** and **Capt Charlie Miller**. The Climbing and Walking Instructors were: the Boss, **Capt Peter Holliday** and **Cpl** (soon to be Sgt) **Stan Matthews**.



Zulu and officer shaking hands

The Troop was split into two sections, a tented area at Low Wray Camp Site on the shores of Lake Windermere for those on water activities and a building in Ambleside for the budding Chris Bonningtons amongst us. At the two sites were our Resident Cooks: **Cpl Andy Goodall** and **LCpl Reg Perrin** who provided us with the normal culinary delights. Thanks for the excellent food lads.



Four People on Rocks
Cpl Matthews with some of the Greenpeace workers who tried to push him back out to sea

**EXERCISE POLAR BEAR 89**

The Troop deployed to Salisbury Plain on Thursday 21 September for a two week exercise providing communication and admin for the Brigade and communication for the enemy and umpire nets.

Special mention must be made of the scenic route chosen by **2Lt Youngson**, our Resident Tour Operator and Recce Officer. Apparently the journey down from York was supplied by the AA, however **2Lt Youngson** obviously contacted their Ramblers Section!

Life for the Troop was busy, sometimes hectic, providing communications for the various nets and also accommodating 200 VIP visitors, including the Secretary of State for Defence, **Mr Tom King MP**.

Once more we come to the awards section, the first category 'Reprimand of the Exercise' is in two categories, the winner of the 'On the Air Reprimand', with Rebros deployed on an all informed net is: **Cpl Oxley**. The award is given for failing to pick up the Comd, **Brig Firth**, at the appointed time and place, which for some reason upset the Chief of Staff!

The 'Command Post/Comms Ops Reprimand' winner is: **Capt Peter Holliday** (then Tp Comd) for not having enough frequencies in a given frequency spectrum.

Best 'Reaction to Bad News' winner is **Sig Tim Harrison**, who having been in the Unit two weeks (the duration of the exercise) was told at the endex breakfast to stag for another two weeks with 15 Bde (some guys have all the luck!).

The winner of the yearly 'Biggest Disaster Since Sunderland Appointed Lawrie Mac as Manager' Award goes to **Sgt Phil Wallace** for services rendered to the PA system. Minutes before the Commander addressed his Troops, it was a case of 'it was working two minutes ago, Sir!'

**THE LANYARD COMPETITION**
**by Lt Bill Adsett**
**THE TEAM**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Lt Bill Adsett** |
| **2IC** | **Sgt Mark Harris** |
| | **Cpl Cooper** |
| | **Cpl Derk Donnelly** |
| | **Cpl Sean Humphries** |
| | **Cpl Paul Jude** |
| | **LCpl Dave Cruikshank** |
| | **LCpl Milne** |
| **IC Admin** | **SSgt Marty Altham** |
| | **Pte Neil Kenyan** |

This year the Regiment began training for the Lanyard Trophy Competition in July. This left plenty of time for the motivated to get fit and the unsure to escape. With summer leave and Ex Key Flight this training was inevitably disturbed so the team trotted down to Penhale Training Camp for its final beasting. Training consisted of day-long 'strolls' across Dartmoor (firm and dry as usual!) and a gym session under the tender care of **SSgt Marty Altham**. The strolls were made particularly exciting by Supercook **Pte Neil Kenyon's** imaginative sandwiches (ham and cheese every day!).

The competition was designed to be particularly arduous this year. The participants will assure you that it was. We set off at dark o'clock against gale force winds and driving rain. This ensured that we were all drenched within the first hour. It soon became a matter of survival. After about 10 hours of severe morale testing, the competition was called off. As a result the Trophy was not awarded but we did get a runner-up prize.

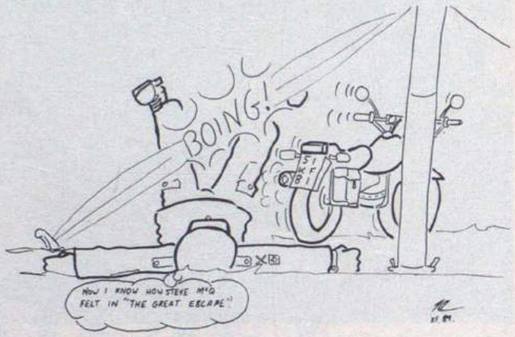
Finally, I would like to thank all the team for their hard work and efforts. Furthermore, we would all like to thank those who helped the team particularly 656 Sig Tp, **Capt Peter Holliday, WO1 Cross** and the Squadrons. The team was disappointed at not being able to complete the competition as they had worked extremely hard to prepare for it.

**A TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp Comd** | **Lt Drew Llewellyn** |
| **Tp Admin** | **SSgt Pete O'Connor** |
| **Recce** | **Sgt Derek Adams** |
| **Mascot** | **Sig Bob Lester** |

Starting with a successful Summer Camp in Rhyl, July saw the Troop footsore on Mt Snowdon, capsized on the River Llwgwy, and nursing sore heads and gravel rash on the toboggan run at Llandudno. 'Wannabea Marine', **LCpl Simon Lithgow** in particular, demonstrated unorthodox braking and sled control. (It's technical term, I believe it's called, 'a bum steer'.)

Later in the month Troop members were fully involved in a Regimental Escape and Evasion Exercise in the Glens around Garelochhead. **SSgt Pete O'Conner**, 'Partisan Pete' to the escapees, showed off his trapping and skinning skills. Unfortunately the game migrated to safer parts of Scotland and we had more chance of being run over than actually being caught by the runners.




Man fallen off motorbike

After Block Leave A Troop (also known as TN042) deployed with the Regiment to BAOR for Ex Key Flight. Favourite sites were revisited and crews reacquainted with the German terrain. **LCpl Battye** discovered a large muddy hole on the Winterburg and (despite it having been one of the driest summers ever) promptly sank up to his ankles. His vehicle had to be recovered as well!

Later in the Exercise we allied with local mosquitos to drive off OSC 132 whose demand for blood was greater than our winged friends. At the same time 'I taught the White Helmets everything I know' Staff demonstrated the rope across the road trick by riding a motorbike into a mast guy! Similarly **Sgt Adams** unnecessarily recce'd an Audi with his landrover.

Returning to the UK provided some amusement in our quest to find Grobben****donk, with vehicles scattered far and wide. (At least we got there, 2 Sqn!)

The year ended with many arrivals and departures within the Troop. Hello and farewell. Happy New Year.

**15 BRIGADE SIGNAL TROOP**
**EXERCISE MIGRANT MERLIN**
**by Cpl Rob Sear**

It was midnight and everybody was thinking of bed. Just the right time for an eight hour cabby to Westdown Camp, on sunny Salisbury Plain! The idea of the exercise was to test the full capability of 15 Inf Bde and its Signal Troop attachments over a two week period.

The exercise went as planned with a move to Greenlands Camp during the middle weekend.





The SAS/MC run by **LCpl Pete Southern** and **Cpl Rob Sear** were kept on their toes all hours of the day operating the switchboard, thanks to Bulford Exchange. Unlike SSgt **(YofS) Ken Sirr**, contender for the Golden Blanket, who managed to fall asleep on the trip back to York before the vehicle driven by **Cpl Chris Jarvis** had left the exercise location.

The Troop after completing the exercise prepared for one day off—Brigade Battle Group Trainer later in the month.

**RHQ MOVEMENTS—A NEW BROOM?**
**by Sgt Danny Cullen**

RHQ welcomes a new Adjutant and Assistant Adjutant and bids farewell to the 'old guard'.

Adjt **Capt Johnny Perks** is replaced by **Capt Peter Holliday**. Assistant Adjt **Lt Mhairi Nisbet WRAC** is replaced by **Lt Juliet Smith WRAC**. **Capt Perks** finally got his wish and took control of the Regiment on parade on Friday 17 November as his farewell gesture. The Troops arrived early and happy banter was heard ringing around the parade square. Then it happened! **Capt Perks** had thrown off his 'Golden Blanket Award' and arrived to take the parade. The tension built up, the RSM sorted out the parade and lined up his soldiers, then passed the parade to **Capt Perks**. The moment of truth came as the Adjutant gave his first command. The Officers appeared as if by magic and marched out on to the parade.

The CO then appeared behind **Capt Perks** and in a small ceremony, took over the Parade from him. The sun shone, people smiled, Officers disappeared, SNCOs fell out and the 'boys' marched back to work.

**Some Comments Heard:**

'Well he wasn't such a bad Adjutant really!'
'I didn't realise he'd been here that long.'
'I thought he was the Training Officer.'

Unfortunately the tension had proved too much for the RSM who was 'carted off' to York District Hospital with a collapsed lung. We are happy to report that **WO1 (RSM) Gerry Hegarty** is now out of hospital and recovering quickly.

Amongst all this excitement **Sig Andy Walsh** arrived in the Orderly Room straight from training at 8 Sig Regt. Our first Tele Op (P&A). Now we really will find out if Operators make better tea than Clerks.

**RADIO TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp OC** | **Lt Andy Walker** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Taff Crosby** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Paul James** |
| **MT Rep** | **Cpl Russell Oldfield** |

**ARRIVALS AND FAREWELLS**

Before we go into what the Troop has been up to during the past few months we would like to bid farewell to several Troop stalwarts. **Cpls Noel Hanchard, 'Dusty' Miller, LCpls 'Cloud' Nelson, Kane Gunter, Geordie** (FB) **Moss** and **Sig 'Bernie' Bolt** and **Marti Lawrenson** all posted to 5 Div (Civvy Street)! and **LCpl Bri Parry** and his wife **Tracey** to 249 Sig Sqn.

The Troop would also like to welcome **LCpl Aidan Whitty** from 633 Sig Sqn (with Belize mud still on his boots—he must have lent them to a soldier!) **LCpl 'Nursey' Hatton** from Papa Tp, **LCpl Andy Plowman** returned from 254 Sig Sqn (UNIFCYP), **Sig 'Baldrick' Scott** from 3 Div, **Sig 'DM' Davies-Morris** from 21 Sig Regt, **Sig Charlie McInally** and **Sig Harris** and **Hudson** fresh from basic training.

**EXERCISE KEY FLIGHT**

The Troop has recently returned from Ex Key Flight, just managing to get the vehicles there and back. All in all the Troop's feelings were that the exercise was somewhat boring due to the long periods of inactivity.

**OC SQUADRONS EXERCISE**

After the usual exercise turn around period the Troop began the feverish activity associated with PREs, 2nd line earth bonding tests and Tels inspections. The reward for getting this all done was the CO's inspections of the Squadron, from SOP kit checks to No 2 Dress parades and block inspections to garage inspections. The week went well and the whole thing was a success.

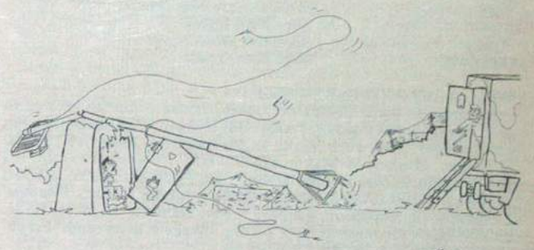
**CO's TRUMPET COMPETITION**

We recently held the Trumpet Competition, voted a success by the men in the Troop who thought it was the best thing since sliced bread. It was a return to what most of us joined the Army for and by common agreement is what is missing from so many Units.

What is this Trumpet thing? Well it was a well organised and interesting series of events incorporating March and Shoot and a 'Round Robin' of Military Stands which included First Aid and Command Tasks. It required hard work, initiative, intelligence and leadership from all members of the Troop. The final accolade for us was that **Cpl Paul Walsh's** team obtained a very creditable fourth place overall. The Troop feel the competition was a resounding success.

**EXERCISE KEY FLIGHT 89**

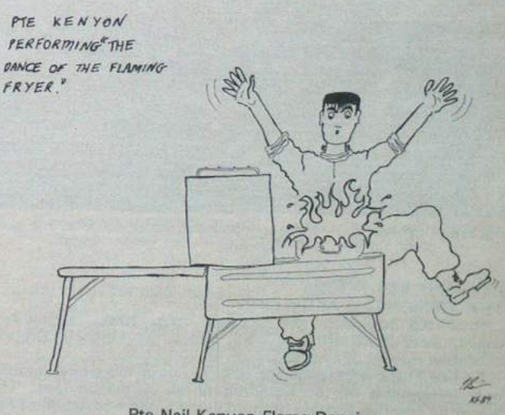
2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt's final entry are three of many excellent cartoons drawn by **Sig Bain** during the exercise. They are all real incidents!



Mast Collapsing on Portaloo




Legionnaire Messenger on Foot




Pte Neil Kenyon Flame Dancing

# 210 (24 Airmob Bde) Sig Sqn
# Catterick

CCX

**SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Capt James Morley-Kirk** |
| **AO/OC Sp Tp** | **Lt Tom Ponton** |
| **OC Comms Tp** | **Lt Stephen Williamson** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Mal Hopper** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 Dougie MacTaggart** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt Russ Lifton** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Jim Monkmaner** |
| **ORSQMS** | **SSgt Glen Brook** |

**WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS**

Welcome to the following personnel who have recently arrived to swell our ranks: **Lt Ponton, WO2(SSM) Hooper, SSgt Monkman, Sgt Fulton, Cpls Coid, Feely, Sole, LCpls Attwood, Eastwood, Smart, Sig Foster, Hughes, McMahon** and **Roberts**. We must, alas, also bid sad farewells to **Maj Robert Baxter, Capt Mick Besant, WO2(SSM) Trev Jones, SSgt (SQMS) Graham Butler, Cpls Al Barker, 'Chappie' Chapman, Jim Davidson, Furphy, Scouse Rice** and **LCpl Bri Hyde**. Finally farewells must be bid to **Sig Clance Clancy** and **'Pritch' Pritchet** who have left for civvy street.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

We offer the heartiest of congratulations to: **Cpl** and **Carol Wathey, Cpl** and **Marie Hebden, LCpl** and **Kay Ezard** and **LCpl** and **Adele Hyland** on their recent marriages and wish them all the best for their future lives together. Many congratulations also go to **Cpl** and **Susan Howe** on the arrival of their son, **Sgt** and **Cynthia Lovett** on the arrival of twins and also **Cpl** and **Nadia Smith** on their new arrival.

We also congratulate **AWO2 Mal Hopper** on promotion to sub WO2, **ASgt Rich Wicking** on promotion to sub Sgt, **LCpl Percy Parkin** on promotion to ACpl and **Pete Crowther** on well deserved promotion to LCpl.

**GENERAL**

In the wake of Ex Pegasus Mane, the Squadron stood-down to a period of block leave. While most had already found their places on the beach, a few intrepid souls departed for an expedition into the Norwegian mountains. The report covering their exploits follows. The photographs shown here are 'fresh in from the developers'. That's **Sig Small**'s story anyway! They add some life to past events.



Sig Small proves that it's even possible to pose with his pet gennys

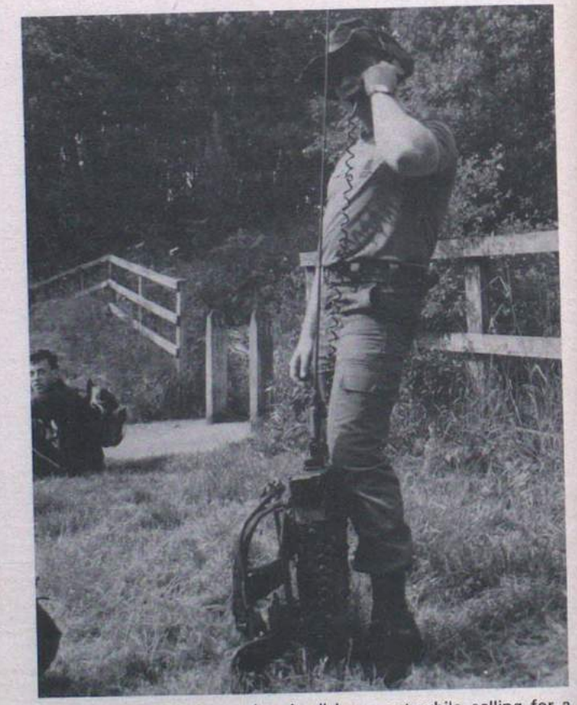
**EXERCISE KEY FLIGHT**
**THE AIRMOBILE VALIDATION**

Once the Squadron had returned from leave preparations recommenced in earnest for Ex Key Flight, the Airmobile Brigade validation exercise in Germany.

Ex Key Flight represented the culmination of two years' training and development of the Squadron as an Airmobile Unit. The Squadron now flies forward the headquarters. More communications facilities are provided, in fewer vehicles, than ever before.



Cpl Jo Noname tells his mother to keep his dinner warm before popping out for a quick spin



LCpl 'Garth' Whitehouse lets it all hang out while calling for a pizza



As significant are the extra demands that an airmobile operation places upon the skills, flexibility, durability (and humour!) of all the personnel who strive to support it.

It was a highly successful exercise. It tested and proved the Squadron's full capability to support the Airmobile Brigade. The resulting establishment has certainly become the envy of our partner Bundeswehr Unit, 27 Luftlande Brigade.

Development of the concept and practice of airmobility, and therefore development of the Squadron, continues into the 1990s. It should prove an interesting time.

**EXERCISE MOUNTAIN VIKINGS**
**by Lt Richard Rands**

It was dawn on a surprisingly chilly August morning. Four dynamic explorers from 210 Sig Sqn laden with at least 65lbs of equipment and brimming with enthusiasm, climbed into a minibus at Gaza Barracks to begin an epic journey. It would take them across air, sea and land to their startex location—Flam, Norway.

Ex Mountain Vikings, a trekking expedition organised by the British Mountaineering Training Centre Norway, was to take the budding explorers 110kms across some of the most breathtaking terrain in Europe. The trek completed by **Cpl Al Barker, LCpl Brian Hyde** and **Sig Colin Brown** and your author involved us in many ascents over 4,000ft. It was mostly done in ice and snow including many traverses across glaciers and two river crossings. 'Two tee-shirts and a pair of shorts' had been the cry during the pre-exercise work-up, but we were soon to learn that the temperature and weather in Norway are not the same as in the UK!

**'Scouse' Barker** suffered on day one. Having climbed 2,500ft (well above the snow line) in Bermuda shorts, and having tabbed through a blizzard, his body temperature slumped slightly below normal. This problem was soon rectified at the first bivi site by smothering him in about six layers of clothing and all of us jumping into his sleeping bag with him. This followed by a steaming hot curry was enough to motivate anyone into another day's trekking.

**LCpl 'Bri' Hyde** excelled himself throughout, proving that he is fitter than most. However, he is not much of a ballet dancer when it comes to balancing on wet, slimy rock faces—a nasty cut to the arm, much blood and plenty of sympathy being the result.

**Sig 'Col' Brown**—the Admin Dasher, as he is known to his close friends, did much to impress with his culinary delights. He successfully made up four pints of orange 'screech' and even attempted a mug of hot chocolate. This was before contracting terminal blisters and an ingrowing toe nail. From that point (around day 3) there was only one thing for **'Browny'**—the Norwegian national dish, meatballs. Meatballs were to provide the staple diet for the weary explorers but to **'Browny'** they were something else—Rocket Fuel!

In many ways the expedition was a success. We covered the route in plenty of time, but seven days in that environment is really enough. After that the fantastic terrain turns into a battlefield where survival is your only aim. We learnt much about Norway—the place and its people, and all came to the same conclusion, despite the thrill of mountains you can't beat good old Blighty!



The Intrepid Explorers
*Left to Right:* Cpl 'Scouse' Barker, Sig 'Col' Brown, Lt Richard Rands and LCpl 'Bri' Hyde *(kneeling)*

**EXERCISE GASPING EAGLE**
**by Cpl Dave Ruane**

Over the period of 13/14 November the Squadron conducted an NBC exercise using the Catterick NBC Battle Run. The intention was to practise the Squadron in its normal role in an NBC environment, along the same lines as the Porton Battle Run.

The NBC phase was preceeded by a comms/navex arranged by **Cpls Al Pilcher** and **Ollie Hollingsworth**. Enemy for the Squadron, was provided by the NBC DS, **Cpls Gaz Lee, Al Thornton** and **Dave Ruane.**

The night of the 13th was brilliant and moonlit, which enabled the enemy to put the 'score' at 3—1 in their favour. It would have been 5—1 but Excon pulled them out early.

Day dawned with the Squadron (now a Company) being shown how a decontamination area worked, and after several briefings, the fun really started. At 1000 hrs the Company (—) was attacked, using CS and smoke, then rapidly withdrew to the ECL. Five minutes later, out of the smoke came the NBC sentry! He was pointed in the general direction of the sections, who were now 50m away. The DS then departed to set up the various 'treats' that were in store.

With the Company now advancing, and the first of the incidents set, everything was ready to go—and over the hill comes a lone NBC sentry! Apparently he had lost the sections! We're not sure who it was—identification being difficult in full IPE, but we think his last three are ERK! On with the story.

The Company was advancing happily when it came under fire from **Sgt Bill Greig, Cpl Ollie Hollingsworth, Sig Willy Pool** and **Col Brown**. As the Company overran the position, the Hunter aircraft that was due to spray the area was fogbound at RAE Boscombe Down. However, the day was saved by the DS splattering the area with Spals, Catm, CS and smoke thus adding a touch of realism. In the end, most people got their respirators on in time, those that didn't became casualties.

Next—a chemical recce. The Company followed the clear route to the NE and moved into an ambush position on top of a ridge, overlooking another little surprise.

During the time all this was taking place, **LCpl Snowie Snowdon** had been digging a hole, just large enough to contain all the ingredients of an atomic bomb simulator! We had 'borrowed' the resident bomb expert from the Catterick FIBUA Complex, one **SSgt Pat McLeary RE**. He made the necessary arrangements and the bomb was triggered just as the Company thought they were winning (they should have known better) 4—1 to the DS.

In summary, the exercise was most beneficial. With possibly the only blight being the non-flying of the Hunter due to fog; we've got some one on a Weather Controllers Course later in the year.

**ODE TO CAMBRIAN PATROL '89**
**by Lt Stephen Williamson OC Comms Tp**

*It all started on a fine day,*
*when the 210 team went on their way.*
*Off to Wales they did go,*
*in travelling down they were not slow.*
*In a wooded glen it all did start,*
*a safety brief was the first part.*
*Halfway through there was a stir*
*'Where's OC 210? You should be getting orders sir!*
*Lt 'Paddy' gave his orders with a shaking hand,*
*the Russians had invaded his homeland!*
*Sgt 'Porg' completed the team administration*
*including a mini Warminster fire power demonstration.*
*The team then went to start point one,*
*the short drive there was such fun!*
*'Monster' O'B led the way,*
*would the team last the day?*
*The yomp went well for a little while,*
*all the team could do was smile.*
*Very soon we met the hills*
*which caused Burke and Barlow many spectacular spills.*
*Courage, Snowy did not lack,*
*pathfinding through marshes in the pitchblack.*
*A competition started between Radders, Chippy and Knowles,*
*to see who could fall down the deepest, wettest holes.*
*Gordon said (no matter how much it rained)*
*'It's alright sir we're Krypton Factor trained'.*
*But sadly, the team had to call it a day,*
*when injury flew Karl Arnold away.*
*So the weary wounded finished,*
*their spirits sadly, greatly diminished.*
*'Don't worry' said OC Comms with a sheepish grin,*
*'for CP '90 I've put our names back in'.*

**FOOTBALL**
**by Cpl Rab Arthur**

A great start to the season by the Squadron team this year, played four won four.

The team would like to welcome four new players—**LCpls Mark Harland, Ez Ezard** and **John Mullen** and also to our new 'CAT' **Sig Robbo Roberts**.

Our first game was against AA Coll Harrogate, five goals by **Cpl Al Higgins** helped us to seal the game 6—1. The second game of the season was versus 21 Ord Coy, again the Squadron played well with goals from **LCpls Tony Hartley** and **Mark Harland**. Result 9—4 to the CCX.

Next came 11 Sig Regt, this was a far tighter game. However, the Squadron came away with a 3—1 win, with goals from **Cpls Chippy Pomfret** and **Al Higgins**. Fourthly, the opponents were Menwith Forest. An early penalty settled the side and some good football was played. **LCpl Ez Ezard** played exceptionally well and was rewarded by two fine goals. Also contributing a solid performance in defence was **LCpl 'Was' King**.

Sadly at the end of December the Squadron team says farewell to **Cpl Al Higgins**, whose contribution to the team has been outstanding. All the best at York and congratulations on your promotion to Sergeant.

Finally, let's continue our winning start and push for promotion next season.

**GOLF**
**by Sgt Bill Greig REME**

The 24 Airmob Bde Golf Meeting was held at the Catterick Garrison Golf Club on Wednesday 18 October 1989. The competition was an 18 hole individual Stableford, with a four man team event incorporated into the round.

In the team event, with our players consisting of **Sgt Bill Greig, Cpls Gaz Lee, Al Higgins** and **Rab Arthur**, 210 Sig Sqn finished a creditable fifth out of fifteen teams entered, with a total of 100 points.

In the individual competition, the results were as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Div A | 7th | **Sgt Bill Greig** | 32 points |
| | 11th | **Cpl Rab Arthur** | 30 points |
| Div B | 3rd | **Cpl Al Higgins** | 38 points |
| | 14th | **Cpl Gaz Lee** | 25 points |
| Div C | 16th | **LCpl 'Was' King** | 18 points |
| | 17th | **LCpl Kev Attwood** | 18 points |

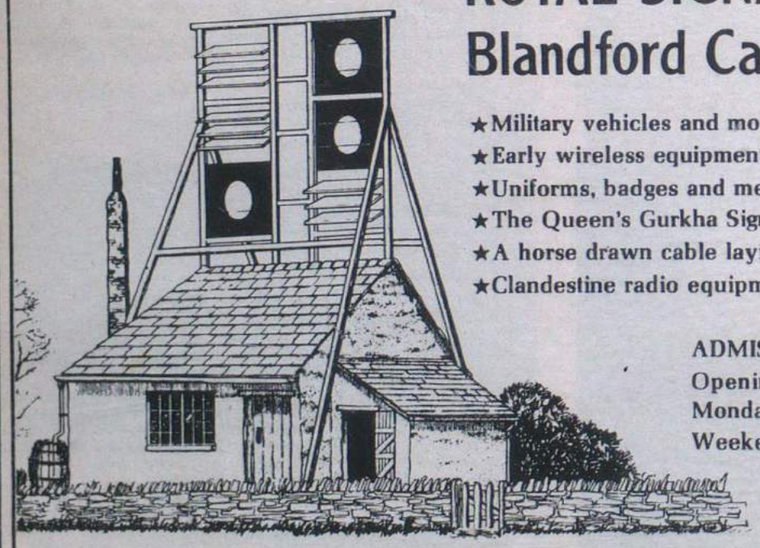
A great day was enjoyed by all who competed, congratulations must go to **Cpl Al Higgins**, who was our only trophy winner.

This month we say a sad farewell to our OIC **Capt Mick Besant**, who leaves us on posting—good luck in your new Unit. Fortunately, his replacement, **Lt Tom Ponton**, is also a keen golfer.

**HOCKEY**
**by WO2 (YofS) Dougie MacTaggart**

The Squadron Hockey Team has had a mixed start to the new season, the pinnacle of which has been a 2—0 win over RAF Boulmer. This in itself is not of earth shattering importance but it is the first win we have had in two and a half years! Results to date:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Friendly v 8 Sig Regt | Lost 2—0 | Own goal by **Sig Wootley** |
| Friendly v RAC Trg Regt | Lost 4—2 | Scorers **SSgt Brook, Cpl Davidson** |
| League v RAF Boulmer | Won 2—0 | Scorers **Sgt Wicking, LCpl Hyde** |
| League v RAF Leeming | Lost 2—1 | Scorer **Sig Armstrong** |
| Cup Semi-Final v Depot Scots Div | Lost 4—0 | |
| League v 21 Ord Coy | Won 3—1 | Scorers **SSgts Brook, Willey** |

# ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM
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★Uniforms, badges and medals.
★The Queen's Gurkha Signal display.
★A horse drawn cable laying wagon.
★Clandestine radio equipment from World War II.

ADMISSION FREE
Opening hours :
Monday to Friday 0830 - 1700 hours
Weekend by appointment

Artist's impression of the early 19th Century Admiralty shutter telegraph relay station built on the site of Blandford Camp 1808-1825




# 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
# BFPO 114

**1 SQUADRON**

Regimental activities have been testing our organisational skills of late.

**TRAINED SOLDIERS CADRE COURSE**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Course** | **2Lt Clare** |
| **2IC Course** | **SSgt Stachini** |
| **1 Section** | **Sgt Tye** |
| **2 Section** | **Sgt Brent** |
| **3 Section** | **Sgt Goodliff** |
| **Admin NCO** | **Cpl Kielty** |

The trained Soldier Cadre Course was held at St Sebastain Barracks from 15 to 28 October 1989. It was for Royal Signals soldiers serving in 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt training within the last 18 months. It covered first aid, NBC, drill, map reading, field craft, tactics, physical training, methods of instruction and weapon handling.

Additional evening activities included sport, map reading exercises, a military quiz and a Egg Race Competition which formed the Champion Section Competition. The winners were 1 Section.

The students took part in Ex Cobb Web in the first week. This was a 24 hour dry training exercise and was designed to give the students practice in Section battle drills, map reading and other battlefield training.

Ex Never Say Die was the 24 hour exercise in the second week. The students were tested for leadership and command potential and each was given a command task in which he led and controlled his Section. This proved to be a great success as it was the first time most of them had been in command at Section level. Team spirit and leadership were tested to the limits.

In the final two days of the course methods of instruction, presentations and completed TOET on SLR, SMG and LMG and written examinations were taken. The final preparations for the course Pass Off parade took place under the watchful eye of Drill Pit **SSgt 'Trev' Jenkins**.



Cadre Exercise



Trained Soldiers Cadre

The Pass Off parade was taken by **Brig Anderson**, CRA 3 Division. Everyone was impressed with the standard of turnout and drill displayed. During the parade **Brig Anderson** presented **Sig Eades** of 1 Sqn with the Best Student award. After the parade the students and the DS attended the end of the course buffet and drinks. Many thanks must be given to the following whose help made the course such a great success: **WO2 Mick O'Callaghan**—Trg Wing, **WO2 (RQMS) Stan Wise, SSgts Jerry Jerrard, Lenny Pound ACC** and **Paul Mellish**.

PS: Look forward to doing it all again in 1990!

**INTER SQUADRON RUGBY 7s COMPETITION**

The pitches were cropped, marked and flagged (thanks to the PSA) and all teams turned up on time. The tea and coffee, hot dogs and 'stickies' were selling like the proverbial hot cakes on the side lines, controlled by **Cpl** 'Roll up for a bargain' **Denton**, and even the weather smiled on us. A fitting setting for a hard day's rugby, where each team would play a minimum of 84 minutes of rugby.

The tournament started on time and 202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn quickly emerged as favourities for a place in the final with their blend of youth (**Sig Smart**), power (**Cpl Rock**) and experience (**Lt Kenyon**).

1 Sqn made a hearty attempt to stop the Paderborn flow and **Lt Mitchell** was almost as surprised to catch **Cpl Jimmy Rock** on a breakaway run as the big winner was to be caught. As the round-robin drew to a close it became clear that 202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn would meet 206 (6 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn in the final.

The boys put up a spirited fight drawing level after an early lead by the Taurus Club, 202's early self confidence had been dinted with good running by **Lt Chris 'Mac' Macintosh**, and jogging by the recently posted **Lt Evans** from 1 Sqn. Solid tackling and good half-back work from the Paderborn team re-established their lead shortly after the break and 202 Sig Sqn ran out deserved winners. **Cpls Wallbank** and **Callan** deserve thanks for good refereeing. **Lt Col Cook** presented the prizes to two very tired teams which rounded off a day of inspired rugby.

**BADMINTON**

The Regimental Inter-Squadron Badminton Competition took place at the Rehabilitation Centre on 27 October. It was a hotly contested competition with no team giving an inch. 1 Sqn won after a close and highly competitive final against Div HQ. The team consisted of **SSgts Tommy Wandless, Brian Smallman, Sgt Mick Shirley, Cpls Pete Preece, Eddie Leek** and **Pete O'Brien**. Positions at the end of the day were as follows; 1 Sqn, Div HQ, 2 Sqn, HQ Sqn, 202 Sig Sqn and 204 Sig Sqn.

**2 SQUADRON**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Mike Rough** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Andy Goff** |
| **OC N Tp** | **2Lt Andy Thomson** |
| **OC O Tp** | **2Lt Howard Hughes** |
| **OC P Tp** | **Capt Ken Jones** |
| **OC R Tp** | **2Lt Paul Prince** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Billy Haslam** |
| **SQMS(T)** | **SSgt John Burgess** |
| **SQMS(A)** | **Sgt Keith Fisher** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt Andy Campbell** |
| | **SSgt Steve Potterton** |

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to the OC, **Maj Mike Rough** and his wife **Fran** on the birth of their son **James**. Congratulations to **Capt Alasdair Rodgers** and **2Lt Gemma Hicks** who have announced their engagement.

**EXERCISE SHINING CHALICE**

2 Sqn's involvement in Ex Shining Chalice was mainly the week before and the week after the actual exercise with the setting up and tearing down of the Divisional HQ complex. Papa Tp's initial role was to assist in the 'build' phase under the direction of **SSgt (FofS) Steve Driver** and we supplied most of the Troop strength for this task. The build phase was completed on time and the exercise got under way. The following four days involved a small element of Papa Tp and apart from one small power failure ran smoothly.

**A SPOT OF PT**

The Squadron decided to attempt a Belgian assault course near Soest. It was a parting gift from **Capt Mike Shaw** as he headed for Osnabruck.



SSgt Steve Potterton helps SSgt Bruce Payne get his legover!

**INTER SQUADRON BOXING CHAMPIONS—2 SQUADRON AGAIN!**

After an initially good start to exercises and many other commitments took over and eventually a team of six represented the Squadron. The draw took place on Monday 20 November. Good performances by the boxers enabled five to get through to the finals, **Sig Pete Stubbs** being an unfortunate points loser in the Light Middleweight Semi-Final.

Thursday 23 November was finals night and it was clear that the overall team placings would produce close fights right to the end. 2 Sqn's first boxer was **Sig 'Tony' Caulfied** at Featherweight, and this set the scene for the night—a comprehensive points win. The next was **Sig Simon Link** at Light Welterweight, another fine win showing the best two right hooks of the competition. The Middleweight contest allowed **Sig 'Flash' Smillie** a comfortable points victory: A fine performance from the most improved Squadron boxer. In the penultimate fight **LCpl 'Benson' Whyte** took to the ring at Heavyweight to prove he really has got rhythm and can punch too: a well earned second round stoppage. With the competition already won **LCpl 'Mac' McGrorey** finished off an outstanding team performance by using his head and boxing his wild opponent into a first round stoppage. Five wins from five fights, the winners shield for four consecutive years. Coach—**YofS 'Andy' Campbell** was very pleased with the results.



*Back row:* WO2 (SSM) Haslam, LCpls 'Benson' Whyte, 'Mac' McGrorey and Maj Rough — OC
*Front row:* Sig 'Simon' Link, SSgt (YofS) 'Andy' Campbell, Sig 'Tony' Caulfield and 'Flash' Smillie





## 202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn BFPO 16

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj J. L. Fletcher** |
| **2IC** | **Capt M. Baines** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) McAllister** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (YofS) Wayman** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt (FofS) Martin** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) Mullins** |
| **OC Ardennes** | **Lt D. F. Kenyon** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Nelson** |
| **OC Rhine** | **Lt P. Baker** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Sloane** |

**BRIGADE AND BATTLEGROUP TRAINER**

October saw the rare sight of the Technicians and Linemen actually working outside the confines of their nice warm workshops twice in one year. Having not quite recovered from the work required of them for the Rhine Army Summer Show, **SSgt (FofS) John Martin** found himself with the unenviable task of motivating his team to take the Brigade Headquarters communications complex (real) and plugging it into the mock set up in the Sennelager Training Centre.

The set up went surprisingly smoothly, indeed throughout the week there were very few hiccups. As one of the few Units who take their own Headquarters into BBGT, the aim of practising and testing the staff in the environment they would actually work from was not only beneficial to the staff but to less experienced operators as well.

Obviously some of the tasking for the week was not exactly S.O.P **SSgt (SQMS) Chas Mullins** experienced the real headaches of rationing and accommodating an exercise environment within a Barracks. The phrase 'hangers on' was used more than once!

**EXERCISE MATADORS CLOAK**

The exercise, which had been billed as the Comd's final confirmation of the high standards he has set his Brigade Headquarters, filled many a member with a feeling of trepidation. It proved just how far the Squadron has progressed under his command.

Fate smiled kindly on the Squadron throughout the week, the normal run of the mill problems and last minute hitches were few and far between. The exercise involved nightly moves for both HQ's; each night brought a blazing full moon; previously suspect vehicles and equipment performed without a hint of trouble and those notoriously awkward complex cam nets went up and down with ease.

**SPORTSMAN'S DINNER 1989**

The Annual Sportsman's Dinner was held in the Red Rose Restaurant to honour Sportsmen's achievements over the last year and to say farewell to the Brigade Commander.

After a lot of organisation by **WO2 (SSM) Duncan McAllister** and lifting and moving by **Sgt Alan Speight** we were ready to receive our guest **Brig S. C. Grant**. It was an enjoyable evening with good food and drink, all ably served by nine ladies from the Squadron Wives Club. Thank you ladies!

On completion of the meal and all formalities we came to the sporting round-ups and colours presentations.

This proved to be a very interesting and humourous part of the evening with all the representatives presenting their sports well. Special mentions to to **Sgt 'Jimmy' Gray** and **Cpl Castle** for their novel approaches to speech making.

The popular awards were then presented with the following results:

| | |
|---|---|
| Inter Troop Competition Winners | SHQ |
| Best Team of the Year | Rugby |
| Most Improved Sportsman | **Sig 'Si' Boase** |
| Sportsman of the Year | **Sgt 'Al' Speight** |

The Squadron then presented a surprise award that even the Squadron Commander was not aware of:

| | |
|---|---|
| Sportswoman of the Year | **Mrs Jenny Fletcher** |

The Brigade Commander was presented with a miniature 436 by which to remember us and his Tac HQ: (now long long gone).

To complete a very good evening it was left to the MT to find a fitting way to say farewell to the Brigade Commander with a Ferret Scout Car, easy chair and two stout ropes.

**SPORTING EVENTS**

Our success on the sporting front has continued and especially so recently.



**INTER TROOP HOCKEY**

The final competition of the Squadron's Inter Troop finally found SHQ Tp actually short of manpower to make a team; Ardennes and Rhine Sections with the odds evened out made the most of the opportunity. After three hard fought matches the winners were Ardennes with Rhine second. Notable performances and new found talents were **Cpls Tony Redman, Jack Payne, LCpl Al Garrard** and **Sig 'Geordie' Knowles** whilst **LCpl Tony Jenner** showed his Corps Class throughout.

The Squadron's Hockey Team has played in a continuous stream of matches and now finds itself a very creditable sixth in a Division One league of fifteen teams.

**INTER SQUADRON 7's**

The Squadon took its previous 100% records in league games into the competition feeling very confident of the talent in the nominated nine. It proved to be justifiable confidence, as they won all matches without concending a single point. The performance of individuals like **Sgt 'Al' Speight, LCpl 'Taff' Jones** and **Sig 'Ray' Fallowfield** proved to be breathtaking.

This competition was closely followed by a semi-final match v 3 Tank Transporter Sqn. After being voted the Squadron's most successful side, during the previous year, hopes were high. However Three Tanks proved a remarkably strong side and provided a lesson in all round team rugby. The Squadron team will benefit from the experience gained against such a good side and look forward to continuing their, so far, successful league season.

**INTER SQUADRON FOOTBALL**

The Squadron's football team has suffered more than most through the loss of key players on posting or courses over the previous two months. It was with a little anxiety that the final of the Inter Sqns v 204 Sig Sqn was approached. Confidence should have been higher: tackles were fierce, running was hard and within 10 minutes it became obvious that despite the many changes, the team had at least started to gel. The final result of 7—2 gave an accurate picture of the domination of the team with exceptional performances in a good all-round display from **Cpl Tony Redman, LCpls Stan Howarth** and **Stokes**.

The confidence gained in this match has been carried into the league with four straight wins, the last two by the margins of 7—0 and 6—2. The climb up the league table has been meteroic and sights are firmly set on the top spot by the end of the season.

**GARRISON SPORTS DAY**

In what has now become an annual event within Paderborn Garrison the Squadron entered teams in the four sports played on the day, football, rugby (both 7's) volleyball and hockey. The mere fact that four teams could be produced surprised most onlookers; even more surprising was the fact that all teams played well up to peak form and achieved quarter finals in all sports.

A final note on the sporting front has been the participation in the Inter Squadron Basketball and Badminton Competitions with whole hearted commitment from all team members and the bonus of **Sig John Hinsly** being spotted as a Corps standard badminton player.

The final major sporting event of the period proved to be the Inter Squadron boxing finals with a team miraculously produced with minimum of training produced performances by all team members especially **Sig Andy Carrick** and **Cfn Tony Sharpe** who reached the finals in their respective weights only to be beaten after very gutsy displays.


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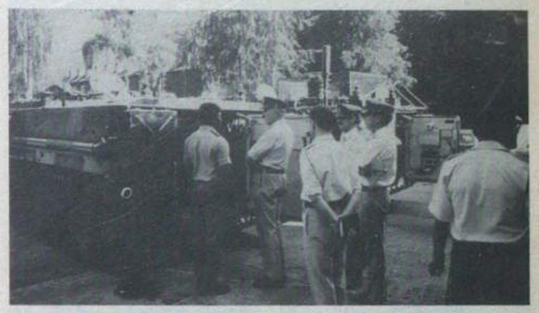
## 204 Sig Sqn (4 Armd Bde) BFPO 17

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj R. M. Crombie** |
| **2IC** | **Capt E. Heritage** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) C. L. Saveall** |
| **OC O Tp** | **Lt P. R. M. Evans** |
| **OC P Tp** | **Lt C. J. Macintosh** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (YofS) A. P. Wood** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 (FofS) J. Abernethy** |



The outgoing Comd 1 (BR) Corps, Maj Gen Inge, visited the Squadron during a farewell visit to Munster Garrison. Lt Chris McIntosh tries to convince the General that he knows something about armoured signals vehicles. The OC Sqn, Maj Dick Crombie and the Bde Comd, Brig Cordy-Simpson are not convinced

**CHARITY ROLLERSKI**

Starting at 1500 hrs on Friday 20 October the Unit Nordic and Alpine Ski Squads carried out a 24 hour charity rollerski to help raise funds for the maternity ward at BMH Muenster. Each member of the team rollerskied for an hour at a time as a part of an eight-man relay team. **SSgt Brian Tanner** managed to show the more junior members that technique counts for a lot when age begins to tell by being one of only two people to complete 15 × 1km laps in an hour. There were a number of side stalls at the event, including an all night bar, bottle tombola, imbiss bar and raffle. The star prize in the raffle, a ferry ticket donated by P&O European Ferries, was won by **Sig Marsh** for guessing within one the total number of laps completed by the whole team—302 laps. As we go to print the sponsorship money is still coming in, but the event has so far succeeded in raising over DM500.



Maj Dick Crombie starts the skis rolling, but Sig Jason Allison knew he would miss



A smooth handover between Sig Jason Allison and Sig 'Joe' Smeeth and no broken sticks

**PIONEER CELEBRATIONS**

On 17 October the RPC celebrated the 50th Anniversary of its formation. To mark the occasion the Squadron threw a special birthday party. It provided the opportunity to thank the Defence Section for the loyal service its members have given to the Unit over the years. A special cake, trimmed in RPC colours and bearing the original and current RPC cap badges, was baked by the Master Chef, **Sgt Middleton**.



RPC 50th Anniversary Celebrations: *Back (L-R):* Pte McDowall, Cpl Lees, Sgt Cottam, Maj Crombie, LCpl Simm, Ptes Lancaster and Davies
*Front (L-R):* Ptes Sellstrom and Allen

**DIVISIONAL CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Despite poor performances in the Divisional league, Jim's Boys (alias **WO2 (SSM) Saveall)** managed to repeat their success of last year in the Divisional Championships by finishing as runners-up in the Minor Units event.

**BAOR MILITARY TRIATHLON**

Congratulations go to **Cpls Keith Balsdon, Rab Marshall** and **Miles Webb** for their success in the BAOR Military Triathlon competition on 11 October when they retained the Minor Units Winners Trophy and took many Major Unit scalps to boot. Can we make it three times in a row next year?



# 206 (6 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
# BFPO 106

**RUGBY**
**HALF SEASON ROUND UP**

The first half of the season has seen the team carry on where it left off last year, with a few more recruits from the Bde HQ.

The team have played a mixture of Major and Minor Units and have come away with some convincing wins. The first big win was against 22 Sig Regt 2nd XV which saw a hard fought game with both sides not giving anything away. The Squadron came out eventual winners by 13 points to 12 points. After that we took on 3 AAC and won again by 6 points to 4 points. With the team spirit on a high came the first round of the BAOR Minor Unit Cup against 202 Sig Sqn. Once again after a close game the Squadron lost 18—6 with **LCpl Taff Davis** kicking our points. Even though losing the Cup, morale never faltered and we looked forward to our next game against 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt 1st XV. After a shaky first 20 minutes we were awarded a penalty which **Sgt Chalky Meek** converted; the penalty proved to be the only point scored in the match. If the team keeps playing as it is, the second half of the seaon should be enjoyable.

And on a final note. Congratulations go to the following people **Cpl John Farnell** and **Sig 'Binny' Binnington** on winning the neck collars after a hard game and also **SSgt Roy Boulton** who is the only player to get carried off after falling down a small divot in the pitch—and he was on his own. Nice one **Roy**.

The current 'quiet' period has been interspersed with many sporting, training and social activites. This combined with a series of arrivals and departures has left the Squadron hungering for the peace, calm and tranquility of Flying Falcon and the forthcoming exercise period. Honest!

**THE MANAGEMENT**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Thomas** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Cary** |
| **OC A Tp** | **Lt Birleson** |
| **OC B Tp** | **Lt Stringer** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Heyward** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (YofS) Crosby** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt (FofS) Newsome** |

**CADRE COURSE 1989**

From 21 October 1989 to 3 November 1989 the Squadron carried out the Annual JNCO Cadre Course. The Cadre Course is designed to develop leadership qualities and to enhance military skills, tactics, drill and fitness. The soldiers were worked hard throughout the 14 days, training for at least 15 hours a day. They feared the final exercise. Thanks to 'propaganda' they thought it would take place at 0300 hrs so went to bed after briefing the sentry to wake them at 0230 hrs. They were rudely awakened at 0100 hrs by thunderflashes and **Sgt John Anderson, SSgt Roy Boulton** and **Sgt Chalkie Meek**.

The climax to the cadre course was the Pass Off parade. The salute was taken by **Brig R. W. R. McAfee**, Comd 6 Armd Bde, with the band of the 5th Inniskillen Dragoon Guards on parade. The Commander presented a LS & GC Medal to **Cpl Terry Crook** of Bravo Tp.

The awards went to **Sig 'Yod' Gilbert** (best student), **Sig 'Sid' Buck** (best improved) and **Cfn Mitchell** (DS special award).

**INTER SQUADRON NOVICE BOXING COMPETITION**

The Regimental Inter Squadron Boxing Competition was held at St Sebastian Barracks and included two days of preliminary bouts before the final event.

A team of willing volunteers was assembled six weeks before the event to prepare the team for physical contact. **SSgt 'Roy' Boulton** and **Sgt 'Chalkie' Meek** organised a rigourous schedule of training; morning fitness, afternoon boxing skills, this started six weeks before the event.

The Boxing Team was joined by the rest of the Squadron for fitness training on a number of occasions as the Squadron Cadre Course was also under way. **Maj Thomas**, Sqn Comd joined the training, some mornings, full of pent up energy!

The team reached the prelims, and those who did not get through to the finals made a good showing.

**LCpl 'Billy' Seaforth** was outpointed and lost by a points decision at Welter.

**Pte 'Parkie' Parker** met a good opponent and was outclassed at Heavy Weight, and finally **LCpl 'Phil' Harden** showed good sound boxing knowledge but was outboxed by his 1 Sqn opponent.



**THE FINAL**

The first bout in the final was **'Belf' Johnman** at Bantamweight, having survived a strong challenge from his opponent at 202 Sig Sqn in the first round **Sig Johnman** won the second and third rounds decisively showing good boxing ability. A deserved majority points decision in his favour.

The second boxer was **Dvr 'Dino' Craven,** he showed an impressive display of aggressive boxing in the first round, overpowering his HQ Sqn opponent. In the second round his attacking moves paid off with a number of standing counts for his opponent who showed visible signs of the attacks. The referee stopped the contest in the second round in **Dvr Craven's** favour.

The third boxer in the final was **Sig 'Ma' Baker**. His opponent showed great boxing skills in the first round and **Sig Baker** had difficulty making his own punches find the target. The rest of the bout was an excellent display of boxing skills, where no quarter was given, but **Sig Baker** was outclassed in the end and lost on points.

The fourth boxer was **LCpl 'Beaky' Beckett** against an HQ Sqn opponent. **LCpl Beckett** showed a good left hand again. His opponent fought a brave bout but **LCpl Beckett** was unstoppable and went on to win on a majority points decision.

Congratulations to all concerned for their efforts during the training period and especially for the skills and determination showed by all boxers in the bouts. Their efforts earned them the respect of the Squadron.

**HELICOPTER HANDLING COURSE**

**SSgt Tony Talbott** conducted a helicopter handling course in November. **Lt Alan Stringer, SSgt Roy Boulton** and **Sgt 'Chalkie' Meek** of 2 Sqn took the course. Throughout the week they underwent rigorous classroom work, culminating in practice helicopter handling, marshalling and up drills with a Chinook from RAF Gütersloh.



SSgt Boulton (as usual) finding it hard to get off the ground



*Left to right:* Lt Stringer, Sgt Meek and SSgt Boulton

# Don't be disappointed!

**Matter for publication *must* reach the editor six weeks before the publication date, ie by 15 December for the February issue and subsequently by 15 February, April, June, August and October for the April, June, August, October and December issues respectively.**

# 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt BFPO 15

Fresh from a large number of summer adventurous training camps and expeditions the Regiment entered upon the autumn FTXs and the Regimental exercise. The month of November proved to be busy as it included ARU, a military skills competition and a Regimental Skill-at-Arms meeting.

The Military Skills Competition was a new event for the Regiment. The parents of **Cpl David Howes**, who was tragically killed in Northern Ireland last year, presented a beautiful three-handled silver cup to the Regiment. The CO made the **Howes Cup** the focus of a hard military skills competition to be competed for annually by each Troop in the Regiment. The competition was designed to not only test military skills but to test them under pressure.

At the end of a gruelling two days the Comd 4 Armd Div; **Maj Gen Willie Rous** presented the cup to the winning team; A2 Tp (3 Sqn) led by **Lt Paul Vingoe** (incidentally **Lt Vingoe** was **Cpl Howes** Troop Commander when he was with the Regiment). 211 Sig Sqn came second and Cheetah Tp of 1 Sqn under **2Lt Owen Bryant** came third. This gruelling competition has now set the standard for the future of the event.

Following hard on the heels of the Howes Cup competition the Regiment held a Skill-At-Arms meeting at Sennelager ranges organised by **Maj Mike Smith-Rewse** and **Capt Mike Bennett** our resident infanteers. Fortunately the weather proved kind and every Troop in the Regiment undertook all the standard competition shoots. The results gave first place to 211 Sig Sqn with the combined TM Tp/Pioneers coming second. The pistol match was won by 1 Sqn with A1 Tp taking the Falling plate.

**1 SQUADRON**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Gordon Rafferty** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Jerry Bradshaw** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) 'Alf' Ramsey** |
| **FofS** | **WO1 Sprog Brogden** R A Signals |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) Chas Ward** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt (YofS) Mick Purves** |
| **OC P Tp** | **Lt Tony Picknell** |
| **SSgt P Tp** | **SSgt Kenny Sykes** |
| **OC C Tp** | **2Lt Owen Bryant** |
| **SSgt C Tp** | **SSgt Charlie Dubique** |
| **OC K Tp** | **2Lt Clive Cook** |
| **SSgt K Tp** | **SSgt Bud Abbott** |

**EXERCISES**

Fresh from Nesselwang the Squadron had only a short respite before deploying on a series of exercises, almost too numerous to mention; but we will anyway: Valvet Glove, Potent Gauntlet, Flying Key, Key Flight and Second Summit. At various stages these merged and some of the trunk nodes found themselves under our sister OSC, OSC 132 for part of the exercise. Being an FTX it gave the opportunity to see how the tankies and infanteers perform. Unfortunately every time the Yeoman and the OC set off to witness some set piece battle, it turned out to be misty and foggy, never mind Yeoman, one day . . . one day.

Meanwhile at TN 064; **Cpl 'Taff' Donovan** was victim to a 'wind-up' deviously planned by **SSgt Bud Abbott** and **Sgt Kev Falconer**. The 'wind-up' was devised after the discovery of an old Kape Tour map of Cultybraggan Training area in Scotland. As we were near the IGB the map conveniently resembled the exercise area and it was decided to send **Taff Donovan** on a resupply task to a fictitious SAS. During the briefing held on Node Command both **Sgt Bud Abott** and **Sgt Kev Falconer** had to hide their laughter as **Cpl Taff Donovan** conscientiously and seriously studied the map of Cultybraggan and compared it with the 1:50,000 scale map of the exercise area. Convinced the task was genuine he set off to Nowhere land. Minutes then hours passed but he was soon to return and appeared at the steps of the Node command jumping up and down and cursing everyone. More laughter could be heard from Node Command. **Cpl 'Brummy' Perks** earned himself the worthy nickname of Sooty after entering his 9 × 9 to check an Alladin heater. It became obvious to him that the heater was defective as he instantly became covered in soot. It was too good an opportunity to miss and the 'Sooty' title was awarded.

The season continued with the Regimental exercise, where the CO put us through our paces. Instead of the gentle deployment we had expected, he managed to convince the GOC that it would be a good idea if the whole division came out with us for at least part of the week. So it was a complete call which got the exercise off with a bang. The pace was to continue throughout the week with very little let up. Still it did allow the many newcomers to come to grips with their jobs.

**ADVENTUROUS TRAINING**

The majority of the Squadron spent the first two weeks of August at the Regimental Adventurous Training Hut in the Allgau. This was a very welcome break and all the usual activities were attempted. Needless to say the minor incidents have now become legend, however, one of note was the OC Sqn; **Maj Gordon Rafferty** doing a rope crossing over a deep gorge with fast and rough river below him. The OC went first and obviously decided that the safety harness was an optional extra. He did get to the end without mishap but with a few more grey hairs! At the end of the exercise some people opted to spend their R & R going white water rafting in Austria. It would be fair to say that the Americans were somewhat dismayed watching the 'boys' raft spending more time upside down and with the 'boys' spending more time out of the raft than in it, despite the temperature, which was freezing.

Everyone completed the course safely and in American style, we were all awarded a certificate for our skill, daring and cool resolve under pressure! Our thanks go to the instructors, **Cpls Robbo Robson** and **McBride** for the rope climbing, **Cpl Smith RCT** from 7 Sig Regt for the UEL and **Sgt Simon Tatman** for the canoeing. Special thanks to **Sgt Tatman** who transformed 12 very scared amateurs on Day 1 to 12 ACU proficient canoeists by the end of the exercise.



Cpl 'Robbo' Robson checks the rope on the traverse



The long trek: LCpl Andy Smith, Sig John Phelps, Sgt 'Taff' Childs, 'Toby', Sig 'Skel' Skerritt and 2Lt Owen Bryant with the resupply which the OC, Sgt Childs and 'Toby' carried up to the rest stop



The canoeists return after negotiating one of the rapids. A few smiles are beginning to appear





A rest during one of the treks: *Back Row (L-R):* Sig 'Jock' Morton, 'Jack' Russell, LCpl Jim Coupland, Sig 'Fanta' Wilday, LCpl Nigel Matthews, 'Cross', LCpl Cliff Marker, 2Lt Owen Bryant, Sig 'Noddy' Yuill and Maj Gordon Rafferty
*Front Row (L-R):* Sig Banks, Cpl Martin Flather, Sig Toby Hodgskins, 'Eve' Eden and John Barton



Sgt Peter Hodson, Sig Ian Hayward and SSgt Charlie Dubique grab a snack in a resthaus

**FOCUS ON CHEETAH TROOP**
**MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION**

Over two days in the middle of November, each Troop in the Squadron participated in a Regimental Military Skills competition.

The Cheetah Tp team was led by **2Lt Owen Bryant**, with **Sgt Kev Jenkins** as 2IC. Following a full SOP kit check, the Troop then drove out to Minden North training area on a specially devised navigation course, courtesy of the MTO. Once on the exercise area, the team set off at a blistering pace on a 12 mile March and Shoot and achieved the fastest time for the march out of all the teams.

After the March and Shoot, our intrepid team then set off around a series of Military Skills stands spread out over another 10 miles or so. The team achieved the highest score on the Command Task but fatigue was setting in and feet beginning to blister and burn (**Cpl Eddie Leek**, recently arrived from 3 Div, wondered how quickly he could get posted back).

After a hot meal and short rest, the team set off again on a 10km night navigation course. Cheetah Tp would particularly like to thank the course setters, **Capt Bradshaw** and **Cpl Watson** for an enjoyable course, the electric fences were a great turn on!

Following a couple of hours sleep, the team had only another three stands to do, coming first in one of them, before the final 2km stretcher race, which was completed in a commendable 20 min 10 sec.

Cheetah Tp was finally placed third out of twelve teams—if only its NBC had been better, eh lads?

**HATCHES, MATCHES AND DESPATCHES**

The period has seen a fair amount of change within the Squadron. Jaguar Tp (074) was disbanded but the majority of the personnel managed to find a niche elsewhere in the Squadron. However, they were deserted by the hierarchy, **Lt Graham Addley** who left for degree training at the RMCS, **SSgt Steve Bush** slipped down the road to 7 Sig Regt, **Sgt 'Taff' Childs** got a posting to the TA, but at least **SSgt 'Jock' Campbell** didn't quite desert us, he is now in the Regimental trianing wing. Others similarly slipped away to other Squadrons, **LCpl** (now!) **Briggsy Briggs** and **Sgt Steve Townsend** both went to 2 Sqn on promotion. **Sig Danny Castano** to 3 Sqn and **Sgt Tony Perryman** to 200 Sig Sqn. Others managed to make a cleaner break; **LCpl John Reid** to 2 Div, **Cpl 'Fatty' Robson** to 1 Inf Bde, **LCpl 'Compo' Skipp** to 8 Sig Regt, **Cpl Nigel Back** to AA Coll Harrogate and **Cpl Andy Corlett** to 8 Bde. Three members made the complete break and are now civilians; **Cpls Tez McBride, Baz Bastow** and **LCpl Gordon Kynoch**. We wish them all well in their future careers.

To offset this apparent exodus we have received some newcovers; **Sgt Dave Watkins** and **Monika, Cpl Neil Fisher** and **Sabina, 2Lt Clive Cook, Cpl Trevor Brothwood** and **Jenny, LCpl Peter Hutchings** and **Jeanette, LCpl Peter Blagg, Cpl Eddie Leek** and **Sig Sweeney**. We wish them all well for their tour in the Squadron.

Many members of the Squadron have recently had cause for celebration, four got married; **LCpl Mick Hough** to **Helen, LCpl Alex Hurst** to **Clare, LCpl Chris Neale** to **Anne** and **LCpl Mick Feary** to **Kathryn. LCpl Boath** and **Tracey** had a little baby boy, **Christopher**, as did **LCpl Jim MacCuaig** and **Beverly**.

Some also received their promotions; to **LCpls Mick Hough, 'Jonah' Jones** and to **Cpl Nigel Back**. Congratulations to all.

**2 SQUADRON**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Mike Dent** |
| **2IC Ops** | **Capt Dave Smith** |
| **OCA1 (PAPA) Tp** | **2Lt Damian Quinn** |
| **OCA3 (Radio) Tp** | **2Lt James Giscombe** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Chris Calow** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) Mick Baron** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt (YofS) Pete Stoddart** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 (FofS) Mick Poland** |
| **MT** | **Sgt Kev Enfield/Sgt John McGowan** |

**WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS**
**SHQ TROOP**

October was an eventful month with a number of changes in the heirarchy. We lost our 2IC, **Capt Alistair Ross**, who moved to 211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn as 2IC. However he was replaced by the Regimental Training Officer, **Capt Dave 'Snowball' Smith**, we hope he and **Mary** enjoy their time with the Squadron. The next move was that of the SSM, **WO2 Bill Kelly**, who did a job swop with the RQMS(T), **WO2 Chris Calow**. He came to us with a cupboard full of goodies not normally seen at Squadron level. We wish the new SSM and **Ann** every success with the Squadron and thank **WO2 RQMS) Bill Kelly** and **Sue** for their hard work and support during the past year. We also welcome a new tech to the fold, **LCpl Keith Wilson**, fresh from sunny Catterick. On a sadder note we say goodbye to **LCpl Paul** and **Lisa Carling** who move to Blandford and we all hope that baby **Jade** makes a complete recovery.

**INTER TROOP COMPETITIONS**

The Squadron has taken part in all the Regimental Inter Troop Competitions with varying degrees of success. We also entered the Herford Garrison Safe Driving Competition and at one stage were in an unassailable position due to some excellent driving by **LCpl Francis**. However, we met our Waterloo when the team leader was tasked with reviving Ressusi Annie, unfortunately he suffocated her and the murder of a plastic doll caused our downfall.

**EXERCISE FALL QUADRANT**

This was the CO's shake-out exercise which initiated all the new arrivals into the Regiments SOPs. We managed fleeting views of the German countryside between guts, farms and factories managing to meet the CO's bogey time for tearing, down, moving and setting up Divisional Main Headquarters 'in under three hours!'. Though we may have lost the Garrison Safe Driving Competition we do have a driver who showed us how to make a 16/24kw generator 'loop the loop' from the hook of a four ton GS into a ploughed field. Luckily the only damage was cosmetic. In addition **Cpl Graeme Steel's** newly acquired AFV driving skills were tested fully gaining a maximum 9.9 score from the local Voremberg stadt workers, German Police and RMP, nice one!

**A1 (PAPA) TROOP**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp Comd** | **2Lt Damian Quinn** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt John Brooks** |
| **Tp Sgts** | **Sgt Steve Talbot** |
| **Sgt Steve Townsend** | |

**BOXING**

Two members of the Troop, **Sig Barney Stonestreet** and **Shaun Essington** were selected for the team which represented the Regiment in the quarter finals of the Divisional Boxing Championships. They put up sterling performances both narrowly beaten on points but earning special praise from the Divisional Commander, **Maj Gen The Hon W. E. Rouse OBE**, for 'the bottle' they had displayed.

## EXERCISE FALL QUADRANT

The beginning of the Regimental exercise coincided with a Divisional wide call-in which lasted nearly 20 hours. The Regiment then deployed to its first exercise locations which were incidentally not the planned exercise locations. It was intended that each Sqn Comd would exercise their own Squadron for 48 hours followed by a full Regimental level exercise. A3 Tp rebros held comms together while the Squadron sorted out its Ptarmigan.

## GENERAL NEWS

In September and October **Sig 'AJ' Crabbe** and **Dave Thomas** did a stint as satisfied soldiers! In October **Sig Joe Wilson** and **Neil Llewllyn** took part in the Regimental cadre course and produced excellent results. The Troop looks forward to the return of **Sig Challiner** from Canada and **Sig Tim Clemens** from South Georgia.

## HELLOS, GOODBYES AND CONGRATULATIONS

We welcome **LCpl Dave** and **Anita Rooney, LCpl John Cairns, Sig 'Archie'** and **Charlene Archibald, Sig Dave Jarvis** and **Gaz Lomas** all from A1 (Papa) Tp. We say a fond farewell to **LCpl Chaz Fox** and **Barney Stonestreet** on their move to A1 (Papa) Tp. Congratulations go to **Sig Joe Wilson** and **Kerstein** on their recent marriage and farewell on your move to HQ Sqn.

## EXERCISE TORTILLA QUADRANT

Team: **2Lt Owen Bryant** OC, **Sgt Steve Talbot** JSMEL, **Sgt Steve Cherry, LCpl Geordie Leask, Sig 'Dick' Barton, Tony Evans, Pat Shalley** and **Cfn Pete Brain.**

Ex Tortilla Quadrant was a 2 Sqn three adventure training expedition which took place in the Pyrenees in Northern Spain during the period 14-26 October. The aim was to introduce soldiers to arduous mountain trekking and this aim was fulfilled with heights of 2,850m being reached, only snow stopped us climbing higher. The first trek, or should I say climb, was led by **2Lt Owen Bryant** who was keen to show us climbing skills. Unfortunately 50m from the top we came to a sheer rock face which even his skills could not overcome so we were forced to retire gracefully. The remaining treks were more successful and included such peaks as Mont Saliente, Pic de Pedrossa, Agulles d'Amitges and Bony de les Neres. Between treks we took an opportunity to visit Andorra and while **Sgt Steve Cherry** sampled the delights of a 'Big Mac' **Sig Tony Evans,** filmed it with his video camera. Whilst **Sig Pat Shalley** amused himself and others by 'Jimmying' everything in sight with his KAPE stickers.

In all a very successful exercise blessed by good weather throughout. It was hard work but enjoyable with all members gaining valuable experience and confidence in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

## 3 SQUADRON

SHQ welcomes **Sgt Coffin** and his wife **Andrea** who have recently joined us from 7 Sig Regt.

## ADVENTURE TRAINING

Yet again the Troop lost its Tp Sgt, **Steve Talbot,** on yet another expedition, this time to the Pyrenees whilst the OC, **2Lt Damian Quinn,** managed to slide away to do some bob sleighing at Winterberg before departing for a two week sleighing course in Calgary! Incidentally he had just got back from two weeks canoeing in Norway and was complaining of not getting any leave!

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Troop welcomes **LCpl Chas** and **Siobhan Fox** from 7 Sig Regt, **Cpl Scouse Barker** and his family from Catterick, **Sig Barney Stonestreet** from A3 Tp, and **Sig Nobby Clark** from HQ Sqn. We say farewell to **LCpls John Cairns, Dave** and **Anita Rooney, Sig 'Archie'** and **Charlene Archibald** and **Dave Jarvis** who move to A3 (Radio) Tp and to **LCpl Steve McGinnigle** who moves to Lippstadt.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations go to **LCpl Terry Briggs** on his recent promotion and to **LCpls Chas Fox** and **Sig Hadley** on their recent selection for promotion to Corporal.

## A3 (RADIO TROOP)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp Comd** | **Lt James Giscombe** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Kev Nicholls** |

## NEW TROOP COMMANDER

The Troop welcomes **2Lt James Giscombe** to the Regiment and to the Troop. He had only been here for 10 days and had arranged six weeks skiing before the end of the year and two weeks trekking in Sardinia in June how often will we see this officer we ask ourselves?

## FAREWELL TO A SAILOR

It was a sad occasion when the Troop bade farewell to **Lt John Charnock** at the end of October. During the month of September he had been sailing in the Baltic for two weeks with six men from the Troop. How they managed to stay afloat for so long must be regarded as a minor miracle. The all had a great time and we only hope that the OC submitted his PXR before departing. The Sailors were **LCpl Ricky Taylor, Sig 'Dick' Barton, 'AJ' Crabbe, Ian Fawcett, Taff Scourfield** and **Barney Stonestreet.**

## ALPHA TROOP

The Troop would like to welcome **Sgts Dave Catchpole** and **Steve Martin** and their wives **June** and **Jane.** Also **Sig 'Arch' Bishop** the new Troop clerk. All have already made their mark in the Squadron.

Unfortunately a lot of characters have recently moved on from the Troop; **Cpl Dave Brudenall** has been posted to 7 Sig Regt on a well deserved promotion, **LCpl 'Si' Donnelly** has gone to Herford and **Sig Owens** has been posted to 249 Sig Sqn on promotion. Other moves include **Sig 'Vince' Saunders** to the Falkland Islands. The Troop would also like to welcome their Troop OC, **Lt Paul Vingoe** back from his nine week summer break in Bavaria, Austria, Italy and Cyprus.

Summer Camp was well attended with **Cpl Steve Burrows** turning out to be a natural Eskimo Roller and **Cpl Dave Brudenall** to be an unnatural one. Highlights of the camp included a barbecue and smoker night and some white water rafting with the Americans in Garmisch. Anglo-American relations were maintained through a large mud fight on the banks of the river.

The exercise season has returned and already the Troop has been deployed on several occasions. Umpire HQ has never been so exciting with the constant change of seniors on shift and the faint noises coming from **Sgt Martin** on the computer.

## EXERCISE WOODLAND CHASE

Ex Woodland Chase was an escape and evasion exercise organised by OC 3 Sqn and **RSM Pawlow.** The exercise took place in the area of the Harz mountains in October.

First a week was spent preparing for the exercise, by making hats, gloves and sleeping bags for ourselves, all made out of Hessian, very comfortable I hear you cry!

We started on the Sunday by being held prisoner and having our clothing taken away and being searched for goodies and any monies we may have hidden. Then wearing just a shirt and coveralls, bundled in the back of a four tonner we were driven down to Silberhutte area, a journey lasting a few hours.

On arrival we were sent into the wilderness in groups of four to hide from the hunter force. The first person to be caught was **SSgt (YofS) Steve Holt,** he was also the second and third to be caught, closely followed by **Cpl Garfield.** These two obviously had a fetish for stress situations.

Certain groups obviously had a flair for this type of thing. **Cpl Walters** and his merry men all dressed in civilian clothing, acquired from rubbish piles. Section 9 must say a big thank you to **SSgt (FofS) Minnie Minton** for escaping with DM10.



Cpl Walters with his dapper section dressed by man at 'skip and bin'
*Left to Right:* LCpls Thrumble, North, Cpl Walters and Sig Turner



# 200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
# BFPO 41

## HOME SWEET DETMOLD

Life continues to move along at a fast pace (where has this year gone?). The FTX now seems light years away and all the madness surrounding RSIT a distant memory. However, a Squadron raffle was held, and we are delighted to have been able to promote the following well deserved members, **Sig Ariss, Beardall, Cairns, Calderwood** and **Duggan.** Congratulations to you all on promotion to Lance Corporal.

## MY FIRST REGIMENTAL EXERCISE
## EXERCISE FALL QUADRANT
**by Sgt McGirr RAF**

It is said that there is no escaping fate, so I suppose I was not all that surprised when I received my posting to 4 Armd Div Sig Regt. After four years of what can only be described as a totally unique experience in support of the RAF Harrier Force I was looking forward to going on exercise with an Armoured Signal Unit. Following a brief 48 hours in HQ 4 Armd Div I was sent on to my final destination 200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn, the senior Bde Sig Sqn in the Corps.

I arrived at Detmold in October just in time for RSIT which incidentally went very well. **Maj Mills,** the OC, met me on arrival and after an introduction to the Unit told me that there were only two exercises before the New Year. 'That cannot be too bad' I thought.

How can anyone be so wrong!'

The first exercise in question was Fall Quadrant, the Regiment's communication exercise. I was put on the Wavell crew with **LCpl** (Bear) **Cairns.** 'Great' I said 'All I need now is a Wavel course in the next day or two'.

'Do not worry' they said 'Bear will be there to keep you right'. Wrong. The fact that the exercise started 12 hours earlier than expected, with a callout, should have been recognised as an omen, but no, this was my first panzer deployment and no one was going to spoil it for me.

The callout went well, we deployed to crashout locations with me astride my chariot. We set up, established comms and everything was going great. Then it started raining. Now I have been on exercise when it has rained before, yes, even with the RAF, but I have never had to command a panzer in a torrential downpour. The rain lasted all the way back to Detmold and for most of the rest of the day on our move to the exercise area. Just as I was doubting the ability of Wavell to operate in a couple of feet of water, the rain abated. 'That is it' I thought. Another hour or two and we will be there. Nothing can happen now. Well **LCpl Wayne Simcox's** radio relay had other plans when it decided to pit its strength against a German tanker containing several hundred kilos of fine powder clay, which incidentally did not take long to cover the road through the large gash in the side caused by our triumphant RR panzer, only smashed ruby's and a bent mudguard versus a trailer less four rear wheels and cargo.

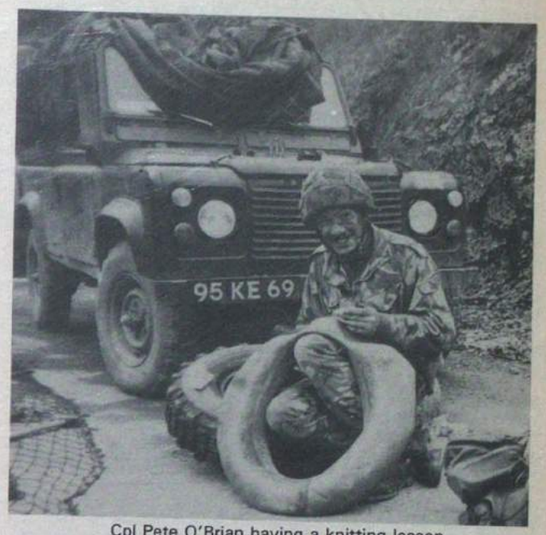
Anyhow we arrived at our first loc and after the Krypton Factor Intelligence Test erecting the Wavell penthouse, **LCpl Cairns** had to go sick with an infection of very dubious origins. This left me as one man det on a panzer I had never seen before with kit I had never used before. I appreciated being broken in gently, honest.

The remainder of the exercise is a bit of a haze but on the PXR brief I learned why I felt as I did. On the five day exercise we performed 17 moves, many at night, and still had time to fit in some basic Mil skills refresher training. 'By the way Alternate, the comms complex was not even scratched on your final attack, thanks mainly to the siting of our guns by **Sgt Lou Russell.**'

All in all it was a very enlightening experience but in hindsight I think everyone enjoyed themselves and certainly I learned a lot about life with a Bde Sig Sqn.



Capt Simon Renfrey briefs the enemy prior to an ambush




Cpl Pete O'Brian having a knitting lesson



Recognition test: How to spot a Bde (FofS) (two possible answers—Brief case and a smile)

## SQUADRON SUMMER CAMP
## EXERCISE SPARTAN FIST—14-24 NOVEMBER 1989

'Sarn't Major, we really should have a Summer Camp this year' quipped the OC.

'I agree Sir', replied the SSM. 'I think you should get the 2IC to organise one straight away.'

'2IC!'

'Sir?'

'I would like to run a two week summer camp for the whole Squadron with everyone volunteering to attend.'

'Okay, Sir.'

Having studied the forecast of events it was obvious that the only two week slot available was in November. So be it. The summer camp was organised for then. That was the easy part. Now to convince the Squadron personnel to volunteer. It was announced during the Flying

Falcon exercise debrief that there would be a two week military training camp consisting of long tabs, three hour long beasting sessions in the gym, more long tabs, drill parades and more tabbing. All those attending the summer camp would be excused. Result, no shortage of volunteers.

In essence Ex Spartan Fist was a two week adventure training camp run with half the Squadron attending for a week. The exercise was based at the 'Mercury Lodge' in Bavaria and gave all soldiers a chance to take part in mountain trekking, canoeing and rock climbing.

Life was not all work and no play. Each evening some form of entertainment took place, the highlight of which was the smoker. Much previously hidden talent emerged and the abuse was wide ranging and humorously delivered. The most ambitious project of the one day R & R was a chance to have five stamps put in to your passport in 15 hours. **Pte Oliver**, our tame pioneer, drove a merry band of men to Austria, Switzerland, France, Lichtenstein and of course Germany.

Despite the time of year, everybody enjoyed their stay at Mercury Lodge. After a busy year it was great to escape from the Tank Park.

**EXERCISE SPARTAN FIST—CLIMBING**
**by Sgt Brooks and Cpl O'Brian**

Climbing for two weeks in the Allgau, what could be better than clinging to a cliff on the end of a piece of string looking at the beautiful scenery . . . Not everybody's cup of tea admittedly, but at least everyone had a go, disco legs and all. We climbed at various locations and in various climates, ranging from sun, through rain to snow.

I suppose the lads thought they would be doing some small bouldering, but that was not to be the case. We managed to find some very hard and difficult climbs and also some climbs we would call staircases in the trade. **SSgt Bob 'Shakey' Shortis** found his staircase and liked it so much he would not come down or go up. Eventually **Cpl Ian Roy** our instructor persuaded him to come down (with the aid of another rope of course). Some members of the Squadron took to the rock like ducks to water. We were pleased to see a couple of budding Chris Bonningtons amongst us. **Sgt Ken McGirr** managed to do all the climbs we set up and has now started purchasing his own equipment.

For the faint hearted do not read on. Abseiling . . . the art of throwing yourself off the nearest available high spot (usually with a rope), and we found one. The Gunzreid Bridge a mere 90ft drop into the valley below. Our very own **Sig 'Flycatcher' Fernhead** was in his element, he could not get enough of it. What on earth makes a soldier jump off a perfectly sound bridge? Answer, either insanity or for a bet.





LCpl Taff Lewis



Sgt Ken McGirr and Cpl Ken Polsan

**CANOEING (BAVARIA)**
**by Cpl Hamilton ACUInst and LCpl Lee RCT BCUInst**

Well who would have thought that over 40 members of the Squadron would want to go canoeing in the middle of November, with temperatures well below freezing? But we did and it certainly sorted out the men from the boys.

Two courses were run consisting of eight separate groups, all of which passed their military swimming tests, and gave a new meaning to the song 'Take my Breath Away'.

After all safety drills were completed, **Cpl Hamilton** and **LCpl Lee** organised a small river trip on the River Iller which proved to be very exciting and arduous with over 70% of the students swimming most of the rapids.

But the highlights of both weeks were the 15m seal launches and the 10m sheer drop off the footbridge at Fussen for sheer excitement.

On the final day of each week both instructors took the best paddlers to Ausberg, the Olympic white water slalom course which is graded from I-IV and can be quite hair-raising.

While we are on the subject of Ausberg—**(LCpl Paul Ashford** next time wear your life jacket) and **Lt Charnock** yes, the water is wet.

Congratulations to **LCpl Lewis** and **LCpl Ashford** on passing the ACU Inland Proficiency Test.

**MOUNTAIN TREKKING**
**by Capt J. D. Forrest**

The Alpine foothills in the Allgau area provide ideal terrain for novice trekkers. The trekking programme consisted of main walks. The first on the Alpspitz and Edelberg followed by a slightly more interesting trip to the Tegelbahn near Schloss Neushwannstein (where the film 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' was filmed). Trekking provides a good basic adventure training activity pitting your stamina and map reading skills against the terrain and weather. The star of both weeks must be **LCpl Tommy Vance** who became lost after 100m. A special thanks must go to **Sgt Dave Armstrong** from 7 Sig Regt who helped with the trekking.



# 211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
# BFPO 29

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Ken Hadfield** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Alistair Ross** |
| **OC A** | **Capt Ian Lawrence** |
| **OC B** | **2Lt John Gillespie** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Roger Fairfield** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (YofS) Colin Luckham** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt (FofS) Mal Thomas** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) Mick Wood** |
| **Chief Clerk** | **Sgt Graham Pollard BEM** |

Just when we thought the exercise season was over Active Edge was followed immediately by a week long Regimental exercise.

It was a very fast moving exercise taking us through our old hunting ground with as many as three moves a day. It proved testing for all concerned especially our Radio Rebroadcast Det, and brought out 'new skills' in the role of HF, directed mainly by our new Yeoman **WO2 Colin Luckham**.

**BAOR TRIATHLON CHAMPIONSHIPS**

On 11 October seven members of the Squadron entered the 1989 BAOR Triathlon Championships held at Sennelager. Our 'A' team were representing our parent unit of 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in the major unit competition and the 'B' team plus one individual entry competed in the minor unit competition.

Within minutes of the registration we were on a bus for a 20 minute ride to the heated swimming pool. Each competitor had to swim 300m in a bogey time of 4 mins 45 secs to score 1,000 points. The best results from our teams were **SSgt Mal Thomas**, 5 mins 4 secs and **Cpl Al Sparling** 5 mins 7 secs.

These times gave them both over 900 points for the first event and it gave the rest of us a target to aim at.

From the swimming pool we were taken by bus to the outdoor pistol range. With only two practice sessions on the pistol the previous week most of us regarded this event as probably our weakest. With a possible maximum score of 1,400 points from 18 shots—**SSgt Mick Boyle** scored 1,280 points and **Sig Tim Kitchener** scored 1,100 points to give their overall points total a bit of credibility after the swim. As it was **SSgt Boyle** ended up second best shot of the competition with **Sig Kitchener** 15th best out of 162 competitors.

From the range we were driven to the start of the 4km cross country run. To score 1,000 points in the run we had to better the bogey time of 14 mins 15 secs. Groups of three runners were started at one minute intervals around the very fast, flat yet interesting course. The third group of runners consisted of **SSgts Boyle** and **Thomas** with the third member of the 'A' team **Capt Mark Alexander**. After a fast first kilometre **SSgt Boyle**, knowing that he had to beat the other two of his team by a minute and a half to finish above them in the overall competition, piled the pressure on and ran home in a time of 14 mins 36 secs. **SSgt Thomas** overtook **Capt Alexander** in the last 200m and ducked under 15 mins for the run.

The fourth group of runners was made up of the Squadron 'B' team namely **Cpls Brian Kirkup, Al Sparling** and **Sig Jimmy Petrie. Sig Petrie** came home first in what was his strongest discipline.

The overall team positions were 'A' team: 11th out of 28 major units, 'B' team: 18th out of 21 minor units.

**Sig Kitchener** went down as a reserve and ended up competing as an individual finishing 6th out of 13.

**REGIMENTAL MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION**

On a cold November morning a team of 10 men from 211 Sig Sqn set off to take part in the 4 Armd Div Sig Regt Howes Cup competition. The team were, after four hours of intensive training ready for anything (or so we thought). Heading this fine body of men was **Capt Ian Lawrence** and **Sig Terry Crane**.

We set off, best food forward. The march proved to be a lot more arduous than any of us expected, with **LCpl Budgie Falconer** trying to take a mid morning nap and **Cpl Bob Dillet** feeling sure that someone had swapped the 351 on his back for a 353 with a couple of 100 AH batteries thrown in. After a pleasant shoot in the prone position it was back to Shanks' pony and the next stand. The activities came to halt at 0400 hrs with the roads littered with lost teddys. Fortunately there was a lie in until 0730 hrs which gave everyone time to think of a good excuse for not doing it again next year. By 0930 hrs we had hobbled to our first stand where we were forced to open our eyes and search for military artefacts. It was only after the DS assured us that none of the blockies beds had been hidden there that they finally managed to move us on. To our astonishment we were put in a 4 tonner for the NBC stand and taken to the start point for the stretcher race. However before we started, **Capt Lawrence**, as team Captain, was given a puzzle to unravel using the rest of the team as pawns. This proved to be **Capt Lawrence's** secret talent and he amazed us with his mental agility. We think he was driven on by the thought that the quicker we sorted it all out, the quicker we would all be enjoying ourselves on the stretcher race.

When we did get to the start line, no one actually believed that we would be able to run. However not only did we manage to get over the start line but also to crawl over the finish line.

Well done to **Capt Lawrence, Sgt Crane, Cpl Dillett, LCpls Falconer, Johnson, Sig McTiernan** and **Workman** whose aggressive and courageous contributions to the competition gained them an impressive runners-up place, proving once again what can be achieved with proper training.

**NEW ARRIVALS**

The Squadron would like to welcome **Capt Alistair Ross, 2Lt John Gillespie, WO2 (YofS) Colin Luckham, LCpl Craig Ainsley, Sig Neil Darvill, Olly Oldfield** and **'Queeny' Stranks**, and hope that they enjoy their tours.

**DEPARTURES**

We would like to wish **Sig Griff Griffiths** the best of luck and success in civvy street and **LCpl** (at last!) **Kelly Guest** the best of luck on posting to the Regiment.

**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

The Squadron welcomes SSgt, Wood, Sgt Bullen, Cpl Sneddon, LCpl Matthews, Sig Savage and **Hughes**. We hope you will enjoy your tour.

Farewells go to **Sgt Kearse, Cpl Watcon, LCpl Bowers, Sig Binstead, Hogg, Murray** and **Sanders**. Thanks to all of you and good luck for the future.

**FRENCH COMMANDO COURSE**

Smiles of relief as members of 211 Sig Sqn, led by **Sgt Terry Crane**, finish the four day exercise phae of the French Commando Course at the beginning of November.

**Cpl Pryke, LCpl Cole, Sig** 'Rambo' **Grimes** and **Dvr Lloyd** all took part in a gruelling three week Commando course which involved activities like survival training, night navigation and night rock climbing/abseiling. The course also covered explosive and booby trap techniques, high aerial obstacle courses and Fibua training.

Working alongside the French Army was invaluable to the soldiers. This now brings the total of the Squadron's 'commando' trained members to eight. Should we now be renamed 211 (11 Armd Bde) French Command Sig Sqn?

# 7 Sig Regt
# BFPO 15

## HQ SQUADRON

### QM TECHNICAL

The department has already said goodbye to **Maj Frank Worral** in these pages and it is sad that we now have to say goodbye to his right hand man **WO2 Mick Goatley**. **Mick** and his wife **Sheilagh** have set up home in civvy street and he has landed himself a job in a major electronics firm. **Mick** is a rare character and those of us who have had the pleasure of knowing him during his long service in the Corps wish him and his family all the best.



'The way we were.' Maj Frank Worral and team before his posting to 2 Div. *Rear (left to right):* 'Reg' Purdy, Cpl Kevin Scott, Sig 'Dougie' Gray and LCpl Alex Keir
*Front (left to right):* Sgt 'Arthur' English, Mrs Pamela Block, 'Uncle' Frank Worral, Mick Goatley, Mrs Karen Hudson and SSgt 'Chick' Ross

### QM PARTNERS

The new QM(A) **Capt Keith Purkiss** and new QM(T) **Capt Mick Nevill** go back a long way together. They went to the same school in Nairobi and joined the Army Apprentices College Harrogate together in August 1961. They have never served together since they left Boy Service 25 years ago but have now managed to carve up the Regiment between them!



The CO welcomes the new QM Mafia. Would you buy a used mattress from either of them?

## MIKE TROOP

The Troop is undergoing something of a revolution in management. **Capt Micky Banks** was replaced by **Capt Mick Woodhouse** and the Troop Staffy **Steve James** has given way to **Steve Bush**. Both have made the short trip from 4 Div and we wish them a happy tour.

More recently **WO1 (FofS) Gav West** has had greatness thrust upon him in the form of a commission. As always you never get 'summat for nowt' so he must pay his dues by serving in the Falklands. He is replaced by **WO1 (FofS) 'Mac' Macdonald** who cannot wait to unravel the mysteries of Ptarmigan. As a special treat he will have emergency training to ensure that he is ready to take up his slot.

## Z TROOP

Hello from the unseen and unknown in the building with no windows. We would like to welcome some recent arrivals to the vault; **WO1 (YofS) Parry** who is Regt YofS, Tp Comd, I/C Trade Training, I/C Pot YofS and otherwise unemployed and **SSgt (YofS) Nick Hawley** fresh from his course and I/C anything in sports kit or plus fours. He also does a bit of Regimental training when he gets the time. We would also like to welcome **LCpl Den Thompson** and commiserate with him on the subject of his back pay.

We say a fond farewell to **WO1 (YofS) Tony Shaw** and his wife **Lorna** who are posted back to UK.

The rest of the Troop personalities are: **Sgt Dave** (where's my posting) **Armstrong, Sgt Frank** (Wavell) **Carter** (28 here I come . . .), **Sgt Jerry** (it's not a hill—it's a slight incline) **Newsome, Cpl Stapes** (Ayatollah) **Stapleton** and **LCpl Warren** (Odd Job) **Beattie**.

## AWARD TO MRS MARGARET MORELAND

On 11 September, **Mrs Margaret Moreland** was awarded the GOC's Civil Commendation for her outstanding contribution to Garrison life in Herford.

**Margaret** and her husband **Maj Joe Moreland**, have a long association with the Regiment having completed two tours here. **Joe** has served as both Troop and Squadron Commander and was latterly 2IC of the Regiment. He is currently serving in MOD.

**Margaret**, accompanied by her husband and their daughter **Joanne**, travelled to Herford to receive the commendation from **Maj Gen The Hon W. E. Rous OBE. Margaret** was the guest of honour at a formal lunch in the Officers' Mess.



Margaret Moreland receives her Civil Commendation from the GOC



## 1 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

| | |
|---|---|
| OC | Maj Mike Gilyeat |
| 2IC | Capt (Tfc) Ross Graham |
| SSM | WO2 (SSM) Chuck Walker |
| SQMS | SSgt Steve Fisher |
| FofS | SSgt (FofS) Joe Meggitt |
| YofS | SSgt (YofS) Simon Lock |
| Ops/OC SHQ Tp | Capt Ivan Hooper |
| OC 021 | Capt Nick Romans |
| OC 022 | Lt Lee Smart |
| OC 023 | Lt Simon Roberts |
| OC 024 | Lt Neil Selby |
| OC 025 | Lt Simon Payne |

## INTRODUCTION

Following a very successful RSIT inspection the Squadron was reorganised to accommodate the changes in manning. This resulted in the acquisition of two Trunk Nodes and a marked increase in manpower.

## VISIT OF THE COLONEL COMMANDANT

After block leave the Squadron deployed on Ex Second Summit and was visited in the field by **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE**. At TN022 he was mercilessly hounded by **Sig** 'David Bailey' **Wheeler** but still managed to meet most of the Troop and indulge in a jam doughnut from our chef **Pte Nottingham**.



Sig Wheeler fills up ready to trail Maj Gen Birtwistle



The General congratulates Pte Nottingham on the quality of his doughnuts while the CO looks on ruefully as SSgt Ray Iley sneaks the last one

## SITE GUARD

Site Guard training is upon us! What a shame that the Ops Officer who wanted so badly to command the guard has had to go to Bavaria for two months. Our hearts are with him. We will be able to tell him all about the guard when the Squadron joins him in Bavaria to complete the Regiment's adventure training program.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations go to **Cpls Allwork** and **Stephen** on their promotions to **Sgt** and to **Sig Dave Honeyman** and **Sgt Keith Mardling** and **Paul Sweeney** on the recent additions to their families.

## PAGE TROPHY

On return to camp we had the chance to demonstrate our sporting abilities in volleyball, football, basketball, hockey and assault course. Our increased size gave us a greater chance to challenge the mighty HQ Squadron but, not wishing to demoralise them too quickly, we held back! **Sgt Allan Moorcroft** was the inspiration behind our success in the hockey but **Sig 'Cleggy' Clegg** and **Sgt Karl Povey** shared the glory. **Lt Lee Smart** led his team to another first place; this time in the Assault Course competition.



Page Trophy Hockey winners 1989


**Specialist Teleprinter Operator Urgently Required**

The Metropolitan Police Office requires a Specialist Teleprinter Operator to fill an immediate vacancy that has arisen at New Scotland Yard, London SW1.
Duties consist of transmitting and receiving telex messages. Communication is between various government departments and police forces, both on a national and international basis. Previous teleprinter experience is essential as only familiarisation training will be given. The post is therefore particularly suitable for personnel with relevant technical knowledge and who are about to leave the services in the next few months.
The successful applicant is expected to form part of a 24 hour shift pattern for which a 20% shift allowance is payable. The duty roster system provides for a 41 hour working week and currently includes an element of 4 hours per month compulsory overtime.
Starting salary at age 21 or over is £10,454 rising to £13,160 (including London Weighting and shift allowance but excluding overtime).
All appointments are pensionable and we also offer a generous annual leave allowance plus 10½ days public and privilege holidays.
For further information and an application form, please telephone Maureen McMahon on 01-230 3105 or write with career details to The Establishment Officer, Room 214, 105 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AN.
The Metropolitan Police is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

METROPOLITAN POLICE

# 8 Sig Regt
# Catterick Garrison

**2 SQUADRON**
**GUIDE DOGS 'PETS' CHARITY**

2 Sqn has adopted Guide Dogs for the Blind as its charity and aims to raise enough money to pay for a Guide Dog to be trained. It costs £1,000 to train a puppy from six weeks of age until it is a fully trained Guide Dog.

Pictured here is Guide Dog Puppy, Honey with some members of the Squadron. She is a yellow labrador bred at the Guide Dogs Breeding Centre in Warwickshire. Honey arrived here aged six weeks, six days and is being puppy walked by **Lt Mhairi Nisbet** with the help of members of 2 Sqn. Honey will remain here until she is 10 months old when she will go to the Middlesbrough Training Centre for more specialised training.



2 Sqn's Pet with Pte Flaherty, Sig Gibben, Lt Nisbett, Honey, Sig Tressider and Sig Wells

**DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS**

Congratulations to both **Sig Mark Lee Morgan** and **Christopher Pinnock** on achieving the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. They attended a ceremony on 9 November 1989 at St James's Palace where they received their certificates from **HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh.**

**RUGBY NEWS**
**by Sig Ceaser**

Our new boss **Maj 'Geordie' Gainford** decided on an early start to the season by getting training under way in June. We had heard what a hard task master he was before he arrived in the Regiment and we were not to be disappointed! The Regiment has assembled a very good squad with a mixture of experience in the shape of **Cpls 'Vimy' Fallon, Paul Gartside, Williams, Tony Pomeroy, 'Si' Norris, Sgt Barton** and several recent apprentices—**Sig 'Taff' Ceaser, Phil Rutter, Wayne Braddock** and **Steve Bancroft.** All the youngsters have made a good start from colts to this level of rugby and no doubt will continue to improve their standard of play. Morale is very high in the Squad and this has helped us to get off to a tremendous start which has included an excellent win in the Army Cup, 47 pts to nil. The try scorers on that occasion were **Sgt Paul Dickenson** three, two each from **Cpls 'Taff' Owen** and **Paul Gartside** with **LCpl 'Olly' Oliver** kicking the penalties and conversions. We now look forward to our next opponents, 38 Engr Regt with more confidence. The teams would like to wish **WCpl Joe Richmond** farewell and thank her for all her help. We wish her the very best with 28 Sig Regt where I am sure she will contribute as much to their rugby team as she has to ours.

**EXERCISE DRIVERS FLOAT**

'Fancy going off shore sailing from Gosport next week?'

'In the Solent in November? You can not be serious!'—But she was and they did.

Seven soldiers under training volunteered to have a go and without any previous experience of sailing headed for Gosport. The novelty was best summed up by the question 'Will there be showers on board?' 'Of course not', was the reply—wrong again **Fred.** The crew was; **Capts Shelagh Macleod** and **Fred Calvert** (watch leaders), **LCpls Mick Fawcett** and **'Scouse' Simons** and **Sig 'Geordie' Adamson, Rob Perrin, Richard Harding, Tim Ralley** and **Mike Iles.**

We boarded HMSTC *Racer* in Gosport, meeting up with the Skipper **Dan Naylor** (JSSTC) and Mate **Mr Geoff Trott.**

We sailed from Gosport on 7 November and with favourable winds reached Poole that evening. The weather then turned and a day was spent in Poole, swimming and sightseeing whilst force 10 gales swept the coast. On the 9th the winds dropped to a mere force 7 and we ventured out of harbour.

The sail was soon shortened for a quick dash down the coast as the winds increased once again. It was a rough ride to Weymouth and the prize for the strongest constitution goes to **Sig 'Geordie' Adamson,** the only crew member not to succumb to sea sickness!

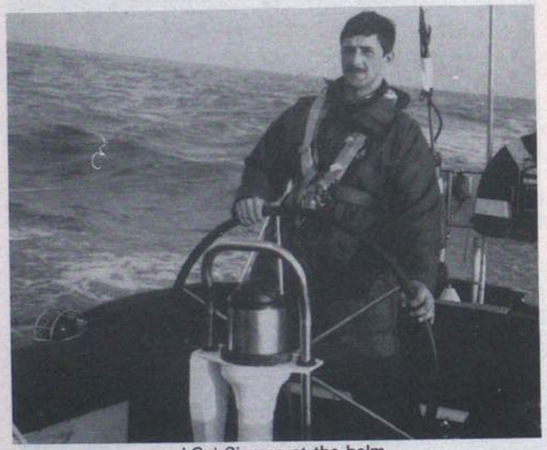
Weymouth proved to be another 'port in a storm' and swimming became the main activity again. By now the crew had become hardened sailors and war stories of 'when I was on watch' began to emerge. New chat-up lines were soon to follow; 'Would you like to see my 55ft yacht' and 'We are hoping to sail to the Canary Islands'.

The weather finally changed and we sailed in sunshine and light winds back to Cowes, Isle of Wight. The next day, spurred by the lads' enthusiasm, the skipper agreed to attempt a channel crossing to France. The weather remained favourable and it was a good sail to Cherbourg where the food, wine and the visit was enjoyed by everyone.

Too soon we had to return to Gosport and a very foggy day contributed to the excitement of crossing the main shipping channels.

Congratulations to **LCpl 'Mick' Fawcett** who enjoyed his first visit 'overseas'.

During those eight days the lads all became competent crew members with more than 280 miles sailing to their credit. Their culinary skills also improved! We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and hopefully will soon have the opportunity to acquire more expertise as off-shore sailors.



LCpl Simons at the helm



Off to France. *(Left to right):* Skipper Dan Naylor, Capt Fred Calvert, Sig Richard Harding (helming), Mr Geoff Trott
*Front* Sig Tim Ralley and LCpl Mick Fawcett



**TRADE TRAINING SCHOOL—PLANNING AND CONTROL**

The last year has seen substantial changes in the Trade Training School (TTS). The most obvious of these was adapting the training to cater for the Career Employment Review (CER). Always at the centre of these changes was the recently reformed 'Planning and Control'. Since little is known about Planning and Control, your scribe was tasked to rectify the situation.

Planning and Control is responsible for the administration and programming on a yearly basis of 320 courses, and as a consequence up to a maximum of 4,000 students. Its responsibilities also include validating the standards of trade training. To administer the department's tasks efficiently, it is sub-divided into three sections, namely, Records, Planning and Examinations.

The Records Office after various 'field trials' has computerised the vast amount of data that must be recorded for each student. The software required to achieve this was provided by the department's own 'Computer Buffs', **Arthur Davies** and **Peter Braithwaite** under the direction of **Gordon Parkin.** Mention of the Records Office must include the ladies who administer it, **Anne, Diane, Helen** and **Sharon.**

The Planning Office is responsible for programming all the courses that come through the TTS. It is like trying to do a giant jig-saw with the pieces continually changing shape. It is true to say, that to work in this office you must have a sense of humour. However, this does not explain why **Arthur Davies** and his motley crew are so happy. **Arthur**'s workforce is, American **SGM George Helfrick, Elaine, Carol** and **Cheryl.**

The Exams Office is in the process of producing, with the aid of the computer, individual exams for each course. it is also responsible for the numerous qualifying exams that are sent to Corps candidates world wide.

The **YofS Bren Kelly** and **Warwick Hulley** have discovered the answer to the question, 'where do all the routine signals go?'. The answer, is 'The Exams Office', as every qualifying exam results in at least 100 signals.

The **FofS Steve Higgins** and **Pete Braithwaite** would like to say a fond farewell to 'Valve Theory', it will be greatly missed. They would, at the same time, like to welcome the new BTEC syllabus.

The Exams Office would like to thank **Pte Mary Flaherty** for doing a magnificent job, standing in for our Admin Asst **Kate.** The meticulous **Kate** is off sick at the moment and we all wish her a speedy recovery.

The management team is led by the 'nautical' **Capt Fred Calvert,** ably assisted by three 'quiet' civilians, veterans of many years in the TTS. **Capt Fred Calvert** has just returned from a week's golfing practice aboard a 55ft yacht in Stormforce 10 winds. The other team members are: **Denys Tetlow** an ex FofS and well known to many in the Corps. **Denys** joined the Corps in 1946 and became a FofS in 1952. He has been working with 8 Sig Regt since 1968 and is due to retire in March. **Denys** will be best remembered for his revolutionary and far-sighted methods of training. To say he will be greatly missed is an understatement.

**Gordon Parkin,** ex RAF, in addition to being in charge of the Records Office, is the BTEC Coordinator. **Gordon** is at present burning the mid-night oil, preparing the syllabus for the new BTEC submission.

**Arthur Davies** currently holds the post of Planning Officer. **Arthur,** who is ex-Navy, has taken to this task like a duck to water.



Programming and Control—*Back row:* Helen Mudd, Pete Braithwaite, (FofS) Steve Higgins, (YofS) Bren Kelly, Warwick Hulley and Carole Thompson
*Centre row:* Kate Warlow, Sharon Thomson, Diane Read, Ann Cooper, Elaine Jones and Cheryl Rippon
*Front row:* Arthur Davies, HIO Gordon Parkin, Capt Fred Calvert, CSI John Ring, HIO Denys Tetlow and SGM George Helfrick



Pte Karen Clifton, newly qualified Tele Op (data) hard at work in 'Commcen Osnabruck'. She was judged the best student on her course. Congratulations and best wishes for the future on her posting to Aldershot

# 9 Sig Regt
# BFPO 58

**NINE IN A ROW FOR 1 SQUADRON**

The annual 15 mile relay road race from Ayios Nikolaos to Dhekelia was won, on 4 November by 1 Sqn for the ninth time in a row. The race, known as the Dhekelia Dash, consists of 15 × 1 mile legs, with each team having to conform to a rank structure and the total age of the team being over 401 years.

Teams from all over Cyprus participated and over 900 runners took part. 1 Sqn having quite a reputation to live up to fought hard on the day and the final runner crossed the line in a time of 1 hr and 18 mins. Despite an arduous and hilly course all of the runners succeeded in making it the ninth consecutive victory for 1 Sqn with a tenth to look forward to next year.

**TRAINING WING TROPHY**

Training Wing Trophy was a two day military skills competition which took place on 13-14 November. The competition was divided into two phases, which the first day consisting of a three mile speed march, an assault course, a stretcher race and a shoot. The second day consisted of a series of stands designed to test first aid, NBC, recognition of weapons and vehicles and weapon handling skills, a total of nine teams took part, with one WRAC team from 3 Sqn.

The first day of the competition saw all teams successfully complete the speed march within the time limit, this was followed immediately by an assault course and stretcher race. This phase of the competition proved to be physically arduous but all of the teams again succeeded in completing the event in varying times with TM Tp, 3 Sqn 'A' team and 2 Sqn 'A' team all in strong positions. The shoot being the final factor to decide the overall positioning for day one saw TM Tp gain the highest score and thereby finish first overall. Second overall for day one was 2 Sqn 'A' team. Each team for day one consisted of ten competitors all of whom took part.

Day two involved new teams of four competitors testing their knowledge and skill of first aid by treating various simulated casualties, also their NBC knowledge in the gas chamber and their ability at weapon handling. Finally the stand that confused most people was recognition of weapons and vehicles—not those used by the British Army but the ones that are used by other European armies.

At the end of the day 2 Sqn 'A' team achieved the highest score overall closely followed by 3 Sqn 'A' team.

With combined positions of second and first 2 Sqn 'A' team finished in first place overall in a competition that tested not only physical ability but also weapon handling and mental agility and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who took part.



TM Tp Winning Team



2 Sqn 'A' Team—Winners Overall



Dhekelia Desh Team

*Back Row L-R:* Sgts Andrews, Yeomans, LCpl Codling, Cpl Garrett, Sgt Mullery, Cpls Frost, Cooke and LCpl Macnamara

*Front Row L-R:* Sgt Mabbott, Cpl Holmes, Maj Nicol, Sig Meredith, Col Champion, (Gar Comd) Cpl Barker, Sgt Benson and WO2 (SSM) Whitehouse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GCHQ




# 11 Sig Regt
# Catterick Garrison

**4 TROOP COURSE 8908**
**TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Lt Steve Wheatley** |
| **Sgt** | **Sgt 'Scottie' Sherrard** |
| **Cpls** | **Chris Hymas** |
| | **Eddie Goff** |
| | **Neil Starkey** |
| | **'JR' Ewing** |
| | **Tony (Leadership) Slaney** |

After a lengthy dispersal to other Troops and departments with the Regiment, 4 Troop's permanent staff were re-united to train Course No 8908 (adult recruits). Before long however, **Cpl Tony Slaney** had been plucked from us by Fuhrerschafts Tp; a job he says he enjoys immensely. **Tony's** replacements **Cpls Neil Starkey** and **'JR'** (how predictable) **Ewing** are already firmly established within the Troop, not to mention the furious Catterick social round based on their shared love of Opera and Dance.

The course was the last to Pass Out under the command of, **Lt Col D. F. M. Collyer**, before his move to the MOD.

The prize for Best Student went to **Sig Morgan**, Best Endeavour, to **Sig Rowlands**, who, despite never smiling, or perhaps because of it had shown the most significant improvement during the course whilst Best Shot was **Sig Gillman**; congratulations to all.

Congratulations are due to **Cpl Hymas** on the news of his promotion to Sgt and to the rest of the permanent staff for their humour and forbearance.



The CO plants a commemorative tree at the edge of the parade square (Rabbits Keep Off. Offenders caught contravening this order will be eaten)



Sig Morgan presents a bouquet to Mrs Andrea Collyer

**2 TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp OC** | **Lt Vinay Pandya** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Stu Conway** |
| **Tp Cpls** | **Cpl 'Doc' Savage** |
| | **Cpl Les Stimson** |
| | **Cpl Dave Bousfield** |
| | **Cpl Andy Townsend** |

2 Troop has a change of command. **Lt Nick Walker** has been replaced by **Lt Vinay Pandya**, after a fairly lengthy hand over period which had nothing to do with the fact that the next course was a WRAC (TA) DCC. **Lt Pandya** describes some aspects of the course.

**WORKING WITH THE WRAC TA**

Why on earth would a group of ladies who all live active civilian lives want to spend two weeks being shouted at, getting dirty, tired and cold, and generally being put under pressure?

Faced with this conundrum I greeted, with some trepidation, the prospect of conducting No 9 WRAC (TA) DCC. The first thing I noticed about the girls was that they are always smiling and happy which can be off-putting when you are trying to teach them something important. **LCpl Palmer** could get a job as the laughing policewoman anytime.

Their spirit proved to be quite resilient and lasted throughout the exercise dimming slightly only when they backpacked their kit over a long move. **LCpl Hankins** favourite manoeuvre was clearing and searching the 'dead' which she did with a maniacal grin on her face and very cold hands.

They threw themselves into every task with enthusiasm as well as throwing **Cpl Les Stimson** into a large puddle in an attempt to teach him mud wrestling. **LCpl Robertson** thought she needed personal tuition and joined him in the water.

Their determination was admirable and was displayed by **LCpl 'Jelly . . .' Burden** and **LCpl** 'I can't go on' **Andrews** who showed great determination in passing their BFTs.

The ladies have all been brought up terribly well if the politeness of their orders is anything to go by, especially **LCpl** 'come on girls' **Clifford** whose fire control orders always ended with please!




The two week course was concluded with letting them loose on the command tasks. A few of them still haven't got to grips with the laws of gravity, though **LCpl** 'Don't photograph me now' **Griffiths** did finally get the point.

The end of course party was attended with the same enthusiasm and a good time was had by all. If the rest of the TA are as eager and energetic as this course was then we have nothing to worry about in that quarter.

Finally our heartiest congratulations go to **LCpl Dave** and **Maria Bousfield** on the birth of their daughter **Nadine**. If she has her mother's looks and her mother's brains she will do fine.


## ADVERTISING

Notices and advertisements, other than those related to a business interest, will be published free of charge to serving members of the Corps, and to those retired members who subscribe to *The Wire*. All other advertisements should be forwarded to our advertising managers, Service Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR (Telephone 0252 515891) who will advise charges.




LCpls Brooks, Burden, Robertson and Hankin constructing a single span suspension bridge







SSgt Chels Facer receives his LS & GC from Lt Col J. H. Roberts

**1 SQUADRON**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj J. G. T. Doherty MBE** |
| **OC CSG** | **Maj A. D. C. Stevenson** |
| **2IC** | **Capt C. G. Stubbings** |
| **SRO** | **Capt C. T. Honor** |
| **Tfc Offr** | **Capt R. W. Mansfield** |
| **OC A Tp** | **Lt A. Clark** |
| **OC B Tp** | **Lt N. P. Longley** |
| **ASRO** | **WO1 Frize** |
| **ROWO** | **WO1 Hudson** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Whitton** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt Barrett** |

**1 SQUADRON**
**INTER SQUADRON FOOTBALL COMPETITION**

The Squadron had an excellent start to the new football season with an overwhelming win in the Inter-Sqn football competition. The Squadron played 4 games, won 4, scored 19 goals and conceded nil. The team was led by **Sgt Chris Moye** and **WO2 Neb Young**. Top goal scorers were **Sig 'Betts' Bettany** and **LCpl Kev Fogg**, not forgetting the formidable goalkeeper **Sig** (now LCpl) **Trev McKinna**. Well done lads!



*Back row (left to right):* LCpls Bradbury, McKinna, WO2 Young, Capt Stubbings, LCpl Vaughan, Sgt Moye and WO1 Frize
*Front row (left to right):* Sig Rowley, Brooke, Campbell, Bettany, Cpl Fisher and LCpl Fogg

**C TROOP**
**TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp OC** | **Lt Tony Clark** |
| **Tp WO** | **WO2 Marc Sipson** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Jock Dengate** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Joe Jordan** |

**SINGLIES VERSUS PADS BOWLING COMPETITION 1989**

It was with great expectations that the pads challenged the singlies to a Bowling Competition at RAF Wildenrath. Brimming with confidence having won a previous competition, the pads even put a round of drinks on the challenge . . . just to make life a little more interesting. The two teams arrived at the bowling alley only to find that there was a 30 minute wait until bowling commenced . . . a deliberate ploy, I feel, to undermine the opposition. Eventually, bowling commenced. In no time at all, or so it seemed, the singlies began to dominate the top of the score sheet . . . and that was the way it was to remain for the rest of the evening. Had it not been for gallant efforts by **Lt Tony Clark** who took the men's highest score trophy, and **Mrs Babs Dengate** who was awarded the womens' highest score trophy, the difference would have been much greater. So it was with great pleasure that the singlies accepted the round of drinks imposed upon them by the pads. Oh! there was one other award and that was to **SSgt Jock Dengate** for actually managing to get his ball to stay in the correct lane! Overall the night was very enjoyable and the Troop says thanks to **LCpl Chris Sheperd** for organising the evening's entertainment.



B Shift—Bowling winners

**HELLO AND CONGRATULATIONS**

The Troop would like to welcome **Sig Steve Glyde** and **Lee Gaut**, straight from training. We would like to say congratulations to **LCpls Val Vallance** and **Daz Beaney** on their promotion. Also congratulations to **Sig Andy Ball** on his success in the Royal Signals BAOR Badminton Championships, and to **WO2 M. C. Sipson** for the award of his LS & GC medal.

**OSCAR TROOP**

The Troop has been kept busy with Ex Wintex. All members have been working extra shifts but we came through it well and are now back to normal.

In July, 9 Troop members set off for a hiking weekend in the Eifel region. Excellent weather ensured some pleasurable hiking in this scenic part of Germany. Quote of the weekend came from **LCpl Nicky Clark** when asked where they were: pointed to the map and said 'I think we're on this squiggly white line in the middle of this green bit'.

Visits to the historic town of Monschau and the annual firework display on the Rursee completed a successful weekend.

The Troop and their families spent a day at Roermond the following weekend to try their hand at sailing and windsurfing. The windsurfing went well but the boat is apparently still on its way (what a low bridge). A barbecue lunch was served on the beach.

More recently, an inter shift games night was held to say farewell to **YofS Tony Reynolds** and **Cpl Joy Shelmerdine**. B shift were the eventual bowling winners and **Cpl Nick Goodwin** won the Pool Competition. WRAC and wives staged a competition of their own.



Cpl Goodwin receives the Pool Medal from Capt Mansfield



Members of O Troop in the Eifel

**3 SQUADRON**

We have recently seen a tremendous turnover of personnel and as a result have bid farewell to **Capt Fred Wood, Capt Brett Hannam, WO1 Al Hale, WO1 John Clark, WO1 Tony Moore, WO2 Rick Morris BEM, WO2 Roy Wilson, SSgt Steph Vollentine, SSgt Chris Talbot, Sgt Taff Cassells, Cpls Ian Williams, Nigel Frith, Lesley Swanwick, Dawn Mountain, Steve Kent, Taff Cottle, Stu Moffat** and **Al Smith**. Welcome to **Capt Gray, Lt Babbs, WO1 Dave Kent, WO1 Neil Thomson, WO2 Ellis Page, SSgts Yogi Yeoman** and **Frank Lindsay, Cpls Maynard, Westlake, Clearie, McIllorum, McKechnie, Robertson, Rushen** and **Spittle**. We wish you and your families a happy tour in Berlin.

# 14 Sig Regt (EW)
# BFPO 23

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **CO** | **Lt Col J. M. Shaw MBE** |
| **2IC** | **Maj Malcolm McKinlay** |
| **Adjt** | **Capt Dick Sparshatt** |
| **AAdjt** | **Lt Frances Forster** |
| **OC 1 Sqn** | **Maj Tony Morphet** |
| **OC 2 Sqn** | **Maj John Steed** |
| **OC 3 Sqn** | **Maj Lance Byrne** |
| **OC HQ Sqn** | **Capt Mike Kerr** |
| **RSM** | **WO1 Pete Aitken** |

Now fully recovered from the rigours of Ex Sweaty Palm we move on to the news.

**HEADQUARTER SQUADRON**

A fond farewell to the OC, **Maj Eddie Kellett** who handed over in September to **Capt Mike Kerr**. We wish both him and **Ruby** all the very best in their new posting in Blandford.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**Sgt Mac Mackenzie** and **Carol** on the birth of their daughter **Kayleigh** and **Cpl Paul Storrs** and **Angela** on the birth of their son **Kai**.

**BEST WISHES**

**Sgt John Salter** is now well on the way to recovery following a road traffic accident. We hope he will soon be fit enough to leave hospital and send all best wishes to him and **Peggy** for the future.

**QUARTERMASTER (GEN) DEPARTMENT POSTINGS**

We have said farewell to some of our members recently including two stalwarts of the department. **SSgt (SQMS) Dyson** has gone to UK and **Sgt John Salter** at present in hospital following an accident. We send best wishes to him for a speedy recovery and best wishes to them both in their new postings.

Welcome to **SSgt (SQMS) Penn** and **Cpl Rankin**, the latter our new families NCO. Both have settled into the department quickly and we hope they enjoy their tour here.

Finally, a mention for our civilian staff who do such an excellent job for the department. They are **Sharon** (Frau Smallhausen) **Powell**, tailoresses **Sue** and **Gabbie, Chad** our clothing storeman and last but not least **Davey Robinson**. Happily none of them are posted!

**TM TROOP**

G'day. These short snippets of news from TM Tp are brought to you by **Sgt Bruce Roberts** recently attached to TM Tp on Ex Long Look 89. My parent Unit in Australia is 72 EW Sqn which is situated approximately 130km west of Brisbane in Queensland.

During the last nine weeks I have spent in the Troop (in between 'social' outings to London, Copenhagen and the Harz Mountains) I have noticed that there are many similarities between TM Tp and my workshop in Australia.

The main ones are procurement of spare parts, receipt and issue of equipment and the shortage of manpower.



*(Left to right):* Sgt George Pendrich, Sgt Bruce Roberts and Sgt Andy Soward



With the various Mess functions, barbecues, trips away etc there is never a dull moment during the off duty hours.

Since the last issue of *The Wire* TM Tp has had a busy period in supporting other elements of the Regiment on various exercises.

The in-barracks commitment has also been hectic. Besides the routine first and second line repair the Troop has had representatives in the HQ Sqn rugby and hockey teams.

During this period we said farewell to a few old sweats who have helped to bring a bit of character to the Troop over the years.

Farewell to **Cpl 'Penguin' Lothian**, our very own para who has gone to join the Squadron at Aldershot.

To **Cpl Ali Duncan** who has gone back to school at Catterick. A word of warning to the wise, don't mention your Det Comd course when **Ali** is around.

To **Cpl Woolfall** who against all odds and advice has gone off to join the elite.

Also in September we bade a fond farewell to our REME techs who have joined the Regiment's LAD.

However life goes on with fresh faced new boys being posted in from the factory to relieve the work load from us underpaid overstressed techs!

As mentioned before there has been a heavy commitment from 'Sleepy Hollow' first line workshops, with the lads taking it in turn to go out with the Squadrons on their frequent ORT, in the vain hope of gaining enough experience to join the thinking ranks of second line.

In early November I shall be flying back to Australia just in time for another summer (life is hell).

I would wish to take this opportunity to thank those members of the Regiment who, have shown me how the British Army operates and secondly to those who successfully arranged my social calendar. Cheers!

**1 SQUADRON**

We have said farewell to **Capt Simon Purser** and **2Lt Rob Forrest** and welcomed **Capt John Stuart** and **2Lt Richard Spencer** in their places. The new team is as follows:-

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Tony Morphet** |
| **2IC** | **Capt John Stuart** |
| **OC J Tp** | **2Lt Richard Spencer** |
| **OC W Tp** | **Lt Nick Mutter** |
| **OC X Tp** | **Lt Paul Peel** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Phil Abbott** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Dave Taylor** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt Stu Little** |
| **Trg SNCO** | **SSgt Nige Barnett** |

The Squadron was fully deployed on Ex Sweaty Palm 89, the Regimental escape and evasion exercise. OC W Tp **Lt Nick Mutter** managed to be the first man captured for which he suffered suitably. Some of the more enterprising members of the Squadron are considering marketing the concept as a new diet, with a view to making millions. But although they would hate to admit it, fun was had by all. While most of the lads were clearing up after the exercise **2Lt Rob Forrest** and **SSgt Nidge Barnett** led a team, mostly from 1 Sqn away to UK on a KAPE tour of the West Country.

So now to news of arrivals and departures from the Troops which have seen a large turnover of people.

**J TROOP**

Congratulations to **Sgt Steve Ferris** on his promotion, and he now stands in for **Sgt Barnes** who is away on his Staffies course. A farewell to **2Lt Rob Forrest** who moves upstairs to 2 Sqn and a welcome to **2Lt Richard Spencer**. Also we say goodbye to **Cpl Alex Rankin** who moves to HQ Sqn, **Cpl Wohler** who goes to 30 Sig Regt and **LCpl Richie Bonser**, off to civilian life.

**W TROOP**

Two stag nights recently have livened up the Troop social life. **LCpl Bernie** 'The Slapper' **Topham** was last seen running around the town in a pair of hand cuffs, **Cpl** 'Shlaffer' **Phillips** made several unsuccessful attempts to escape from his stag night. Congratulations to them both. Farewell to **Cpl Bob Ackland-Snow, Sig Stevie Tucker** and **LCpl Adie Lawrence** and his wife **Sylvia**. They will be much missed here, and we wish them well in the future. Finally anyone wishing to join a circus should see **Cpl Ritchie Angove** who is giving free juggling lessons. Is this a reflection of life in the Troop?

**X TROOP**

Congratulations go to **Tom Moran** and **Ian Bailey** on their promotion to Lance Corporal, and also many congratulations to our intrepid Troop Commander **Lt Paul Peel** on his marriage to **Kathryn**. Finally regular readers of this column will know of the charity bicycle ride organised by members of the Troop. All the money has now been collected and a grand total of £2,032 was raised. On Wednesday 25 October **SSgt Dave Stapleton** presented the cheque to a delighted **Dr Frank Neil** at Weston Park Hospital in Sheffield.

**EXERCISE BALDY DIAMOND**

Yet again Yankee Tp embarked on some more jolly 'Adventure Training' japes in Bavaria.

An advance party commanded by **SSgt Dave Butler** positively sprinted the journey . . . in 16 hours!

First came a Ridge Climb some 2,000m on the Nebelhorn led by UEL **Cpl Chubb**, whilst **Sig 'Solly' Madle** was busy overcoming his fear of heights, **'Q' Martin** and **Cpl Cliff** 'Old Lady' **Buckley** were getting lost in the mist on the lower slopes.

The next day saw Rock Climbing with **LCpl 'Dippy' Day**. Whilst he displayed his spider like prowess on the cliff face **LCpl Bob Wright** was definitely not looking good on the abseil. His look of terror mirrored that of **SSgt Tony** 'EEEEEEEK' **Wall** on the river crossing later in the day.

Next the Zugspitz climb. The Admin party included **LCpl Neil McMillan** and **Rusty** whilst the intrepid climbing party included luminaries **Sig** 'Chinny' **Masters, LCpl Phoenix** and of course **Capt Rich Lapslie**.

The second day's climbing of Germany's highest peak began at 0530 hrs and finished some 12 exhausting hours later. A group photo at the top was followed by a 10 min descent.

The last item of the week was a fun orienteering competition. Special marks to **Cpl Coe**'s map reading in crossing five rivers when he was only supposed to cross one!

Despite the inclement weather, all in all a good week. Roll on Ex Grand Canyon.

**EXERCISE SWEATY PALM**

Ex Sweaty Palm came around again with its usual accompaniment of rain and mud. 2 Sqn (2 Pl) was capably led this year by **Capt Richard Lapslie** (OC Yankee Tp) ably assisted by his faithful sidekick **Cpl Moss Sudell** and the dynamic duo from insomniacs anonymous **SSgt Bob Smith** and **Sgt Ray Pickering**.

The Pl was divided into four sections under the command of the four biggest fullscrews that the Squadron could muster, namely **Cpls Roy Poulton, Cliff Buckley, Kev Jones** and **Tim Edwards**.

After a particularly easy time on the training phase! The runners were ready to bolt as soon as they so much as sniffed a hunter, unfortunately some of them had a particularly bad sense of smell, especially **LCpl Shaw** (no not shaggy) of Kilo Tp, who lasted an amazing eight, yes eight, mins. It took 2 Pl only another six hours to bring their total to 18. The prisoners were then processed by HQ Section before being sent off to HQ Pl and **SSgt Yarwood**.

The Pl continued to excel in capturing prisoners, finally amassing a total in the region of 40 from a possible 100, some runners managing to get caught twice or even in some cases three times. These included **Cpl Andy Chubb, LCpls Mikey Surtees** and **Reg Gurney**.

The highlight of the penultimate evening was a tip from an unknown source (it was not OC 2 Sqn honest) as to the whereabouts of the OC 1 Sqn **Maj Morphet**. This, not surprisingly, ended in the capture of OC 1 Sqn.

The exercise went particularly well. It was a welcome change for us to practise our infantry skills in the field, not to mention the fact that it gave some participants a hard time.

**3 SQUADRON**

| | |
|---|---|
| **SHQ** | |
| **OC** | **Maj L. K. Byrne** |
| **2IC** | **Capt A. M. White** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) M. Geer** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (YofS) K. Doyle (Z Troop OC)** |
| **Trg SNCO** | **SSgt D. Griffiths** |
| **ZULU TROOP** | |
| **OC** | **WO2 (YofS) Kevin Doyle** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Jeffrey Morris** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Taff Carr** |
| | **Cpl Andy Lines** |
| **Rebro Section** | **Sgt Graeme Wharton** |
| **MT Section** | **Sgt Alan Thompson** |
| | **Cpl Roger Moore** |
| **Line Section** | **Cpl Roy McGregor** |

The Troop has participated in two exercises: Ex Grand Canyon in support of 2 Sqn and to provide two Rebros with **Cpl 'Taff' Hetherington** and **Sig Greg Wykes** in Rebro one, and **LCpl Joe Rowe** with **Sig Dave Harris** on Rebro two. After reassurance from 2 Sqn's **SSgt (YofS) Pete Martin** the Rebros were lucky enough to climb some horrendous mountains of just on 32m. Can this possibly be the hilly side of Germany? The highlight of the exercise was **Taff Hetherington**

having to fight off the assault on his Crypto Folder. On return to camp at endex the shadow that had been looming over Taunton cleared and revealed Ex Sweaty Palm.

The Troop was split into two with Hunters and Runners. Starting with the Hunters, training to overcome their lust for blood on an in depth weekend, finishing with the deployment to ex-con on the Sunday, for further training.

The Runners on the other hand came in at midnight on the Saturday to be met by the smiling face of **Cpl 'Smudge' Smith**, the Med Centres specialist for body searches, and then off for survival training with a well qualified Training Team including our own Yeoman, **WO2 (YofS) Kev Doyle**. Tuesday saw the Runners let loose with all the expertise to help them evade the tireless Hunter Force. After 12 hours or so Zulu's first capture, who could it be, Battle Dress and all, but **Sgt Alan Thompson** with **Sgt Dennis Morris**, (an ex member of the Troop now serving with 2 Sqn). With them living on carrots and apples but sadly for **Alan** who was struck down with flu, the chase was a short one. More success was to follow with the help of some highly paid partisans and a somewhat dubious safe house. The head count finished at 27 Runners captured in our sector.

After all the Runners had been captured the Hunters transported them to the interrogation centre. They were later released in sunny Celle 'surprise, surprise' and those immortal words 'see you at work in the morning'.

**SQMS DEPT**

During the last few months the Dept has seen some turbulence in the form of a Biennial Stocktaking Board and the loss of some expertise, namely **SSgt Bernie Meehan**, gone to pastures new in 32 Sig Regt (V) and **Cpl Oscar Martins** and **Debb** to the wild blue yonder (Civ Div).

Apart from a complete out-load (twice in one week), a BFT (twice in one week), and a sighting report on **SSgt (YofS) Dave Thomas** (twice in one month), life has been idyllic.

**HELLOS, GOODBYES AND CONGRATULATIONS**

Goodbye to; **Lt Graeham Neal** who has moved over to Romeo Tp, best of luck for the future; **Cpl Oscar Martin** posted to civvie street, all the very best to you and **Debbie**.

Hellos to; **SSgt Jeffrey Morris** posted in from 2 Sqn; **Sig Terry Forbes** from 8 Sig Regt.

Finally congratulations to: **LCpl Dean Cox** and **Hailey** on the birth of their baby daughter **Tanya; Sig Marty Burke** on his marriage to **Angela** and congratulations to **Sig 'Dusty' Miller** on passing his BFG Tick Test . . . at last!

**RCP TROOP**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **2Lt Wood** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt (Terry) German** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt (Keith) Stewart** |

Autumn saw the Troop involved in many various exercises. The majority of the Troop was involved in a week long exercise, Ex Shining Chalice at HQ 1 (BR) Corps.

Bielefeld. As you can imagine this was an enjoyable week for the Troop which also managed to see many of the night sights of Bielefeld.

Other individuals, namely **Cpl Andy McKie** and **Sig Kev Hale** took part in Ex Grand Canyon whilst **Cpl Andy Masterson, LCpl 'Slim' Millar** and **Sig 'Tiny' Gill** all 'attended' Ex Key Flight with 2 Inf Div based at Excon near Holzminden.

On the Adventure Training side, Troop Commander **2Lt Chris Wood** took a party of seven volunteers to Bavaria. Accommodation was provided by the Royal Artillery at their excellent hut in Sontoffen. This trip was greatly enjoyed and we were delighted to have a potential officer **Miss Ruth Dearlove** with us. Activities included canoeing, rock climbing and hill walking, and all were carried out with great enthusiasm despite some pretty awful weather.

This was **SSgt Mick Halford's** last venture as rock climbing instructor before taking up his new post at 254 Sig Sqn.

October saw a mass 'hunter' involvement from the Troop for Ex Sweaty Palm, the Regiment's annual escape and evasion exercise. Out of the few runners from the Troop **Sig Eddy Timms** was heard to say 'it was an experience not to be missed'.



# 21 Sig Regt
# BFPO 42

| | |
|---|---|
| **1 SQUADRON** | |
| **OC** | **Maj Dick Good** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Len Harvey** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Paul Smyth** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt Reg Whitehead** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt Nick Nicholson** |
| **OC 37** | **Lt Jane Heywood** |
| **OC 38** | **2Lt Guy Bennett** |
| **OC 39** | **SSgt Tim Cowan** |
| **OC 40** | **Lt Ashley Stocker** |

| | |
|---|---|
| **TN040** | |
| **PERSONALITIES** | |
| **OC** | **Lt Ashley Stocker** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Phil Atkinson** |
| **Tech SSgt** | **SSgt Neil Killen** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Ray Lang** |

Having experienced the joys of RSIT recently TN040 is still trying to fill the long evenings and weekends with other interesting activities.

**Lt Stocker** and **SSgt Killen** have returned from bobsleighing at Winterburg. Possibly to impress the Australian teams present, **SSgt Killen** developed an excellent 180 degree roll, allowing him to finish upside down. In recognition of his new skills he was awarded the order of the neck brace.

Ex Green Blade was a recent highlight in our action packed calendar. After an exhausting two day drive to Flensburg we arrived to find that **SSgt Atkinson** had endeared himself to the owner of the farm by frightening his horse away. The local German battalion was hospitable enough to beat us 4—3 at football; we did feel that calling in their army team was a bit excessive even if it was against sporty forty, **LCpl Martin** excelled in the match with some very neat moves and shots but never scored and **Sig Irvine's** legs were a stunning sight to behold when in motion. **SSgt Atkinson** thoroughly enjoyed the game by making sure he was called up on the SCRAT at least every five minutes, needless to say the Germans were most impressed. Was there a tear in his eye when he handed it back?

We would like to congratulate **LCpl Wood** on his wedding to **Marianne; Cpl Turvey** and his wife **Ulrike** on the birth of a baby daughter; **LCpl Martin** on his forthcoming promotion to Corporal and **Sig Skidmore** on his new look nose, plastic surgery is much cheaper Skiddy!

**ROETGEN ROUND UP**

This year has been reasonably quiet for the detachment, up here in the middle of nowhere, but the presence of the RAF Police is always good for a few laughs, as this recent conversation shows:-

**Cpl Lomas** (RAF) 'Who used your landrover last? Because whoever it was left the lights and heater on, and now the battery is flat.'
**LCpl Iheguaram** (Army) 'Well Dave who was it?'
**Cpl Lomas** (RAFP) 'Oh yeah, it was me wasn't it?'
Or **Cpl Hutchinson** (RAFP) 'FofS, there's a bloke on the phone who won't give his name.'
**FofS** 'Didn't he give you any idea who he is.'
**Cpl Hutchinson** (RAFP) 'No, he just said he's the Sergeant Major 3 Sqn but won't give his name.'

Apart from these occasional giggles, things generally run OK.

This mountain retreat is always a favourite for visiting VIP's, and this year has been no exception with the list headed by **Maj Gen Davis** (Comd Comms BAOR). The visit itself went very well, with the General meeting RAF and Army detachment members, and inspecting the site.

**TEARS AND CHEERS**

We have recently said our goodbyes to **Sgt Graham Ramsdale**, to whom we wish good luck on his FofS course at Blandford. **Sgt Mick Wood** has been posted to Minden on promotion, and we hope he is snoring away happily in his new job as SQMS.

As well as a new Police Sergeant we have also had our number increased by **Sgt Rick Hannah** who has a tour here as shift tech. Lucky **Rick**.

We are closing down the hatches now in preparation for winter and there will be more news from Roetgen next year.





4 (Support Helicopter) Sqn

**4 SQUADRON**

The exercise season has finally come to an end, and after a hectic period of PRE and RSIT inspections the Squadron can now relax and reflect on its performance over the last few months. It has been involved in numerous exercises but only in a 'Rent-a-Det' role. The Support Helicopter (SH) concept was recently tested on a full deployment on Ex Flying Key. A number of Dets deployed early to take part in Ex Gryphons gallop which was a Brigade work up to Ex Flying Key.

After an early start on a Saturday the Squadron was in its Exercise locations with all comms tested awaiting the arrival of the Staff on Monday. All was going well during the exercise until the day of the scheduled visit to Force HQ by Comd Comms BAOR **Maj Gen Devis**. The OC **Capt Andy Hickling** had been tasked to brief the Comd Comms on the tactical situation. All was in readiness with the OC and **WO2 (SSM) Dick Whittingham** waiting for the Comd Comms helicopter to touch down. The YofS, **WO2 Clive Copestake**, and FofS, **SSgt Steve Wilks**, stood by the steps of CP4 waiting to be introduced. The big moment arrived and the helicopter touched down. Suddenly there was an empty silence. The generator had stopped. Exit one Foreman who had levitated into the sky to play with the Pumas and Chinooks. All was not lost, however, as on to the scene came our local member of the Green Party on loan from M Troop, **Sgt** 'I'm so laid back it's beyond belief' **Griffiths**. The problem was diagnosed in a second. No diesel in the fuel tank. A can was inserted and the engine bled in record time but alas the OC was 30 seconds into his briefing before power was restored. The FofS was now busy scribbling his Will, 5ft 3in is no match for a 7ft rampaging giant.

The next disaster was the failure of the link to the trunk node. This in itself was not too bad as a call divert had been placed on all of the subsets in the CP to prevent any interuption of the OC's briefing. However, we had not allowed for the RAF. True to form, a loud call came over the Matel intercomm system that their phones were not working and could we sort it out. Exit this time one YofS with a Matel stuffed up his combat jacket with D10 trailing behind. The remainder of the visit passed without further incident and when the Comd Comms left a huge sight of relief was heard.

**INDIA TROOP**

The Troop has had a large turnover of personalities recently, and the management of the Troop is now as follows:-

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp Comd** | **SSgt Ray Patrickson** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Dave Bunt** |
| **Tp Cpls** | **Cpl Chris Binns** |
| | **Cpl Neil Ferris** |
| | **Cpl 'Mac' MacDonald** |
| | **Cpl Paul Watts** |
| **Tp MT/ED** | **Sig Vince Prince** |
| **Tp Dog/OC** | **Rusty** |
| **Tp Sprogs** | **Sig Alex Alexander/Sig Kev Wakeford** |

**EXERCISE GREEN BLADE 1989**

The Troop deployed along with the rest of 4 Sqn in the middle of October to support the Helicopter Force in Schleswig Holstein. Those of you that know your georgraphy of Germany (SSM not included!), will realise it was quite a cabby from Wildenrath, especially with our old fleet, so it was with some amazement that we all arrived safely and in one place at our first locations, after staging through Verden on the way up. Thanks are due to RSM 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt, **WO1 (RSM) Brian Dalton** for arranging everything. The fact that he was ex SSM of 4 Sqn had nothing to do with it at all!

The Exercise went very well, and the RAF actually turned up for a couple of days of it. Some of the highlights of the Exercise are summed up in the following quotations:-

**Sgt Dave Bunt**: 'I can't see a thing' (prior to smashing the Rover into a tree).

**SSgt Ray Patrickson**: 'I'm glad I've got my helmet on' (after striking his nut on the Rover windscreen after the prang).

**Sig Alex Alexander**: 'Permission to move, over' (when he discovered that a night move had landed him and **LCpl Sam Parke** in the middle of a German live firing range).

The recovery back to Wildenrath went as smoothly as the journey up, although one vehicle had to be low loaded back, which was not too bad a result considering the mileage involved.

**GRAPE PICKING**

During the Exercise period, two of the lads were detached to a German wine producer down in the Mosel valley, to help him harvest his crop. **Sig Sean Fardy** and **Tony McAleese** were soon to realise it was not the swan they though it was and returned two weeks later with sore backs, but plenty of wine to help ease the pain. The Sqn Comd **Capt Andy Hickling**, was a bit put out when he realised there was no wine for him, despite the fact that he had given them permission to go in the first place. They are keeping their heads down!

**ARRIVALS**

The Troop would like to welcome the following: **LCpl Tim Tomkinson** from 22 Sig Regt; **Sig 'Smudge' Smith** from 602 Sig Tp.

**FAREWELLS**

The following have left recently: **Cpl Mark Munro** to 2 Sqn on retrading: **LCpl Shaun Cox** to Int and Sy UK; **Sig 'Chappy' Chapman** to School of Signals. All the best to you and your families for the future.

**REGIMENTAL INTER SQUADRON BOXING COMPETITION**

The Boxing Season got off to a late start due to the Regiment's exercise commitments. The first rumblings that a fight night was on the cards were heard in Late August, this generated a flood of interest from the Squadrons. By the end of September nearly 40 people had put their names forward for the Noble Art.

With all this interest something had to be done, and after much debate 10 November was selected as the date for the Regimental competition. The next problem was pre-season medicals for 39 eager pugulists. Many thanks must go to the MO 13 Sig Regt for his help and assistance during both the training and competition itself. All that was left now was for the prospective boxers to train for possibly six minutes in the ring.

Difficulties reared their ugly heads. This time in the form of facilities, or should I say the total lack of them. Thanks to APTI **LCpl Wood's** contacts at Bracht, **Sgt Mick Stott** (APTC) kindly allowed the boxers to use a ring, two heavy bags, a sauna and all the floor space a boxing team requires. Training carried on at a feverish pace for three weeks prior to the competition.



Sig Walledge receiving the Boxing Shield on behalf of 4 Sqn from the CO

Preliminary bouts took place on 8 November 1989. After the weigh-in 32 boxers were scaled at various weights. From these boxers the draw took place for the prelims. **RSM J. J. Ashwell** made the draw and seven bouts took place that morning. The HQ Sqn and 3 Sqn teams were knocked out of the competition along with two boxers from 2 Sqn and three from 1 Sqn.

After a day's rest the remaining 18 boxers stepped on the scales again for the big fight night. The card was full with 10 bouts in all, two being exhibition only. The first bout was at Feather Weight and was a walkover for **Sig O'Brien**. The second bout was at Light Weight, **Sig Piling** v **LCpl Poole**. Both fought hard and displayed determination and promise. The best boxer plate was awarded for this bout. This set a blistering pace for the night. Bout three was the Light Welter Weight which ended in a first round KO for **LCpl Tug Wilson, Sig Barnard** winning. Bout four was another first round KO, this time **Sig Feasey** beating **Sgt Gary Hill**. Bout five was an exhibition bout and also a TKO in the second round, **Sig Roberts** beating **Sig Walledge**. Bout six was the Middle Weight bout, **Sig Herriot** v **Sig Wand**. The outcome of this was a TKO in the second round in **Sig Wand's** favour. Bout seven at Light Heavy Weight was a hard fought battle between **Cpl 'Alexis' Sale** and **Sig Wakeford. Cpl Sale** winning by a majority decision.

Bout eight was the Heavy Weight bout, **Sig Everitt** v **Sig Jones. Sig Everitt** was overwhelmed but soldiered on to get the most gallant losers trophy for his sterling effort. Bout nine was an exhibition bout at Light Heavy Weight, **Sig Skidmore** v **Sig Barlow**. This was a David v Goliath match with **Sig Skidmore**, Goliath, winning by forcing **Sig Barlow** to retire with a cut. The final bout at Welter Weight, was between **LCpl Robertson** and **LCpl Fowler**. This ended in the second round by a well timed straight right to **LCpl Fowler's** jaw putting him down and out.

There is no greater contrast between winner and loser than in boxing. All the boxers, both winners and losers, were congratulated by the CO for putting on a very fine display. The winners of the Inter-Squadron boxing shield were 4 Sqn with 2 Sqn as runner up.

From the 39 boxers who volunteered in August nine have now been selected for the Regimental team to fight in the RCZ Championships. The team is training hard so watch out 28 Sig Regt.

All sporting events involve a lot of organisation and effort, with boxing this includes many outsiders. Our sincere thanks go to the Judges, Referees, Medical Staff, PT Staff and the glamorous young ladies who paraded in the ring with the round numbers.

## CORPS' BAND ENTERTAINS WILDENRATH SCHOOL CHILDREN



WO2 Manning orchestrating the children and teachers of Griffon School

On 20 October the Corps' Band, under its Director **Capt David Wall**, visited 21 Sig Regt as part of its annual BAOR tour. During the visit it gave school concerts in the morning for the children of the Griffon and Merlin Schools. These concerts, under the leadership of **WO2 Manning**, were a resounding success with the children participating fully in the novelty numbers and thoroughly enjoying the big band.

In the afternoon it was the turn of the adults when the Director of Music and the band performed for the servicemen and families of both 21 Sig Regt and RAF Wildenrath. This concert contained a variety of traditional and modern numbers including an excellent rendition of a medley from the Phantom of the Opera. It certainly was a memorable day of first rate music by a very professional band with an international reputation, A **Mr Roedoe** travelled especially from Amsterdam to attend the concernt.

## COMD COMMS STUDY PERIOD

The Regiment again provided the admin support for Comd Comms BAOR Study Period. But this year we were also involved in the main event. Written into the programme was an item called 'Air Support Communications'. Obviously right up 21's street! The main feature was a demonstration of battle damage repair with conventional copper cable, and fibre optic cable. H Troop from Bruggen brought along the 'craters' and provided the sound effects.



Sig Easby explains conventional cable repair to Brig Robins. Sig Giles does not appear to have convinced Lt Col Conlon

## KIEL TO MONTE CARLO—OR BUST

**by Capt F. B. Kemp REME**

Sponsored by: SIF Travel and Avis Cars, Ellen Culpeck Insurance, Sport Hermans—Moenchengladbach, Carlsberg.

At 1040 hrs on 11 October, a four man relay team from the Light Aid Detachment of 21 Sig Regt completed a sponsored cycle marathon over 1,700km by riding an Army issue bike into the Mediterranean at Monte Carlo Harbour. The ride took three days, 23 hrs and 15 mins and began at Kiel on the Baltic coast of Northern Germany at 1125 hrs on 7 October. A hooter was sounded by Miss BAOR to start the marathon and also in attendance was the CO of 21 Sig Regt, **Lt Col P. Whitemore**. The rear wheel of the bike was ceremoniously placed into the Baltic Sea on a ramp at the British Kiel Yacht Club.

The project had two main aims. First, to raise as much money as possible for charity—and it looks as though there will be a grand total in excess of DM8,000! Secondly, to provide an alternative to the annual Adventure Training, the principles of which are to engage in activities which are challenging, arduous, difficult and dangerous—and the ride certainly met that aim!

The ride was a difficult task to complete in four days. A violent downpour of rain on the first day soaked some of the team to the skin and **Dvr** 'Baby' **Whiteside** got a real battering from it. Freezing fog throughout the night round Stuttgart got to both **Cpl Graham Mellor** and **Capt Frank Kemp** and **Cfn Darren Horswill** had some dehydration problems on one occasion. Due to unforeseen logistics problems in Switzerland, food was a tin of cold beans in one 12 hour period! Terrible weather in Lucerne had closed all the passes through the Alps except our intended one, the St Gothard Pass, which was open but, due to a worsening snow blizzard and wind, was in imminent danger of closing. Because the team was five hours ahead of schedule the mountain had to be tackled between midnight and dawn which, in bad weather, was a daunting prospect. If we were to get over before the pass closed we had to tackle it and not delay, so we decided to press on. Our three hour 'stags' of riding had been progressively reduced and we were down to 15 minutes each as the climb went on and on, with no sign of the summit. Due to the atrocious weather conditions on the mountain, the venture was almost at the stage of being abandoned. The team was, though, united in wanting to keep going despite the conditions and suddenly we were at the top and then descending. It was bitterly cold during the descent and the snow made riding difficult, but it took only 45 minutes to get down!

Of course, there was still another range of mountains to cross and many hills to climb, but I think that we all realised that we had 'cracked it' when we left Switzerland for Italy and France. As always, the actual arrival in Monte Carlo seemed a bit of an anti-climax, compared to the send-off in Kiel. However, the champagne was soon flowing in front of bemused Frenchmen, millionaires and Ferrari cars and the two days spent in Monte Carlo will be remebered for some time to come by all that were there.

I will not mention the 'removal' for illegal parking, of the Avis bus by the police in Monaco, but I will mention the efforts of **AQMS Eddy Lennox** and **SSgt Dave Parsons**, who actually talked them out of levying a hefty fine! I do not know if they did it in broken French, sign language or what, but they managed it and that must be the first time ever in the history of the Monaco police!

In addition to thanking everyone for very generously supporting us with their donations, I would like to thank our support team, who were great and often drove for many hours without sleep. Also our wives, who gave a terrific party when we returned—no more mention of that—and the lads that manned the telephone back in Wildenrath and maintained the progress board.

Thanks are also due to SIF Travel and Avis Rental, Ellen Culpeck who insured us, Sport Hermanns of Moenchengladbach who donated some very useful cold weather equipment and Carlsberg who gave permission for Miss BAOR to see us off at the start and to whom we are also very grateful. Thanks, too, to the CO of the British Kiel Yacht Club and his staff, who provided facilities at the start.

Finally, the third aim of the project was to set a standard time between two points on the Continent, much the same as John O'Groats to Lands End in UK. Can *you* improve on our time of three days, 23 hrs and 15 mins? Any Unit, large or small, could have a go. All you need is an unmodified issue one gear bike, a bit of time and four men prepared to try something different. None of us were cyclists, just a random selection of volunteers who were reasonably fit. You can, by the way, use any route where bikes are allowed to go. Good luck!

*OC* 'Boring, Staff! I must admit, I have had one or two thoughts about a bike ride.' (Waits for reaction.)

*AQMS* 'Oh—from here to, say, Rheindahlen?'

*OC* 'Well, not exactly. Perhaps a bit further—just to make it interesting, you know.'

*Staff* 'Good idea, Sir, good idea!'

*Sgt B* (Although at the meeting, decides that Item six is probably not worthy of comment at this stage and says nothing—but looks thoughtful.)

*OC* (Enthusiasm taking over) 'Yes, I reckon Coast to Coast, chaps.' (Hopefully looks around for support.)

*AQMS* 'But we are not in the UK, Sir!' (Lukewarm.)

*OC* 'What we need is a map!'

*Staff* 'Good idea, Sir. I'll get one.' (Returns with a map of Europe.)

*Sgt B* (Still says nothing but, at the sight of the map, an audible intake of breath is heard.)

*OC* (This time with map spread out in business-like manner)—'Look, Look at this!'.
(Everyone pretends to look!)

*Staff* 'Yes, I—er—I like it.'

*AQMS* 'Bit of a big map, Sir, isn't it?'

*OC* (Now becoming truly fired, he stabs at the map in a near frenzy.) 'There, look! Can't you see? The Baltic to the Med!'

*AQMS* 'The where, Sir?'

*Staff* 'Er, good idea, Sir.'

*Sgt B* (Sharp intake of breath!)

*OC* (Enthusiastically) 'Listen, chaps, doesn't it hit you between the eyes?! Kiel on the Baltic to somewhere on the Med!'

*AQMS* (With a hint of sarcasm and a distinct lack of enthusiasm) 'I suppose Monte Carlo is on the Med'.

*OC* 'Wonderful, That's it! Kiel to Monte Carlo! That's what we'll do. Eh, chaps?'

*Staff* 'Good idea, Sir!'

*Sgt B* (Just beginning to hyperventilate . . .)

*OC* 'Well now, all we need is a bike and four men and we can do a relay!

*AQMS* 'Sir, where are we going to get a bike from? A 10 gear racing bike is a bit pricey, you know . . .' (Hoping that the mere mention of money will cut the project immediately!)

*OC* 'No problem—we'll use mine!'

*AQMS* 'But you haven't got one, Sir.' (With a hint of finality in his voice.)

*OC* (Triumphantly) 'But I have, AQ, I have. An Army bike. That will make it interesting!'
(Meanwhile, **Sgt Brown** has noticed that there is a rather large mountain range marked Alps on the map and excuses himself to go to the toilet!)

*Staff* (With noticeably less enthusiasm.) 'Not a bad idea really, I suppose.'

*OC* (There is no stopping him now!) 'First of all we have to allocate jobs. You get down to Monte Carlo in your car, AQ, and do some publicity stuff. Staff—you can run the team on the road. You may not get any sleep for four days or so but you will be in the thick of it! **Sgt Brown**—you can man the telephone etc back here.'

*AQMS* 'Monte Carlo, eh? Good idea, Sir, good idea!'

*Sgt B* (With a relieved look on his face.) '. . . good plan, Sir, in my opinion!' (Attempts to hide a smirk.)

*Staff* (Now extremely indifferent, suddenly attempts a diversion.) 'Sir, before we go firm we really must think of our exercise commitments etc, over that period and, er, Item No seven is very important. We had better press on, you know'.

*OC* 'To hell with Item seven—that is enough for one day! I'm off to get my bike! . . .

**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.**

# 22 Sig Regt
# BFPO 107

## 2 SQUADRON

### ARU BRIDGE BUILDING

When, **Brig T. I. M. Waugh MBE** told the Squadron Commander, **Maj Tony Manders** that he had to build a bridge, 12m long and 2m high, over an imaginary river, at 0830 hrs, to be finished by 1030 hrs, it seemed a daunting task for the Squadron. In a quick crisis conference between the OC and his Tp Comds (2IC **Capt Dave Lumb** having been 'taken out'). **Capt Callum Clark** suggested a suspension bridge using winch vehicle tow ropes to support the deck of the bridge. The OC agreed with the plan and the Squadron swung into (semi) co-ordinated action. **Lt Adrian Metcalfe** and **SSgt Andy Trivett** rounded up the sand tracking while trucks were positioned by **Sgt Lenny Parker** and his recovery team, **Cpls Dave Butler** and **Ian Heseltine**.

The wires were soon laid out over the 4 tonner cabs and tightened up. The real work then began as the sand tracking was lashed on to the wires. **Sgt 'Wilky' Wilkinson** supplied the rope, **Sig Turton** and **Breckenridge** were the frantic lashers on. **WO2 (SSM) Martin Smith** meanwhile, had arranged the finishing touches, carpet for the bridge, ladders to get on to it and ribbon and scissors for the official opening.

1 hr and 40 mins from being given the task the bridge was complete. Not only did it take the two men required of it, but another 10 as well. An interesting task enjoyed by everyone involved.



Cpl Heseltine, Butler, Sig Breckenridge and Turton test their handywork before the arrival of the Brigadier



With the Brigadier and CO and members of 2 Sqn
*(Left to right):* Sgt Lenny Parker, SSgts Andy Trivett, Chris Hardwidge, Lt Col Peter Innocent, Maj Tony Manders, Brig T. I. M. Waugh, Cpl Pete Longworth, Sig Stav Barral, Dave Turton and Mars Breckenridge

### JNCO'S V SNCO'S AND OFFICERS FOOTBALL MATCH

On a windy Sunday morning both teams lined up to do battle in the annual football match. The JNCO's with youth, flair, talent and fitness on their side, SNCO's and Officers with a nice strip.

The game started at a blistering pace, well, a little faster than normal. The first 15 minutes were hectic with both teams trying to gain the edge. The break came in the 20th minute when a penalty was awarded to the JNCO's.

The sportsmanship at this stage of the game was at its best with cries of 'Your career's over if you score' and 'Your leave is being reviewed', but even under this extreme pressure **Cpl 'Noddy' Nodwell** stepped up and scored.

For the next 25 minutes the SNCO's and Officers goal was under pressure, **YofS Peter McInally** doing his best could not stop a further two goals coming before half time. The two scorers were **Cpl Bob Hugill** and **LCpl Stu Gemmell**.

The second half was a different story with the SNCO's and Officers team looking like a much better side. **LCpl 'Jonah' Jones** in the JNCO's goal denying a header from **SSgt Darrel Skimming** and shots from **Capt Dave Lumb** and **SSgt Mick Brown**. The pressure paid off in the 70th minute with a penalty being awarded from a 'pushing offence' inside the penalty area. **FofS Garry Annetts** stepped up and blasted the ball home to make the score 3—1.

This looked like being the final score until a mistake in the SNCO and Officers defence let **Sig** 'I'm going to score' **Heron** push a low volley home to make the final score 4—1.

A good game played in the right spirit was thoroughly enjoyed by players and spectators alike. Both teams and their families met up for



a curry lunch and the presentations. A few names mentioned for outstanding play were: **Cpl 'Rocksteady' Sheppard, LCpls 'Stretch' Jones** and **'Speedy' Gemmell, Capt 'Get stuck in' Lumb, SSgts 'No foul Ref' Skimming** and **'Sorry Clewsy' Hardwidge**. With a combination of both teams everything looks rosy for the inter Squadron competition.

### FOXTROT TROOP

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp Comd** | **Lt Adrian Metcalfe** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Darrell Skimming** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Kev Collins** |
| **All Round Good Egg** | **Cpl Bob Hugill** |

### CYCLE ORIENTEERING COMPETITION

On Monday 13 November in the area of the Mohnesee Dam, Foxtrot Troop took part in a 'cycle orienteering competition' an event that can only be described as different. The competition was run in much the same way as a normal orienteering competition but on 1:50,000 maps. The course, which was set out by **Cpls Bob Hugill** and **'Noddy' Nodwell**, was designed to test basic map reading skills and cycling ability (including bravery), but in most cases the bikes were much too fast for the participants brains. The day got underway with the first pair away, **Sig Dave Walker** and fellow back woodsman, **Sig 'Wilky' Wilkinson** (who proved to be the best cyclist if not the bravest), followed at two minute intervals by the remainder of the pairs. The course which was approx 14km long and consisted of 13 check points. It proved to be quite tiring with its ups and downs but in the main a good course. The lads continued to battle on to the check points but most were happy to continue down the hills at a great rate. A special mention must be given to **Sig 'SI' Steel** who rode around the course on probably one of the most antiquated pieces of machinery I have ever seen (and there were a few present on the day), however he has returned it to the transport museum and they are quite happy. The most notable achievement came alas from outside the Troop with **Capt Dave Lumb** winning the competition in a very good time of 1 hr 16 mins followed by the Blimquist and Brooks of 22 Sig Regt **Sgt Kev Collins** and **Sig Adam Lambert** in a time of 1 hr 48 mins. The remainder of the pairs failed to find all the check points by missing out one, two and even three markers, in actual fact when **Cpl Bob Hugill** went around the course to pick the markers up, the first pair away met him down a track whereupon he was asked:-

'Have you seen No 7 Bob?'
'Yes' was his reply.
'Where then?' they asked.
'In my bag' he answered.

The Troop had a good day out, lessons were learned and they are looking forward to the next one sometime in December. (Honestly).

The results were as follows:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1st | **Capt Dave Lumb**<br>**SSgt Darell Skimming** | 1 hr 16 mins |
| 2nd | **Sgt Kev Collins**<br>**Sig Adam Lambert** | 1 hr 48 mins |
| 3rd | **LCpl Phil Eaton**<br>**Sig 'SI' Steel** | 2 hrs 7 mins—1 check point |

### THE HITCH-HIKERS GUIDE TO 22 SIGNAL REGTIMENT

**From: Cpl P. A. Murphy R A Signals attached to the Regiment on Exercise Long Look**

**INTRODUCTION**

The following is intended as a practical guide for R A Signals personnel visiting 22 Sig Regt. The views expressed by its author are not necessarily those of the Australian Regular Army: hence keeping one out of trouble with Head of Corps, Training Command and others concerned.

**GETTING THERE**

The most economical way of visiting 22 Sig Regt is to participate in Ex Long Look, the annual exchange exercise between British and Australian Armies. Its aim is to broaden an individual's experience and promote continuing co-operation between Commonwealth Armies.

**ONCE THERE**

Twenty-six hours after leaving Sydney you will be greeted at RAF Gutersloh by a friendly Mike Tp host. He will attempt to introduce you to the basics of life in Lippstadt after your time-warping trip to the other side of the globe. Lippstadt is a nice town which could be favourably compared in size to Dubbo.

**PEOPLE**

You will find the average British 'squaddie' very friendly and usually has a relative living in Sydney or intends to visit Australia 'one day'. Germans are also friendly, but more intent on staying home.



## HQ SQUADRON

### MT TROOP

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **MTWO** | **WO2 Barker** |
| **Trp** | **Sgt Casson** |
| **Trp** | **Cpl Evison** |

There have been a number of changes in the Troop recently with the arrival of **SSgt** and **Mrs Boon** and **Dvrs O'Manney, Pollard** and **LCpl Steve Harper** and his wife **Debs**.

We say a sad farewell to **Cpl Revel** who has landed a plumb job as Commander's driver in sunny Catterick, and to **Dvr Helbrow** who has joined the civilian population with the rank of Mister. **Dvr Sully** has moved to 1 Div Transport Regt.

ARU and the CO's day have kept us busy. All members of the Troop have now been presented with their boy scouts 'painters badge' and are thinking about going into competition with the PSA for the tender for re-decoration of the quarters. (I hope the wives will appreciate camouflage living room walls.)

### UAO

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **PMR** | **Maj A. T. Bettaney RAPC** |
| **SFA** | **WO1 B. McMaster RAPC** |
| **Div 2** | **WO2 P. Lloyd RAPC** |
| **ORS** | **Sgt I. Unsworth not RAPC** |

There is a feeling abroad in the Regiment that if you close your eyes whilst standing in the UAO, by the time you open them again, somebody new will have been posted in. This is entirely reasonable as over the last month we have welcomed **Maj Bettaney** (Pmr), **WO2 Paul LLoyd** (Q) and **Sgt Ian Unsworth** (ORS) and their wives, **Patricia, Carole**, and **Elaine**. Whilst these three were clutching their 'welcome to Lippstadt' brochures in one hand and emptying 'In Trays' into the incinerator with the other, the rest of the office was partying and saying goodbye to **Maj** and **Mrs Wiltshire, SSgt Pete** and **Michelle Birch, Cpl Dave** and **Carolyn Calverley** and **LCpl Jimmy** and **Carolyn Tarbox**, and despite all that was said, we wish you all the very best in your new careers.

Once this disturbance (which measured five on the Richter Scale) has subsided, the UAO will be providing the usual, fast efficient service for which it is renowned, with the three 'new boys' looking forward to the challenges the Regiment has in store—especially rear Details'.

And now . . . this:-

**Do Not Disburb**

*If you're feeling left out*
*and don't know what to do*
*don't go on a NAAFI break*
*come down to RHQ.*

*Then go into the UAO*
*you'll know you've got it right*
*but don't shout out or bang the door*
*and don't switch on the light.*

*Just write your needs on paper*
*whilst waiting in the queue*
*then leave it on the counter*
*and we'll see what we can do.*

*But don't disturb or wake us*
*let us rest for goodness sake*
*when did you lot last see us*
*go for a NAAFI break?*

*So if you want some money*
*petrol, leave or flights*
*just come down to the UAO*
*but don't turn on the lights'.*

### GLACIER TRAINING

The British Biathlon Team has just completed two weeks training at altitude on the Dachstein Glacier in Austria. The team consists of **Cpl Mike Dixon** and **LCpls Ian Woods** and **Ed Nicoll** from the Royal Engineers, **Cpl Carl Davies** from 22 Sig Regt, **Gnr Ken Rudd**, 19 Fd Regt RA and **Pte Hammy Hamilton** 1 KOSB. The Manager is **Capt Anthony Frankland RE**.

The Glacier Training is the first 'on snow' training of the season and helps the athletes brush up on technique before going to Norway in November for more intensive training. The team is aiming for good performances at the World Championships at Minsk in the USSR in February 1990. In addition to this there is the World Cup Circuit of

races which takes place throughout Europe and Scandinavia.

Biathlon combines the intense physical effort and stamina of cross country skiing with the control, concentration and skill of small bore rifle shooting. A world class biathlete such as **Cpl Mike Dixon**, 35 Engr Regt, will complete a 20km race including four stops at the range in less than an hour.

Potential National Team members are identified at the British Championships at Zwiesel in Germany which this season takes place from 24 January—6 February.

**EXERCISE TREATY 89—LIVE OAK**

So once more it was time for the intrepid 10 to deploy on the yearly Like Oak FTX at Sennelager spearheaded by the det Yeoman **WO2 Jason Wood** (who incidentally is on his way to fill yet another taxing post this time at AFCENT).

The main feature of this exercise was the deployment of our unique terminal equipment vehicle fitted with new trendy Trend teleprinters and associated sleek equipment. The vehicle after its 'super smashing state of the art, high tech modifications' by our proud techs proved to be the stalwart comms vehicle it was expected to be. Faultless communication was achieved throughout the exercise with plenty of high precedence traffic being passed giving our tele ops (data) some real communicating experience.

During the exercise, Comd Comms BAOR **Maj Gen P. R. Davies** visited Live Oak communication elements giving our detachment a 'call'. At this point the Yeoman exclaimed 'How about a different approach and a briefing from **Cpl Courtney** the shift supervisor so I can take some photographs Sir', so yours truly duly obliged as the Yeoman looked on with a big smile on his face whilst taking photos, (cheers YofS).

**LANGUAGE**

Once in Lippstadt, you will discover two language barriers. The German is apparent, we suggest you bring a phrase book. You will also find amusing differences in every-day phrases used by the British and Australians. It is important to note, however that a 'squaddie' is equivalent to a 'digger' and to substitute 'wombles' for an 'emu-bob'.

**DRESS**

If you wish to amuse, if not confuse members of 22 Sig Regt, ensure you wear an Australian slouch hat and disruptive pattern uniform as work dress. One may be mistaken for an Officer, American, Canadian or throw-back from the psychedelic era. Despite the popular squaddie belief, a slouch hat does not come fitted with issue corks.

**EMPLOYMENT**

As a technician, Maintenance (Mike) Tp of HQ Sqn is a suitable area for employment. Certain members of M Troop suggested I use the term 'employed' loosely due to my short absences from the Unit to further educate myself, whilst some of these members spend up to six months away from the Unit participating in sporting activities . . . mm?' At M Troop you will study Ptarmigan, Wavell and other communication systems. Whilst maintenance facilities and procedures are similar to equivalent field force Units at home, you will find the use of automatic test equipment of great interest.

**SIGHTS**

A cheaper method of visiting locations in Germany is to participate in Unit exercises. During Battlecamp at Vogelsang you can fire weapons not used in the Australian Forces, and for those with little NBC experience, three days in a 'noddy-suit' is quite fun. Field exercises give a new meaning to 'going bush'. Many urban and rural buildings are utilised whilst home exercises tend to be far from civilisation. A visit to an American Unit and a study of its procedures can be interesting. For a lightning tour of England accompany the Unit's athletics team to Aldershot for the Army Championships. For those willing to spend a little money, visit the British Isles, Bavaria, Austria and Switzerland during leave.

**ENTERTAINMENT**

The average 'squaddie' is a social creature very similar to his Australian counter-part which ensures a steady stream of 'pad-parties' and Troop and Mess functions. The township also offers good entertainment, particularly during its Fest Week.

**SPORT**

You will find the British Army tends to promote sport more seriously than the average Australian unit. Participate in the Regimental Cross-Country team and 'beast' yourself regularly just for the fun of it.

**IN CONCLUSION**

My four months with the Regiment has been most enlightening. Studying Ptarmigan and the changing role of the technician was of great significance with the introduction of contractor supported communication systems to the Australian Defence Force. I wish to thank all members of the Unit, especially Mike Tp, for a most enjoyable experience and recommend British personnel seek one of the limited positions available on a future Ex Long Look in Australia.

Another highlight of the exercise was an invitation for some of our lads to visit an air and ground battle demonstration at the Sennelager training area. Those not on shift went to see this potentially spectacular scene.

So with A10 Tank buster planes Harrier jump jets and Phantoms all depositing Pyro at the M1/A1 Abrams tank, the battle was truly in full swing. The whole audience was captivated when on the horizon through the smoke, haze and chaos a strange green vehicle was seen to be entering the battle. The audience was frantically trying to figure out what this vehicle was as it drew closer weaving its way through the war torn battle field when suddenly fits of laughter echoed throughout as it was recognised to be the dear old NAAFI van visiting us with char and wads.

Meanwhile back in the TEV things were hotting up with the YofS and his 2IC **Sgt Andy Finch** doing some operating which I must say at this point didn't need too much correcting, just more attention to detail and they make a good pair of ops!

Finally, the exercise came to a close with the mandatory end-of-exercise barbecue attended by the French, Germans, Americans and ourselves. All in our usual fine voice, we washed good grub down with a round of drinks bought for the first time by **Sgt Pete Atkinson**, solo. **Maj Jim Rayment** threatened to buy some beers but didn't actually make it, so I'm sue he doesn't mind being reminded by the final word in these notes in time for the next exercise!

**4 (JACQUES) SQUADRON**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Bob Carter** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Denis Weir** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Keith Leighton** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Clive Sear** |
| **A/FofS** | **SSgt Mick Uttley** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt Ron Perry** |

These early autumn months have contained the usual variety of challenges and tasks which one would expect to find in a Singal Squadron in BAOR. Having returned from the lengthy exercise season, we set about preparing for CO's Day and RSIT, both of which we came through with our fine reputation unblemished.

The Squadron continues to be involved in all Regimental sporting activities, providing a good number of soccer and rugby players as well as cross country runners and orienteers. Particulary worthy of mention was **Cpl Andy McWilliam**'s and **Sig** 'Gadge' **Gargett**'s selection for the Corps BAOR soccer team, with the former then returning to UK to represent the full Corps team.

During the summer two of our up and coming technician Lance Corporal's had the opportunity to get away and do 'something different' and their reports on these activities are to be found below.

**COUNTY CADET FORCE ATTACHMENT**
**by LCpl Wall**

In August I spent two weeks assisting my local Cadet Force as an Instructor on their annual Camp in Dorset. Promoted to Local Sergeant for the duration of the Camp, I was kept busy teaching a variety of military skills and leisure activities.

Without doubt the hardest task was the teaching of drill to the junior Platoon of the junior Company. Some of the boys had only been cadets for three weeks before the camp and didn't know right from left. In spite of this, after a week's hard work and sleepless nights pressing 24 sets of barrack dress I was proud to discover that 'my' boys had won the drill competition.

All in all a very enjoyable and satisfying fortnight. I lost my voice, was thrown in a river, got torn to pieces on barbed wire but, if the opportunity arises, will do it all again next year.

**ADVENTURE TRAINING IN AUSTRALIA**
**by LCpl McCellan**

Planning for the adventure training exercise began in May last year, when I landed myself a place on the 15 man strong team drawn from 22, 16 and 7 Sig Regts. After a crash course in sub-aqua diving we were on our way via Heathrow to Melbourne.

The first phase of the exercise consisted of a 200km trek through the snowy mountains of New South Wales. It was hard work and very cold, but this was nothing compared with second phase, white water rafting down the Murray river.

The third and final phase was without doubt the most enjoyable for me; consisting, as it did of diving off the Great Barrier Reef in Northern Queensland. We spent two weeks exploring the underwater wonders of the reef and carefully avoiding the killer sharks.



All good things must come to an end and we returned to BAOR richer for the experience and able to recommend the trip to any who may wish to go in future years.

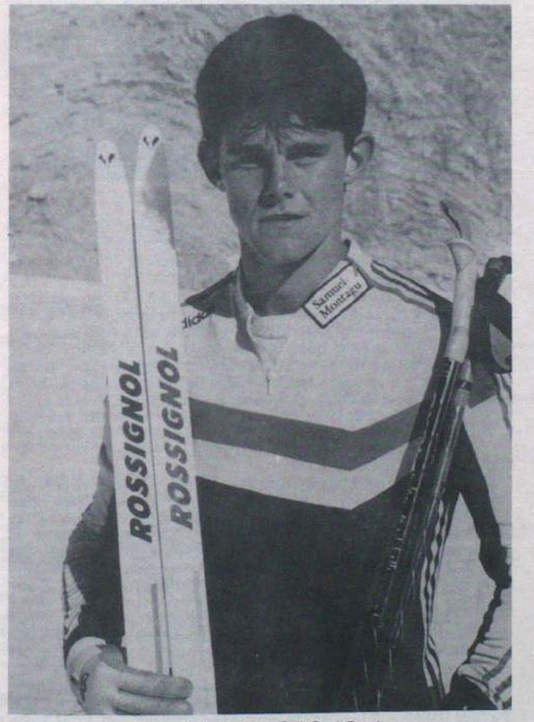
**ROYAL SIGNALS ALPINE SKIING**
**RACE TRAINING CAMP 1989**

The Royal Signals Alpine skiing race training camp for 1989 took place in Kaprun, Austria from 2-15 December 1989. The camp was attended very well this season, with five Units from BAOR sending a total of 30 skiers to be race trained.

The camp was organised by the 22 Sig Regt Team, with **Capt Adrian Metcalfe** as the OC, and **Sgt Andy Brown** the team captain. The Berlin Sig Regt allowed **SSgt Phil Philemon** to attend as a trainer, and the German Bundeswehr allowed **SU Walter Holzer** to attend. **Walter** was in the Federal German national squad whilst in the Army, and is now a very efficient trainer. In addition, with a grant from the Corps covering some of the cost, two Austrian race trainers were hired for the duration of the camp, providing invaluable expertise.

The four trainers had quite a task to complete, as the standard of the novices all in group 3 of the camp and taught by **Rob**, one of the Austrians) was, predictably, quite low. Coupled with this was the difficult task of teaching Snow Queen standard skiers (mostly in group 2 and taught by **Phil Philemon**) the techniques that will help them not only survive the races, but to have a serious chance at getting a good place. Those skiers who had either raced before or who have had a lot of experience in skiing were placed in group 1, and were trained by one of the Austrian instructors, **Peter**, himself an Austrian race team squad member at one time. The top group, consisting of just 22 Sig Regt's A Team, were being given a very hard time by **Walter**.

Even thought at the time of writing the camp is nearly half way through, it can safely be said that the standard of the racers has improved immensely. We are now looking forward to the Royal Signals Championships to be held later this month, giving us invaluable experience before we attend the Divisional Championships later next year.




Olympic hopeful—Cpl Carl Davies

## 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
## BFPO 35

**1 SQUADRON**
**FOXTROT TROOP NEWS**

At last the final exercise of the year has passed us by and what a good one it was, (for 1 Sqn anyway) but I think that was due to the problems that were sorted out on the pre-exercise Plug Up and the pre-Plug Up Plug Up and the Plug Up for the pre-Plug Up Plug Up, I think. As comms exercises go it was a fairly quiet and very successful one, so that left time for all the other little happenings that usually occur whilst on exercise.

Congratulations to **LCpl Doreen Marr** who managed to make it from the switch to her bivvy via the trees, barbed wire, pot holes and the like, without using the tracks; 'See, Sergeant Major, not everyone falls asleep during your exercise briefings'. Congratulations also must go to **Cpl Dave Coleman** who actually managed a whole five day's exercise without a day off for Football, Tennis, Cricket, Golf, Hockey, Squash, Netball or Rounders. **'Dave**, the lads salute you'.

**ARRIVALS**

We have a new Tp Comd, with the arrival of **2Lt Debs Wadsworth**; other recent arrivals to the Troop are **Sig Jason Davies** and **Paul Threlfall** straight from the factory. Welcome. The Troop would also like to say a very, very belated welcome to **SSgt (YofS) Andy Craig**, who arrived here in July but has not yet had an official *'Wire* notes' mention.

**DEPARTURES**

We said a sad farewell to **Cpl 'Geordie' Wightman** who has joined Civ Div, and to the old OC Tp, **Lt Jacky Foster**, who has returned to the dark realms of RHQ.

**GOLF TROOP NEWS**

Since the last report the Troop has taken part in several Inter-Troop Competitions.

In the Inter Troop Cricket, Basketball and Football we came first. Unfortunately, in the Inter Troop Orienteering all we can say is 'at least we took part'.

There have also been a few exercises in between our sports schedule, such as the Squadron Battle Camp and Ex Canary Caper III. The highlight of Ex Canary Caper was saying farewell on their last exercise to **Sgt 'Gus' Alexander** and **Sgt John Payne** in the usual Troop way: the egg shampoos did wonders for their hair.

Finally it is time to say hello and farewell to some of the members of the Troop, starting with arrivals: **Sgt Stu Morrin** and **Sgt Andrew 'Max' Maxted** and their families, **Cpl Ian Taft** and family, **LCpl Mark Lynch** and family, **Sig Mel Wright,** and **WPtes Sue Allsop** and **Dawn Hancock**.

**DEPARTURES**

**Sgts 'Gus' Alexander** (Civ Div) and **John Payne** (Glasgow), **Cpls 'Taff' Millard** (Osnabruck) and **Paul Dickinson** (Civ Div), **LCpl 'Geordie' Maughan** (Gutersloh), **WLCpl Sarah Lewis** (Bulford) and finally, **Sig 'Flip Flop' McKillop** is off to Belize. Farewell and good luck to them all.

**2 SQUADRON**
**PAPA TROOP NOTES**
**TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp OC** | **Lt Paul King** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Joe Harris** |
| **Tp Sgts** | **Sgt Jon Duckworth** |
| | **Sgt Chris Carlin** |
| | **Sgt Paul Lamplough** |

The Troop has only had one new arrival since the last issue, namely **Lt Paul King**, the new Tp Comd.

Sadly we say goodbye to **Capt Andy Hill** after only a short stay. He is posted to 1 Sqn. Good Luck.

**ADVENTURE TRAINING**
**Report by Cpl Nick Hawkins**

**EXERCISE MOOSEBACH BACKSTOP**

Ex Moosebach Backstop was an adventure training exercise based at 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt's hut in Moosebach, in the foothills of the Bavarian Alps. A total of 19 Troop members took part, including **LCpl Albi Albiston** from the LAD and, to keep us well fed,

**Cpl Pete Evans** who came along for a cook's holiday. The main aim of the exercise was to enable all those taking part to gain experience in a variety of challenge pursuits, which was most definitely achieved. The weather, however, put paid to the original plan, so a trip to Munich, which was originally scheduled for the end of the week as a well earned rest, was brought forward. The Munich visit was, as it later turned out, the final day of the famous Oktober Fest; pure coincidence!

For the remainder of the week the weather steadily improved enabling the normal challenge pursuits to take place. By the end of the week all those that took part had been introduced to, or gained considerably more experience in their chosen activity.

In all, the week was a tremendous success, due to the guys putting so much effort into the training, even if they were cold and wet.



Sig 'Trigger' Almey

**FREEDOM PARADE**

On 21 October 1989 the Regiment exercised its right to march through St Tonis as Freemen of the town. Accompanied by the Corps Band, the Parade formed up opposite the Rathaus (Town Hall), for inspection by the Burgermeister of St Tonis. After the inspection the Burgermeister, **Herr Buttner**, took the salute as the parade marched under the command of **Maj Peter Robinson** and the parade SSM, **WO2 Bill Woodmason**.



Formed up outside the Rathaus



The Burgermeister with Maj Gen P. R. Davies inspects the parade, with Lt Col A. W. Merrick looking on

# 30 Sig Regt
# Blandford Camp

**HEADQUARTER SQUADRON**
**WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS**

HQ Sqn would like to welcome their new OC, **Maj Eddie Kellett** and **Ruby**. We hope you have a pleasant stay in Blandford. Also, just arrived, is **SSgt Ian Brereton**, his wife **Julie** and family. **SSgt Brereton** is to take over HQ Sqn SSM and SQMS. Sadly we say farewell to **SSgt Jeff Smith** the 'old' SQMS who is off to Cyprus on promotion (some people are just born unlucky).

**COMMANDER'S CUP COMPETITION 15/16 NOVEMBER 1989**

The Commander's Cup is a military skills competition held over two days and is open to all Units within Blandford Garrison. Each team consists of an Officer, a WO, an SNCO a Junior NCO and a Signalman and were invited to take part in the following: a 1¼ mile log run, a 1¼ mile best effort run, first aid, NBC/Current affairs written paper and a balloon shoot with points awarded for times and scores or sometimes both.

The Squadron performed well in most parts but was let down by its shooting with the 9mm pistol at waterfilled balloons, with no sighters or splash to help correct the point of aim however, despite these drawbacks, it managed 1 kill out of 8 using all 20 rounds.

A good day was had by all 25 teams: congratulations to the team from DADPTC (Dad's Army) who were overall winners. It is not confirmed where the Squadron came, but rumour has it, we're holding up the other 25 teams! We have started training for next year's competition!



Commanders Cup Team from HQ Sqn

*(Left to right):* 2Lt Liz Wise WRAC, Sgt 'Titch' Howitson, Sig 'Shred' Sheard (Res), Cpl Adrian Toye and LCpl Andy Callaghan

**ALDERNEY CUP**

The 12 lucky members of the HQ March and Shoot team enjoyed their six mile jaunt across the Dorset countryside. After completing the run with CEFO and weapons, carrying a 150lb stretcher, the team surprisingly ignored the optional extras of barbed wire and thunder flashes (thanks to **RSM Pete Haywood**) to complete the assault course. The competition finished with the three random shoots proving they were random—by missing all the clays! At the end of the day, HQ Sqn was placed fourth, pledging to do better next year and make the Alderney Cup theirs!

**REME LAD**

Our eleven strong LAD is reduced to six. Two of the VMs are at present on UN duties in Namibia with the UNTAG Sqn. One electrician is detached to 2 RGJ in Dover for the duration of the UNTAG deployment, another of the VMs is away on his first class course in Bordon for six months. Four of the LAD, **Sgt Foster, Cpl Bissell, LCpl Mack** and **Cfn Phillips** have recently returned from Namibia having deployed with the original UNTAG Sqn and are now back into the Regimental way of life.

The work of the LAD is greatly helped by having a good detachment of 27 District Wksp here in Blandford, which provides service for the Regiment's vehicles as well as a valuable source of experience to the younger Craftsman.

The New Year will see a substantial turn over of personnel, with the ASM going to civvie street, **Cfn Rick Harrington** and **Cfn Rim Phillips** both posted to BAOR, **Cpl Martin Bissell** and **LCpl Mack** leaving the Army.



**MT PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **MTWO** | **WO2 D. Ellis** |
| **MT Sgt** | **Sgt J. Fisher** |
| **Gen Bay** | **Sgt M. Mulhearn** |
| **MT Detail** | **Mrs P. Barrie** |

Two members of the Troop are leaving the Army in the very near future, so farewell to **LCpl Dave Simpson** and **Sig Neil Renwick**.

**NAMIBIA 1989—A COOK'S VIEW**
**by Pte Culleton ACC**

Posted to 30 Sig Regt I was told I would travel. Within five months I was in Namibia with four other cooks in the UNTAG Sig Sqn of 30 Sig Regt.

We arrived in Windhoek and were met by members of the Advance Party. We then went to our 'palace' of a camp 'Leopards Valley' which was the biggest dust bowl I'd ever encountered. It soon got the nickname 'Happy Valley'.

We arrived and expected to be put to work cooking but this was not to be. We were fed by a Company called 'Fedics'. Every day for eight weeks we would be asked 'When are you going to start cooking'. Well in the eighth week we started and the reception we got was amazing. However during the eight weeks we had not been idle, helping to put up masts, do guards and driving vehicles to the northern dets. Oh and we did a bit of sunbathing!

We all enjoyed the tour and had a good laugh in Namibia with 30 Sig Regt.



*Back row:* Cpls Paul Norris, Cpl 'Homerun' Halliwell
*Front row:* Pte 'Squirrel' Culleton, Sgt 'Nobby' Clarke and Pte Matti Parkinson

**TM TROOP**

Welcome back to all boys from Namibia and welcome to our new arrivals: **LCpls Irwin, Smith, McKay** and **Cpl Phillips**. Cheerio to: **FofS Campbell Morrison** to 640 sig Tp, **Cpl Al Giles** to NI and **Cpls Mick Swift, Phil Holland** and **Ken Eaton** to 8 Sig Regt. Thanks and all the best for the future.

**Report by LCpl Irwin**

Arriving in 30 Sig Regt is like standing at Paddington Station. One moment you see people the next they are gone. Roulements in Cyprus, Belize, Namibia etc means this is a place for travel, including France, and the Caribbean, Norway and Kenya.

The SATCOM Wksp is busy preparing for deployments to warmer climates round the Med and the Caribbean so here's hoping. Radio Wksp is busy preparing a det for Noway, in support of 3 Cdo Bde for three months and there's always the Kenya det!

**TM TROOP ORIENTEERING**
**by Cpl 'Hutch' Hutchings**

The Corps Orienteering Event was very much a 30 Sig Regt TM Troop event. Guests from 1 Sqn and other Troops included **Maj Mark Perry, Capts Ollie Halstead, Peter Smith,** and **Steven Ardagh Walter, Cpls Michael Parrish** and **Michael Nisbet**.

In the Individual Event—**Cpl Hawker** achieved 12th position beating the favourite **Cpl Slayer** by 50 seconds.

On the B course, **WO1 (FofS) Bob Thompson, Sgt Guy Leverdon, Cpls Steve Barclay** and **Phil Holland** achieved formidable times. **Cpl Hutch Hutchings** stormed in last and **Cpl Setch Setchfield** did away with the competition altogether by going swimming.

Second Day Relay Event—Valiant effort from TM members **Cpls Mick Stanyer** and **Josh Mainka** both brought excellent relay times in A course as did **Cpl Setchfield, Sgt Leverdon** and **WO1 (FofS) Thompson** in the B course.

**2 SQUADRON**
**THE ALDERNEY CUP**
**by SSgt 'Pedro' Petrie**

Refreshed after four weeks leave, I returned to work as A/SSM of 2 Sqn to find myself involved in the Alderney Cup. The 'Alderney Cup', was donated by the people of the Island of Alderney with which we have strong ties. The competition consisted of a team of 12 from each Squadron, taking part in a 15km march, followed immediately by an assault course and finishing with three members of the team firing 9mm pistol at clay pigeons. All carried out wearing CEFO, helmets and carrying SLRs. The good news? We had to carry an 80kg stretcher for 2km.

The day of the competition dawned and, after one final inspection, miracle of miracles, every team member had everything and in the right place. We then proceeded to the armoury to collect weapons and magazines.

Inspection time, five points deducted for every fault. Feeling confident we marched on, the inspection started and we dropped points on the two things we didn't take into consideration—the weapons and magazines.

The time came for our epic tab to start, and off we went at quite a brisk pace, even doubling a couple of times. Starting to feel the strain, **Cpl 'Sooty' Sutcliffe** and **Cpl Rob Allen** cajoled the team into greater efforts.

Waiting for us at the top of the Langton Hill was the stretcher. **LCpl 'Doug' Douglas** got three 'volunteers', to go ahead and pick up the stretcher.

The last man crossed the line in a time of 1 hr 33 mins. The three are chosen to fire, and to their credit came out with a 25 point score.

Once all the teams had finished the count up began. The results are announced and—2 Sqn has won, by virtue of beating 640 Sig Tp time on the march by a mere 19 seconds.

The results were very close. The 'winning' team was: **SSgt Petrie, Sgt Palmer, Cpls Allen, Sutcliffe** and **Thomson, LCpls Douglas, Lloyd** and **Bruce, Sig Wood, Smith, Roberts** and **Noble**.

Well done, team!



LCpl Douglas, Cpl Thomson, LCpls Lloyd, Bruce, Sig Noble, LCpl Sutcliffe, SSgt Petrie, Sgt Palmer, Sig Smith and Cpl Allen

**3 SQUADRON**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Sqn** | **Capt Joe Cooper** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Chris Edler** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt (YofS) Keith Emmerson** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt (FofS) Gary Wilson** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) 'Dusty' Miller** |
| **OC Victor Tp** | **2Lt 'Flash' Gordon** |
| **Whiskey Tp Comd** | **Sgt Martin Henley** |
| **Line Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Andy Tempest** |

**EXERCISE BOLD GUARD RECCE**

The Regiment's new Tp Comd **2Lt 'Flash' Gordon** found himself leading the Ex Bold Guard Recce within days of taking over as OC Victor Tp.

The recce did not go without its fair share of hold ups, one of which was caused by the large hole in the ferry! Although unlikely, **2Lt Gordon** took the delay in his stride, and set off a couple of days late with **SSgt (YofS) Keith Emmerson** and 'friends'.

When they eventually arrived in Denmark they were greeted by dense fog (home from home!), which led to their vehicles being scattered about the town centre. Ten hours after leaving the ferry, the Reece Group convoy crawled into Hindenberg Barracks.

Over the next few days they tested the communication paths before packing up and travelling back via an afternoon of R & R in Rendsburg.

'Yeoman, what do we do now?'

**BEM PRESENTATION**

On Friday 13 October the SOinC visited the Regiment and presented **Cpl 'Ollie' Holman** with his BEM. The ceremony took place at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess with **Cpl Holman**'s mother, sister and fiancée present, having made the long trek down from Leeds.

**Cpl Holman** was awarded the BEM for his exemplary service as Regiment's Cadet Liaison NCO. During his time in the Regiment, he has worked long and unsocial hours and spent many weekends with 22 school CCFs and county ACFs throughout the South West of England and the Channel Islands. He has also completed a three months stint with Op Raleigh in Panama and was specifically praised for his professionalism and ability to inspire others. As an ambassador for the Army and in particular the Corps, he set a good example to the young people we worked with.

Following presentation, **Maj Gen Cook** had a surprise up his sleeve in the shape of the Birtwistle Pennant for Recruiting. He presented the award (won by 30 Sig Regt for 1988/89) to **Cpl Holman** as one of the outstanding contributors to the Regiment's recruiting efforts.

The ceremony coincided with the end of **Cpl Holman**'s 22 years service and he has now taken up a place at college in Leeds, studying full time for a diploma in Youth Work. Our best wishes go to him for a successful and happy career in civilian life.



The SOinC presents Cpl 'Ollie' Holman with his BEM

## UNTAG
## BFPO 644

**VISIT OF THE CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF**
**GENERAL SIR JOHN CHAPPLE GCB CBE ADC Gen**

All the members of Lepoards Valley waited nervously as the Commanding Officer and Force Sergeant Major greeted the CGS on his arrival in Namibia at Strijdom airport, Windhoek.

The CGS proceeded to Britcon HQ. He and his staff were introduced to a briefing team of the AO, SO3 Sigs, YofS and FofS in which he took a great interest.

On to the technical workshop with **Sgt Chris Higgins** and **LCpls Butcher** and **Adamson**. After seeing the Electronic Repair Vehicle he met **Sgt 'Stavros' Neath** and his men in the kitchens preparing lunch. The General was amazed at the scale of rations, which indeed is very generous.

The General then visted another of our attached departments, the Medical Centre. The MO greeted him and introduced his team and a technical discussion followed about the outbreaks of malaria in the northern region. Escorted to the Commcen/CRL via a home made bird table, as the CGS is an avid bird watcher, **Cpls 'Mac' McLeod** and **Bromley** gave the briefs and the General was particularly interested in the refugee net and the rear link to the UK.

The MT/Gene section was the next to be visited. This included an indoor golfing range (no **Sgt Norris** was not the tee) which provided much amusement and needed practice for the General's Military Assistant. Before proceeding to the mess an interlude at the QM's Dept, at which the RQMS **WO2 Marsh** managed to avoid any reference to stores and spoke only of the recent fire and bird watching.

The tour of Leopards Valley was followed by a lunch in the Crow Bar, the new Officers' and Seniors' Mess. The PMC greeted the General and welcomed him, at which time the mess was officially opened. The CGS pulled away the United Nations flag to reveal an engraved plaque which had arrived literally minutes before he had. There followed a pleasant inaugral lunchtime with some beautifully prepared food, much credit must go to the chefs.

Before his departure the CGS presented the mess with a shield and thanked all for a splendid and informative visit. The compliment was returned, a BRITCON plaque—a rare beast—presented to the General as he departed for further engagements in the Force Headquarters and civilian representatives of the UN.



Cpl McLeod explains the intricacies of the UK Rear Link to the CGS



LCpl Behan welcomes the CGS to the 'Power House'



**NAMIBIAN ELECTION COMMUNICATIONS**

Due to the poor communications organisation over the electoral registration period, Comd BRITCON **Lt Col A. G. Whiddett MBE** was asked to provide assistance for the actual elections. After a couple of false starts agreement was given by MOD for our involvement and support in the form of completing the communication planning, training radio net controllers and polling station radio operators and by manning 11 of 23 District Offices.

**ELECTION CONCEPT**

In order that the election was seen to be free and fair, polling stations were located around the country to ensure no voter would have to walk more than 5 miles to vote. This was achieved by the provision of 226 stations (increased to 234 at the elections) and 131 mobile polling stations. Some of the mobiles made in excess of 10 locations during the five day voting period.

**COMMUNICATION PLANNING**

The job of the planning team, consisting of **Capt Andy Allman** SO3 Sigs, **WO2 (FofS) Lee Wookey** and **WO2 (YofS) John Tyreman**, was to ensure that every polling station could communicate with its respective District Office and that each District Office could in turn communicate with the UN radio Commcen at Suiderhof.

A number of VHF repeaters were already in place and Ex Proving Cover was the recce carried out jointly by BRITCON and UN Civpol to ascertain the real coverage of the VHF and to test HF frequencies.

In order to prove the VHF coverage an attempt was made to communicate from every polling station location to District Office. This proved impossible in Owamboland, which was eventually to have 128 static and mobile polling stations, spread over an area larger than BAOR. Three of them were Heliborne because of the difficulty of moving through the bush.

From the results of the recce, the real extent of VHF coverage was plotted and polling stations allocated to radio nets, using VHF in their own District where possible and filling the gaps with HF radios.

Best methods of communications between Districts and the UN radio commcen were also tested and written into the Comms plan.

The CEI was drafted and comms briefings were conducted for Radio Net controllers from BRITCON and UN Civpol, by the YofS and FofS, at Grootfontein and Windhoek.

**TRAINING**

Training periods were held for radio net controllers, prior to the elections, by **Sgt Steve Welding** and for all polling station operators, by the Net controllers in each District, prior to the deployment to polling station locations.




Cpl 'I left my appendix in Africa' Cadwgan models No 7 dress

The training was made slightly easier by the fact that the planning team had managed to convince UNTAG that nominated radio operators should be English speaking. Without this proviso and with over 109 nationalities taking part, enormous problems would have been encountered.

**MANNING THE DISTRICTS**

BRITCON had agreed to man 11 of the 23 District Offices, the UN Civpol manning the other 12. BRITCON took on those districts where either comms were difficult, or Owamboland, where the configuration was complex and the number of out stations excessive.



Sig Davies rests on Cpl Jackson during a lull at the Nkurenkuru District Office

The Radio Net controllers job was to maintain net discipline, ensure stations appeared on the net, handle any request for assistance and ensure the election report was received after voting was completed for the day.

On completion of this task they were then to ensure the consolidated report, prepared by the District Electoral Supervisor, was passed by either fax or telex back to the Commcen at Suitderhof for onward transmission to UNTAG HQ and the Administrator General's HQ at the Windhoek showground.

Strict discipline was enforced on all radio nets, with out-stations being allowed to transmit only when ordered to do so by the radio net controller, except for emergency messages.

The same rules applied to the reporting period for District offices, waiting to be ordered to pass their report at the close of voting, in order that telex and fax facilities did not become jammed.

Teams, consisting in the main of a Corporal and Lance Corporal/Signalman, were deployed on 2 and 3 November established themselves prior to the elections and organised reception of operators for training.



Cpl Porter in control at Otjiwarongo District Office during the election period

The communications portion of the elections was very successful with an average of 95% of reports in by 0200 hrs each night. Considering that the voting period was extended from 0700-1900 to 0700 till whenever, this was a great achievement and the operators on the ground are to be congratulated for their hard work, in often very frustrating conditions.

By 0600 hrs each morning all reports were in, this enabled the election staff of UNTAG and the Administrator General to monitor progress and control events successfully. The elections ran smoothly without major incident and with over 60% of the electorate having voted in the first two days.

**RESULTS**

Voting was completed on schedule on 11 November and counting started on the morning of 13 November. The FofS had organised a results programme on the computer and the results were entered as soon as received. As we were responsible for receiving the results in the Commcen we were slightly ahead of the game and by 0600 hrs on 14 November we were able to accurately predict the number of seats for each party. Considering the official results were not announced until 2200 hrs that evening this was a major achievement which the planning team resisted giving to the world in advance of official press releases.

**SPECIAL MENTIONS**

All personnel involved in the election communications deserve great credit, not only for the communication provided, but also for the enormous amount of organisational work taken on their own initiative to ensure that events ran as smoothly as possible. Not everyone can be mentioned by name but here are a few. **Sgt Steve Welding**, who conducted his own election campaign during the recce, was close to becoming Chief, well, King of the Himba, but eventually polled zero votes despite the wholesale use of compo sweets to the entire electorate.

**Cpl Bernie Bernard** who managed to carry out the recce through the Etosha Pan and managed to find lions at a kill. He was also involved in the counting process in the Tsumeb district, despite this, he also polled zero votes.

**Cpl Danny Fennelly**, whose amazing coolness and calmness in difficult situations on the radio net was admired by the Civpol who were watching. **Cpl Fennelly** came close to one of the nastiest incidents of the recce when his vehicles suffered an unprovoked attack by an extremely vicious donkey. Not as dangerous though as the great white hunter **SSgt Neil Duncan** chased by an elephant whilst carrying out the recce in Kavango. He was ably supported by **Sig Davies** and **Cpl Simon Rogerson** providing covering photography through the rear window.

A final mention of **Maj N. D. Couch** whose tremendous efforts in Ovamboland to ensure the deployment went smoothly can only be matched by the enormous amount of work he completed on behalf of the SWA tourist board.

**Report by Cpl D. Fennelly**

After a 15 day recce period involving some 9,000km of driving which was carried out by **SSgt Dougie Wright, Cpls Danny Fennelly, Kev McIntosh, Mick Brown, Sig Jock Murray, Billy Billcliffe** and **Tony Journet**, the way ahead had been cleared for our mission. To provide comms for the South West Africa/Namibia elections.

Well there you go. What problems could or would that straightforward little task produce?

Our area of responsibility was Owamboland in the north of the country, which is not only very large but also houses a quarter of the country's population. To the north west sits Ruacana, just a couple of kilometers from Angola and it was to there that **Cpl McIntosh, Sig Murray** and **Sean Walsh** where sent just two days before the elections to set up their net. So with C/S Owambo OA in place at Ruacana, **Cpl Brown** headed for a place named Eenhana along with **Sig Ackers Ackland** and **Ken Kennedy** deploying Owambo OB which left **Cpl Fennelly** to set up Owambo O at Oshakati.

With his crew of **Sig Jasper Marritt** and **Eddie Waring** 'The lad with a real northern accent and a fetish about Blackburn Rovers'. The following day with OA and OB answering their early morning calls, it looked as if the mission was a success. Well it would be if the remaining 139 stations deploying into the field over the next day and a half also answered their 0600 radio check.

Whilst **Cpl Fennelly** had to sort out a slight problem in his office (no furniture or radios), **SSgt Wright** was given probably the best job in the world, along with the Australian Contingents RSM, **Sgt John Carpanini** and a handful of Brit/Aussie toms they were given well over 14 minutes notice that they would be issuing some 200 Toyota Landcruisers to a rather large group of civilians arriving in the country at any moment. There was one problem though. One hundred and seventy of the vehicles had yet to arrive from Windhoek.

At the end of that day, with not very many teams deployed and still no furniture or radios in the office at Oshakati everything, seemed to be running too smoothly.

The morning of the next day was, I'm told, like sighting one of the seven wonders of the world. At Ondangwa airbase, the civilians arrived in their hundreds along with their loud Hawaiian shirts, cameras slung around necks and enough suitcases for a nine month cabin cruise, all speaking different languages but asking the same question 'Which one of these little motors is mine Staff and by the way what is a Staff?' There were teams just picking whatever vehicles they thought were nice and then trying to sneak off the airbase without first going to the correct check out place. Due to this, we had teams arriving in their locations in the bush for a five day stint without little things like water, food, ballot boxes and papers (I wonder what they did take). One individual actually left his team at the airbase and set off on his own.

**DAY 1**

Eventually with all the teams deployed on the first morning at 0600 hrs, came those famous words which civilians will never forget 'Hullo A/S this is Owambo O R/C over' 'and they're off', who cares who answers first and what about the voice procedure demo we gave them on the stage at Ongwediva training centre. Surely all of the 139 'Radio Ops' have not forgotten already and does Owambo 032 have to give me 16 OK Overs. Could he be our first problem station? Well, what a radio check.

All in all it was quite successful but weren't we all looking forward to the 1900 hrs A/S broadcast when the net would become directed. Oh what fun all this was and $1 38 cents UN pay a day as well.

1900 hrs, the first day's polling had ceased. The net is directed (it felt like Sir Winston speaking to the masses)—silence. Apart from 032's constant radio checks. Now cometh the moment of truth. The election reports start to trickle through ever so slowly. One of the early reports took 25 minutes to receive, which for five columns of info is quite a long time. Never mind 032, you might be quicker tomorrow but at least you are evens favourite for the golden mike award. The final report we managed to receive came in somewhere around 0130 to 0145 which means if we hurry back to our accommodation on Oshakati military base, we will get at least two and a half hours sleep before the early rise for the next radio checks.

**DAY 2**

Things go very smoothly on the radio check side of life and we even manage to coax a couple of more reports out of the shy operators. Now at this early stage of the show 032 has asked me if he could relay messages to any of the other stations. 'Where has this star appeared from and does Radio One know he exists'. Just as things seem to be in order chaos is let loose as 90% of the stations flood us with re-sup requests. Nobody expected over 50% turnout of voters on the first day. Along with the normal requests for ballot papers the odd one asks for crates of coke, beer, bottles of whisky etc 'This is Owambo O Rgr I'll bring them out personally in figures 5, '089 thanks awfully out'.

The rest of day 2 was spent trying to get supplies out on the ground. At 1900 hrs when the net becomes directed we get the reports in two hours quicker than the night before. Ah an early night. Bed by 0100 hrs.

**DAY 3**

The radio checks go well but the majority of stations must have had that little red button on top of their heads slapped whilst they were sleeping, I think you know the one I mean. 'That little red one with panic written on it'. The net was so clogged up with people shouting that they were dying from thirst 'Oh and could you make it a bowser full please as the team have only had one bath since arriving in location'. 'Certainly, I will put it to the boss that we build a reservoir first thing in the morning'.

On the positive side of life we did manage to action several casevacs by chopper even if it did mean driving over to police HQ to ask them to use their choppers for us.

With the net becoming a little quieter now that the re-sup had begun to filter through the system we then got on with the reports which were coming in faster every night as our civilian counterparts at the polling stations became slicker with the art of voice procedure.

It was dark outside and the building was quite deserted with the nine to five chappies all gone home. The only ones remaining were ourselves and the chaps we shared the office with who happened to be a bunch of very well humoured Irish policemen or Garda. They were **Larry, Pat, Jim, Tom** and **Peter** and many more of them to whom BRITCON Oshakati owe their santiy. At this point of the evening **Sig Eddie Waring** who only breaks the speed of sound at meal times, leaves his chair faster than **Staff Wright** leaves the pub when it's his





round (and that's pretty fast), and heads for a chap who just pops his head around the door. On further investigation I find **Sig Waring** in the corridor having a chat with none other than **The Rt Hon David Steel MP** and **Sig Waring** is giving him a run down on how he had just about managed the comms plan for the SWA/Namibian elections. **Mr Steel** seems suitably impressed and after he had spoken to us we all wrote home to tell our mums. We were then relieved for the night shift by our new members to the team, **Cpl John Douglas** and **Sig Squirrel Cade**. Oh the bliss of an eight hour sleep coming up.

**DAY 4**

As usual the radio checks are fine and the rest of the day is spent chasing the requisitions at Ondangwa airbase. One of the main problems is that the supplies are not reaching Ondangwa from Windhoek. In the afternoon **Miss Frances Edwards** from the MOD asked for a volunteer for a newspaper report. Well with blue eyes like that who could refuse her?, besides **Staff Wright** had been on the TV earlier in the week.

At the end of day 4, out of a maximum of 556 election reports we were missing five which amazed the civilians at the base including the Regional Director **Mr John Rambuya**.

**DAY 5**

The final day of voting and the relaxed atmosphere in the complex is easily noticeable as everyone senses what has been achieved over the week and that history along with the birth of a nation is just around the corner. At the nerve centre of the nets sits **Staff Wright**, whom we can't keep off the radios as he sits his A2-A1 upgrading. A marked improvement by our beloved DTg leader. Then comes the recovery phase which seems to have been put together rather hurriedly to say the least and when it is transmitted to A/S causes quite a bit of confusion. With a certain amount of patience everything is sorted out and the teams head past us on their way to Ongwediva training centre. Surprisingly quite a few happen to call in at the station to have a look at the horrible Owambo O's who used to shout at them for using the radio when the net was directed.

With our dets returning from Ruacana led by the infamous **Cpl Dingley McIntosh** and Eenhana led by **Cpl Brown**, the stage was set for just a couple of wet ones for a job well done. That night at the accommodation we had a barbecue and the guests included the secretaries from the Civpol 'Whom we never wound up once during the whole week' and our Civpol friends, mainly the Irish lads and Rickie the Fijian. On the entertainment side of life an unknown star was discovered in the shape of **Tom Lundyon** who made the evening with an amazing quantity of classic songs with his guitar as accompaniment. From BRITCON Oshakati thanks to everyone who came and sorry to those who could not make it.

The following morning we left Owamboland after saying our goodbyes to all our new friends and as we headed to Grootfontein our last A/S broadcast to anyone who cared to listen (not forgetting the best voice on the net) was one of thanks to the Owambo O team for everyone's help, co-operation and sometimes extreme patience. And with that Owambo O had made its last transmission, or has it? Because if you've got a country that still requires independence and the comms side of life is worrying you then you know where to find them and if you can afford the $1 38 cents a day then you might be able to hire the team from Owamboland. In years to come they may forget our names but they won't forget the dreaded voice of 'A/S this is Owambo O you will not transmit on this net unless first given permission by me'.

**CONTACT GIRAFFE—WAIT OUT**
**by Cpl Bernard**

Four hours of straight road to the north east of Windhoek lies the Germanic town of Tsumeb. The sky blue and white flag unfurls itself in the compound, echoing the call to perform a duty. 'Today, 7 November is the first day in her history that this country goes to the polls'.

It is 0559 hrs and in one minute approximately 23 district officers will be asking their polling stations for the initial radio check of the election period. To reach this day has been the collaborative effort by thousands of people over many years, and in the chosen words of fellow Welshman **Keith Beavan**, the District Electoral Officer, '. . . For a simple task. To ensure a free and fair election'.

Namibia is noted for its mineral resources, and it is here in Tsumeb, the most prolific of Namibia's mining communities where **LCpl Cox** and myself were 'abandoned' by messrs **Sgts Dubbs** and **Simpson** with the parting comment 'See you in two weeks then' to which I could only offer a meek 'Yeah . . . thanks for the lift'.

The Matador and Mrs Miggins bakery seemed long away. Fortunately though we did not have to establish ourselves, for the previous months comms trial had proved quite fruitful, namely the visit to the three polling stations in the Etosha wildlife reserve (including the overnight stay under canvas at Okaukeujo). Rumour has it that we forgot to take the photographic equipment that is part and parcel of such a comms trial. Gentlemen, we have the evidence.

Tsumeb is the cultural cross roads of the country with a complete kaleidoscope of tribes including Owambo, Herero, Kavango, Boesman and the Damara who talk with a series of 'clinks'. Close georgraphical features include the Hoba Metal Meteorite (Largest Known) and the mighty Baobab tree.

Our mission here is to provide communication for the SWA/Namibian elections. The UN Civpol took charge of the HF fitted Landcruiser just two days before the mobile team was due to deploy and to add insult to injury the radio was not functioning.

The day prior to deployment **Keith (Beavan)** gathered his motley crew to discuss the intentions of each department during the elections, whereupon **Cox** and myself practised our M of I to a sympathetic if not bewildered audience of UN personnel. Our confidence was dashed when we asked a Civpol representative to give an example of the proword 'Say Again', after a pause he answered 'Say again all after' 'Hello my name is **Cpl Bernard** from BRITCON'.

That same day the 'Namibian', a local newspaper, ran a front page report on the anticipated violence at Tsumeb. Later reports reached us of a build up of Troops on the Angolan border, suddenly my imagination ran wild with visions of **Sgt Edge** on punji sticks in the Caprivi with **Sig Wilson**, moving the ARQ into the sangar. However, **Sgt Keating** beamed us back to earth with the assurance that the reports had been withdrawn.

So here we are, net controller for our two mobiles and two static stations. With only two minor incidents to date, one of which was the mass electorate who wanted to cast their vote in the first hour. We are now on the third day of voting and everyone is more confident in their approach, including the use of prowords. Occasionally our thoughts turn to our families, girlfriends and a pint down at the pub that only the gozhome bird can bring . . . but until then we remain a small but important integer of the UNTAG mission for a 'Free and Fair Election'.

PS Temps are in the 40s. Must go before the pen melts . . .

**ELECTION COMMS—OPUWO**
**A report by Sgt Steve Welding and LCpl Greene**

We arrived in Opuwo, a small settlement town in the north west of Namibia and began setting up the communications equipment. We had a motorola HF base station for working to our 17 mobile polling stations and a mobile Inmarsat station for rear comms back to Windhoek. We could have used the phone but there are only two lines into Opuwo and one of them is for the sole use of SWAPOL (Police).

We had a barbecue on the first night mainly to feed the interpreters who had turned up. I could not help wondering where we were going to get the meat from, but then it turned up, and jumped off the back of a truck on its own, it was 'Billy' Goat, a nice friendly animal and it didn't taste bad either.

Our District Commander in Opuwo was **Kror Volkov** from Russia, I think we are the first two British soldiers to have a Russian Commander since the Second World War. The day before voting was due to begin we prepared our civilian monitoring team as best we could and tried to reassure them, mind you Opuwo has a striking resemblance to Barter town in Mad Max 3.

The local tribe are called the Ovahimba and are said to be one of the five most primitive tribes in the world. They wear only a goatskin around their waists and the women cover themselves in a mixture of cows' fat and red dust to give them a red shiny appearance, it also protects them from the heat which can easily get above 50°.

The first day of the elections proved exciting, two of the landcruisers were damaged beyond repair whilst the Indian party were filling up in the petrol station, and the Pakistani landcruiser didn't quite make it to the first polling station due to the fact that they rolled it into a ditch. But after all the initial upsets the next five days went very well and within five days voting was closed and 96% of our registered voters had voted which was well above the expected percentage.

Overall it was a highly successful operation with hours of hard work, but a wealth of experience was gained by all.

**KAVANGO ELECTION TEAM**
**Report by SSgt Neil Duncan**

The team to control communications in the Kavango Region consisted of **SSgt Neil Duncan** and **LCpl Dickie Dyer**, Rundu District Office, **Cpl Jackson** and **Sig Davies**, Nkurukuru office, **Cpl Si Rogerson** and **Sig Gav Mair**, Bagani office.

The teams were deployed a few days prior to the elections starting which was a wise move in many respects. It took a few days of constant instruction to get the UN tech to move the radios at Rundu

to a more suitable location rather than by the front door of the police station.

Generally all the teams deployed with a system that would allow them to talk to one of the control stations. The fact that a few teams forgot food, water and sleeping equipment was of little concern because they were all too quick to tell us over the air. We maintained they should have been left to rough it, if they forgot the kit, but that is how it goes.

The comms over the five day election period worked well with an average of 94% communications with the out stations. The results came flooding in after 1800 hrs each night. It took a few days to convince the Pakistani and Indian operators that there was no need to repeat everything four times, we had in fact got the information first time round.

Each night all the polling stations results were compiled by the Aussie electoral guy and then faxed or telexed, when the fax went down, to Suiderhof. We could then afford to relax and monitor the nets for any distress signals. Unfortunately we had to inform Kavango Mike 18 that three crates of beer hardly constituted a distress signal worthy of scrambling the Italian Helicopters (Heli-Italy).

The comms in the Kavango region worked well with the control teams conducting themselves professionally and proving that we could cope with any problem, big or small, that the UN or South African Administrators General's staff threw at us. Lack of ballot papers and boxes springs to mind but a quick reshuffle of numbers between stations eased this problem until resupply arrived from Windhoek.

'Be advised' that **LCpl Dyer** had total command of the HF net. At one point he expressed his control to such an extent that his feet left the floor.

## 31 Sig Regt (V)
## Hammersmith



47 Sqn (Middlesex Yeomanry) marching to St Pauls on Lafone Day on 22 October led by Cpl Cook bearing the Colours and flanked by Sgt Prance and Cpl Cheshire wearing the Middlesex Yeomanry uniforms

**REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE**

The Regiment was honoured when asked to represent the TA on the Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph and was led by **Capt Stephen Potter**. The Regiment took part in a further seven Remembrance Parades ranging from St Paul's Cathedral to Douai, France.

**OFFICERS TECHNICAL TRAINING WEEKEND**

Never let it be said that '31' Officers are an ignorant bunch. A crash course in signalling, organised by **Capt Paul Fredricks** for the 'young' Officers, left some of them wondering if they had missed their vocation in life!

Line laying and cable laying in the sheeting rain proved too much for some and radio relay proved more popular. **Capt Andrew Cornish** and **Lt Julie Aspinall** found out why masts have guy ropes whilst trying to erect a free standing mast whilst **FofS Henry Taylor** watched a couple of Captains plodding through the mud checking a power cable before telling them about the power switch on the genny.

At the end of the weekend an enlightened group of Officers returned to their drill halls ready to impress their soldiers with their new found knowledge. It is even rumoured that some have bought screwdrivers ready for the exercise season.





47 Sqn Representatives at the Memorial on Armistice Day at Douai, France during their exchange visit on 11 November
*Left to Right:* SSgt Keefe, Sgts Prance and Able and OC 47 Sqn Maj Chris Mote



LCpl Paul Burton from HQ Sqn inspects the trophy he is about to receive from the Master of the Innholders

**EXERCISE RUSHAROUND**

An enormously successful Public Relations weekend was held in Rushmoor Arena, Aldershot giving the opportunity for local dignitaries such as the Mayors of local Boroughs, employers of the soldiers, The Worshipful Company of Innholders, schools, families and friends the chance to see what their local Regiment does at weekends.

After a tour of the communication vehicles and the LAD display winching up a four tonner, the guests watched the Blue Helmets drop-in, (well most landed in the arena! others almost joined the next display). The commentary was given by **Capt George Devine**, one of our AO's, who would have taken part had he not got his arm and leg in plaster from a previous display jump earlier in the season. The White Helmets then roared in and gave an impressive display demonstrating how many people could ride a motorbike at any one time. The Innholders Presentation was the final event of a most unique and successful afternoon. Two members of the White Helmets rode up to the Master of the Innholders, **Mr Barlett**, and handed him the Cup which he then presented to the Outstanding Soldier of the Year from the Regiment—**LCpl Paul Burton** from HQ Sqn.

The guests stayed for afternoon tea and after a barbecue and a party the soldiers resumed where they had left off and carried on with their communication exercise.

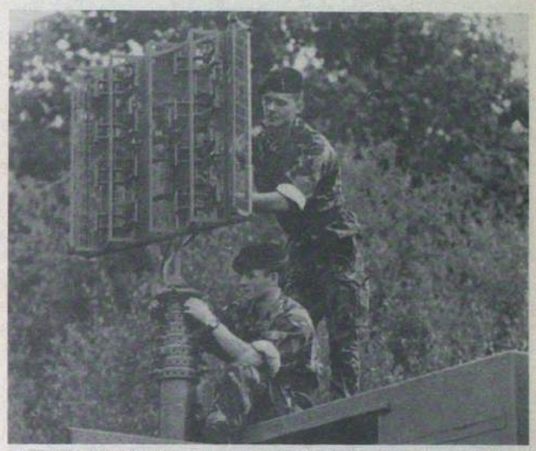
**EXERCISE FORERUNNER**

A select number of the Regiment crossed a very rough Channel to carry out a week's recce for next June's Ex Calm Fence. **SSgt 'Shirley' Cox** and the team reported that the Belgian beer is still very drinkable and in an effort to keep the workers on the straight and narrow the Ops Officer **Capt Linda Coe** decreed that the recce reports and PPI's would come before the bar . . .

**SPORT—SOCCER HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON**

Having prised some money from the London District Sports Board, we have purchased a complete new soccer strip (the previous one now sits on display in the Regimental Museum). With the TA Knockout Cup in mind our Soccer Manager, **SSgt Taff Thomas SQMS**, threw out a challenge to the current Army Minor Unit Cup Champions PCD RE at Mill Hill and then fled to the East—Bulgaria! Suitably attired, the team proceeded to scare PCD for the first 15 minutes but suffice to say that training told in the end with the result 10—3 to the PCD and sore feet for Bob the caretaker. The next fixture was the semi-final of the London Dist TA Cup against 4RGJ ably led by **Sgt Neil Holcombe** and due to supreme marshalling by **WO2 (RQMS) George Cook**, saw us the victors 8—3 and our specatators wild with delight. Our next fixture will be the final in January to be played against 265 Sig Sqn (V).

Congratulations to **Capts Penny** and **Tony Rose** on their new arrival, young **Matthew** who received a visit from the Recruiting Officer in his first week but declined to sign up just yet.



Sig Paul Russell shows lineman Sig Oliver what radio relay is all about



Maj Mark Timenski OC 83 Sqn escorting the Mayor of Wandsworth during Ex Rusharound

## 32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)
## Glasgow

Well here we go again from the frozen cousins in the north where currently temperatures are hovering at around – 12°; even our haggii (plural for Haggis) are fully dressed in overboots.

**VISIT OF CINC UKLF GENERAL SIR CHARLES HUXTABLE KCB, CBE, ADC**

We were most honoured to have the CinC UKLF to visit us for the evening on Tuesday 31 October 1989. A great deal was packed into the evening which started with a car chase on Glasgow Airport similar to those comic screens from Police Academy films. The CO **Lt Col Michael Anderson** went with spare staff car to the special reception area as previously agreed with the airport authorities. The CinC together with Comd 2 Sig Bde, **Brig J. O. C. Alexander OBE** and his COS **Lt Col James Budd** landed in their helicopter and hitched a lift in a passing yellow luggage vehicle. Meanwhile the CO led by the Airport Security team arrived to find a rather confused pilot. There then followed a debate conducted over the airport security radio as to where the VIP party had gone. Eventually they emerged along with other passengers from the Heathrow flight outside the main terminal. Would this affect the CO's turn in office? Read our next thrilling instalment. In the TAC the VIP party enjoyed an evening orchestrated by our Training Major **Maj Brian Campbell**, Second in Command **Maj Allan Lapsley** and the RSM **WO2 Trevor Mortlock**. Our final fling was with the presentation of the LS & GC to our Yeoman **WO2 Paul Forryan**. Both he and his wife **Kay** were in the Sergeants' Mess for this memorable occasion. The PMC of the Sergeants' Mess **WO2 Brian Bolam** organised it exceptionally well so it is certain to be well remembered. A night raid was made on the CO's house where the party, with a few heartwarming tipples, settled down for the night. This ended part of a full programme orchestrated by HQ 2 Sig Bde which we would like to think showed the CinC just how able we are to meet the many commitments placed upon us.

**WEEKEND TRAINING**

Op Orderly—need we say more, really did throw our training team into a frenzy of activity. **SSgt Jill Naughton** wrote the training schedule and the RSM and Training Team really showed how flexible they could be at reorganising a complete weekends activities at the drop of a pin. A selection of competitions including map reading skills, shooting, cross-country walking and the assault course. All were agreed that it was an excellent weekend's training. Well done the Training Team in the Junior Dorm of RHQ!

**REGIMENTAL BAND**

Contrary to popular belief—34 Sig Regt (V) is not the only Regiment to have a band—see notes by 28 (Northag) Sig Regt. Our Pipers under the Pipe Major **Ian Mortimer** have played at a number of engagements, the most recent being the dining out of the Comd 2 Sig Bde **Brig J. O. C. Alexander OBE** from the Sergeants' Mess at Corsham. The CO authorised four Pipers along with the Chief Clerk (he has been known to play the leg bells) to play the commander out. A separate article has been written about our band.

**OFFICERS' MESS**

Since the last issue we have expanded quite considerably and very much welcome our two new doctors **Susan Langridge** and **Fiona Davidson**. In addition **2Lt Shona McCallum** has now decided to take the plunge and join 52 (L) Sig Sqn. Excellent taste she has. **OCdts Patricia Baird, Helene Martinski, Isobelle Hughes, Michael Gahan** and **Daniel Dobbs** have all been progressing well on their DES courses. We also welcome **Capt Heinz Tittmar** and **2Lt Annette McCandless** to 69 (NIH) Sig Sqn and **2Lt Daniel Robertson** to 51 (H) Sig Sqn. If you need new golf clubs he just happens to work for the right Company! We are delighted that **Capt Willie Barron** has been accepted to work for Edinburgh Herriott-Watt UOTC and **Lt Gillian Bingham** for Comms Branch HQNI as our foot in the door. A special mention must go to **Capt Dennis Nicholas**, the PSAO of 52 (L) Sig Sqn who organises on behalf of the Officers the Catering side of life which is always excellent including the dinner during the recent visit of the CinC.

**SERGEANTS' MESS**

We are very pleased to report that **SSgt John McNab** has been selected for promotion to WO2 and **Sgts Tery McVey** and **John Taylor**



WO2 Paul Forryan with wife Kay after the presentation of his LS & GC

*Photos by Courtesy of Southbank Photography Ltd*



Pte Ruth Donnel and Sig David Gates attempting the wall with their casualty



WO2 Rab Campbell trying to reassure Pte Ruth Donnel of 69 (NIH) Sig Sqn prior to tackling the ropes

have attained their crowns to become Staff Sergeants. Welcome into the Mess to **Sgts June Thompson** and **Paul Harvey** of 52 (L) Sig Sqn. Life gets harder in the heady atmosphere of the Sergeants' Mess.

**REMEMBRANCE DAY**

All Squadrons attended and took part in their own Remembrance Day Parades. In Glasgow we were delighted to host not only all our past members of the Regiment together with their wives but also 15 members from the Erskine Hospital together with three staff members. The Erskine Hospital is of course Scotland's home for old Ex-Servicement and receives a regular sum of money from all ranks in the Regiment. This is a long standing association of which we are very proud.



## 33 Sig Regt (V)
## Liverpool

With 1989 now coming to a close preparations for the Christmas Social calendar are well in hand and a 'air' of festivity is beginning to emerge.

Having just completed two months of PRE's, UEI's and Fire inspections complete with Audit Boards both the Permanent Staff and TA personnel are looking forward to a break.

**VISIT OF THE SOinC**

On Thursday 2 November the Regimental Headquarters was visited by the Signal Officer in Chief **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook**. The SOinC accompanied by the Comd 11 Sig Bde, **Brig C. Garton** and the CO **Lt Col D. G. W. Gardiner** toured Alamein Barracks at Huyton and met all military and civilian staff. Also in attendance were Brigade Staff officers and our Honorary Colonel **Col J. Greenhill TD**.

Part of the tour included an equipment demonstration of Triffid and HF vehicles carried out by volunteer officers and soldiers of 59 Sqn (Liverpool) and 80 Sqn (Chester) where the SOinC spent some considerable time discussing the merits of TA soldiering with the volunteers.

The visit concluded with lunch in the Regimental Sergeants' Mess where **Gen Cook** took the opportunity to meet all the Permanent Staff of our other sub units.

All in all a memorable occasion which was thoroughly enjoyed by all ranks.



The SOinC arrives at Huyton and is met by the CO and WO1 (RMTO) Steve Davies



SSgt (SQMS) George Whitfield and the SOinC reminisce over past service together with the Bde Comd and CO looking on



The SOinC discusses a technical point with Sgt Phil Newman



The SOinC and Bde Comd share a joke with Mrs Pat Ralph and RQMS (Huggy) Higgins in the clothing store

**NEWS FROM 42 SIG SQN (MANCHESTER)**

**TA AWARDS**

On 22 November, **WO2 (SSM) John Morrison** received a Lord Lieutenant's Certificate from the Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, **Col J. B. Timmins OBE, TD, JP** at the TA Centre at Rusholme, Manchester.

**WO2 Morrison** joined the TA in 1972 as a REME fitter and served in the Regiment's LAD until 1978 when as a Sergeant he transferred to Royal Signals. By 1982 he had risen once again to Sergeant having reverted to the rank of Signalman on transfer.

For the next few years he was employed as the MT Sergeant in HQ Sqn at Huyton. During that period he became a Qualified Testing Officer, testing 360 drivers on their HGV tests and passing 244. This task required many hours of his spare time which he gave willingly.

In 1986 he was promoted WO2 and assumed the appointment of SSM of HQ Sqn, shortly after this promotion he was present in the TA Centre at Huyton when the 'high rise' flat disaster occurred. In the absence of any officer **WO2 Morrison** assumed control of the tragic incident arranging aid and comfort of the civilian residents. This fine display of leadership earned recognition from the local authority and also received a GOC's commendation from the GOC NWDIST. In 1988 he transferred to 42 Sig Sqn as SSM.

He is congratulated by all ranks of the Regiment on receiving this well deserved award.



WO2 (SSM) John Morrison receiving his Lord Lieutenant's certificate from the Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester

**CORPS ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

A small but intrepid group of Orienteers represented the Regiment in the Corps Orienteering Championships at Blandford on 4 and 5 November 1989.

The group was led by **Lt Andy Payne** (80 Sig Sqn) and consisted of **Maj Jean Payne** from RHQ, **WO2 (SSM) Bernie Temmen** (59 Sig Sqn), **Cpls Tony Wylie, Neil Olsson** and **Pte Carolyn Sankey** (80 Sig Sqn).

Unfortunately because our numbers were so few we could not enter the team events, however, we were quite successful in the individual events with **Lt Andy Payne** taking honours as the second individual and TA Champion prize. **Maj Jean Payne** took second lady with **Cpl Tony Wylie** being the first TA finisher on the 'B' course.

After a sudden downpour of rain on the Saturday, Sunday dawned

bright and clear and Waverham Forest welcomed us back for the relays. We were able to enter two teams in this event. Again **Lt Andy Payne** was successful in leading the field home in the A relay with **Cpl Tony Wylie** finishing a minute later in the B relay. The team eventually finishing fifth overall—not bad considering we had only four men and two ladies in the competition.

Thanks from the team to **Capt Nick Bateson** and the rest of the organisers from the School of Signals for putting on this most enjoyable event. Next year we hope to field a full team!

**NEWS FROM 80 SIG SQN (CHESTER)**

Two of our stalwart volunteers recently entered the blissful world of wedlock. **Pte Karen Drew** who serves in the Squadron as a Pay Clerk and **Sig Robert White** who is an HF Operator decided that they could not cope with the separation at the end of each drill night and weekend exercise and took the plunge at St Catherine's Church, Higher Tranmere, on 16 September 1989.

The wedding was attended by a large number of Squadron personnel which left the Regimental exercise a bit depleted that weekend. However, they have been forgiven and we are sure that the honeymoon in Torremelinos made up for their disappointment at missing the exercise!



'Three cheers for the happy couple' from *(left to right):* LCpl Ray White (3rd Cheshire), Sig Chris Bermingham, Phil Jones, Robert White and Karen White, John McNulty and Paul Bermingham

**PS ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

On 25 October, we said farewell to **SSgt 'Butch' Cassidy** and his wife **Maureen** who have now left us for the green pastures of Catterick.

We thank them both for their efforts and companionship during their tour with us, and wish them all the best for their future.

We welcome **Sgt 'Paddy' Rice** who has now joined us from 210 Sig Sqn, his wife **Kate** and their family and hope they enjoy their stay with us.

## 34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V) Middlesbrough

**LIGHT AID DETACHMENT**

The Regimental Light Aid Detachment from Middlesbrough beat 11 other teams from North East and North West Districts to win top place in a tough test of their trade and military skills. The 11 strong team gained their victory in a 36 hour exercise on the Catterick Training area, North Yorkshire which included a range of practical tests including the recovery of a Saracen armoured vehicle from a 40ft deep ravine, manufacturing a vehicle brake part under battlefield conditions, cross country driving, a night patrol and shooting. They were also given written practical tests of their knowledge of Map Reading, Recognition, First Aid and NBC. Apart from winning the overall trophy they were placed first on the radio test.

The team was presented with the 'Warcop Trophy'—named after the Army camp in Cumbria—by **Maj Gen Dennis Shaw**, the Director General of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering.



Maj Gen D. Shaw DGEME with WO2 Mick Pape and his team after the presentation of the Warcop Trophy

**REMEMBRANCE PARADE**

As in previous years this Regiment was responsible for organising the Remembrance Parade and Service held in Middlesbrough and Darlington, and attended services held in Leeds, Hull and Gateshead.

The Parade and Service in Middlesbrough were held at the Cenotaph and attended by both military and civilian participants. The March Past was led by the Regimental Band under the Bandmaster **WO1 John Dodd** commanded by the 2IC **Maj David Bodycombe**.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

To **2Lts Catherine Dixon, Christopher Jones** and **Peter McTiernan** on successfully completing their TA Commissioning Course at RMA Sandhurst.

To the following on their recent promotions: **Sgts Andy Hughes, Glen Wicks, Tim Butler, Cpls Mick Clare, Chris Bell, Caroline Yates, Tom Walker, LCpls Terry Pursey, David Smith, Anthony Ham, Karen Richardson, Kath Ayres** and **Hazel Fraser**.

**FAREWELL**

We bid farewell to **Maj David Bannister** off to Hong Kong, **SSgt Bill Smith** to Northern Ireland and **SSgt Robin Gilbey** to Catterick. We wish them and their families good fortune for the future.

**WELCOME**

To **SSgts Stuart Read** and **Bill Laurie**.

**ANNUAL CAMP BAOR**

Readers of the previous issues of *The Wire* will have seen the reports from the Air and Road Parties. The Camp itself proved that our confidence in our equipment and revised role was justified and we were well able to meet the requirements of our users. We were pleased to entertain a number of visitors inlcuding the SOinC, **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook**; Comd Comms BAOR,**Maj Gen P. R. Davies** ; and the Mayor of Middlesbrough, **Councillor Chris Robson**. We were also pleased that the Hon Col, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle** was able to spend several days with us and visit every location.







Mayor of Middlesbrough, Councillor Chris Robson and Honorary Colonel Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle visit Commcen Oscar during Ex Plain Sailing



LCpl Mally Banks gets ready to refuel the generators



Comd Comms BAOR, Maj Gen P. R. Davies visiting Commcen Mike



LCpl Peter Stead assures Comd Comms that field cooking is easy



The SOinC talks to Cpl Martin Hardy (49 Sqn)

# 35 Sig Regt (V)
# Sutton Coldfield

**VISIT OF COMMANDER IN CHIEF (UKLF)**

On Wednesday 6 December the Commander-in-Chief UKLF, **Gen Sir Charles Huxtable KCB, CBE, ADC** visited elements of the Regiment based in the Birmingham area. The Commander accompanied by Comd 11 Sig Bde (V), **Brig Conrad Garton** commenced his visit at 48 Sig Sqn (V) based in Sparkbrook where he was met and escorted throughout his visit by the CO **Lt Col David Dobson,** the Adjt **Capt Ian Dudding** and the RSM **WO1 Mick O'Hare**. Here the General listened to a presentation on the role of the Regiment given by the Ops Offr **Maj Paul Renecle**. He then toured the TA Centre and met members of the Squadron including the civilian staff. Shortly before lunch the General went to RHQ at Cateswell House, Sutton Coldfield and toured RHQ, HQ Sqn and the LAD where he met the military and civilian staff. The General presented the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for Meritorious Service to **WO2 M. F. Kearney** ACC (V) in the Sergeants' Mess after which he shared a drink with the SNCOs from all the Squadrons who had made a special journey to be present at the presentation and to meet the Commander-in-Chief UKLF.

After a relaxing and enjoyable lunch with Regimental Officers the General left behind schedule.



The Commander-in-Chief chatting to *(left to right)*: Lt Chris Heaton, Sgt Hughes, Cpl Hughes WRAC, SSgts Heaselgrave and Jevons and Pte Castle



The CinC presenting the Lord Lieutenants Certificate of Meritorious Service to WO2 M. F. Kearney ACC (V)



Our illustrious Bar Staff who attended the Commander-in-Chief during his visit
*(Left to right):* Cpl Gillian Simpson, Pte Christine Castle and Cpl Diana Skeenan



The Commander-in-Chief arriving at 48 Sig Sqn



The CinC UKLF taking lunch with the Officers



**COMMANDING OFFICER'S FAREWELL**

On Friday 1 December **Lt Col David Dobson** was dined out of the Officers Mess. In recognition of his posting to Saudi Arabia the Mess was decorated in a bedouin tent theme which set the tone of the evening (although a number of lady guests were requested to remove their yashmaks until after the dinner). After a memorable speech by the 2IC **Maj John James** which will surely go down in the annals of the Regiment's history the CO was presented with a magnificent antique French carriage clock by the Hon Col, **Col Mike Beatty**. Throughout the evening the Mess was entertained by the Corps Band. This very special dinner marked the first of many farewell engagements on the CO's calendar before he formally handed over to **Lt Col Brian Foxon** on Wednesday 20 December. **Col David,** who has been duly nicknamed 'The Lion of The Desert', and **Judy** go with our very best wishes for success in Saudi Arabia.




Lt Col David Dobson handing over to Lt Col Brian Foxon

**EXERCISE EXECUTIVE STRETCH**

During the weekend 28/29 October the Regiment entertained some 40 executives from local industry in the West Midlands and put their managerial and leadership skills to the test with a series of arduous tasks designed to stretch their physical and mental abilities to the limit. The principal aim of Ex Executive Stretch is to bring the Territorial Army and the business community closer together and encourage recruiting by inviting civilian executives, of both sexes and of mixed ability and age groups, to attend TA weekends specially organised to offer them a physical and intellectual challenge.

After much planning and preparation by the Training Major, **Maj David Elson** and his intrepid team of Directing and Admin Staff, dozens of apprehensive looking executives assembled at Cateswell House, Sutton Coldfield on a bitterly cold Friday evening and wondered what they had let themselves in for. Here they received a detailed brief on the exercise and were given basic instruction in map reading, first aid and survival techniques before being divided into teams. At this stage escape committees had not yet been formed! The enthusiastic but bemused teams then moved to Leek Training area to undertake a series of challenging, formidable and devious tasks; which during the course of the weekend were instrumental in releasing hugh reserves of energy, perspiration and adrenalin. (Blood, Sweat and Tears to the uninformed.)

In wet, cold, windy and thoroughly miserable weather the executives, completed a surprise route march on Friday evening and during the course of Saturday they were required to engage in rock climbing and abseilling (quickly endorsed Executive Stress), construct a raft and cross a river (some succeeded, some got even wetter and became more miserable), negotiate a difficult assault course and fire a weapon on the 30m range. All of this was followed by another welcome route march back to the bivouac area established at Upper Fleet Green. For the benefit of those not familiar with the bivouac area the teams were accommodated, much to their dismay, in a disused (but covered) pigsty attached to a deserted farmhouse but, because it was used for training purposes, it had the benefit of electricity. Exhausted but undaunted the teams began to prepare their evening meal of cordon bleu compo and looked forward to a good night of rejuvenating sleep. Unfortunately as they lit their hexamine blocks the power failed and they had to cook by candlelight. Rather surprisingly their smiles didn't fade with the lights; well at least not until our thoughtful CO and Exercise Director, **Lt Col David Dobson** set them a written Command Task to be carried out some miles away at Anzio Camp.

Their humorous responses to this task have been censored for the sake of decency, military discipline and to protect the innocent.

Having survived Day 1 the executives were treated to an early Reveille at 0530 hrs on Sunday morning to participate in the final command task. By this time the rain had intensified adding to the misery of bones and muscles that refused to respond to urgent messages from the brain. However a hearty breakfast soon stimulated the senses and off they went on another unexpected Route March. Despite this the determination, competitiveness and team spirit displayed by all teams did not falter. Much to the relief of all teams the Route March ended after 3 miles and a coach returned them to Sutton Coldfield to compete in the last Command Task. All teams were faced with reassembling a trailer which had to be moved across a simulated ravine. On the successful completion of this final task the teams were dismissed to the showers and were allowed to recover their composure and dignity before being greeted and congratulated by their employers.

A Regimental debrief took place in Cateswell House where participating executives were presented with a suitably printed souvenir tee shirt, a Regimental mug, a Regimental folder with photograph and a welcome pint of beer. All agreed that their confidence, team spirit and leadership skills have benefited from having taken part in the exercise.

*Footnote:*

The exercise attracted a tremedous amount of media interest and featured prominently in the local press and on TV and radio stations and we are confident it will achieve its aim of promoting the Territorial Army and encouraging recruits from all walks of life within the local community.

However the success of exercise was due to the tremendous efforts of the organising staff and all members of the Regiment who assisted in this unique weekend and to outside organisations such as the West Midland TAVRA, APSC, 202 General Hospital (V) and the Western District Specialist Training Team which provided invaluable assistance and support.



A student attempting a very brave smile



Maj Paul Fathers and the Trg Maj David Elson, briefing executives prior to firing on the 30m range



A scene just prior to the involuntary swimming competition

**89 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) BITS AND PIECES**

**WEDDING FRENZY**

The whole Squadron recently reeled under the financial strain of three weddings in one month involving four of our family. Not only were lots of wedding presents required but the weddings took place over successive weekends inflicting a serious blow on **2Lt Ian Barnes**'s attempts to make the Squadron teetotal. Needless to say many members of the Squadron were seen to break the pledge whilst toasting the happy couples. This helped to restore the bar profits—and everyone managed to walk home! Nevertheless our congratulations and best wishes for a happy married life are extended to: **SSgt Derek Sharman** and **Anne, Cpl Steve** (Tomo) **Thomas** and **Jackie** and **LCpl Rich** (Red Shoes) **Harley** and **Suzanne**.

**SUMMER TRAINING**

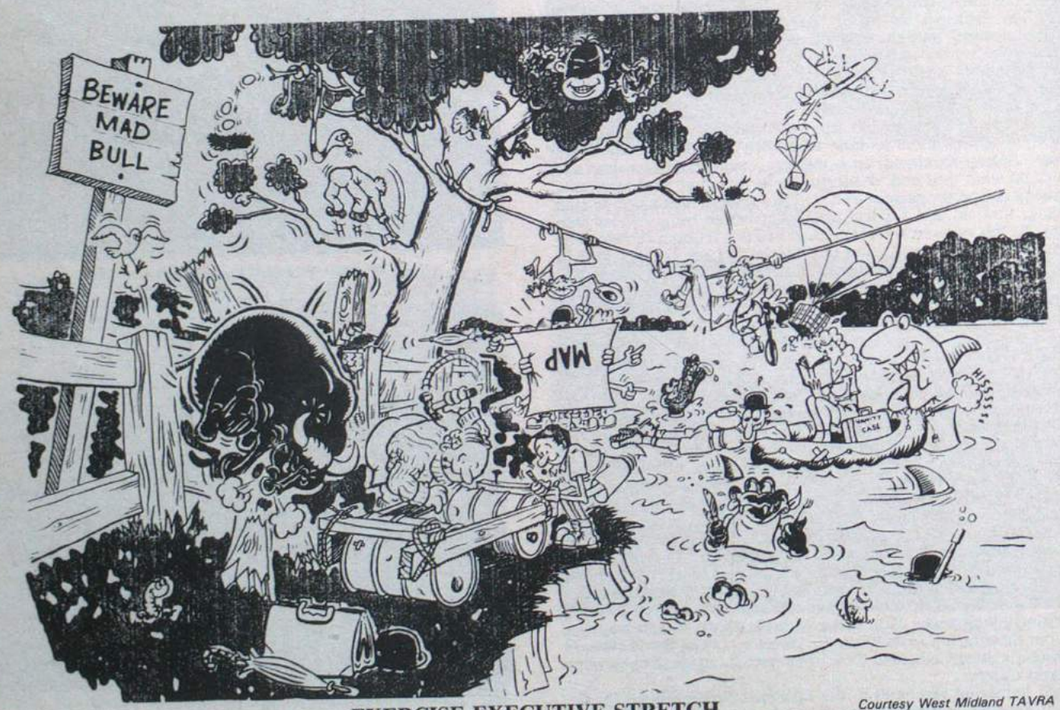
After a very successful Annual Camp at Scarborough the Squadron was involved in a series of Infantry/Fieldcraft Exercises during the Summer months stretching into Autumn. Ex Red Heat (nicknamed Dead Beat after the exercise) took place in the Brecon Beacons and gave all members the opportunity to practise and improve their military skills. However, it soon became evident that some needed to practise more than others! **2Lt David Hooper** who was responsible for Map Reading lessons got lost going to his Map Reading stand and **2Lt Ian Barnes** who was running camouflage and concealment lost a squad! Many lessons were also learned, not least by **Sgt Mick Clarke** who has never trusted a Brigadier riding a horse. After losing his map whilst orienteering (he said it blew away) he asked the unnamed Brigadier for directions to a specific car park/picnic area. The Brigadier gave him very precise directions to a different car park 4 miles in the opposite direction. All attempts to verify the accuracy of this story have failed miserably.

Ex Stand To which took place some time later was a little easier on the feet and brain and was designed to test our Commcen Defence and Recce skills. The exercise was entered into enthusiastically by all members who were engaged in Commcen Defence and even went a bit over the top with their Defence techniques. (All John Wayne war movies have now been confiscated).

**COMMS TRAINING—EXERCISE AUTUMN LAD**

During the weekend 6-8 October the Squadron deployed with the Regiment, on Ex Autumn Lad which was a Brigade level exercise. As far as the Squadron was concerned the exercise was a mixed success; Bravo Tp under the command of **2Lt Jacobs** carried out a night move into his Troops first location in a wood. **Alan**, wishing to use the available trees to his best advantage unfortunately chose the thickest part of the wood. Bravo Tp is living proof, that hit correctly, a tree can be felled 5ft up its trunk and used as effective camouflage without causing any apparent damage to vehicles. A major clear up operation did however ensue although there is absolutely no truth in the rumour that Troop SSgt **Charlie Walker** now has a wood burning stove. This incident is recorded in the Unit Log for posterity.

The exercise was also a first for our new junior soldiers freshly joined from the local cadet Unit. They were thrilled with the experience and are looking forward to life in the Squadron.




**EXERCISE EXECUTIVE STRETCH**

*Courtesy West Midland TAVRA*



# 36 Sig Regt (V)
# Wanstead

**ROYAL SIGNALS ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS 1989**

This year 36 Sig Regt (V)'s team for the Royal Signals Orienteering Championships was made up of runners from Wanstead TAC in London, Warley TAC in Brentwood, Colchester TAC, Cambridge TAC and Bedford TAC. So after a long drive after work on Friday the team met up at Fleet Services on the M3 and continued to Blandford arriving sometime after midnight.

No alarm clock was required for the men's team to get up for breakfast as they were sleeping, in the dining room! After breakfast it was a short drive to the first day's event location.

The first day's courses were a mixture of fast runnable ground and very hard going young plantations. A good run from **Cpl Louise Walker** of 45 Sqn finishing third overall, backed up by good performances from **LCpl Sue Kelly** (54 Sqn) and **LCpl Haigh** (54 Sqn) on her first run, put the girls into second place. The men also ran well but the opposition was stiffer than in previous years and so it was fifth place for them.

Continuing the tradition of previous years the team departed to the nearest town for food and drink, Poole was the venue but it all shut too early there!

The relay event on the second day was in the same forest as the first day but over different ground. The mens team held their position from the first day and finished fifth overall to retain the Pritchard Cup for best TA team for the third consecutive year.

Team selection went astray for the girls relay team and they slipped from second to third place overall. Unfortunately this was not evident until the results were published the following week and so the girls were presented with the runners-up trophies on the day, getting them back may prove difficult!

Still, all the team is to be congratulated for their spirit and team effort in achieving excellent results against strong opposition and we look forward to next year.



Cpl Louise Walker—3rd WRAC

**EXERCISE PLAIN SAILING**

This seemed a most appropriate name for our annual camp when we heard that the Regiment was to deploy complete to Belgium in the two Landing Ships Logistic (LSL) Sir Galahad and Sir Tristam. In the event the fair weather did not give us the opportunity to test the notoriety of the ships' ability to give instant sea-sickness, although many pills were popped in anticipation.

After a safe landing in Zebrugge naval dock and a refuelling stop, less those whose Belgian police escort got lost in the dockyard, we deployed to our locations for the next two weeks.

Stories from the exercise are too numerous to relate, suffice to say that we had a most successful camp for our first time in Belgium.



'Six hundred Belgian Francs and that's my final offer'. Maj Touchin OC 54 Sig Sqn haggles with the observers from East Germany over the price of a tape recorder



*Bottom Row L-R:* Sgt MacFarlane, Cpl Walker, Pte Richardson and SSgt (FofS) Thomas-Peter
*Front Row L-R:* Cpls Prince, Kren, LCpl Kelly and Sgt Felborn
*Absent:* Sgt Grant, LCpls Barwick, Stone and Haigh



WSgt Mitchell explains the intricacies of the TRV to the SOinC. Maj Penfold OC 45 Sig Sqn has heard it all before

**VISIT OF CINC UKLF**

On 14 October the Regiment was honoured by a visit of the CinC UKLF, **Gen Sir Charles Huxtable KCB, CBE, ADC**. Accompanied by the Comd 12 Sig Bde, **Brig Gordon**, the CO and the RSM, the General flew between our Centres in Cambridge, Colchester, Gillingham and Sandgate where he saw different aspects of Squadron training and our equipment in each location.



Sgt Debbie drumming with both sticks in one hand amuses the CinC UKLF during his visit to the Corps of Drums in Gillingham

**FOUNDATION STONE CEREMONY**

Saturday 2 December 1989 saw a milestone in 20 years of planning when **Brig Orchard-Lisle**, the Chairman of the Greater London TAVRA laid the foundation stone for our new TA centre in Gordon Road, Ilford. The building is due to be completed in November 1990 after which RHQ and HQ Squadron will move to Ilford from their now rather dilapidated premises in Wanstead. The Mayor of the London Borough of Redbridge, **Councillor Geoffrey Brewer** attended the ceremony which for him was particularly significant as he was the last CO of the Essex Regiment TA, located in the old buildings in Gordon Road at the time of the disbandment of the Regiment in 1969. Many officers and solidiers of the Essex Regiment transferred to 36 Sig Regt which took over the site at that time.




Brig Orchard-Lisle with the Mayor of Redbridge and CO 36 Sig Regt (V)

## 37 Sig Regt (V)
## Bristol

The 1989 Officer's Regimental dinner in November was a very special occasion. We were saying farewell to the CO **Lt Col Jonathan Cox** and hailing the arrival of **Lt Col Ian Thomson**—a home grown CO!

**Lt Col Cox** qualifies for well deserved congratulations as he moves on promotion to pastures new in MOD. **Lt Col Thomson** has been with the Regiment for many years—boy and man. He looks forward to a busy but challenging tour as we move into the 1990s—implementing the re-equiping of the Regiment and maintaining the high standards achieved to date.

**Lt Col Cox**, noted for his prowess at orienteering, left in style as he navigated his way round a specially contrived drill hall course! Our last view of him was departing in his luxury CO's caravan, cunningly camouflaged as a common or garden horsebox, . . .

Also, dined out that evening we sadly said farewell to **Maj Fred Ward** whose repartee has enlivened many a Mess dinner. However, his dulcet tones will not be lost forever as he is joining 2 Bde's watchkeeping force. And leaving 43 Sqn is **Capt Andrew Cornish**. Although it is our loss it will be 31 Sig Regt's gain.



## 38 Sig Regt (V)
## Sheffield

As I opened the familiar white envelope with the perforated edgings and the red embossed pre-paid stamp, I experienced a pang of guilt! 'Wot, no 38 notes this month', I pictured the thronging masses muttering from the area of the TAC 'drill (Ooops) . . . Training Hall'. 'You'd think he would make an effort, fair do's . . . they don't do much in RHQ do they!' Slinking towards the 'Amstrad' I mused—the chief clerk would be proud of me.

And so we commence . . . HQ Sqn, mostly relaxing after supporting this year's Annual Reporting Centre (ARC) where the Regiment was poised to welcome approximately 1,300 reservists during the period 15-22 November. We were not to be disappointed, some 92% of those reservists who were sent their 'Notice to Report' appeared. It was surprising to see the array of transport they used to convey them to the Centre. From 30 ton containers to cycles. The excuses for worn clothing and equipment lessen each year, but there was the chap who presented his boots CBH for inspection complete with 'optional cement soles' and the fellow who explained the absence of the complete front of his combat trousers as—'poorly made by the manufacturers'. The TA RQMS, **WO2 Moss Elliott** with a glazed look giggling hysterically and clutching a wad of signed debit vouchers headed for the pay office.

Moving now to our Derby location and 46 Sig Sqn (V). We offer our congratulations to **2Lt Dawn Rainbow WRAC** on her commissioning. We know she will make a success of her new appointment as OC Recruiting Section. Congratulations go also to **Maj Mike Petty** who has recently left us on promotion to assume command of 87 Sig Sqn (V). The other highlight of the report period is the marriage of the OC, **Maj David Etherton** to **Capt Anne Stenning** (OC Leicester Detachment). The happy couple married at Woodhouse in Leicestershire on 28 October and spent their honeymoon in Marakesh. Every good wish for your future happiness both!

**Sig 'Smurf' Swarbrook** stepped out of the stores and into the spotlight when he presented a cheque for £404.50 to **Sara-Jane Spencer**, appeals organisor for the Royal National Institute for the Blind. The idea came from **Sig Swarbrook** who arranged the collection at the Edale Walk weekend. The cash will be used to buy two talking books for the blind. The books will be inscribed with the Squadron's designation and presented to Derby Social Services for circulation in their area.




Presentation of cheque to RNIB
*(Left to right):* Sig Swarbrook, Sara-Jane Spencer, Eric Lilley, Antony Wyles and Maj D. Etherton

At Nottingham and 87 Sig Sqn, there have been drastic changes of late. From welcoming a new OC, **Maj Mike Petty** and bidding farewell to **Maj Mike Wright** (now the Projects Officer and based at RHQ) and the departure of **Capt David Rigley** who has recently taken up command of 64 Sqn. Good luck to you all in your new posts. We have now seen the arrival of our new communication equipment. The first exercise with the new kit was a great success. To the 'Old and Bold the VDUs and self tuning radios were a major culture shock and gave new meaning to our motto 'Certa Cito'.

We have also had our successes with the 'Squadron Marriage Bureau' and wish to pass our congratulations to **Sgts Chrissie Bull** and **Pete Cooper** also to **LCpls Craig Toft** and **Vicky Hardy**. Best wishes for your future happiness.

Returning now to Sheffield where we meet up with 64 Sig Sqn's roving reporter who states . . . Annual camp this year has proved very fruitful for 64 Sqn especially on the Regimental sports/competitions scene. **SSgt (SQMS) Dave Burton BEM** was forced to arrange for a 4 ton vehicle to transport all the trophies won at camp back to the TAC! It was the last chance for the OC, **Maj David Wing TD** to lead 64 Sqn to victory in his capacity as Squadron Commander prior to taking up his appointment as Regimental 2IC. (Could this be anything to do with sweeping the board in all competitions I ask myself?) The successes included the Drill Competition, The Brenda Mary Cottage Trophy (awarded for best overall sporting results), and the Tickle Test Trophy. Special mention must be made of the 'Sweat Shop' crew of the drill competition namely **Capt Rod Lingard** and the SQMS, **SSgt Dave Burton** who put so much effort into helping the drill team prepare for their inspection.

On a serious note, congratulations to **Sig Eric Bristow**, who initiated a collection for the survivors and families of the victims of the Deal Bombings. To date, the collection made in the Regiment has realised some £623. Well done!

We move now to Blackburn and take a look at 93 Sig Sqn (V) . . . During the month of November, **SSgt Diane Feest** and **SSgt Ian Lorimer** received the award of the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate. The presentations were held at Manchester and Preston respectively. **SSgt Feest** serves with 879 Sig Tp at Manchester, and for the last year commanded the Troop in the absence of a Commissioned Officer. She received her award from **Col J. Timmins**, Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester. **SSgt Feest** has served with the TA and 93 Sig Sqn for more than 12 years and received her TA Efficiency Medal earlier this year. She has represented the Regiment at Cross Country Running and successfully completed several marathons in aid of charities.

**SSgt Lorimer** received his award at the County Hall at Preston from the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire. **SSgt Lorimer** a married man with two children, left the Regular Army and enlisted into the TA some 10 years ago. Using his expertise he commanded the Radio Relay Tp at 93 Sig Sqn prior to assuming his present post of SQMS (TA). This year he was one of the selected band of volunteers chosen to crew the Corps Yacht for two weeks in the Western Mediterranean.

Both the above awards recognise the extra devotion to duty by the individuals and both are richly deserved.



SSgt Feest receives her certificate from the Lord Lieutenant



SSgt Lorimer proudly displays his Lord Lieutenant's Certificate

**STOP PRESS**

Congratulations to **WO2 (RQMS) Joe Hodgson** who has just heard the news that he has been awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year Honours List. A well deserved reward for outstanding service — well done!



# 39 Sig Regt(SC) (V)
# City of London

## GUARD OF HONOUR—LORD MAYOR'S PARADE
**Report by WO1 (RSM) R. Brown**

The Regiment has the privilege of providing, along with the London UOTC, the Annual Guard of Honour for the Lord Mayor of London at his inaugural public appearance—The Lord Mayor's Show. This Year's Gd Comd was **Capt Mark Bretton**, with **Lt Mike White** as the detachment subaltern. Members of the guard began to arrive at the London TAC as early as Friday evening and by 1100 hrs on Saturday the complete contingent was ready. Five mini-buses full of smart, keen soldiers departed under police escort (at one stage, nine motor cycle outriders and a car front and rear) to the Guildhall where we managed two full practice runs, before having a much needed lunch provided by the WRVS. The Guard began in ernest with the march—behind the Band of the Royal Yeomanry—to the Mansion House so that we were in position before the afternoon procession moved off. From this vantage point we probably had the best view in town of the floats and marching contingents. Honours were paid to several military colours, most notable of which was The Kings Tp RHA. On arrival of the Lord Mayor, the Guard duly presented arms and was inspected by his Worship; at this stage the centre of attraction for the thousands of onlookers. Permission was given to march off, at which point **Capt Mark Bretton** handed the Guard over to the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Bob Brown**, who marched the Guard back to Guildhall. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day with superb weather and a taste of one of London's greatest pageants.



The Lord Mayor inspecting the Guard of Honour
*Left to Right:* Lt White, Capt Bretton, The Lord Mayor of London Sir Hugh Bidwell GBE, Sgt Eldridge, Cpl Rock and LCpl Singers

**TM TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Capt (TOT) Tim Southall** |
| **WO1 FofS** | **WO1 (FofS) Bob Hunt** |
| **SSgt FofS** | **SSgt (FofS) Steve Hatfield** |
| **PSI TECHNICIANS** | |
| **1 Sqn** | **Sgt Glenn Sherman** |
| | **Sgt Ian Rogers** |
| **2 Sqn (NRPS)** | **Sgt Ian Lumsden-Gordon** |
| **3 Sqn** | **Sgt Dave Evans** |
| **5 Sqn** | **Sgt Al Scott** |

## TM TROOP'S YEAR
**by SSgt (FofS) Hatfield**

This has been a hectic year as far as TM Tp has been concerned with the culmination of several projects as well as a full training calendar. We were involved in six training weekends for the Regiment which have been conducted mainly in camps with little or no facilities for signal training. This has meant that all the equipment to construct mock Commcens etc had to be transported in and constructed by the PSI's prior to the event, and then torn down at the end of each weekend and the equipment returned to the respective TAC's. Summer Camp 89 in May was also completely given over to training with many long nights being put in by the training staff to ensure that any problems which occurred were ironed out for the next day's training. There was the unusual sight of certain members of the Troop working late one evening in mess kit in the back of a transmitter vehicle and being virtually frogmarched off to attend the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Regimental Dinner; thankfully the problem was solved in time. This should not be taken to mean that it was all work and no play however, the delights of Scarborough were enjoyed by all (eventually). The Troop had a very successful night out to one of the local hosterlries during which **Cpl Gerry Mapp** entered into the spirit of things by prompting the Trg Maj, **Maj Tony Elford** to take part in some of the games, and a superb time was had by all. In London the TOT and **Foreman Bob Hunt** have kept the 1 Sqn technicians busy constructing the new generation of Modems and these have now been issued to the Regiment. We now await the next idea to spring out at us from the project room. In Dundee 2 Sqn has also just finished work on the third transmitter vehicle for 3 Sqn and **Sgt Ian Lumsden-Gordon** could be seen with 1033 in hand ready to sign it over to **Sgt Dave Evans** of 3 Sqn on 30 November. 3 Sqn has also just received the complementary receiver vehicle for their TRC and work on this has now started.

On the social front the Troop had its Christmas function in London and this saw all of the Southern Squadrons attending. Unfortunately due to the large geopraphical spread of the Unit it is impossible for our Dundee Squadron TA technicians to meet the rest of the Troop except at annual camps, **Sgt Ian Lumsden-Gordon** made up for them in all respects however. Finally the Troop extends its best wishes to **Sgt Ian Rogers** and **Trish** on the occasion of their marriage on 9 December.



M Troop Tels Workshops
*Back Row L-R:* Sgt Gray, LCpls Pye and Compton, Cpl Mapp, Sig Eaton, Cpls Hammersley and Mather
*Front Row L-R:* Sgts Smith, Lumsden-Gordon and Scott, SSgt (FofS) Hatfield, Capt Southall, WO1 (FofS) Hunt, Sgts Rogers, Sherman and Smyth

**3 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Bob Davis** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Gavin Miles** |
| **PSO** | **Capt Harry Meekings** |
| **OC Foxtrot Tp/Recruiting** | **Lt Julian Gregory** |
| **OC Golf Tp/Training** | **Lt Sandra Wilkosz** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Reynolds** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) Hart** |
| **PSI (Ops)** | **Sgt Alf Cupper** |
| **PSI (Tech)** | **Sgt Dave Evans** |

Over the past year there have been many changes in the Squadron. During camp in September 1988 there was a change of PSO when **Maj John Garratt** retired after 10 years with the Squadron and **Maj Harry Meekings**, (our then Regimental Quartermaster) took over, resulting in a switch of interest in the Squadron from sailing to golf!

In November after a couple of months without an OC, **Maj Bob Davis** from 44 Sig Sqn took Command, supported by **Capt Gavin Miles** who transferred from 63 Sig Sqn.

In 1989 we said goodbye to **Lt Andy Posnett** after four years. He has now moved to a Royal Engineer Sponsored Unit in order to reduce his commitments. **Lt Sandra Wilkosz** arrived to take his place, transferring from London University Officer Training Corps.

There was also a change in the Permanent Staff Instructors. **Sgt Brian Cowling** our PSI(Ops) left us after five years and has now taken an appointment with the Ministry of Defence. He was replaced by **Sgt Alf Cupper** on posting from 602 Sig Tp. **Sgt Glenn Sherman** our PSI(Tech) has also left us after passing his Foremans' Selection Course, but is still with the Regiment at our headquarters in London. The new PSI(Tech) is **Sgt Dave Evans** who came to us after a posting in the Falkland Islands.



## THE LORD LIEUTENANT'S AWARD

On Wednesday evening 1 November, **WO2 (SSM) 'Titch' Reynolds** of 3 Sqn was presented with the Lord Lieutenant's Award for meritorious and outstanding service. The presentation was made at Ditton Territorial Army Centre by the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, **The Rt Hon Robin Leigh-Pemberton JP**.

**WO2 Reynolds** spent 25 years with the regular army (most will remember him as the lovable line Sergeant with the diplomatic manner) before eventually making his escape to civvie street. However the young Sergeant Major was soon snapped up by 39 Sig Regt in July 1978 and has been put to work here ever since and as he regularly promises us, he intends to stay for another 11 years!

## RECRUIT SELECTION WEEKEND
**A Recruit's View**

Upon arrival at the TAC recruits were issued with over-sized boiler suits and accompanying identity numbers. Each individual, comforted by the uniformity of purpose and dress, found solace in the adage 'Safety in Numbers'.

A few hours spent in the bar during the first evening kindled the sparks of comradeship which helped to dispel the initial apprehension and gave much needed encouragement during the course of the weekend.

Intended to start with a rude awakening, the next morning found most recruits awake in advance of the appointed time. Unaccustomed to sleeping on the hard floor or with a variety of couch fellows, sleep eluded the majority or at best visited only briefly.

The pace for the weekend was set with an energetic early morning workout followed by an introductory talk, the rudiments of drill, respiratory recovery tests, aptitude tests, interviews, an assault course, educational videos, timed runs over measured distances and finally late into the evening a period of much needed relaxation over a few beers, when the events of the day were jovialised.

That night tired aching muscles dragged the body into deep sweet sleep . . . As if immediately somewhere in the inky blackness of the sub-conscious an NCO could be heard calling reveille and an increasing bustle encroached upon the stillness of the morning as realisation of where we were dawned upon us.

Another workout, further videos, more interviews and talks filled the ensuing hours whilst the results of the weekend were correlated. Then all came to a standstill as the recruits queued before being marched into the Recruiting Officer's room to hear their achievements, the feeling of apprehension returned. Upon their return, the measure of their individual success was mirrored in the face of each recruit, most passed, some were invited to try again, a few failed. The selection was complete.



Members of the Regimental Recruit Training Team with potential recruits enjoying a break in training

## EXERCISE RUNNEL STONE
**by Sig Dougie McCance**

Our yearly outing to Denmark began on Friday with the journey from Tunbridge Wells to Lyneham, which we left in the evening in a Hercules C130, an experience in itself. Due to the bad weather there was no parachute insertion phase so the parachute trained personnel had to content themselves with a more normal landing. The exercise contained the usual ingredients—comms, defence, comms, attacks, comms, sleeps and more comms.

Inserted into the exercise was a demonstration by me on how to lose, albeit briefly, your PSI Ops kit. Whatever happened to the principle of never being parted from your kit? Perhaps **Sgt Alf Cupper** carries spares! Endex came on Sunday with the main task being the return of equipment and manpower to TACs in time to allow a good nights sleep, before returning to being a solicitor, baker, lorry driver etc on Monday morning. How did *you* spend last weekend?

## F TROOP TRAINING

**Lt Julian Gregory** (Tp Comd), **Sgts Alf Cupper, Dave Evans, Sig Carl Jacobson** and **Peter Stanley** deployed on Friday morning as advance party for a Troop military skills/training weekend. Destination is a camp at St Martin's Plain. Home for the weekend is a five star 9 × 9 which, due to the high wind, decided to go walkabout in the night. **Sig Mark Harris** now wishes he had dressed for bed, the WRAC element concurs!

The weekend was run as a competition with such activities as motor cycle trials, first aid, orienteering and fieldcraft. Two teams from F Troop competed with teams from Sevenoaks CCF and 3 Bn Queens ACF. As a side event, football, volleyball and archery were introduced which also counted towards the overall score. An enjoyable weekend was had by all with **LCpl George Newham** leading his team of **Sig Rob Smith, Bill Gallagher, Richard Dear, Peter Stanley** and **Louis Eastwood** to victory. They were each presented with engraved tankards and some bubbly.

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PARADE

Sunday morning dawned bright and clear. After the hammering our boots had taken the day before on the Lord Mayor's Parade in London, further polishing was needed before the Guard of Honour could leave the TAC for a practice behind the police station in Tunbridge Wells.

At 1030 hrs we marched to our position at the War Memorial in Tunbridge Wells and waited for the Mayor to arrive.

The service of Remembrance began and the Two Minute Silence was observed. After the sounding of the Last Post by a Sea Cadet Bugler and a general salute, wreaths were laid in Honour of the Dead.

Finally our squad of eight led the march past of all the organisations represented, including the remainder of the Squadron.

The traditional curry or buffet lunch for old members, friends and relatives of the Squadron followed at the TAC.

## SQUADRON ACTIVITIES
## RANGE WEEKEND

Over the weekend of 30 September/1 October the Squadron took part in its all too infrequent range day held at Chilcombe Ranges. All weapons were fired, including the pistol—for the first time by many of the younger soldiers. Saturday night was the normal mix of sorting out for the next day, cleaning weapons before retiring for a social hour or two. Thanks must go to **Lt Julian Gregory** and **WO2 (RQMS) Keith Wheatley** for running the range.



*Back Row:* Lt Julian Gregory (Shooting Officer)
*Centre Row:* Sig Bill Gallagher and Adrian Puttock, WO2 (RQMS) Keith Wheatley and Sig Derek Durrant
*Front Row:* Cpl Alastair Baker, Sig Hamish Dumbreck, Maj Bob Davies, Sig Richard Dear and LCpl Andy Mercer
*Absent:* Sig Peter Stanley

# 40 Sig Regt (V)
# Belfast

**VISIT OF THE SOinC**

The SOinC **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook** paid his first visit to the Regiment during the second week of Annual Camp on Ex Plain Sailing 89. He arrived at Commcen Echo on the morning of 27 September accompanied by the Commander, 12 Sig Bde (V), **Brig S. G. M. Gordon** and was met by the CO, **Lt Col Ian Henderson**, the Adjt, **Capt Mick Weston** and RSM, **WO1 (RSM) I. M. Urquhart**.

On arrival at CP 66 he was met by the Sqn Comd, 66 Sqn, **Maj Dave Baxter** and **WO2 (SSM) T. J. McAreavey**. After a brief by the Duty Watchkeeper, he visited the TRV, MUX, Veh and Admin areas.

A walking tour of the RR Dets in nearby locations was followed by lunch in the field with the officers after which he left by helicopter to visit Commcen India.

Other notable visitors to the Regiment during annual camp included the Commander UK Field Army, **Lt Gen Sir David Ramsbotham**, Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen P. R. Davies**, Commander British Comm Z, **Brig The Honourable N. C. L. Vivian**, the Belgian Ambassador, **Mr R. J. O'Neill** and the Col TA N Ireland, **Col A. H. Reid**.

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

To mark this year's Remembrance Day the Regiment marched to St Mark's Church to attend a Service of Remembrance. Other participants in the parade were the local branches of the Royal Marines Association, Royal Signals Association, Parachute Regiment Association and the Royal British Legion.

The parade was headed by the 2IC, **Maj Jenny Wilson** and the Honorary Colonel, **Col Elliot Wilson** took the Salute on the return to the TAC after the service. Lunch was served to members of the Regiment, the associations and families in their respective Messes.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations are extended to our Ex RMO, **Maj Robbie Kinnear** on receiving the Territorial Decoration, **Maj (Retd) Tom Adams**, 1st and 2nd Clasp to the TD, **WO2 (SSM) John McAreavey**, TA Efficiency Medal and **Sgt Trevor Roulston RAPC**, clasp to the TA Efficiency Medal.

They were presented with the medals/clasps after the Remembrance Day Church Parade by the Honorary Colonel, **Col Elliot Wilson**.

**GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND PRESENTATION**

The members of our Larne Detachment JRC, locally known as the Brae Club managed to raise £2,000 for charity during the summer months. This was achieved by a sponsored lorry pull held in the Larne area in August and other fund-raising activities.

The money will be used to provide two guide dogs for the blind who will of course by named Certa and Cito.

A cheque for the amount was presented in the Larne Lord Mayor's Parlour on 24 October to **Mrs Nessa McFall**, Chairman of the East Antrim Branch of The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

**EXERCISE PLAIN SAILING 89**
**THE LARNE INPUT**

Ex Plain Sailing 89 was to prove the culmination of a very eventful first year's training for the Detachment, an opportunity to test their skills on the continent. The motto 'Work Hard, Play Hard' proved so effective, that **Sig Inglis** is still smiling (mysteriously) weeks after our return home, having been persuaded to visit a local hostelry, famous for its care and attention to homesick soldiers.

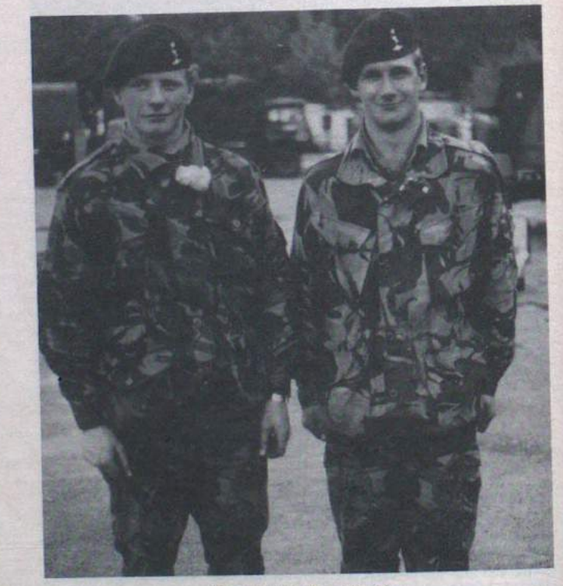
Commcen November tested **Sig Jack, Montgomery, White, Baird, Craig** and **Conway** ('Triffids can only be fitted via the doors' **Derek**) to the full, resulting in first class communications ('No No **George**' this coax'). Internal security acquired a new meaning at Commcen November at the hands of **Sig Simpson** and **Winton**, via the 'teddy bear' squad, indeed over 24 hours it was immediately upgraded to the 'Grizzly Bear' squad, much to the detriment of **LCpl Rab Totten**, who is still receiving treatment for ('Who's afraid of the Dark') syndrome.

Our intrepid SNCOs **WO2 (RQMS) Eddie** 'its my trolley' **Blake, Sgt Rael** 'Password Please' **McCourt** and **Sgt Ray** 'Lock 'em up' **Baxter** were enjoying the glamourous life at OLEN C ensuring their complete security at all times!

Life at CP Commcen November reached new heights, with **Capt Joe** 'They're my circuits' **Fallows, Mike** 'Its my CP' **Kennedy, Dave** 'What Guinness'? **Doherty** and **Lt Kathy** 'I'm the Commcen Commander' **Sutherland WRAC** taking part in a sponsored weight loss programme, encouraged by the Squadron Commander, **Maj Gerry** 'I'll bring them back' **Fleming**, fritters will never taste the same. They are looking forward to the 1990's and the future expansion at Larne.



Cheque Presentation by the Larne JRC Committee
*Left to Right:* Sig George Jack (PMC), David Brown, Mr Michael McDonagh, Mrs Nessa McFall, Sig Gerald Simpson and 'Joss' the Dog



The Teddy Bear Squad
Sig Mark Winton and Gerald Simpson

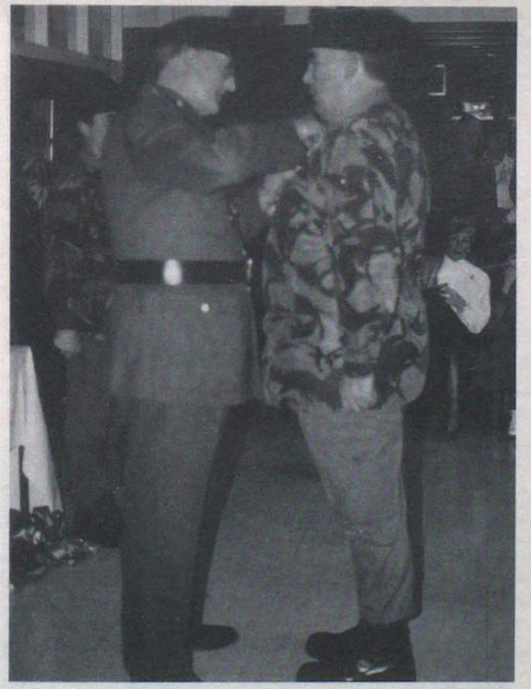




The Hon Col presents the Territorial Decoration to Maj Robbie Kinnear



The Hon Col presents a Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Medal to Sgt Trevor Roulston RAPC



The Hon Col presents the Territorial Efficiency Medal to WO2 (SSM) John McAreavey



The Hon Col presents two Territorial Decoration Clasps to Maj (Retd) Tom Adams

## JCUFI
## BFPO 655

**TROOPS SOUTH GEORGIA**
**PERSONALITIES**
**Cpl Docherty**
**Cpl Tyler**
**Sig Clemens**
**Sig Hawkes**

Greetings from that much maligned bunch on South Georgia, an integral part of JCUFI.

When **Sig Hawkes** arrived he was greeted with 'OK, sit down? Here's a quick trade test—you've got an hour and a half'. Stunned into silence, rare, he decided he was not having a holiday on Georgia after all.

The shift is kept busy and has one day off in nine. Despite that there is opportunity for those inclined to do some exploring around such places as St Andrew's Bay and Jason Harbour, to name a couple of the spots. Even skiing is available. However, **Cpl Docherty**, as yet, likes to hide himself away under a pile of stereos and videos and so misses all the beauty spots.

South Georgia is an experience to be remembered and 'days to do' is seldom heard—only the prospect of a beer in the NAAFI override the challenges on offer here. Time passes very quickly and by the time you read this our newest arrivals **Cpl Blyth** and **Sig Cornwell** will be almost half way through their tours.

**SOUTH GEORGIA**

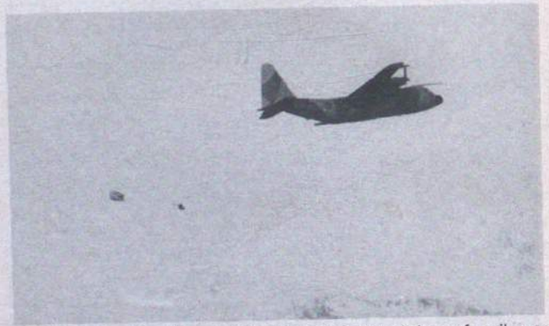
South Georgia is one of the islands included in the Falkland Islands Dependency, and lies some 1,100 miles east of southern Argentina. Roughly crescent in shape, it measures some 80 miles long and 15 miles wide. It is the most mountainous of the islands surrounding the Antarctic, the central spine-like ranges peaking with Mount Paget at 9,625ft. At the coast lie patches of flat ground where, in the past, whaling stations were built.

The terrain consists of tussock grass-covered hills interspersed with steep mountains, their sides often consisting of unstable scree slopes. The climate is cold, wet, windy and the weather extremely variable. The annual average temperature is 2°C, on the coast and the winds frequently reach gale force. Conditions are worse inland and at higher altitude. The scenery, however, gives fantastic views and there is a noticeable vividness and clarity of colours when the sun does shine.

The island was first seen in 1675 by a London merchant, Antonio de la Roche, whilst being blown off course round Cape Horn. Captain James Cook landed in 1775 and claimed it for England. Fur sealers soon followed to take advantage of abundant numbers of these animals on the island's coast. In the 20th century South Georgia has been a major whaling centre. Several shore stations were set up by Norwegian Carl Larsen, who started the permanent occupation of the island. This prompted the setting up of a civil administration in 1909, as a dependency of the Falkland Islands. Whaling petered out in the 1960's, the only remaining inhabitants being scientists of the British Antarctic Survey. The island was briefly occupied in 1982 by Argentinian Troops during the Falklands conflict, and now the only inhabitants are the British Garrison.



Combat Signalman
Sig Clemens concentrates hard while descending typical South Georgian terrain while on patrol



The Hercules (Fat Albert) doing his fortnightly airdrop of mail over Cumberland Bay. The only other contact with the outside world is by ship every six weeks



Cpl Tyle (Det Comd) and male elephant-Seal outside the Comms Centre 'Come on Dougy . . . you were taught how to deal with this'





## 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## (215 Sig Sqn)
## Tidworth

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj A. W. Russ** |
| **2IC** | **Capt B. P. Avison** |
| **Adjt** | **Maj S. C. Firbank** |
| **Tfc Offr** | **Capt D. I. Gilchrist** |
| **QM** | **Maj S. Hargreaves** |
| **OC A Tp** | **Capt M. S. Castle-Smith** |
| **OC B Tp** | **Lt M. G. Billingham** |
| **OC C Tp** | **Capt R. G. Mather** |
| **RSM** | **WO1 (RSM) Payet** |
| **RQMS** | **WO2 (RQMS) Clark** |
| **FofS** | **WO1 (FofS) Sharp** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (YofS) Glasby** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt (YofS) Stack** |

**PROFILE OF THE QUARTERMASTERS DEPARTMENT**
**Report by SQMS(A) SSgt John Standen**

The Quartermaster, **Maj Stan Hargreaves**, after being nagged into producing some copy for *The Wire* by the Squadron's editor, who had been volunteered for the job by the OC, **Maj Tony Russ**; does this story sound familiar? decided that the only way he could write some notes was to get someone else to do the job! **SSgt John Standen** happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time!

There's more, as the Troop is thirty strong and consists of nine cooks, nine pioneers, one RAOC Sergeant, one civilian and ten Royal Signals storekeepers (of sorts!).

Over the past few months there have been many changes. We said a sad farewell to **Cpl 'Scouse' Tieman** to Cyprus, **Sgt Tony Day RPC** to ACIO London, **Cpl Nick Layton** to Ramstein, **Sig Taff Gumm** to Berlin on promotion, **Sig Magrat Magrath** to Verden, **LCpl Alan Watt ACC** to Northampton on promotion, **Sgt Douggie Brown RAOC** to Canada and **Cpl Dave Ashton** to the Halfway Inn at Chandlers Ford. Welcome to **Cpl Eddie Gajny, Sig Been Batley, Sgt O. O'Brien RPC, Sgt John Bache RAOC, Cpl Paddy Flanagan** (all the way from A Troop!), **Ptes Geordie Carr** and **Clark RPC**.



After all the many commitments that the department has been involved in this year, (including spending the whole of Ex Stanford Swift with hot showers!) it was decided to take the day off and take the Troop to Blandford in order to visit the Corps Museum. This turned out to be a really interesting visit and was also enjoyed by members of the RPC section. Our only problem was trying to convince our Old and Bold SQMS(T) **Sandy Sanderson** to leave the Museum; he was certain that most of the equipment he had seen was on his signature! After leaving the Museum the mini-bus developed a mind of its own and just happened to pass the Halfway Inn, where we felt obliged to sample the fruits of the new management, our very own **Mr Dave Ashton**.

We are in the same boat as all other Units, experiencing problems with manning, but to help alleviate the situation, this Troop has been given the responsibility for trialling the new self made man, and part numbers are now available for all ranks. However, as you can see from the photograph, we are currently trialling the new type of QM and are quite impressed! We now have a QM who gives you time off when you need it, signs all demands and does not play golf or squash!

**WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS REGIMENTAL DINNER**

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess have said farewell to **WO2 (QMSI) George Bryson** retiring after 22 years Service. Although **George** had not been seen for the past six months he did, incredibily, turn up on the night. **George** presented a Statuette to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, which **WO1 (RSM) Fred Payet** received with thanks on behalf of all Mess members.

Below are snapshots from the Dinner Night.



WO2 (RQMS) John Clark telling an unbelieving MT SSgt Mick Farrell 'It's true I tell you, our mushrooms really are this big'



In the background WO1 (FofS) Tom Sharp and SSgt (YofS) Bill Stack discuss how to get the 2IC Capt Bruce Avison (Face half-covered second from the right) to buy a round, meanwhile Sgt Vanessa Dike distracts him by introducing him to a visiting civilian guest

## SQUADRON ANNUAL BATTLE CAMP

During our annual Battle Camp we have a section competition called the Turner Trophy, this involves a variety of Military skills with the Turner Trophy being presented to the winning section.



Winning Section—Turner Trophy 1989
The 'Q' Team
Pte Allan Gibbins, LCpl Gary Adams, Ptes Malcolm Carr, Mark Brock, Cpl John Reardon, LCpl Rob Merrick, Pte Graham Clark, Sig Cyril Batley and Pte Hugh McGhee

## EXERCISE DRUID SWAN

Recipe for Adventure Training: Take 1 lot of cliffs for climbing, 1 sea of water to canoe on 1 lot of sunshine (7 days) and 1 or more indoor training centres (that lot will do)

All right, so it's October, we'll forget the sunshine and go to Wales. So it was that the Troop Crowbar forced a gap in the exercise programme allowing 12 members of Charlie Tp to get away to Wales on Ex Druid Swan. The exercise was to provide valuable experience of living under tough conditions, in wild isolated country with little contact with civilisation, and that was just the camp.

Having settled in and established such basic needs as food, drink, and a colour television, the intrepid adventurers set out for Snowdonia under the guidance of local instructors for a few days rock climbing and sea canoeing.

**LCpl Dave Salisbury** demonstrated for free-fall abseil technique and attempted persuade the instructor on the fixed end of the rope to join him.

The canoeing was well received with all participants enjoying capsize drills and 'Battle of the River Plate' reconstructions. Unfortunately it was then time to move out of the swimming pool and into the Menai Straits where the heating and cleaning mechanism appeared to have failed, and the high waves (some nearly 2ft high) battered the intrepid boat people.

All in all a workable week made all the more enjoyable by the hospitality of the locals. The weather, five days and no rain—not quite the Wales we all know and love.

## SQUADRON MORALE

Just a quick note on morale, as you can see from the photograph it is thriving within the Squadron.



LCpls 'Griff' Griffiths, 'Blackie' Black, Tony Wringe and Sig 'Ted' Heath enjoying the pleasures of 'Panbash' during a recent exercise

## EXERCISE PURPLE VENTURE 89—LORIENT, FRANCE

JFHQ decided that members of the Squadron could be usefully employed on their exercise in France. As most of the Squadron was off to Germany on Ex Broad Band, 20 names were picked at random from the Squadron computer.

Never having been on a JFHQ exercise we thought it would certainly be different and might actually be fun—we were 50% right. During a Force 6 ferry crossing from Portsmouth to St Malo certain people showed that they will never make seamen—**LCpl Nobby Hall** and **Sig Mickey Miners** kept us all entertained with their version of the sea sick shuffle.

Once in France we travelled to Lorient on the Bay of Biscay, where we promptly put up enough tentage for Billy Smart's European tour, and then spent a week moving it. The boredom was only alleviated by **Cpl Steve Walsh** (REME) and **Sig Mickey Miners** (again) deciding to go Hang Gilding in a Force 7 gale using only a 12 × 12 as an aid.

Time was filled by playing the local French Military at various sports. We won the rugby against the French Marine Champions, despite taking some casualties. After the first ruck our scrum half was heard murmuring 'Someone's broken my nose'—better luck next time, **Steve**, the football was abandoned after we were accused of being too physical. (We were winning again.) The French did however win the volleyball—but only after producing a couple of international standard players.

The return journey was also eventful, as we were delayed by the Channel Ferry crews deciding to go on strike. (Will the Chunnel ever be finished?) Eventually we got back to sunny old Tidworth, just in time to go straight on duty. At least the beer and wine was cheap.

## EXERCISE BROAD BAND 89—RENDSBURG, GERMANY

Broad Band is the name given to COMLANDJUT's annual Signal exercise—a sort of NATO Flying Falcon. This year it took place in the Schleswig-Holstein area of Germany. The ferry we were due to travel on had a collision some 12 hours before the exercise started so we ended up on a trans-Europe road trip. The nearest port working for the outward journey was Esbjerg, in Denmark, and for the return we were sent to the Hook of Holland—a round trip of over 1,000kms. Furthermore, despite prior recce (duty free trip) by the 2IC, TCO, Yeoman and RQMS, by the time we arrived in Germany most of the available HQ sites were full of East German refugees! Rumour has it that the 2IC managed to do his first 'hot' recce in his two year tour. Once the exercise got going it was fairly successful, particularly for the Radio Relay crews.



# 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

## SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj M. W. Edwards** |
| **2IC** | **Capt J. Turner** |
| **AO** | **Capt J. Aspinall** |
| **RSM** | **WO1 (RSM) M. A. Granitza** |

It has been a busy period with more time being spent in the slipstream, than in barracks! The Squadron's para trained personnel deployed en masse to Vicenza in Italy for an exchange tour with 3 Bn 325 AB Combat Team (3/325 ABCT) of the US Army. Everyone came back thoroughly exhausted after early morning starts and late nights, but with a set of American para wings each. The RSM still insists that he is the only person in the Squadron who is really allowed to wear American wings, as he has actually visited Fort Bragg.

During this exchange, 64 American soldiers visited the remainder of the Squadron. The hosts, led by the RSM, and the QM, **Capt Fred Bancroft**, looked after the visitors in style. They were shown the sights of London, Windsor Castle and Hankley Common DZ, until, like us, their visit was brought to an early conclusion by the transport home.

The Squadron also had a great involvement in the running of, and taking part in, the Lanyard Trophy competition.

After the summer postponement of the Lanyard Trophy, teams from 2 Sig Bde assembled on the evening of Friday 27 October to do battle. Seven check points were scattered over North Dartmoor on a route totalling some 40 miles. Alpha and Bravo Tp provided the manpack control points with **SSgts Eddy Grattidge** and **Fred Hutchinson** opting for the warmth of the Okehampton Camp checkpoint. The Squadron entered two eight man teams and these comprised:

| A1 | A2 |
|---|---|
| **Sgt Preston** | **Capt Bancroft** |
| **Cpl Archer** | **Cpl Buxton** |
| **Cpl Fearn** | **Cpl Paton** |
| **LCpl Coates** | **Cpl Smith** |
| **B1** | **B2** |
| **Capt Vickery** | **WO2 Clarke** |
| **LCpl Dewar** | **Cpl Craig** |
| **LCpl Oliver** | **LCpl Day** |
| **Sig Shuck** | **LCpl Bohanna** |

Battle commenced at 0015 with the main rivals to the Squadron expected to be 249 Sig Sqn and 2 Inf Div Sig Regt. However thanks to some intense training in Otterburn during Ex Northern Crusade the Squadron was fit, ready, and even jungle trained after one month of hacking through a particularly dense Otterburn forest! The training day spent in and around Carlisle proved unforgettable and the less said here the better!

Amid lashing rain and gale force winds the Squadron teams opted to continue tabbing in fine airborne tradition and reaped the consequent rewards. When the event was finally brought to an early conclusion, Team B2, comprising **Capt Steve Vickery, LCpls Jock Dewar, Olly Oliver** and **Sig Gaz Shuck** were two hours ahead on the Red route with Team A1, comprising **Sgt Nick Preston, Cpls Stu Archer, Pete Fearn** and **LCpl Chris Coates** in a strong second place on the Blue route. The remaining two teams produced a sterling effort before the premature end. The Lanyard Trophy was not presented owing to the competition being curtailed so the trophy's destiny will have to wait for another day.

Congratulations go out to the two Sections for the Squadron for bringing home some trophies, and to 249 Sig Sqn for winning the Blue route.

The other honours went to 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt who came second on the Red route and to Comms and Sy Gp who produced a sterling effort by winning the Composite Team Trophies.

The Squadron had two young officers posted in straight from Sandhurst for a short attachment prior to embarking on their Troop Commanders courses at Blandford. A warm welcome to the Corps goes out to **2Lts Jason** 'Tiny' **Gunning** and **Eddie Williams**. They both took and passed P Coy with flying colours: **2Lt Williams**, in fact, obtained a 'straight 'A's' report and produced a new record for the gruelling assault course race. When they returned, triumphant, to the Squadron they helped out immeasureably as Troop 2ICs and both put in a great deal of work for the Squadron over a busy period. They have now departed for Blandford, and our best wishes go with them. We look forward to seeing you back in the Squadron again sometime.

The Royal Signals (UK) Orienteering Championships were held over two days in Wareham Forest, near Blandford, and consisted of a cross country event on day 1 followed by a relay event on day 2 with the championships being decided by the team aggregate of both days.

A team consisting of **Capts Fred Bancroft, Dave Currie** (REME), **WO2 Steve Clarke, Sgt Nick Preston** and **Sig Andy Morris** represented the Unit and achieved the overall result of Minor Units runners-up.

The cross country event on day 1 was approximately 9km in length and proved to be a testing course for all runners alike but even with the few odd mistakes we ended up in third place at the end of the day with everything to go for on day 2.

Day 2 was the relay event and it was essential that all runners remained calm and ran well. Good timings were recorded by **Capt Fred Bancroft, WO2 Steve Clarke** and **Sgt Nick Preston** but all credit must go to **Sig Andy Morris** who despite losing a shoe at Checkpoint 3 continued round the course, in what were very trying conditions underfoot, thus ensuring the team was able to finish the event and achieve a result, well done **Andy**.

## EXERCISE RAMPANT HOARD

Ex Rampant Hoard is an annual 5 AB Bde military skills competition. This year it was held in the Aldershot training area on Tuesday 10 October. A team of 20 men from the Squadron competed while a further group of 12 were at the Comms Stand. This stand was run by **Capt Turner** with **Sig Taff Lewis** gleefully enjoying the powers of DS particularly when de-briefing **LCpl Woody Woodward**. 'How many line labels did we bring?'!

The three Section Commanders **Cpls Rod Cowan, Pete Fearn** and **Andy Paton** ably assisted **Sgt Nick Preston** and **Capt Steve Vickery** as they steered the team through a maze of military skills stands. **Sig 'Mad' Mount**'s exploits on the command task stand were especially noteworthy as was **Sig Gaz Shuck**'s ingenuous way of carrying an ammo box full of sand—down his smock! **LCpl 'Woody' Woodward** decided to pebble dash the end of the march and shoot, narrowly missing the Brigade Commander, however the Squadron achieved the sixth fastest time out of thirty-nine during this phase. A few blank faces were evident during the AFV recognition stand despite endless hours of instruction from our two attached 2Lts, **Jason Gunning** and **Eddie Williams**. However after an arduous day the Squadron was justly proud of it's 11th position out of 39 in the Brigade, with definite intentions of a top five place next year.

In the Brigade sports week which took place in December the Squadron played in the Minor Units Competition and achieved a chequered scorecard.

The events were rugby, hockey, football, orienteering, cross country running and swimming. The competition started well for us, with the swimming event, with everyone winning their respective races except **Lt Rob** 'the brick' **Healey**, resulting in an overwhelming victory for this event. The rugby team played well but fell foul of two very well drilled teams and fell back into last place in the rugby competition. Our footballers and hockey players both finished second in their respective leagues, and although **Sgt Nick Preston** romped home first in the cross country competition, the team honours also escaped the grasp of the Squadron team. Our orienteerers produced a fine show over the unfamiliar Kent countryside, and were narrowly beaten by 5 AB Bde Log Bn. Everyone was exhausted at the end of the three days of highly competitive potted sports, but it was a fitting way to end a very busy and successful year.

## NEWS FROM THE TROOPS

### ALPHA TROOP

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp OC** | **Capt Steve Vickery** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Eddie Grattidge** |
| **Tp Sgts** | **Sgt Chris McGinley** |
| | **Sgt Andy Dawson** |
| | **Sgt Jim Hanlon** |

Sadly two Troop stalwarts have recently been posted. **Cpl Karl Weaver** (now a legend in Army Fly Fishing circles!) and **Cpl Rick Buxton** leave the Troop and we wish them well at Bicester.

Congratulations to **LCpl Harwood** who has just joined the 'brotherhood' and finally swopped his rugby boots for a PX Mk IV after leaving 7 Sig Regt. A welcome also to **Sig Mo Morris** and **Cpl**

**Dave Girling**, both eagerly awaiting a crack at pre-para.

News hot off the press is that **Sig Gaz Christie** and **Stevie Girling** have just passed P Coy, so a well-deserved pat on the back to them. **Sig 'Mad' Mount** has also completed his BPC at Brize despite smoking off the whole RRB location with his cigar chain smoking antics!

Farewell to **Sgt Jim Hanlon, Cpl Tom Keville, LCpl 'J. D.' Hogg, Sig Brown** and **Mullins** who have departed for a six month sojourn in Belize. Welcome back to **Cpl Dave Kennedy** and **LCpl 'Foggy' Fogg** from their stint down south.

The Troop offers warm congratulations to **Cpls Paul Cheshire, Bob Labrum** and **'Spud' Murphy**, on their respective promotions to full Corporal. A double well done to **Cpl 'Spud' Murphy** who recently tied the knot—best wishes to him and his wife **Lynne.**

Finally, the Troop and Squadron congratulate **Sgt Chris McGinley** on his first place at Catterick on the RSSSC and look forward to his return to work(!) after yet another course at the AEC.

**BRAVO TROOP**
**TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp OC** | **Lt Healey** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Hutchinson** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt O'Driscoll** |
| **Tp Storeman** | **Cpl Jones** |

**EVENTS/EXERCISES**

The Autumn has proved to be an extremely busy time for the Troop and Squadron. In the last week of September seven members of the Troop went to Italy on a Jump Exchange with the 325th Combat Team of the American Army. October was totally taken up by a Brigade Military Skills Competition followed by Brigade live firing.

**Sig Dougan, Lawn, Smithurst** and **Tinnion** were involved in the Military Skills Competition. The team did extremely well and finished 11th out of 39 teams. The whole Troop then deployed straight onto Ex Northern Crusade in Otterburn. The BMA elements deployed by road and the Para elements by C130. All jumped apart from **LCpl Oliver, Sig Dougan** and **Smithurst** who have formed a TAL (Tactical Air Landing) Section within the Troop.

Two weeks after Otterburn the Troop deployed onto Dartmoor for the Lanyard Trophy Competition. Only **LCpl Oliver** and **Cpl Smith** were fit to participate and so the remainder were used for safety comms. **Cpl Omedi** (our Aussie on Long Look) had ever encountered Dartmoor weather before. The competition was halted due to the atrocious weather conditions and the Trophy was not awarded. November was taken up by Ex Purple Venture which took place in France. The Squadron had got this commitment because a Squadron of 30 Sig Regt was still in 'NAM'ibia'.

**WEDDINGS/COURSES/ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES**

Congratulations go to **Sig Young, James** and **Ferrer** who all got married during the last two months. Also well done to **2Lt Gunning, Sig Smithurst, Tinnion** and **LCpl Cave** for passing P Coy. **Cpl Bernstein** has returned from his six months holiday on Ex Long Look and **Cpl Omedi** had departed back to his home down under.

Welcome to **Lt Healey, Cpl Bailey, LCpl Cave** and **Sig Gibbs** and good luck and farewell to **Lt Cole** and **LCpl Phelps.** Congratulations and farewell to **Cpl Smith** who was promoted Sergeant and posted to the RLD at 7 RHA so he can further his triathlon exploits.

**Q TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **QM** | **Capt Fred Bancroft** |
| **RQMS** | **WO2 (RQMS) Steve Clarke** |
| **SQMS** | **WO2 (RSMS) Bob Levine ACC** |
| **SQMS (A)** | **Sgt (SQMS) Mac McKenzie** |
| **SQMS (T)** | **Sgt Brian Reid** |
| **MT SNCO** | **SSgt Lez Skinner RCT** |

**QUARTERMASTER'S DEPT**

The Department has been busy carrying out all its usual Q type tasks and many more besides whilst maintaining a smile and managing an almost full turnout for all Squadron tabs!

Well done to **Cpl 'Scouse' Walsh** on passing P Coy and this jumps and **RQMS Steve Clarke** for eventually doing his refresher jumps. Congratulations also to **Sig Stew Totten** on his marriage to **Maxine.**

Amazingly, **Sig** '12lb Bergen' **Duncan** passed his BFT in the Brigade time, well done **Grant**, P Coy next year!

Soon to leave us is **Sig Dave Pilgrim.** He was last seen lurching across Dartmoor in an attempt to retrieve his Works Ticket, not a good idea to open his folder in a Force 8 Gale, during the Lanyard Trophy Competition.

Well done to **Sig Dave Dewar** on promotion to LCpl, **Sig Grant Duncan** now believes he is in with a shout . . .

**MT SECTION**

Firstly, congratulations to **LCpl Chink Broughton** on getting married. Also to **Dvr Squonk** on the birth of his daughter.

Congratulations to **Cpl Jeff Whittaker** on the birth of a son, passing P Coy and jumps, quite a couple of months **Jeff.** Farewell to **WO2 Mick Barney** and **Sgt Tony Williams**, good luck for the future and welcome to **SSgt Lez Skinner, Sgt Chris Hamill** REME, **Cpl Dobbin Ireland**, hope your tour is enjoyable.

**PIONEER SECTION**

At 5 AB Bde, though often forgotten there is a Section of Pioneers who, under the guidance of **Sgt** 'Elusive' **Wrigley** has the role of Defence Section. However, within Barracks the Section over the years has been spread throughout Q Troop in the forms of **Ptes Nobby Clarke** and **'Baldrick Dimond'** in the MT, **Cpl Reuben** and **Pte Wobbly Smithson** in the Q Dept. Oh, and **LCpl 'Sandhurst' Suttenwood** doing enough courses for a whole Section in the Training Wing. Last, but not least, **Pte** 'Who' **Stevenson** and his war dog 'Zephyr'.

**M TROOP**
**TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp OC** | **WO2 (FofS) Paul Gaffney** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Phil Green** |
| **IC Wksps** | **Sgt Nick Preston** |

After a well deserved summer break, the Para trained element of the Squadron went to Vicenza, Italy on exchange with 101 AB Bn. The days were long with a lot of travelling between the mounting airfield and the base, but the beer flowed freely when we finally arrived at the bar.

Coming back to Aldershot saw the loss of **Sgt John Black** to Trg Wing. Goodbye also to **Cpl Pete Fearn** who is now posted to 22 Sig Regt.

The Squadron did well again in the Lanyard Trophy Competition, with three members of the Troop coming in the first Section. Well done to **Sgt Nick Preston, Cpls Stu Archer** and **Pete Fearn.** Unfortunately they only completed just over half the course before it was curtailed owing to inclement weather.

Welcome to **Sgt Phil Green** from 7 Sig Regt, **Cpl Andy 'RSDCC' Lothian, LCpls Mick Ronald** and **Casci** from 8 Sig Regt. **LCpl 'DM' Davies-Morris** from 16 Sig Regt. Glad you could make it at last, and to **Sig Vern Critchley, Andy 'Sheepy' Dennis** (enjoy the Falklands) and **Mark 'McFly' Sibbald.**

Welcome back to a suntanned **Cpl Fred Hargreaves** who has just come back from Oman with 1 Para.

Here at 5 AB Bde the opportunities for travel and courses are better than most posts within the Pioneer Corps. So good luck to the Seven Corps members on the next Signal Squadron pre-para.

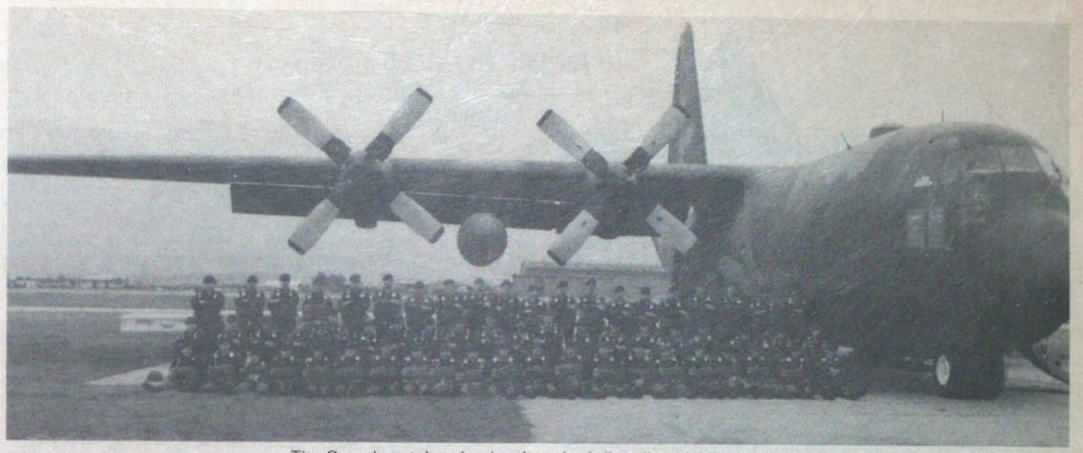
Finally, **LCpl 'Rupert' Suttenwood** would like officially to congratulate himself on passing Pre RCB. Good luck for the real thing next year.

Rounding off the Troop, mention must be made of the men without whom all would end, 'the Cooks' under the guidance of **WO2 (SQMS) Bob Levine ACC.**



'I wanna be an Airborne Ranger'
WO2 (FofS) Paul Gaffney wearing an American parachuting rig in Italy





The Squadron taken 'under the wing', literally, of 3/325 ABCT



The Wings Parade. American wings being presented to Sgt 'Gnome' Black, while the RQMS WO2 'Gnome II' Clark *(Far Right)* tries to see what's going on



There are no cowboys in this Squadron! Capt Steve 'I'll wear anything as long as it's got feathers on it' Vickery takes the exchange a little too far



'Are we there yet?'
The American Jump Master looks for the DZ from 800ft above Aviano Italy

# 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Sig Sqn) Colchester

**SHQ**
**by WO1 (RSM) A. E. Tomlinson**

Life goes on in the 'Ivory Tower' where the work load increases daily. We are now in the void between the end of exercise season and the Christmas Festivities/Block Leave which is looming on the horizon. Hopefully all our batteries will be fully recharged ready for the next batch of exercises and commitments.

Many changes have occurred in the upper Echelons of the Squadron, fortunately with little or no effect on its smooth running.

The SQH has been well represented on the military and sporting front with the Squadron Commander representing the Army at target pistol shooting and the Corps at target rifle—with some fine individual results, and having led the Bde HQ and Sig Sqn team to second place in the prestigious Wittloge Trophy.

The following members of SHQ have represented the Squadron in the following sports: **Sgts Mick Cronin** and **Dougie Maher** at Rugby, **WO2 Dennis Prince** and **Cpl Jeff Murray** at Orienteering, **Capt Mike Griffiths** at Cross Country and Orienteering, **Cpl 'Mitch' Ashley** at Squash, and not forgetting **Pte Joe Carlin** in the Boat Race and 10 pint snatch!

On a lighter note **Sgt Mick Cronin** (Unit Pay Sgt) still has a healthy respect for the boys in blue and manages to run the gauntlet into town most Friday and Saturday nights.

**Sig Mark Longhurst** broke a personal record and achieved a lifetime best by breathing in and popping two buttons on his shirt with his muscle ridden body.

**WO1 Mick Hewitt** was awarded an 'Oscar' for his performance during the Squadron BFT. Well done **Mick**, a fine effort!

**TM TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp OC** | **WO2 (FofS) Mal Allerton** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Bob Drysdale** |
| **Radio Sgt** | **Sgt Andy Davie** |
| **Systems Sgt** | **Sgt Cal Downie** |

A cryptic note enters the Foreman's pigeon hole 'Wire notes, 1 December—this is a subtle hint'. Is it really that time already? Hasn't time flown? What has happened since our last missive? Well we had a visit from those rather nice men from RSIT, splendid job they did too. All dressed up in those clean neatly pressed coveralls, marred only by coffee stains and the occasional Grolsch dribble they looked really, well sort of like, er, REME VM's.

As soon as RSIT was over the Tels Pre started, the workshop was awash with Clansman equipment, literally since the plumbers were fitting our new central heating at the time and flooded the workshop . . . twice.

Oh yes! **Cpl Martin Silvey** is still smiling about his posting to Hong Kong, should do rather well, at 6ft 3in and 15 stone who is going to argue if he does not? M&RO however have had the last laugh, they are posting **Sgt Bob Drysdale** there as well just to keep an eye on him.

**Sgt Andy Davie**'s radio section is now back to full strength with the return of **Cpl Steve Armstrong** from Ex Long Look. Congratulations to **LCpl Craig Brankin** on passing a rather taxing T2 trade test and to **LCpl Steve Hazelwood** on his recent marriage to **Jo**; super reception, even the Foreman **WO2 Mal Allerton** felt his wallet shrink during the evening. Speaking of the Foreman, the Troop would like to say welcome to his new pet, a black labrador dog named 'Yeoman', let us hope it does not chew the office furniture too much.

**Sgt Calum Downie**'s overworked systems section is keeping its head above water thanks to the 'Blues Brother's, **Cpls 'Oggy' Ogden** and **Martin Silvey**, aided by **Cpl** 'what BFT' **Mather**. Things should pick up when **Sgt Aidie Eaton** returns from his Wavell course.

PS Both **Cpl Martin Silvey** and **Sgt Bob Drysdale** are still smiling.

**OSCAR TROOP**

There has been a change in management in the Troop during the last few months. **Capt Richard Quinlan** has taken command of the Troop from **Capt Mike Griffiths** who moves to the job of 2IC. Good luck for your exercise season next year. The locations had better be better than last year or else . . .! **Capt Quinlan** is ably assisted by **Sgt Andy Waldron** and **Sgt Paul Morgan** and together this 'A Team' are really blowing the cobwebs away.

This started with a call over of Troop stores, equipment and vehicles which lasted—wait for it—for six weeks! The Troop pulled through this ordeal well before going off on Christmas leave. Meanwhile **Capt Quinlan** and **Sgt Morgan** led a Nordic Ski Team to Norway and Austria to compete in the 4 Armd Div/UKLF Ski Championships. January sees the start of a very busy year for the Squadron with exercises both in UK and BAOR, RIT Teams, cadets to look after, potential officers to host, military and adventurous training to complete. We certainly will not be bored! Finally the Troop would like to say goodbye to **Sig Larry Lumsden** who leaves us for pastures new. Good luck for the future.

**NOVEMBER TROOP**

The Troop has been kept busy with several individuals away on various tasks including RAAT.

October saw the Squadron KAPE team visit the area's schools in a very successful tour. This was closely followed by the RSIT team descending upon us. This saw **Cpl Brunton, LCpls Watts** and **Watson** feverishly working at all hours! This hard work was rewarded with a good RSIT Report. A special mention should be made of **LCpls Angove** and **Copley** who came third and sixth respectively on their Det Commanders course. Lets hope that **Sig Morgan** and **Sandeman** who are at their upgrading course can do as well.

Towards the end of October **Lt Holden** disappeared on a helicopter handling instructors course leaving **Staff Parry** in charge. At the beginning of November the Troop had a successful party which everybody enjoyed. It also survived a Board of Officers, mainly due to the hard work of **Cpl Greig Terry**, which has left **Cpl Leach** and **Sig Renner** keeping the Garrison secure on Op Braxy and also on Guard Duties.

Congratulations to **Sig Gordon Lloyd** on his recent marriage to **Gwen**. Welcome to the Troop **Gwen**. Welcome also to **Sgt Mitchell** who has finally escaped the dreaded Crypto cell to take up his new appointment as Troop Radio Sgt/Storeman. The Troop welcomes **Sig Savery** who was dispatched immediately to play war games at RARDE along with **Sig Bennett**. Welcome also to **Sig Ross** who is now on his AIPT course and **LCpl Brown** who has only just arrived, so has therefore escaped being sent on anything so far.

The Troop said farewell to **Cpl Jim Parker** who has been head hunted to Oscar Tp and also to **Cpl Greig Terry** who has gone to 1 Armd Div. Both were stalwarts of the Troop and will be sadly missed.

Good luck to **Cpl Wroe** who is at present on his RSDCC and to **Sig Jenkinson** who has decided to spend his Christmas in the Falklands. Have a good tour.

The Troop is at present involved in re-allocation of the Troop stores and preparation for the New Year exercise commitments but we are minus **Lt Holden** and **LCpl Copley** who have gone off to train for the divisional Ski Championships.



Wittloge Trophy Team
*Back Row:* Maj Hoole, Capt Mozeley, Brig Freemantle and Maj Finlayson
*Front Row:* Capt Hacon, Capt Raleigh, Maj Gledhill and Maj O'Byrne





# 55 Sig Sqn (V) Liverpool

**WHO AND WHERE ARE WE?**
**SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sqn Comd** | **Maj A. J. Bowering** |
| **Senior Permanent Staff Instructor** | **WO2 RMSCR Cook** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt P. J. Day** |
| **SQMS(T)** | **SSgt M. H. Yates** |
| **Tech** | **SSgt N. P. Widdup** |
| **Chief Tele Op (P&A)** | **Sgt M. Wright** |

55 Sig Sqn is located not far from the Liverpool end of the M57 and M58 motorways and about one mile from the famous Grand National Course.

Our home Aintree Barracks, a smart custom-built TA Centre, is sited on a trading estate and is in convenient reach by bus or train within the parish.

Liverpudlians are by tradition keen TA soldiers, and in consequence we have no problems recruiting the right material for our needs. The Squadron's role is to provide the 'Rear Link' detachments for the BAOR roled TA Infantry Battalions which include TA Para Battalions, so selective recruiting is important and fortuitously we have a number of ex-regulars in the Squadron.

We are an independent Unit and come under the protective wing of 11 Sig Bde whose Headquarters is just a few miles away.

**MEDAL PRESENTATION**

On Thursday 26 October 1989 the Comd 11 Sig Bde **Brig C. T. Garton** presented the Efficiency Medal to: **2Lt Rob Davies, SSgt Jim Webb, Sgt John Campbell, Cpl Don Titherington**, and **LCpl Phil Farley**. The citations were read out by the 2IC, **Capt Chris Dennis** who stepped forward at the conclusion of the ceremony to receive a 2nd Clasp of his Territorial Decoration. It was witnessed by the whole Squadron on parade and by the wives and children of the recipients. Afterwards the Commander met them in the Junior Ranks Club and Sergeants' Mess. Congratulations to them all!

**VISIT BY MAJ GEN R. F. L. COOK, SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF**

We were honoured by the visit of the SOinC on Wednesday 1 November 1989. Despite being mid-week many of the soldiers were able to be present to meet **Maj Gen Cook**. After signing the visitors' book, the General accompanied by the Commander, **Brig Garton** was given a quick tour of the TA Centre. Afterwards he met all ranks and the civilian staff over a cup of tea in the Sergeants' Mess.

**DEPARTURES**

**Cpl Gary Ashley** was reduced to tears on Saturday 28 October 1989 when the JRC laid on a party in his honour. He's off to 8 Sig Regt. Best wishes from us all.

**CHARITY WALK**

Rumney Road Occupational Therapy Centre Liverpool is always looking for funds to equip the centre for handicapped children. The Junior Ranks Club decided to raise money for this worthy cause by marching from Formby point to Aintree Barracks, a distance of 13 miles. Not far you might say, so to make it more interesting they loaded themselves down with over 30lbs of equipment on their backs—not bad over the sandhills, (no they didn't do it on their hands—next time maybe!).



*Left to Right*: LCpl Phil (Charlie) Farley, Cpl Don Titherington, Sgt John Campbell, Brig C. T. Garton, Maj A. J. Bowering, SSgt Jim Webb, 2Lt Rob Davies and Capt Chris Dennis



The SOinC meeting WO2 (SPSI) Bob Cook and WO2 (SSM) Cliff Thompson under the watchfull eye of Brig C. T. Garton and the OC (hidden) Maj Andy Bowering



*Left to Right:* Sig Fred Bates, David McKenna, Gary McLean, Andrew Blance, Peter Leatherbarrow and Mrs Veronica O'Rourke

## 238 (London) Sig Sqn
## Chelsea Barracks

The season is definitely at an end in Chelsea Barracks. With the Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph and State Opening of Parliament behind us, bands have ceased marching up and down the parade square and there is not a Drill Sergeant in sight.

Christmas arrived early in London and the Squadron was a hive of activity. Decorations sprouted from every ceiling as last minute arrangements for Troop and Squadron parties got under way.

**DEPARTURES/ARRIVALS/CONGRATULATORY**

A Squadron lunch was held on Friday 15 December to say farewell to **Capt John Isherwood** (OC O Tp) and **Capt Therese Crook** (2IC), both have left the Army. **Capt Isherwood** is wished every success in his new career based in Dorset. **Capt Crook** celebrated her last working day in the Squadron by running a final BFT and was suitably rewarded for her efforts with a bottle of wine! **Capt Crook** intends to have a good break on holiday before starting a new career in the New Year.

Best wishes to the following personalities from O Troop and M Troop who have left the Army: **LCpl 'Willie' Paterson, Pte Kathryn Brown, LCpls Alyson Parker, Neil Penny** and **Sgt Dean Jackson.**

Other departures include: **LCpl Nicky Humphries** posted to Hong Kong; **Pte Lara Doherty** posted to BFFI; **Sig 'Smudge' Smith** posted to 3 Div BAOR; **Pte Sarah Howells** also posted to BFFI; **Cpl Colin Pullen** posted to Catterick for his T1 Course and **LCpl Julie Bradshaw** to Northern Ireland.

Congratulations to **Sig Bob Garlick** and **Pte Sara Thickett** who have announced their engagement.



Capt M. T. Crook *(left)* is saying farewell in great style after her final BFT. WO2 (SSM) Hales was obviously the waiter for the occasion

**SPORTS**

The Squadron again achieved good results on the sports field, ably led by **Cpl Karla Rayment**. The men produced a strong team for the final of the London District Hockey Championships and were worthy winners.

**WPte Tracy Price-Jones** is to be congratulated on her superb result in winning the District Individual Womens' Squash Championships.

The Squadron also won the District Badminton Competition and finished second in the Womens' Table Tennis Competition.

**TWELVE HOUR DARTS MARATHON**

'Make dreams come true' was the challenge, so eight members of the Squadron decided to help someone's dream come true by taking part in a sponsored 12 hour darts marathon in the Bruno Club. All proceeds were going to the Les Evans Holiday Fund for Sick and Handicapped Children. After many hours of practice the marathon commenced at 0900 hrs on Wednesday 22 November. The initial scorers, **Cpl Less Donno** and **LCpl Helen Poole** then realised they would be kept busy as the scores were coming thick and fast. There were plenty of 'tons' and 'ton 40s' but the big one seemed to be



The darts 'heavy mob' from *(left to right):* Sig Mark Benson, Sgt Sandy Brown, Cpl Alan Robson, WO2 (SSM) Gus Hales, Sgt 'JB' Bragg, LCpl Dave Chambers, SSgt John Morgon and Cpl 'Tel' Taylor

evading all the players, that was until the end of the afternoon when **WO2 (SSM) 'Gus' Hales** managed that elusive score of 180. **Sgt 'Sandy' Brown** seemed to be spurred on by this and scored a maximum shortly afterwards. **Cpl** 'Wait till I get my glasses' **Robson** came out on top of the 180 battle by scoring two near the end of the 12 hours.

After 15,270 darts were thrown the final total was announced, this was 265,142, the individual with the highest total was **Cpl** 'Tel' **Taylor** who amassed 46,456 points and scored 146 over one-hundred scores. He claims this makes up for not getting a maximum score. Well done to all eight players, who would like to thank all those who helped and supported the event throughout the day. Special thanks must go to the scorers, **SSgt Lisa Twigg, Cpl Les Donno, LCpl Helen Pole** and bar persons **LCpl 'Buff' Buffery** and **Pte Louise Warren**. To finish the evening off **Mr** (ex Sgt) **Brian Murkin** entertained with his red Baron disco which he kindly ran free of charge. A raffle was run by the eight players and some of the prizes were donated by **Mr Phillip Clark** of AFFAS. This, plus donations accepted throughout the day, raised £290. The team hope to raise £1,000 from their sponsorship, so hopefully the sum of around £1,300 should go towards making that 'dream come true'.

**RADIO/MT TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Capt M. L. Knobel WRAC/R Signals** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt J. B. Bragg** |
| **'T' Det** | **Sgt Steve Matthews** |
| **MT Sgt** | **Sgt Tracy Dodds** |

November was a busy, if not the busiest month in the year for Radio/MT Tp. Ceremonial duties at the Diplomatic Reception in Buckingham Palace, Remembrance Sunday, the State Opening of Parliament and the annual Royal Signals Institution London lecture, along with their respective (early morning) rehearsals kept the Troop extremely busy. Even the few gaps were filled with the likes of the London District Hockey Final and charity fund raising in the form of a 12 hour Darts Marathon.

The Diplomatic reception gave **LCpl 'Jock' Plunkett** a second chance to speak to his idol, **Mrs Thatcher.** (He froze at the opportunity earlier in the year.) **LCpl 'Steve' Bartliff**, on his first visit to the Palace was completely bamboozled. Was it sheer intrigue or was he pacing out the ground entrance to see how many rugby pitches it could house?

Remembrance Sunday and the State Opening of Parliament went very smoothly, considering it was a 'First Outing' for some of the newest members of the Troop.

Back in camp, the Squadron is preparing for relocation in Chelsea Barracks; consequently there is a steady build up of packing and movement of stores, a complex task in which the Troop is supporting the RQMS, **WO2 Pylee**.

The Ceremonial year has come to a close and this gives everyone the chance to recondition their Blues and Boots. Meanwhile the Troop Comd, **Capt Knobel**, has gone off on a well deserved break to Florida.

The New Year takes off with some training in leadership and adventure (Battle Camp). Alas, the females will form the rear guard on this solitary occasion, but no doubt all concerned would give an arm and a leg to get out of the smog and into the fresh air for some military aerobics.

**TROOP ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Congratulations to **LCpl Eric Head** who, after getting married, chose a Detachment Commanders course for a honeymoon.



## 244 Sig Sqn (AS)
## RAF, Brize Norton

**MIKE TROOP**

Mike Tp welcomes **WO2 (FofS) Will Stockdale** to the Squadron. We also wish **WO1 (FofS) Mike Howells** and his wife **Betty**, well in their posting to 'sunny' Benbecula.

Since our last communique the Troop has been involved in many exercises, one of which was the Squadron's Summer Camp, which was held in Weymouth. It was split into three phases, all of which involved our Troop Sergeant **John Howell-Walmsley**.

The first phase saw him running around the Weymouth countryside with cadets from Stowe School, instructing them on military training and rock climbing.

On the ranges he and the SSM took us through a variety of foreign weapons. Later in the week he took us rock climbing and abseiling, challenging all comers to a speed climbing contest. No prizes for guessing who won!

There were other stands on the second phase one of which was the cross-country driving stand, where **LCpl Andy Amies** managed to write off a landrover and a Trend Teleprinter, he was ably recovered by the Squadron's two cross-country driving instructors, **Sgt Kenny Barker** and **Cpl Bob Chatfield**.

One of the more interesting stands was run by **FofS Howells** and involved digging trenches to stage four in two hours, needless to say not many people managed this.

The evenings were spent winning the hearts and minds of the good people of Weymouth.

After the holiday of Summer Camp it was back to the rigours of exercise, which saw **LCpl Andy Amies** off to sunnier climates such as Italy and Sardinia on the arduous AMF(L) deployments. The rest of us had to be content with Standford, Blandford and more recently France on Ex Purple Venture where **Cpl Bob Chatfield** (REME) our accomplished chef tried unsuccessfully to kill off **LCpl Paddy Maybin** with an overdose of fresh seafood and garlic.

Congratulations must go to **LCpl Colin Bentley** on passing his Det Commanders Course and good luck to **Cpl Egg Irwin** who has just taken his TI Entrance exam. The baby Techs in the Troop have eventually passed their T2s these being **LCpls Amies, Bentley** and **Luffman.**

**BRAVO TROOP**
**EXERCISE WANDERING HAND**

This took the form of a 70 mile walk across the Southlands Way and had a cut-off time of three and a half days.

The exercise was organised by **Lt Horn** and **Sgt Ken Barker.** Along with eight other followers keen on a couple of day's walking. This consisted of **LCpls Taff Pike, Mat Lammas, Mick** 'Crackle Face' **Toes, Sig Baz Fullerton, Mick Ross, Taff Jones, Chris Green, Geordie Haggath** and not forgetting the admin party **Cpl** 'I bet those feet hurt' **Crawford** and **Pte Eddie Edwards.**

The first day was a brisk 10 miles which was nothing to what lay ahead. As the second day dawned we packed up camp and set off.

The week was short but the walk soon sorted out those with ill fitting boots. The local pubs were visited to the relief of many of our feet. The walk was completed on time and was enjoyed by everyone who participated.



Lt Horn, Sig Ross, LCpls Toes and Pike and Sig Fullerton

## 254 Sig Sqn (UNFICYP)
## BFPO 567

**HQ PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj J. G. Peck** |
| **2IC** | **Capt R. P. Giles** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 W. Henderson** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt C. Alexander** |
| **CC** | **Sgt A. B. Rose** |
| **Stores Acct** | **Sgt J. Williams** |
| **FSO Clk** | **Mrs E. Donaghy** |
| **Typist** | **Mrs S. Hiscock** |

**EXERCISE APHRODITES AMBLE**
**by Cpl Clancy**

This was an exercise designed to test the Squadron's fitness, mapreading and basic military skills, taking the form of a competition involving eight teams each of 5 men. The first day consisted of a range day down at Akrotiri SBA, followed by a night spent in five star accommodation beneath the stars on Episkopi training area. Early the next morning the real test began with the first Section leaving at 0500 hrs followed by the rest of the Sections at 10 minutes intervals. The first day was to involve a 'rough' 25km tab including a first aid and NBC stand. However, due to the amazing lack of pathfinder map readers in the Squadron, a few Sections throught nothing of an extra 10-15kms. This enabled the duty medic to practise a few techniques in bandaging up sore feet. It was clear that after just two checkpoints, the lads were really getting into the swing of things with the Canadian Section led by **MCpl Ducet** and lone English speaking Welshman **Sig 'Taffy' Richards** and **Cpl Jim Clancy**'s Commcen boys running neck and neck. **LCpl 'Stewy' Stewart**'s Section was breathing down the back of Commcen Section necks until a bad decision to go pot holing. **LCpl Stewart** decided to go down a massive ravine and visit the land that time forgot. At the end of a very hard and challenging first day we settled down to another night under the stars. This time it really did feel like five star accommodation with the sound of **LCpl 'Parky' Parkes** and **Sig 'Ash' Ashworth** snoring in perfect harmony.

Day two started with a lot of moans, groans, aches and pains.



*Standing L to R:* Ready for the off are MCpl Marc Doucet, Cpl Guy Nelson, MCpl Chris Hickford, Sig Mike St Jean and 'Taff' Richards



Enjoying the Aphrodites Amble 'cruise' are *(L to R)* One 'Dead' Canadian, Sig Marlow, LCpls 'Ben' Casey, 'Alfie' Hitchcock and Sig Steve Leafloor

However, after a delicious breakfast which turned out to be a lesson in how not to cook compo by **Sig 'Clem' Clements**, we set off on day two. The only stand on day two was the basic signalling stand, run by **Sgt 'Lance' Thornton-Granville** which consisted of a line crossing and OP. This stand presented Tech and Line Section with a few problems, **Cpl 'Neil' Inman** only just managed to complete his crimping . . . The final 15km 'run in' saw each Section get the energy to speed up over some of the worst terrain of the two days. The added obstacle of a couple of villages completely throwing some Sections map reading out of the window and causing them to walk round in circles. At this point the OC decided to walk on his own (to save his tired legs). The finish line was Evdhimou beach where RCC were supposedly waiting to whisk us away to safety, but, being Saturday afternoon they didn't come. At the end, the first and second positions were very close, over two day's marching, one minute separated both teams with the Canadian Section just pipping the Commcen Section. However, due to better results on the stands, the overall winners were Section D consisting of **Cpl Jim Clancy, LCpls 'Parky' Parks, 'Rick' Wood, Sig 'Ash' Ashworth** and **'Clem' Clements**.

Throughout the whole exercise the morale of the Sections was very high and the competition very fierce. Everyone had an enjoyable exercise but we were all glad to get back to the Wire Inn.

## SQUADRON 'FANCY DRESS' NIGHT

The Squadron held a Fancy Dress night in the Wire Inn on Saturday 25 November to raise much needed funds for this years Christmas Draw.

The hierarchy of the Squadron always thought that there were at least a couple of Clowns in the Unit, but many more 'closet' clowns were to appear, including those pictured.

**Sgt Alf Norrie** appeared as Frankenstein complete with bolt, not too much make-up required though! **SSgt Mick Halford** as Dracula accompanied by **Rosemary** complete with tail, in a fetching panther outfit.

The night, which raised approximately £75, was well attended with special thanks to **Cpl Mick Marsh** for arranging, supervising and generally badgering people for donations. We are all looking forward to the next extravaganza—Vicars and Tarts—so watch this space!



Sig Dan Burdus, WO2 (SSM) Henderson, Cpls Trev Acres, Mick Marsh (organiser) and Sgt John (always smiling) Williams

## RADIO TROOP
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Tp** | **Lt Ben Poirier—Canadian Signals** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Mick Halford** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt John Robson—Canadian Signals** |

Firstly farewell and best wishes to **SSgt 'Benny' Bennett** who recently left the heat and dust of Cyprus on posting to the cold snows of Scotland. The Troop would like to congratulate **Benny** on his promotion to WO2 and wish him and his family the best of luck in the future. Welcome to **SSgt Mick Halford** and his wife **Rosemary** who have recently arrived from 14 Sig Regt.

The Troop is fairly busy with inspections, visits and comms trials. New arrivals are still trying to get used to early morning Sqn PT (in the dark!) especially newly arrived Canadians still suffering from jet-lag! Two days rock-climbing organised by our Rock-climbing instructor, **SSgt Mick Halford**, were 'enjoyed' by all who took part. **LCpl Stewart** was narrowly beaten in the traversing competition by **Sig Scouse Carvill**—he reckons it was all too easy.

On the sporting front, the Troop had a good representation in the Squadron which was just won the Support Regt Cross Country Competition.

Finally, welcome to our new arrivals—have a good tour and goodbye and best wishes to all recently departed Troop members.

## TECH AND LINE TROOP
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **WO2 (FofS) S. G. P. Whiteford** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt P. Hancock** |
| **Tech Sgt** | **Sgt A. Broadbank** |
| **Line Sgt** | **Sgt P. Jennings** |
| **Crimp SNCO** | **Sgt A. Norrie** |

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Fond farewells go to, **Sig 'Tosh' Pope** and **Terry Hall** who return to Dhekelia, **Cpl B. J. Forbes-Wilson** who returns to Episkopi. Also to **Cpl Paul Collins** and **LCpl Jim** (Polar Bear) **Beech** who returns to Blandford. Good luck to you all in the future.

A warm welcome to **Cpl Neil Inman** and **LCpl 'Lucky' Luckhurst** from Dhekelia and to **Cpl Andy** (UN and Bar) **Tuck**, from Blandford.

## SAFE AND SKILLED DRIVING

Well done to the Troop Safe and Skilled Driving team, for winning the Inter Squadron Competition. Please note that **Cpl Ray** 'Bumper' **Dunn** was not a member of the team.

Finally the Troop would like to extend best wishes for the new decade to all members of the Squadron.

## COMMCEN TROOP
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Tp** | **WO1 (YofS) Hammett** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Thornton-Granville** |
| **Day Cpl** | **Cpl Purves** |

Commcen Troop has said farewell to the following members: **Cpls George McGuire, Tim Hopkins, LCpls Billy Bingham, Rick Wood, Sig Jase Garvey, Shaggy Shahi, Dave Owen** and **Jase Fairclough**. We wish them well back in UK.

We welcome to the Troop, **Cpls Andy Fife, Jim Clancy, LCpls John Murray, Jock Imrie, Sig Paddy Lucas, Chico Towers, Chris Jones** and **Ash Ashworth**.



Squadron Cross country team, winners of the Support Regiment Competition *Top Row:* Sig Carvill, Sgt Jennings, Sig Masters, Pollitt, Burdus, LCpl Hitchock, Sig Yates, McCarthy and SSgt Alexander
*Bottom Row:* Sig Marlow, Cpl Dunn, LCpl Stewart, Capt Giles, Sig Denison, LCpl Whittaker and WO1 (YofS) Hammett



# 259 Sig Sqn
# BFPO 53

## PERSONALITIES

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Lynn Relph** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Mick Fogg** |
| **QM** | **Maj Colin French** |
| **TOT** | **Capt Frank Running** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Tim Wallis** |
| **Chief Clerk** | **SSgt Neil March** |

## THE CYPRUS WALKABOUT 1989
**by Cpl Chalkie White**

On 3 and 4 October 1989, British Forces Cyprus held the annual Cyprus Walkabout Competition with 82 teams competing. The event is a walk! from Episkopi in the Western Sovereign Base Area to the top of Mount Troodos (5,815ft) and back, a distance of 80 miles. The route is naturally over mountainous terrain. This competition is said to be the most inappropriately named sporting event ever held, as it is definitely no walk!

The Squadron entered two teams this year. Team 1, **Cpls Chalkie White, Bish Bishop** and **LCpl Taff Morris**. Team 2, **Sig Andy Maylett, Mick Turner** and **Tony Wringe**.

They set off from Episkopi at 0530 hrs on Tuesday 3 October for the climb up the mountain and after reaching all the check points and scaling the occasional rock face arrived without blisters at Mt Troodos mid afternoon to a well earned cup of tea. Team 1 took 8 hrs 40 mins and Team 2, 10 hrs 31 mins to reach the top.

The following morning after a nice(ish) night's sleep the teams set off at 0600 hrs on the return journey, cutting their way through the clouds, and doing the occasional piece of scree running to checkpoint one, stopping momentarily to notice how far away was Akrotiri Salt Lake!

Team 1 completed the return journey in 11 hrs 21 mins to register a total time of 20 hrs 2 mins. Team 2 suffered injuries which left **Sig Mick Turner** to join up with another injury stricken team and complete the very hard course.

It was said at the finish that there was more up on the way down than there was on the way up and this was very true (you work it out!). This year's course was one of the hardest courses ever set. The event was an evil two days and Mick Dundee (of Walkabout Creek fame) can come over and try our Walkabout anytime.

Both teams enjoyed the challenge of the competition and especially Team 1 as they were the first 259 Sig Sqn team in the last five years to actually finish the course. (It seems that in previous years, people had difficulty finding their way, even with a map and compass.)

Well done to all who took part in the event!




The Squadron Walkabout Team 1989

*(Left to right):* Cpl Bish Bishop, LCpl Taff Morris and Cpl Chalkie White

## MOUNTAIN TROOP

Mountain Tp was asked recently, to come to the aid of the local RAF Police Dog Section, whose Alsatians had become a bit bored with chasing the same old people. Always willing to help, Mountain Tp said 'Yes, no problem. We'll send some volunteers down straight away'. Half of the Troop said 'Yes, I'll do it', whilst the other half ran a mile in the opposite direction shouting 'You've got a hope'.

**Sgt 'Knocker' Bennett, Cpl 'Bully' Bull** and **Sig 'Fraggle' Sutton** decided that it would take more than 85lb of snarling Alsatian to scare them, so their names were forwarded to the Dog Section and battle commenced.

To give a realistic feel to the proceedings, the rest of Mountain Tp was used as irate demonstrators, and were asked to hurl objects and abuse at the snarling dogs. **Sgt 'Knocker' Bennett** was the first to don the padded suit, **Sig 'Fraggle' Sutton** went next and **Cpl 'Bully' Bull** was dragged into a suit after he'd seen what had happened to the previous two.

Each in turn stood amongst the demonstrators throwing bricks and stones, and shouting 'Go away you naughty dogs', and similar phrases. After the Troop had got the dogs ready to take on the world, each target was told to run away into the bundu. After the dog handler had given them the statutory warning, the dogs were released, and within no time at all, they had launched their fangs straight into a nice juicy set of shoulder blades. **Sgt 'Knocker' Bennett** and **Cpl 'Bully' Bull** put up quite a good fight, but the prize for the best swan-dive goes to **Sig 'Fraggle' Sutton** who managed to do a double back somersault in the pike position before hitting the deck.

The Dog Section was very appreciative of our help and we have reciprocated by offering to let them run through the bundu, whilst we set our Troop Commander, **Lt 'Tiny' Coleman**, on to them. The Dog Section was game, but the Medical Centre was not so keen on the idea.

And now for something completely different!

Congratulations to **SSgt Andy Fullwood** on successfully passing his Skill-at-Arms Course, and to **LCpl 'Belly' Moore** on successfully passing his B1.

The Troop offers a warm welcome to **Sgt Chris Ballin** and his wife **Katherine**, who soon settled in. In fact **Chris** has already settled his car into the back of a four tonner.

We also welcome **Sig Tony Haley** who's already settled into **LCpl 'Belly' Moore**'s spare bedroom.

It just remains to wish **Sgt 'Fergy' Ferguson**, good luck on his Volleyball Instructors Course.

## THE TWO SNAKES
**by Sgt 'Wide Boy' Findon**

The Two Snakes is a cross country race organised every year by the Squadron. The race is run over very rough and undulating terrain, not made any earsier by the heat. The course is 5 miles long for adult male runners and 4¾ for ladies and juniors. The extra ¼ of a mile is 'killer hill'.

Preparation for the event started early in October with the formation of a Committee. All aspects of the race were discussed and organised, or so I thought. Towards the race day, Wednesday 8 November, I checked to make sure everything had been taken care of and it had except for the food. **Sgt 'Bod' McDonald** whose only task it was to organise the food had forgotten about it, but it was now too late as the Cookhouse will only accept orders on 10 days notice. With some frantic organising, he managed to persuade the Sqn Barman **Cpl Jeff Wood** and his wife **Lil** to provide the buffet at two day's notice, not bad considering we were catering for 200.

The day arrived and the race was run with everything going smoothly except that we had fewer entries than anticipated. The Squadron had very few runners entered due to other commitments and our best placing was around fortieth but everyone ran in the spirit of the event even though they needed some gentle persuasion to do so!

I would like to thank the people who helped on the day especially **Cpl Gerry Dear, Sgt Bod McDonald** and **Lil Wood** who is probably off sandwiches for the rest of her life.

Also to the OC 259, **Maj Lynn Relph**, for presenting the prizes and for starting the proceedings which didn't exactly go with a bang!

## — News from Troops —

### 633 Sig Tp
### BFPO 12

A quiet time except for the return of Monty's Montserrat Menders from the Leeward Isles: more of that.

Unfortunately there have been a few disturbances of our six month vacation in the sun. The Adjutant General popped in to say a few cheering words to boost the morale of the Troops in this far flung corner of the globe. Needless to say all the preparation for the visit was dutifully carried out; we're getting quite used to VIP visits. COS UKLF came about a week later.

**Capt Chris Payne** from 2 Sig Bde visited for a week and amongst many busy meetings with **WO2 (FofS) Tim Prince, WO2 (YofS) Bob Marshall** and **Capt Barry Keegan**, was seen wandering around Airport Camp taking notes looking very determined. Hopefully a few of our equipment problems will now be sorted out.

To get back to the real world a Force Hurricane Exercise was staged and it was realised during this that no one in the Troop had ever dismantled an 80ft mast before. But with the necessary equipment an intrepid team of **Lt Neil Stevens,** the Tp Comd, **WO2 (YofS) Bob Marshall, Sgt Chris Braid** and **Cpl Stu Budd** set out to lower, intact, an 80ft mast. After much discussion and several false starts, **Cpl Stu Budd** finally took command and the operation was completed successfully and without mishap. However when it was time for it to be re-erected . . . that is another story!

In mid October we said farewell to **WO2 (YofS) Bob Marshall** and welcomed **WO2 (YofS) Chris Aitken** who arrived in the midst of the Cooma Cairn conference. **SSgt Dave Gilbert** having spent a week on Cooma Cairn decided that he didn't like the state of affairs up there and so all sorts of cages have since been rattled. The latest plans involve: a water pump, an improved water storage facility and a new latrine pit. The toilet has moved further away as each new pit is dug. It is estimated that by the year 2100 AD it will be in the vicinity of San Ignacio!

On a more serious note the Troop is actively pursuing a number of sporting interests. There is currently an inter-unit football competition and the Tp Comd did the first round draw on BFBS radio. The Troop promptly got drawn against the competition favourities and were knocked out in a thrilling competitive match three goals to two; the Troop goals being scored by **Sig Colin Pirrie** and **Neil Beattie**. There is soon to follow an inter-unit basketball competition and there is a 10km road race being sponsored by 1/2 Bn Gurkha Rifles.

Finally the Troop would like to welcome all those who have arrived recently and say farewell and bon voyage to all those who have left.

**HURRICANE HUGO**
**by Sgt 'Zack' Wright**

I was rudely awakened at 0245 hrs on Tuesday 21 September 1989 by the shrill ring of the telephone in my bunk. It was **WO2 (YofS) Bob Marshall**; 'you have six hours to prepare to move to Montserrat as part of the British relief force for Hurricane Hugo'. Montserrat is a small British dependency just south of Antigua and north of Guadeloupe. After a briefing, by the Tp Comd, **Lt Neil Stevens**, it was time to wake up my carefully selected crew **LCpls Dusty Millar, Paul Cross** and **Sig Vince Newton**. Within half an hour all were dressed and looking bright eyed and bushy tailed and while they prepared our equipment I attended a further briefing from the Relief Force Commander, **Maj Keith Montgomery RE**.

By 1200 hrs all stores and equipment had been loaded on the Hercybird and we departed at 1230 hrs. The aircraft wasn't able to land directly on Montserrat so we came down at nearby Antigua where we spent two nights at a very cosy US Naval base.

HMS *Alacrity* was just offshore and they supplied a Lynx helicopter for myself and **Maj Montgomery** to do an aerial recce. I can assure you that it was not a sight for the faint hearted. Much of the island was totally devastated by the awesome power of the hurricane. Equipment was ferried over to Montserrat by helicopter where a selection of vehicles were requisitioned to transport all the stores to Plymouth, the capital. Our det used a Nissan vanette nicknamed 'Jimmy' which despite the total lack of windows proved to be ideal transport for the island.

Our base station was the Public Works Dept and with no telephone available it was vital that we provided comms between the airport, the PWD, the Police and the operational control centre which was run by His Excellency **Mr Christopher Turner OBE**, the Governor of Montserrat. He needed to know at all times what was arriving at the airport and for this we used the VRC 321 and PRC 320 and for communication within Plymouth we utilised a number of PRC 350/1 and a VRC 353. After a few days some telephones were restored by Cable & Wireless. Time for the Royal Signals to relax?—no way! It was then off to the power station to mend the roof and then on to the Nurses' Home (don't even think about it!). Then to help the Sappers with the demolition of two radio masts which were obstructing roads. Who better than **Sig** 'bolts' **Newton** and myself to assist? A tremendous experience and a few big bangs.

I managed to make daily visits to HMS *Alacrity* where I was able to communicate with Belize on CW. It was absolutely nothing to do with the Petty Officers' Mess selling draught English beer! A big thank you to all the communicators in *Alacrity* and a special thanks to **PO Phil Holbrook** for his much valued assistance.

Socially a games evening was arranged with His Excellency The Governor being the honoured guest and a selection of British people living on Montserrat were also invited including Midge Ure of Ultravox fame. The evening was a total success and to mark the occasion a small statue was presented to the Governor.

Then I arranged for a team to play football against the Montserrat National team which we finally won 3—2 with 2 of our goals being scored by our very own **LCpl Dusty Millar** subsequently named man of the match.

After a farewell champagne breakfast, the Governor thanked everybody in the relief team for their efforts over the previous month. We then returned to Belize. The Mexican border last month, this month Antigua and Montserrat—where next Boss?—keep your bags packed **Dusty**!

**HURRICANE HUGO DISASTER RELIEF—MONTSERRAT**

The following is a signal received from **His Excellency Mr Christopher Turner OBE**, the Governor of Montserrat:

'Now that the flight of the Phoenix has finally taken place, I wish to thank you for all that you achieved in the month you spent with us. You did, in that time, almost work miracles through your professionalism and sheer hard work. That there is electricity already in parts of Plymouth and running water over much of the island is almost entirely due to your efforts, efforts which are as much appreciated by the people of Montserrat as by myself. I was much impressed by the unfailing good humour of the detachment and by their willingness to turn their hand to any and every task. You have been both most excellent representatives of the Armed Forces and ambassadors of the United Kingdom and your work here in Montserrat will long remain in the memories of the people of this Island to whose assistance you came in their hour of need. Thank you again for everything you have done for us, my very best good wishes to you all for the future.



In the jungles of Belize. Lt Neil Stevens with Maj Nigel Smellie, OC 78 (Belize) Ord Coy





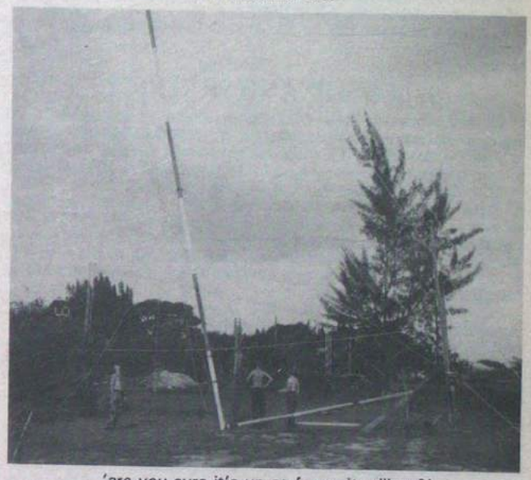
Games party night in Montserrat. Midge Ure is in the centre. Also present are Sgt Zack Wright, LCpls Dusty Miller and Paul Cross and members of 8 Fd Sqn RE.



Cpl Stu Budd and WO2 (YofS) Bob Marshall mastering the intracacies of the 80ft mast



Capt Chris Payne, 2 Sig Bde, making copious notes about the Transmitter Site



'are you sure it's up as far as it will go?'

## Association News

### CAMBRIDGE BRANCH

**Report by Hon Sec D. Watson**

Ten members of the Branch travelled to Ypres, in Belgium, this year for the Annual Remembrance Day parade at the Menin Gate.

We left Cambridge TA Centre at 0545 hrs on 10 November for the 0900 hrs ferry from Dover to Calais. On arrival at Calais we headed towards Poperinge where we were booked into the Palace Hotel. After stopping for lunch at Cassel, famous for its association with the Grand old Duke of York, we arrived at 'Pop' in the early afternoon.

We spent a relaxing afternoon and evening in Bruno's, a restaurant and bar where one of our number, **Neville Cross**, asked for custard for his pudding. The proprietor, Bruno, did not understand and after numerous attempts to explain what custard was and how it's made, **Neville** gave up.

The next day we watched the parade at Ypres and a wreath was laid by **Ron Langley** on behalf of the Branch.

The weather was superb and because we had some time to spare before the return ferry we drove down to Vimy Ridge and spent a couple of hours there.

All members who attended enjoyed the weekend and were moved by the ceremony. They intend to return next year.

A delay with the return ferry departure meant that we arrived back at Cambridge at approximately 0130 hrs on Sunday which just gave us the change to grab a few hours sleep before taking part in the parade at Fulbourn, a village just outside Cambridge, on the Sunday morning with 54 (EA) Sig Sqn (V) in which some of us have served.



Ron Langley laying a wreath on behalf of Cambridge Branch RSA at Ypres in Belgium

## EAST LONDON BRANCH

**From: Mr S. E. Thorpe-Tracey—Chairman**

A Buffet Dance was held on Saturday 4 November at the Royal British Legion Hall in Ilford. All tickets were sold and everyone had a very enjoyable evening.

Our special guest was **Dave Greenbrook** who retired from RHQ on 31 October. He was presented with a Regimental Plaque as a reminder of his two and a half years as PSI 45 Sig Regt (V) (now 36 Sig Regt (V)) in 1962. In his reply **Dave Greenbrook** thanked the Chairman and Branch members for their gift which he said will take pride of place in his home.

Our Chairman thanked everyone for supporting the evening, Branch Secretary **Capt Dyball** and the Social Committee headed by **Maj Greenwood** and **Mrs Greenwood** for organising such a splendid occasion. The evening concluded with our Standard Bearer **Fred Backhouse** lowering the Branch Standard during the playing of the National Anthem. The following Saturday **Fred** represented the Branch as Standard Bearer at the Royal British Legion annual Festival of Remembrance in the Albert Hall.

Our next function will be our annual Dinner and Dance on 10 March 1990.

## GLOSSOP AND DISTRICT

The 44th Annual Reunion Dinner of the Glossop and District Royal Signals Association (President **Maj A. G. Goodman MBE**) was held at the Winston Hotel, Glossop on Saturday 7 October 1989; also present was **David Greenbrook**, at his 19th and final dinner here prior to his retirement. Some 48 members were present.

Within the middle two weeks of May 1939 some 350 men were recruited in Glossop to form Nos 1 and 2 Companies (No 3 Coy was formed in Chesterfield) of the 2nd (North Midland) Corps Signals; **Brevet Col C. J. Underwood** commanding. The Unit from which our present Association derives, and of which **2Lt A. G. Goodman** was a founder member.

By way of celebrating the 50th Anniversary of that historic occasion, the Committee of the Glossop District OCA organised an exhibition of memorabilia at the Glossop Heritage Centre in May 1989. The staff at the centre declared it to be the most successful specialist exhibition they had ever staged. To mark our appreciation of their efforts and to establish a permanent record of the event, we presented the centre with a Regimental Shield.

The shield was purchased by voluntary subscriptions and it was mounted on a suitably inscribed back-plate and framed in the form of a plaque. It is displayed in a prominent position in the Heritage Centre. Since the high-light of our year is the Annual Dinner we organised a ceremony of presentation on the same day, to which the Mayor and Mayoress of the High Peak were invited to unveil and accept the plaque on behalf of the centre.

This pre-dinner ceremony was very well attended. It included some of the original recruitment; many whose war-time call up had channelled them to Units that held pockets of 'Glossopians' where comradeship matured into friendship re-newed annually down these 44 years; as well as several members of the Public.



## HARROGATE BRANCH

Since our re-birth in May 1982, the Branch has gone from strength to strength and we can now boast a total of 60 paid up members including one lady, **Mrs Barbara Gibbon**, who, as a staunch member of the committee, has made her presence felt. The Branch still meets on the third Friday of every month in the Harrogate Conservative Club, where the Steward, **Mr Derek Prest**, ably assisted by his wife **Irene** make us most welcome and have the happy knack of remembering names, faces and tipples.

The Catterick reunion was well attended by more than 20 members of the Branch and there was another excellent turn out for the Leeds Branch annual Book of Remembrance Church Service held at the Army Apprentices' College. Members and families were again out in force when the Corps Band played Retreat in June 1989. Thirty members marched proudly behind the Branch Standard at the annual Remembrance Day Parade in Harrogate. Afterwards a lunch was held in the Sergeants' Mess at the College where many old friends from other Associations and acquaintances from the Police, United States Armed Forces and Mess Members met together.

The highlight of our social calendar, the Annual Dinner was once again held in the Sergeants' Mess of the Army Apprentices' College where 121 members and their guests enjoyed a superb meal. Our guest of honour at this our 7th annual dinner was **Col K. P. Burke** the Commandant of the Army Apprentices' College. Our other principal guest was the College RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Rab Ritchie**, Scots Guards. Both guests were presented with Branch Ties and the Commandant was made a member of the Branch. The RSM was made an Associate Member. He can now boast six years' association with the Corps as both CSM and RSM, and, can claim to be the only non-Royal Signals Warrant Officer to attend an SOinC's dinner. To them both a sincere and warm welcome is extended together with our grateful thanks for the use of the Mess and the College facilities on so many occasions.

During the year we have held sporting and social activities where we are gaining quite a reputation at Quizzes, Snooker and Golf. Our monthly meeting is always well attended as are our many social gatherings. Good work is also being done on the welfare side of the Branch where our representative is kept busy. In short an extremely busy year for a very happy and strongly supported Branch. We look forward to 1990 and even better things.



Our newest recruit, Col K. P. Burke Commandant Army Apprentices College, Harrogate—Sporting his Branch tie



## WEST LONDON BRANCH

Nearly a hundred members and guests attended our Annual Dinner and Dance at the Osterley Hotel in October. We were pleased to welcome as our principal guest **Mr David Greenbrook. David** has been a good friend in his time at RHQ and we hope we shall see him on many occasions in the future. Music was provided by **Mr Brian Murkin**, rehabilitated to 'civvy street' but not too far away to be a future Branch Member. How about it, **Brian**?

In October we attended Divine Service at the Chapel of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, by courtesy of the Governor, **Gen Sir Roland Guy GCB, CBE, DSO**, who inspected the parade at which our Standard was carried by **Mr Harry Ruff**. After the service we enjoyed the hospitality of the In-Pensioners Club, always a rewarding experience.

We welcome **John Coltman** back to health after being very seriously on the sick list and congratulate him on missing only one Branch meeting. Well done, **John**.

## MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY ASSOCIATION

To review the year by starting with October might seem to some to be a little odd, but to the Association it is one of the most important months of the year. It is the time when we meet as a Regimental Family when all generations of Middlesex Yeoman are present; from the mounted to the armoured; and the airborne to the present generation of young men and women of 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V).

The annual dinner was held on 20 October and the Chairman was **Mr George Key**. The President, **Sir John Prideaux**, welcomed the Guest of Honour, **Lt Col L. French**, CO, 31 Sig Regt (V) and said how lucky the Regiment was to have such a distinguished young Officer commanding the Regiment.

A warm welcome was also extended to the Honorary Colonel, of 31 Sig Regt (V), **Maj Gen G. R. Oehlers CB**, and the Regimental Chaplain, the **Rev David Crawley** who were with us for the first time, and to the other guests including the Household Cavalry Regiment, the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry, the Princess Louises' Kensingtons, the Royal Signals Association, and to **RSM T. Ferry** who had only just taken up his appointment with 31 Sig Regt (V).

There was a special word of appreciation and thanks to RCM **A. J. Davies** for providing facilities for Association meetings to be held at Hyde Park Barracks.

**Lt Col French** outlined the activities of the Regiment during the year and highlighted the need for publicity to improve recruiting and for employers to understand what the TA does, and the benefits of service in the TA.

Having secured the recruits it is essential to retain them in the Regiment, and the only way to do this is by good imaginative training programmes and, of course, sport. The Regiment now boasts a cricket team, a football team and four golf teams.

He went on to say that Regimental Associations can only thrive with the support of those who have served with the Regiment, both past and present, and the Association is proud to say that it is well supported by the Regiment and 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V).

The OC, 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V), **Maj C. Mote**, emphasised the importance of the families having an interest in the Squadron activities, and to this end more social events had been arranged during the year to include the families. They ranged from recruiting drives at local shows to fun runs and parachuting. Also funds were raised for local hospitals.

The Vice Chairman, **Capt W. French**, wound up the evening with a Charity Appeal for the welfare of horses. There was a generous response and over £200 was raised to be shared by two Charities. Our thanks to all who contributed.

Now to return to earlier in the year, in fact back to December 1988 and the Shooting Competition between 47 Sqn and the Veterans. It was the 10th anniversary of the Pearson Memorial Trophy and to mark the occasion the Association presented each member of the winning team with a pewter tankard inscribed with the Regimental Badge.

47 Sqn are to be congratulated on their success with a score of 413 against the Veterans score of 388.

The Cavalry Memorial Parade and Service was held on Sunday 14 May. It was fairly well attended but loyalties were divided between the parade in Hyde Park and the Royal Signals Reunion at Blandford, which was held on the same day.

The Middlesex Yeomanry Association Band was on parade by kind permission of **Lt Col S. J. Williams MBE, TD**.

In September members and their families were the guests of 31 Sig Regt (V) at Rushmoor Arena. Squadron members explained its function to the veterans who were very impressed with the modern hightech equipment.

During the afternoon the visitors were entertained by the Royal Signals 'Blue Helmets' Parachute Team which demonstrated its skills by dropping into the centre of the arena, followed by the 'White Helmets' Motor Cycle Display Team which gave an accomplished performance of trick-riding and the handling of the motor cycle. Tea in the marquee ended a very enjoyable afternoon.

The Lafone Day Memorial Service was held on 22 October at St Martin's Church, Ludgate Hill, and in the Crypt, of St Paul's Cathedral. The Regimental Chaplain, **Rev David Crawley**, conducted the Service, and wreaths were laid at the Middlesex Yeomanry Memorials, in the Crypt of St Paul's by the Chairman, Middlesex Yeomanry Association, **Mr G. Key**, and by the OC 47 Sqn.

The parade was led by the Middlesex Yeomanry Association Band by kind permission of **Lt Col S. J. Williams MBE, TD**.

This year was the first time that 47 Sqn members were present at the Opening Ceremony of the Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey. **HM Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother**, spoke to **Sgt S. Prance** and veteran **Mr L. Smith** who represented the Middlesex Yeomanry at the Regimental Plot.

Every year brings its sadness with the loss of veterans who have appeared ageless, and this year we mourned the loss of **Col 'Jumbo' Collins MC, TD**, who died on 21 October.

He commanded 16 AB Div Sig Regt (Middlesex Yeomanry) from 1953-59 and was instrumental in the Regiment keeping its title which survives in 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V).

He was awarded the Military Cross at Dunkirk and was present at the 'D' Day landings.

In civilian life he was a Civil Engineer and well known Arbitrator, and despite a very busy business life which took him all over the world, he still found the time to serve with the Territorial Army, and after his retirement continued to support the Association until the end.

The passing of this much loved and respected Yeoman will sadden all who knew him, and we all send our sympathy to **Rae** and their family, in their bereavement.

The Association has had a difficult year without a Treasurer but we are pleased to welcome **Lt Mike Lansdown**, 47 Sqn, who has volunteered to take over the accounts. Also we are encouraged by the response we have had from the younger members. We will be looking for a Deputy Secretary in 1990 as the Honorary Secretary is moving to Hampshire at the end of the year and will not be so readily available in the future. Nominations should be sent to the Honorary Secretary at 45 The Avenue, Liphook, Hants GU30 7QS.



HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother speaking to Sgt S. Prance and Mr Len Smith at the Field of Remembrance'

# 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF OVERLOON AND VENRAY

**by E. E. Bayley, Hon Secretary, 3 Div Sig Reunion Club**

A surprise phone call on Sunday 24 September from **Mr Jan Janssen**, the pig farmer from Ysselsteyn, Holland informing me that he and his wife **Nellie** were phoning from Cambridge where they had been guests of the widow of **Pte Stephen Pledger** of the Lincolnshire Regiment, killed on 20 November 1944 in the Overloon area aged 28 years and buried in Venray, was to inform me that they would be arriving at Kings Cross and would like to spend a day in London, could I put them up and show them around. **Mr Janssen** had also brought for me an invitation from the Overloon Committee based on the War Museum to attend the ceremonials arranged for the 12-15 October to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of Liberation. I met **Mr and Mrs Janssen** when they were my hosts three years ago at War Widows' Memorial Service at Venray cemetery. The surprise phone call had me busy getting my bachelor pad tidied up and making it ready for my guests. All went to plan and it was a very tired **Jan** and **Nellie Janssen** I eventually saw off at Liverpool Street Station on their return journey. They invited me to be their guest, and arranged to meet at Durne station on 12 October.

I boarded the boat train at Liverpool station and sailed into Hoek van Holland at 0630 hrs the next day. I arrived at Durne right on time and **Jan** and **Nellie Janssen** were there to welcome me.

At the Reception in the Village Hall I met veterans of the Suffolks, Norfolks, a large contingent of the South Lancs, Royal Ulster Rifles including **Sir Ian Harris** and **Col Stewart.** I found that I was the only Royal Signals representative, which was rather disappointing.

Thursday the 12th and everyone assembled at the Village Hall in Overloon where a group photograph was taken. (The photo was presented at the social evening by the Mayor **Mr Van der Moosdijic** to each veteran present). We then visited the Campina Cheese factory and sampled cheeses with our coffee and biscuits. The factory presented each of us with a Parker Pen. Back to the Town Hall for a reception by the Vierlingsbeek Community Council. Members of the Overloon National War and Resistance Museum accompanied us on the coaches as we were taken on a battlefield tour. We stopped at the Norfolk Memorial at the Molen Beek where photographs were taken and wreaths laid. It brought back to mind the bitter battles fought in this water sodden sector. After depositing us outside the entrance to the Overloon Museum, our hosts collected us and returned with us later that evening for a reception organised by the National War and Resistance Museum, followed by the film 'The Forgotten Battle', which has now been remade with an English commentary. It was very true to life and it was a miracle that anyone survived the destruction of Overloon and Venray which were razed to the ground. Some of the veterans present were co-opted to take part in the filming to give their personal experiences and able to point out what hapened where buildings now stand. Anyone wanting the video of the film which runs for three hours should apply to the Overloon Museum, price 70 Dutch Guilders.

Friday the 13th gave the people of Venray the opportunity of welcoming their liberators with a reception in the Venray Community Council, a manificent new building. The Mayor of Venray, **Mr H. Defesche**, welcomed everyone warmly in English after which we were driven to the KMBO College of Catering where we had lunch.

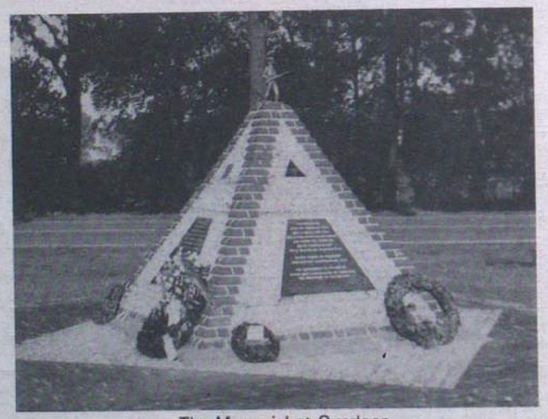
After lunch a private visit to the Venray War Graves Cemetery, where I placed a spray of poppies on the grave of 2593794 **L/Sgt Cyril Kenneth Stanley** killed on 6 January 1945 at the age of 31 years, on behalf of all members of the 3 Div Sig Reunion Club. The formal Venray Remembrance Service arranged by the Bond of Brothers in Army Venray Branch, The Venray Legion, was to take place at 1400 hrs on Saturday the 14th which unfortunately clashed with the Overloon arrangements. The evening ended with a concert by the band of the Royal Nederlands Air Force at the church of St Theobald.

Saturday 14th we had a free morning to shop or visit old friends and contact those of 1944/45. The afternoon in Overloon consisted of a concert of commemoration in the church of St Theobald, a brass band concert by the Overloon Youth Band 'Fanfare Vriend Enkring', and the Logeko choir of Overloon. The opening speech by the Director of the Overloon War Museum **Mr Temmine**, who also outlined what was to follow. The Mayor of Overloon **Mr Van der Moosdijic** followed by the German Ambassador to the Hague **Baron Von der Gablentz**, the British Military Attache **Col Cook** and on behalf of **Sir Ian Harris** who had returned to France, **Col Alexander** of the RUR.

Later that evening a social was held at the village hall, with the band of the Royal Fusiliers, the Youth Brass Band Frende Echo and every one was able to meet up and exchange war time memories.

A solemn High Mass memorial service was held at St Theobalds Church Overloon on Sunday the 15th. After the service and led by the band of the Royal Fusiliers, a procession was formed and veterans and civilians marched to the War Cemetery approximately a mile out of the town for a short Service of Remembrance and laying of wreaths.

On my last day I met a woman at Wanssum who remembered my name and what I had looked like at that time in Kastenraij; she was only nine years old. She also remembered us bringing **Sgt Stanley's** body to the barn on their farm. It was amazing to turn back the pages of history.



The Memorial at Overloon



## THEN



4 (EA) Div Sigs — Lille 1940

*Back Row (L to R)*: Skidmore, Stokes, Bodley, Brandjes, Adlington, Hodgson, Rogers and Bradbury
*Third Row (L to R)*: Price, Astley, Barlow, Richardson, Green, Cook, Reynolds, Guy and Hales
*Second Row (L to R)*: Wagstaff, Baker, Brooks, Deval, Hanwell, Jackson, Goldsworthy, Hanley, Pitts, Yates and Marshall
*Front Row (L to R)*: Macintosh, Kemp, Altria, Easton, Campbell, White, Lanes, Flemming and Whittaker

## AND NOW



. . . and 49 years on. Alpha Tp, 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

# BASKETBALL

This year the Squad assembled early enough for some effective preparation at Blandford before going to HQ RCT TA in Grantham for the Annual Inter-Corps Basketball Championships.

Three evening practice matches were arranged; each preceded and followed by a training session to discuss the team performance. The skills practices were made competitive by coach **John Smith** who collected a fee from squad members for prize money. This was won by **Andy McGlenaghan** and **Pete Doherty** who generously agreed that the proceeds, £30, should be donated to the 'Children in Need Appeal'.

The first match on Thursday the 16th was against Poole Aztecs at the new Ashdown sports centre on Canford Heath. First five **Gavin Grant, Bagsy Bain, Andy McGlenaghan, Andy Brown** and **Dave Smith**; they got off to a good start against a well organised and skilled opposition, defending well and scoring most baskets on the break. After seven or eight minutes Signals were 14 to 6 up and the coach started substitutions by bringing on first **Eddy Williams** and then **Pete Doherty**, by the end of the half Signals were in a 35—22 lead.

In the second half all the players from the bench were fed through to give experience under pressure from a good opposing team. The pressure proved too much and Signals went behind at 45 to Aztecs 57 by the twelfth minute. Coach **John Smith** put the first five back on court to try and catch up, they made a valiant effort scoring 15 to Aztecs 8 over the last few minutes but failed to play as instructed by the coach and the clock beat them. Signals 60 Aztecs 65. A good first practice match that taught some important lessons about teamwork and discipline.

The second fixture was a fun run against the Blandford Garrison side on Friday evening. Two of the Corps' squad **Eddy Williams** and **Gary Crouch** are in the team with a number of other Corps standard players not available this year plus stalwarts who keep the team going like, **SSgt Tom Dooley**.

An enjoyable game between old friends and acquaintances the result was never in doubt. The Corps went competently to a 43—21 lead by half time with the experienced half of the squad. Again coach **Smith** used the second half of the game to blood the substitutes and they put up a more disciplined show and held the Garrison to win the second half at 46—40. Good efforts from **Steve Roberts, Charlie Hanson, Bob Whipp, Kelvyn Dale** and **Pete Doherty**. Final score Corps 89 to Garrison 61.

Saturday and the final preparatory game against Hythe Stags at the Gang Warily Sports Centre in Fawley. The arrangements for this match went slightly awry to say the least and with our late arrival and only one official things got off to a bad start. However as the first half progressed things settled down although apart from being 4—2 up in the second minute Signals never managed to get their noses back in front until the second minute of the second half having finished the first 39—30 down. **Eddy Williams, Gavin Grant, Dave Smith, Bagsy Bain** and **Andy McGlenaghan** took command in the second half to go 10 points clear by the seventh minute at 47—37. **Kelvyn Dale** and **Charlie Hanson** went into the game and maintained the momentum, **Chris Youles, Bob Whipp** and **Steve Roberts** entered the fray and all managed to hold the opposition off to win, Signals 66 to Stags 58. Our president **Brig Robins** attended this one and as a result saw some examples of both good and bad; he managed to chat with most of the squad during the evening. In all a satisfactory start.

Monday morning and the Inter Corps Championships, coach **John Smith** was doing a fine job and squad spirit was good, Signals were ready both mentally and physically.

The first match was against the Royal Artillery at 1400 hrs.

Signals went into a 7—0 lead in the first five minutes and were determined to stay there. The first five **Gavin Grant, Andy Brown, Andy McGlenaghan, Bagsy Bain** and **Dave Smith** played some excellent controlled basketball in both defence and attack and dominated the half going into a 35—16 lead. **Coach Smith** kept the first five on in the second half and Signals continued to dominate to a score of 50—24 after nine minutes. **Coach Smith** started to feed the rest of the squad through and **Steve Roberts, Bob Whipp, Charlie Hanson** and **Gary Crouch** continued. The RA increased the tempo in an attempt to get back into the game, but the Signals team maintained discipline and held them off to win by 67—44.

Monday evening and the Royal Army Pay Corps at 2000 hrs. The RAPC is one of the weaker sides in the tournament and in seven minutes Signals went to a 24 to 2 lead, Signals allowed complacency to creep into the game and the Pay Corps came back to 24 to 12 in the following few minutes. Time out and a sharp word from **Coach John Smith** and in went **Kelvyn Dale**. Signals managed to go to 38—19 up at half time despite a less than cohesive display for much of the time.

Second half and **Chris Youles** went on, and with **Kelvyn Dale, Gavin Grant** and the two **Andys** took Signals to a 52 to 22 lead by the seventh minute. **Charlie Hanson, Bob Whipp** and **Steve Roberts** went into the game and after a few minutes of fragmentation began to produce the organised offensive and defensive play required to win. We won a match which contrasted sharply with the organised and concentrated play of the morning. Signals 78 to RAPC 35.

Tuesday 1130 hrs and what should have been another easy match versus the Army Medical Services. **Coach John Smith** started with



Royal Signals Squad with Runners-Up Cup and Trophies

*Standing (left to right):* WO1 John Smith (Coach), Sgt Bagsy Bain, Lt Gavin Grant, 2Lt Eddie Williams, LCpl Bob Whipp, WO2 (FofS) Dave Smith, WO2 (FofS) Steve Roberts, Sig Andy McGlenaghan, WO1 (YofS) Mick Bell (Floor Official) and Lt Col Terry Everett (Secretary)
*Kneeling (left to right):* Cpl Andy Brown, Sig Kelvyn Dale, Sig Chris Youles, LCpl Pete Doherty, Cpl Charlie Hanson and Cpl Gary Crouch



**Steve Roberts, Gary Crouch, Chris Youles, Bob Whipp** and **Andy McGlenaghan**. A scrappy and poorly co-ordinated start which let AMS into the game straight away; Signals were never behind but they were also never very far ahead despite introducing **Gavin Grant** and **Charlie Hanson** later in the half. A scrappy game at half-time, Signals 34—AMS 26. At the beginning of the second half the coach strengthened the five on court by putting in **Bagsy Bain** and **Andy Brown**. Signals then took command and put up 18 points to AMS 2 in the first seven minutes. The bench went back on and maintained control with good disciplined play, final score Signals 69 AMS 34.

Tuesday evening 1730 hrs and the first of the big games versus the Army Physical Training Corps. Signals started with confidence and went out to a 10—4 lead by the fifth minute and continued to play well. The PT machine began to apply the pressure but we remained in front until the sixteenth minute when APTC caught up at 28 each. In the last four minutes of the half Signals were overwhelmed by a PT Corps power play under the Signals basket and finished 13 points behind at the half. Signals 32 APTC 45.

Despite valiant efforts by Signals in the second half the APTC demonstrated once again that once they have a leading cushion of points their basic fitness, discipline and skill consistently frustrate all attempts by their opponents to catch up. Signals played well but were unable to contain APTC who were worthy winners. Signals 78 APTC 90.

Wednesday morning and the big one, REME.

We scored first, **Andy McGlenaghan** and second also **Andy**, then **Eddie Williams** 3 points, three minutes Signals 7 REME 1—excellent play in both defence and attack contained REME and Signals remained in front to a half time score of 34—25. We scored the first two baskets in the second half to go to 38 but REME are never beaten until the final whistle and they fought back to level the score in the sixteenth minute at 55 each then took the lead 57 to Signals 55 a 3 pointer from **Andy Brown** put us back in front, 2 more baskets Signals 62 REME 57. A foul on a REME 3 point shooter in the last minute, groan, deemed to be after the shot, hurrah; REME ball side line, one more basket to REME and Signals possession, out of time. Signals won 62 to REME 59. A great match for everyone, both players and spectators. Every member of the first five of **Gavin Grant, Andy McGlenaghan, Andy Brown, Eddie Williams** and **Bagsy Bain** played out of their skins and were roundly supported by the bench fast getting hoarse.

Next opponents the Royal Corps of Transport on Thursday morning. **Coach Smith** had calmed our side down, following the previous days win, to face a good squad with whom we have had close matches in the past and who were going from strength to strength as the tournament progressed. In the event it was an anticlimax. Signals went in and played very well but RCT never really got going, first half Signals 50 RCT 23, final score Signals 85 RCT 50. Everyone in the Signals squad had a game. **Bagsy Bain** sadly sustaining an injury to the right ankle that was to exclude him from the remaining matches. A serious loss as **Bagsy** has been the team's mainstay in the middle of the defence and has been combining well with intelligent cutting in offence.

Thursday evening 1930 hrs and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. This match should not have been difficult but we contrived to make it so. After going out to a lead of 17 to RAOC 7 by the eighth minute with some lack-lustre play from the first five we proceeded to allow RAOC back into the game with more of the same. Half-time score Signals 39 RAOC 38. Signals went out in the second half and made an effort to pull away going 6 points into the lead by the eighth minute but allowed Ordnance to pull back to go ahead at 55 to Signals 53 in the eleventh minute. A substitution bringing on **Pete Doherty** who immediately fouls but then turns the game back in Signals favour with two 3 point baskets. Good breaks by **Eddie Williams** and **Andy Brown**, a 3 pointer from **Eddie Williams**, suddenly Signals got their act together and scored 30 points to Ordnance's 6 in the last nine minutes. So we won 83 to 61; the right result but an agonising method.

Friday morning and the Infantry. Signals started with a first five of **Gavin Grant, Andy McGlenaghan, Andy Brown, Eddy Williams** and **Steve Roberts**. They played good team ball and cruised to a lead of 24 to Infantry 10 in the ninth minute and despite a series of 3 pointers from Infantry continued to a half-time score of 53 to Infantry 31. A comfortable lead for Signals who started the second half with a new team of **Eddie Williams, Gary Crouch, Bob Whipp, Charlie Hanson** and **Dave Smith**. This combination played some good basketball and with further changes from the bench to give the rest of the team a game while resting the first five the score went steadily to a sound win of Signals 110 Infantry 60; our best score in the Championship and made to look easy!

Friday evening and the opponents were the Army Catering Corps, one of the stronger teams against whom we have had mixed fortunes in the past. Not this time, we went out in determined mood and took control of the game from the first jump playing some of the best basketball we had played all week. **Gavin Grant, Dave Smith, Andy McGlenaghan, Andy Brown** and **Eddie Williams** were really cruising. **Eddie** was on a high, playing an inspired game either scoring himself or drawing the defence and feeding a team mate; half-time Signals 43 ACC 25. The second half and we played the best opening five minutes to a second-half that I have ever seen us play in 13 years as Secretary, adding 15 points without reply from the ACC. The rest of the half went pretty well basket for basket with Signals worthy winners against the lack-lustre Cooks. Result 81 to ACC 53.

Saturday morning, the final and by then the most important match against the Royal Engineers. The result was crucial as we were playing for either second or fourth place; if we win we're second, if we lose it becomes a points difference countback with RE, REME and ourselves and REME would come second as they beat RE by 10 and we beat REME by only 3.

First five, **Gavin Grant,** the two **Andys, Eddie Williams** and **Dave Smith**, started well and the play goes basket for basket 17—16 to Signals at ten minutes. Signals then draw away to 30 to RE 22 but RE fight back to 37 all at the beginning of the twentieth minute, good defence by Signals and two good outlets to **Andy Brown** who completed the breaks to take Signals to a 41 to 37 half-time lead.

We scored first in the second half, a 6 point lead, then 10 points, 51 to RE 41 in the fourth. RE fought back and went into the lead at 60 to Signals 58 by the eleventh. Back to Signals 63—60 then RE went into the lead in the thirteenth at 64 to Signals 63, Signals caught up in the ninetieth at 73 all. RE and Signals both scored again; full-time 75 each, the tension was getting too much. An extra period of five minutes would have to be played as draws are not permitted in basketball.

A good start by us as we scored straight from the tip off, **Eddie Williams** with a good assist from **Dave Smith**. We scored twice more through **Andy Brown** and both were disallowed, RE scored, 77 all. Foul and shots from **Andy Brown** he missed the second, foul by Signals shots from RE they missed the first, 78 all and 14 seconds left on the clock. Signals brought the ball in and **Andy McGlenaghan** set off on a determined run towards the RE basket. The look on his face told that he was not stopping for anything, a determined drive past three defenders and a shot, two points. Signals 80 RE 78 a press to prevent the RE getting the ball up court, a desperate shot from well inside their own half, missed; full time. Pandemonium as the whole Signals squad and supporters celebrated a memorable win and second place in the tournament where the best we had ever achieved in the past was third a couple of years ago.

A brilliant end to a good week where coach **John Smith** had engendered a good team spirit and a belief that victory was not only possible but probable. Excellent work by every member of the squad whether active on court or supporting from the bench.

Resumé of the results as follows:-

**FRIENDLIES**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| R Signals | v | Aztecs | L | 60—65 |
| R Signals | v | Garrison | W | 89—61 |
| R Signals | v | Stags | W | 66—58 |

**ABBA INTER CORPS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| R Signals | v | RA | W | 67—44 |
| R Signals | v | RAPC | W | 78—35 |
| R Signals | v | AMS | W | 69—34 |
| R Signals | v | APTC | L | 68—90 |
| R Signals | v | REME | W | 62—59 |
| R Signals | v | RCT | W | 85—50 |
| R Signals | v | RAOC | W | 83—61 |
| R Signals | v | INF | W | 110—60 |
| R Signals | v | ACC | W | 81—53 |
| R Signals | v | RE | W | 80—78 |

TOURNAMENT POSITIONS

1. APTC
2. R Signals
3. REME
4. RE
5. RCT
6. ACC
7. RA
8. RAOC
9. INF
10. AMS
11. RAPC

# CRICKET

**CORPS CRICKET 1989**
**Captain's Report by Col S. A. Coltman**

This season saw the continuation of the Army merit table whereby we play the major arms and services. We did not, perhaps, match last season's performances although we had an excellent win over the Royal Engineers and an easy one over the RAOC. We were well beaten by the RAC, REME and the Infantry and had enjoyable draws against both the RCT and the RA.

Three trends were especially apparent during the summer:

First, since the team had a considerable number of Regimental cricketers seeking to find their way to a higher level, performances were much more erratic. The players' attitude depended on the immediate situation and the team was not too resilient in adversity. If we got a good start, all was well. At times we played excellently as witnessed in our game against the RE—more later.

Although Commanding Officers were generally supportive and most players were able to represent the Corps, it was obvious from individual players' comments and reactions, that many were being subjected to pressures from intermediate levels of command in their Units. There is a distinct feeling creeping in, in certain quarters, that players are seeking to avoid their responsibilities.

All I would say at this time of poor retention is that if young officers and soldiers are not allowed or not supported in their efforts to represent the Corps, they will opt not to do so or leave the Army.

In spite of the fact that this was, perhaps the finest summer since 1976, some of the wickets had not had a proper winter's preparation. Some wickets like Chatham, Bovington and Buller Barracks were excellent. Others, Shrivenham had weeds growing on the pitch and Blandford showed up very badly through under preparation. Since Corps cricket is the required bridge for young players to move from Unit cricket to Army cricket, good playing surfaces are essential.

Turning now to the season's performances. Last year no match was affected by rain—this year our game v RMA Sandhurst was abandoned due to an enormous thunderstorm, the ACC match was also abandoned and the RAPC match lost two and a half hours through rain which made a result difficult although we had a good game.

Some 24 players represented the Corps but the main squad of 12 or so played 6 or more games. It was a pity that three of our better or more promising players played rarely, although when they did the team was immeasurably stronger, **(Lt Col Tom Richardson, Lt Alistair Beard** and **Sgt Dean Richardson)**.

Our batting was erratic although we had good performances as can be seen from the results. **Lt Alistair Beard** and **Sgt Simon Naylor** both played occasionally for the Army and are to be congratulated. The former had an excellent knock of 97 v the Infantry. We also saw a superb innings from **Lt Col Tom Richardson** v RE.

The bowling was less successful this year although I would single out **Sig Ian Lenny** (16 Sig Regt) as a young man of great potential. His opening spell v RE was as good a spell as I saw all season. He destroyed their innings in four overs. **Cpl H. Glean** also bowled very well. Finally it was a pity **WO2 Dave Taylor** only played twice in his last year in the Army. We will miss him, he has given us excellent service over the years since 1968.

I am very grateful to those COs who were supportive and I would like to record my appreciation to the hard work put in by the Secretary, **Capt David Luckett** of AA Coll Harrogate.

I would also like to congratulate the following on the award of their Corps Colours:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sig Jim Simpson** | 8 Sig Regt |
| **Sig Ian Lenny** | 16 Sig Regt |

The following represented the Corps regularly:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Lt Col Steve Coltman** | MOD—(Captain) |
| **Lt Col Chris Wright** | MOD |
| **Capt Bill Balding** | TACT R Signals |
| **Capt Dave Luckett** | AA Coll Harrogate (Secretary) |
| **WO2 Steve Caddywould** | School of Signals |
| **Sgt Simon Naylor** | 8 Sig Regt |
| **Sgt 'Tiny' Phillips** | 16 Sig Regt |
| **Sgt Jim Simpson** | 8 Sig Regt |
| **Cpl Dean Haynes** | 30 Sig Regt |
| **Cpl H. Glean** | 30 Sig Regt |
| **Sig Ian Lenny** | 16 Sig Regt |
| **Sig Nick Johns** | 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |

The following also played:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Lt Col Tom Richardson** | MOD |
| **Maj Paul Wilkin** | AA Coll Harrogate |
| **Capt Dave Wise** | School of Signals |
| **Capt Frank Dempster** | 31 Sig Regt (V) |
| **Lt Alistair Beard** | 39 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| **Lt John Egan** | AA Coll Harrogate |
| **Lt Peter Prince** | 30 Sig Regt |
| **WO2 Dave Taylor** | AA Coll Harrogate |
| **Sgt Geoff Watts** | AA Coll Harrogate |
| **Sgt Dean Richardson** | 30 Sig Regt |
| **Cpl Andy Barnett** | 8 Sig Regt |
| **Sig Berrill** | 30 Sig Regt |

**RESULTS**

**R Signals v RMA Sandhurst**
at Sandhurst—24 May 1989
Match abandoned without a ball being bowled.

**R Signals v RMCS Shrivenham**
at Shrivenham—31 May 1989
RMCS—123
**Capt H. Glean** 4-35
**Capt D Luckett** 4-40
R Signals—126-3
**Lt A. Beard** 57 no
R. Signals won by 7 wickets.

**R Signals v ACC**
at Blandford—1 June 1989
R Signals—151-8 declared
**Sgt J. Simpson** 39 no
**Sgt S. Naylor** 38
ACC—4-0
Drawn—Rain stopped play.

**R Signals V REME** (Merit Table Match)
at Arborfield—2 June 1989
R Signals—148
**Sgt S. Naylor** 41
REME—149-7
REME won by 3 wickets.

**R Signals v RAOC** (Merit Table Match)
at Blandford—8 June 1989
RAOC—97
**Cpl H. Glean** 7-35
R Signals—102-3
**Capt W. Balding** 59 no
R Signals won by 7 wickets.

**R Signals v Infantry** (Merit Table Match)
at Tidworth—13 June 1989
R Signals—194-8 declared
**Lt A. Beard** 97
**Lt Col T. Richardson** 35
Infantry—195-4
Infantry won by 6 wickets.

**R Signals v RCT** (Merit Table Match)
at Aldershot—15 June 1989
RCT—211-8 declared
**Sgt S. Naylor** 4/36
R Signals—174-7
**Lt Col S. Coltman** 69
Match drawn.

**R Signals v RAF Signals**
at RAF N Luffenham—16 June 1989
R Signals—144
RAF Signals—145-9
**WO2 D. Taylor** 4-33
RAF Signals won by 1 wicket.

**R Signals v RAC** (Merit Table Match)
at Bovington—21 June 1989
RAC—192-7 declared
**Cpl H. Glean** 4-37
**Sig I. Lenny** 3-53
R Signals—76
RAC won by 116 runs.



**R Signals v RA** (Merit Table Match)
at Woolwich—24 June 1989
R Signals—222-9 declared
**Sgt S. Naylor** 80
RA—214-8
**Sgt A. Phillips** 4-46
**Cpl H. Glean** 3-64
Match drawn.

**R Signals v RAPC**
at Blandford—28/29 June 1989
R Signals—61 and 227-5 declared
**Sgt J. Simpson** 76 no
**Cpl D. Haynes** 47
**Capt W. Balding** 43
RAPC—122
**Capt D. Luckett** 5-75
**WO2 D. Taylor** 3-17
and 71-88
**WO2 D. Taylor** 6-19
Match drawn.

**R Signals v RE** (Merit Table Match)
at Chatham—12 July 1989
R Signals—210-8 declared
**Lt Col T. Richardson** 92
**Sig I. Lenny** 40
RE—102
**Sig I. Lenny** 4-22
R Signals won by 108 runs.

| | P | W | D | L | A |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Merit Table | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | — |
| All Matches | 12 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 1 |

**Batting Averages**

| Name | Matches | Innings | Not Out | Runs | Highest Score | Averages |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Lt A. Beard** | 5 | 4 | 2 | 161 | 97 | 80.50 |
| **Sgt J. Simpson** | 11 | 9 | 4 | 181 | 76 no | 36.20 |
| **Sig I. Lenny** | 7 | 7 | 1 | 157 | 40 | 26.71 |
| **Lt Col S. Coltman** | 7 | 7 | 1 | 145 | 69 | 24.17 |
| **Sgt S. Naylor** | 12 | 12 | 0 | 263 | 80 | 21.91 |
| **Capt W Balding** | 8 | 8 | 0 | 160 | 59 no | 20.00 |

Also batted—**Lt Col T. Richardson**—92.35.

**Bowling**

| Name | Overs | Maidens | Runs | Wickets | Averages |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **WO2 D. Taylor** | 32 | 9 | 69 | 10 | 6.90 |
| **Cpl H. Glean** | 110.3 | 16 | 346 | 24 | 14.42 |
| **Sgt S. Naylor** | 45 | 11 | 124 | 8 | 15.50 |
| **Sig I. Lenny** | 78 | 8 | 282 | 14 | 20.14 |
| **Capt D. Luckett** | 83.2 | 20 | 253 | 10 | 25.30 |

**Fielding**

| Name | Ct | St | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Lt Col S. Coltman** | 8 | — | 8 |
| **Cpl H. Glean** | 7 | — | 7 |
| **WO2 S. Caddywould** | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| **Sgt S. Naylor** | 5 | — | 5 |

# SAILING

**RSYC(G) DINGHY SAILING REPORT**
**RSYC(G) REGATTA 21-23 JUNE 1989**

This year the event was held at the MSSC. Three trophies were competed for and the results were the following:

**Major Unit—Cannon Certa**
1st 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2nd 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
3rd 22 Sig Regt

**Minor Unit—Rhino Cup**
1st HQ 1 Sig Bde
2nd **Sgt Avey-Hebditch**

Well done to 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and to the two sailors also from 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt who won the Individual Competition.

**RSYC(G) OFFSHORE**

This event was held at the BKYC 12-22 July (lucky for some). Results were:

1st 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2nd 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

**Quadrangular**
1st RE
2nd REME
3rd RA
4th R Signals

**Triangular**
1st RE
2nd RA
3rd R Signals

**Hadrians Cup**
1st REME
2nd R Signals

The Corps did not do as well as it might have done. Unfortunately **Capt Steve Herstell** managed to break a leg two days befor the race. The team consisted of the following: **Cpl Dexter, SSgt Tait, Sgt Avey-Hebditch, Sig Link** and **Cpl Pounsett**.

**BAOR INTER UNIT FINALS**

The finals were held at the DYC 12/13 October. 21 Regt RE came first. 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt managed to come third out of eight. The team was: **Col Reive** (CRE 3 Div), **Capts West, Shaw, SSgt Tait, Sgt Avey-Hebditch, Cpl Pounsett** and **Sig Dudley**.

The funniest sight of the regatta was **Capt Steve Herstell** on the committee boat with a black bin liner which leaked on his plaster cast.

Overall not a bad season for the Corps, notably well for 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt who provided most of the sailors to represent the Corps and three sailors for the Army team in the Inter Services Sailing Competition in mid October. **Sgt Avey-Hebditch** and **Cpl Pounsett** did extremely well. RSY(G) bids farewell to two seasoned campaigners on posting to UK, **Sgt Martin Hayter** and **Cpl Mark Pounsett.**

The team for the winners included the following men: **Sgt Avey-Hebditch** (Skipper), **Cpl Phoenix** (mate), **Cpl Clarkson** and **Sig Elliott.**

Didn't anyone tell the skipper that make-shift cardboard doesn't last long in the rain?

**INTER CORPS REGATTA**

The Regatta was held at the DYC 5/6 October with three major competitions. The results were:-

1st 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2nd 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

# WATER POLO

An Inter-Corps Water Polo Tournament took place at Arborfield on 16 November. Other Corps represented were the Army Physical Training Corps, The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and The Corps of Royal Engineers.

**R SIGNALS V REME**

The first game of the day and the first time in the water for some months for several players and it showed! In contrast REME had just completed their Corps Championships the previous day and had time to develop team cohesion. Royal Signals were caught cold and never really got going. **SSgt Brereton** (30 Sig Regt) was outstanding in defence and did much to keep the score to a respectable level.

Final score R Signals 3—REME 9.

**R SIGNALS V APTC**

APTC were able to field their strongest team. This meant that Combined Services players both past and present made up the bulk of the squad. In an inevitably unequal contest the score read 7—0 at the end of the first quarter and 10—0 half-way through the second. Mercifully APTC made a most welcome gesture and substituted players to ease the situation. This gave R Signals the boost required to make progress. Tactics improved as did confidence. A couple of well constructed moves resulting in goals put heart into the team and a creditable fight back ensued. The younger members of the squad, particularly, gained from this change of fortunes using speed to advantage. By the end of the match R Signals were beginning to shape up.

Final score R Signals 12—APTC 18.

**R SIGNALS V RE**

The Sappers were the pre-Tournament favourites and had already justified this opinion earlier in the day by beating their nearest rivals, APTC, in what was from a spectator's viewpoint, a most enjoyable match.

Realistically the result was never in doubt but the benefit of two previous games was clearly shown in that the score was held to 4—2 in the first quarter. This had stretched a little in the second and in a move designed to look to the future all the younger, less experienced, team members were put in together for the third quarter.

To their great credit they conceded only five goals in this period and were far from disgraced. This respite allowed the older players to recover their strength and in a closely contested final quarter each side conceded only one goal. A superb effort.

Final Score R Signals 4—RE 14.

This was the first time in many years that four Corps teams have taken part in a Water Polo Tournament.

The aim of the Tournament was to raise the profile of Water Polo by the introduction of a major competition so that Swimming/Water Polo may once again be established as a popular sport in the Army.

**THE SQUAD**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **WO2 (FofS) Roberts** (Capt) | — | 227 Sig Sqn |
| **WO2 (FofS) Cadywould** | — | School of Signals |
| **SSgt Cox** | — | School of Signals |
| **SSgt Brereton** | — | 30 Sig Regt |
| **SSgt Griffiths** | — | 16 Sig Regt |
| **SSgt Rutter** | — | 8 Sig Regt |
| **Sgt Weavers** | — | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| **Cpl Bradley** | — | 8 Sig Regt |
| **Cpl Jenkins** | — | 8 Sig Regt |
| **LCpl Ledger** | — | School of Signals |
| **LCpl Blanchard** | — | 249 Sig Sqn |
| **LCpl Evans** | — | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Sqn |
| **Sig Thomson** | — | 16 Sig Regt |

All swimmers and Water Polo players who are interested and willing to participate, are urged to contact: **Capt J. R. Wallace**, Secretary R Signals Swimming and Water Polo, AA College, Uniacke Barracks, Harrogate HG3 2SE.


# R·S·A
## The Royal Signals Association AND YOU

**THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION—IT MAY MEAN MUCH MORE TO YOU NOW THAN DURING YOUR SERVICE**

*The principal aims of the Association are:-*

- To try and keep those who have served the Corps in touch with each other with a view to keeping alive a spirit of comradeship—a feature of Corps life you will miss when you leave the Service.
- To help serving and retired members of the Corps (and their close dependants) who find themselves in difficult circumstances with advice and practical aid, financial or in kind.
- To assist, where possible, resettlement in civilian life by trying to find employment and generally advising.

*The Association endeavours to achieve these aims by:-*

- Sponsoring branches in the main towns and population centres of the UK. These branches often meet for social occasions, and there is generally an annual dinner.
- Organising annual reunions at Blandford and Catterick. These provide the opportunity to meet old friends, for the retired to see something of the serving Corps and, but not necessarily on every occasion, to remember the dead.
- Running a welfare and general advice section at Association HQ, which is at the service of all members.
- Publishing the Corps magazine. *The Wire*. Taking out a subscription will help to keep you in touch with Corps and Association affairs.
- Selling items of Corps goods such as Corps ties, car badges and diaries. These are listed in *The Wire*.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Nearly all members of the Corps have, whilst serving, been contributing under the Day's Pay Scheme which has greatly benefited our Benevolent Fund. As you conclude your Service, may we thank you most sincerely and remind you that, by virtue of your contributions, you are a Life Member of our Association. Please write **NOW** for registration as such. If you have not contributed at all you can become a Life Member for £2.50.

**THE FUTURE**

If, in the future, you are confronted by circumstances or problems where you consider the Association may be able to offer advice or help, please contact The General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD (Tel: (01) 630 0801). Please give your service particulars when writing.

**Your Corps Association has flourished for many years, but only the support of those leaving the service will enable it to continue doing so. If a branch is near you join it and so make your personal contribution towards this end.**




# THE EDITOR'S ANGLE

**THE PUBLISHING CYCLE**

- Six issues of *The Wire* are published annually and these are distributed in February, April, June, August, October and December.
- Contributions are required to reach the Editor by the 15th.

December for the February issue
February for the April issue
April for the June issue
June for the August issue
August for the October issue
but 7th December for the February issue

- Please despatch all matters bearing on *The Wire* by first class mail.

**A POSSIBLE STANDING PROCEDURE, INCLUDING GUIDE LINES FOR UNIT CONTRIBUTIONS**

Note: W Day is despatch date—three days prior to that defined in 'The Publishing Cycle' above.

**W DAY −60**

- Seek a steer from your commanding officer/second-in-command/adjutant. What significant occasions are to arise during the period you are to cover? These could for example be:-

Operations/Exercises
Unusual commitments
Change of command or rotation of important posts (eg RSM)
Important visitors
Significant sporting events
Presentation of medals/colours

- Make a plan on content and ensure that a reliable photographer:-
  - (a) takes photographs of every event you plan to cover; and
  - (b) process the film in a sensible time frame to permit you to select the best photographs and ensure they are properly captioned.

**W DAY −60 to W DAY −10**

- Encourage others to write up events for you. Our Corps magazine provides the opportunity for all ranks to reflect the enjoyment and satisfaction of participation and achievement. Edit and correct expression rather than attempting to do it all yourself.
- Target on events rather than input from Squadrons/Troops which can be repetitive by covering the same regimental activities.
- Do not overlook wives. Their contribution to some unit activities can be considerable and they in common with all components of a unit, like to see their efforts recognised in print, supported by photographs.

**W DAY −10 to W DAY −4**

- Assemble all your material including photographs. Read with a critical eye for accuracy.
- Pass for typing.

**W DAY −2**

- Check the typing—or better still seek the assistance of another person who you know will have a critical eye for accuracy, good English and spelling.
- It is helpful to annotate contributions to show where photographs connect with the written words. Check captions carefully; spelling names incorrectly is a bad error.

**W DAY**

- Despatch notes 'first class post' to The Editor, *The Wire*.
- Never delay for photographs. It is acceptable that these follow within seven days. Always ensure they are properly protected.

**W DAY +7 TO W DAY +14**

- Check 'printers proofs' received from The Editor for accuracy. Up-date if necessary. Return these proofs with the minimum of delay by first class post.

**IMPORTANT POINTERS**

- There has never been—or will be-any obligation for every component of the Corps to make a contribution to each issue of *The Wire*. If there really is very little worth reporting, carry forward the input to the next issue. No restriction is placed on the size of the contribution. Use common sense—and aim for quality rather than quantity of content.
- Situations will arise when it is necessary for The Editor to shorten a contribution of defer it to a later issue. *The Wire* is printed in a multiple of four pages eg 100, 112 or 116 pages. This imposes restraints.
- Any photograph of any size—colour or black and white—can be processed into our Corps magazine. Contrast is an important factor and the very high quality 'PR Style' black and white gloss photographs should be sought for any important unique occasion eg a visit by our Colonel-in-Chief. With this qualification, any competent photographer with a good camera should be able to take photographs of sufficiently good quality for incorporation into *The Wire*.

**TYPING THE CONTRIBUTIONS**

- Type with 'double spacing'.
- Do not type places and names in capital letters.
- Ranks and employments should be abbreviated. (See Joint Service Staff Manual, JSP 101 and SOinC's Policy Directive No 1).
- We like to use christian names. If you use them, decorations should be omitted.

ie Maj John Smith—correct
Maj J. T. Smith MBE—correct
Maj John Smith MBE—incorrect

- Number all sheets, and photographs.
- Number all photographs lightly with a soft pencil or ball point pen—but not felt tip. Photographs are easily damaged and degraded.
- Captions should be typed on a separate sheet(s) and related to the numbered photographs.

# Corps Goods Available from the Museum Shop, Blandford, Dorset DT11 8RH

**Any telephone enquiries to Blandford Military (0258 452581) Ext 2248.**

| | UK £ |
|---|---|
| Blazer Badge | 7.15 |
| Blazer Buttons—large | 1.55 |
| small | |
| **New** Belt, Italian leather, reversible Brown/Black adjustable Buckle engraved with Corps badge | 12.10 |
| Bookmark | 0.55 |
| Brooch, white with gold Corps badge | 3.05 |
| Cap Badge | 2.20 |
| Car badge, 2" × 2", silver badge on enamelled Corps colours | 4.75 |
| Clip board with Corps Crest | 3.00 |
| Cocktail mats set, six, blue acrylic with Corps badge | 10.00 |
| Corps badge, on foil, framed and glazed, 11" × 9" | 6.25 |
| Corps Records and Cassettes—Information Sheet Available | 6.05 |
| Crystal Engraved with Corps Badge | |
| Brandy Glasses | 17.60 |
| Brandy Glasses, Cut Crystal | 23.10 |
| Sherry Glasses | 13.20 |
| Whisky Glasses | 14.30 |
| Wine Goblets | 15.40 |
| Decanters, Plain | 50.60 |
| Decanters, Cut Crystal | 52.80 |
| Cufflinks, shield, gold badge on enamelled Corps colours | 6.60 |
| **New** gilt oval Cufflinks, engraved with Corps badge | 12.95 |
| Hipflasks | 13.20 |
| 11½" Jimmy, cast bronze, height including plinth | 52.80 |
| Keyring, Bullet | 1.00 |
| Keyring, Leather | 0.50 |
| Keyring, Corps (enamelled Corps badge, leather tag) | 1.45 |
| Keyring, Corps Badge | 1.00 |
| Ladies Marcasite brooch | 23.70 |
| Lapel badge (Association Members only) | 2.20 |
| Medal Print | 4.50 |
| **New** Medal Holders | 2.00 |
| Mug, white china with Corps badge in blue | 1.95 |
| Pendants, white with gold Corps badge | 4.20 |
| **New** Pennant, embroidered Corps badge with gold trimming | 27.50 |
| Postcard Set | 2.00 |

| Prints: | Unsigned | Signed |
|---|---|---|
| Frontier Ambush | 10.00 | 16.00 |
| Smith George Cross | 10.00 | 16.00 |
| Palace Guard | 10.00 | 16.00 |
| Imphal Road | 10.00 | 16.00 |
| Dhofar Incident | 10.00 | 16.00 |
| Catterick Parade 1987 | 10.00 | 16.00 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Statuette, Royal Signals Officer in full dress | 52.80 |
| **New** Statuette, Royal Signals Soldier with SA 80 Rifle | 52.80 |
| Silver Plated Teaspoons with Corps Crest | 2.45 |
| Stickers, Corps badge on Corps colours, good quality — Large | 0.45 |
| Medium | 0.40 |
| Small | 0.40 |
| Stick pin, 9 carat gold, Corps badge, can be used as brooch/tie pin | 58.10 |
| Stick pin, sterling silver Corps badge, as above | 12.65 |
| **New** Sports/Leisure Wear, Excellent Quality, various sizes/colours | |
| Sweet Shirts with embroidered Corps Badge | 13.75 |
| Sport Shirts with embroidered Corps Badge | 13.20 |
| V/Neck Sweater with embroidered Corps Badge | 27.85 |
| Table mat set, six, blue acrylic with Corps badge | 8.70 |
| Table mat, large 15" × 11½", blue acrylic with Corps badge | 15.25 |
| Tankard, 1pt, Polished pewter, lightweight with Corps badge | 18.55 |
| Tankard, 1pt, Polished pewter, with Corps badge | 2.45 |
| Thimble, Bone China with Corps badge, Gift Boxed | 5.20 |
| Tie, Corps colours in polyester, 3" width | 10.00 |
| Tie, Corps colours in Pure Silk, 3" width | 14.30 |
| Umbrella, golf size, Corps colours | 12.10 |
| Wall plaque, 'Royal Corps of Signals', shield, 6" × 7" | 1.40 |
| Watch strap, Corps colours, nylon | |

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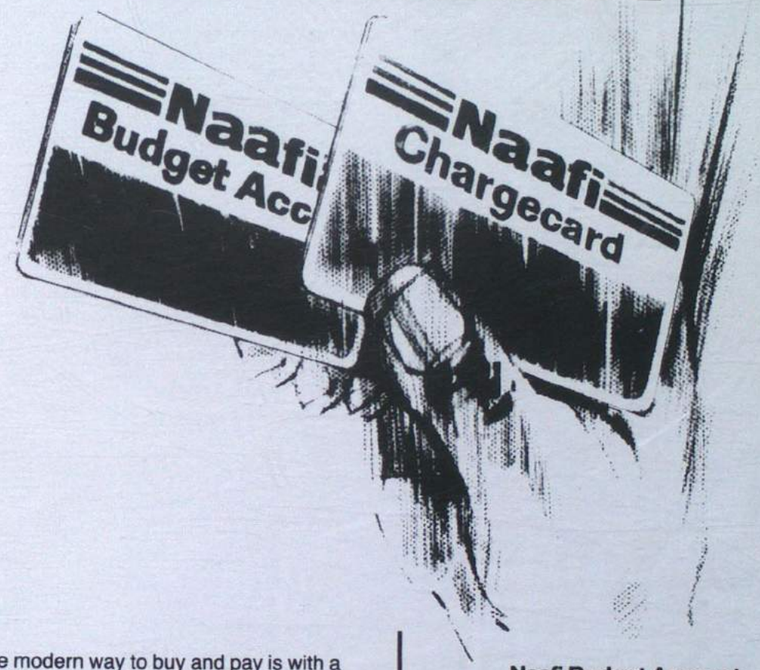
**OVERSEAS ORDERS WILL BE LESS VAT.**
**BULK ORDERS FROM PRI'S WILL ATTRACT A DISCOUNT**

**Remittances with order, payable to Royal Signals Corps Fund please**




# A FLEXIBLE CHOICE OF CREDIT

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THE

# wire

The Royal Signals Magazine



## Fifty years of Airborne Signalling 1940-1990

April 1990



# How do you feel about leaving the Army?

As you're well aware, serving in the Forces isn't just a job. It's a way of life. So, it's no surprise, that after leaving, many people feel as though they're high and dry, like a fish out of water.

But there's no need for you to feel this way. It's perfectly possible for you to keep up with old friends, make use of the unique skills you've acquired, *and* make a vital contribution to the nation's defence into the bargain.

How? Simply by becoming a member of the Volunteer Forces, which make up a third of our Army and represent a significant part of our commitment to NATO.

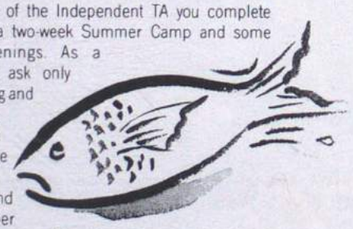
There are three options open to you.

Firstly, you can join one of the Territorial Army Independent Units based in the TAVRA region in which you have decided to settle. An ideal route for those leaving Infantry or Cavalry regiments.

Secondly, if you are leaving a Corps, you could retain your capbadge and become a member of either an Independent Unit or a TA Specialist Unit. In either, you can maintain and extend the special skills that you have learned.

Thirdly, you could join the HSF, which fulfils a vital role in our home defence, and in particular is suitable for people with limited spare time.

You can contribute as much time as you want in any one year. The minimum that we ask is that as a member of the Independent TA you complete 6 weekends, a two-week Summer Camp and some weekday evenings. As a Specialist we ask only 15 days training and two weekends.



And, as a member of the HSF, 6 to 10 days training and one evening per month. In return you will receive payment equivalent to the rates paid to Regular Army soldiers plus an annual tax-free bonus.

If you would like more information about how you can stay in the swim of things, write to the address below, giving details of which option you are interested in, your current age and address, your intended county of residence, and of the regiment you have left or are leaving.

The Territorial Army, Freepost, 4335 (Ref: 9000), Bristol BS1 3YX.



The Royal Signals Magazine

April 1990 Vol. 44 No: 2

# The Wire

All correspondence and matter for publication in **The Wire** should be addressed to **The Wire** Royal Signals Association, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Tel No: London District Ext 8246 STD 071-873 6356. **Matter for publications must be received by the 15th of February, April, June, August, October and December for publication six weeks later.**

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Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association

**Editor Lt Col K. E. P. Andrews MBE**
**Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs**

**The Wire is a member of the Association of Service Newspapers**


## THE ROYAL SIGNALS WAR MEMORIAL AT CATTERICK GARRISON

**From the Chairman of the Royal Signals Association, Major General A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE**

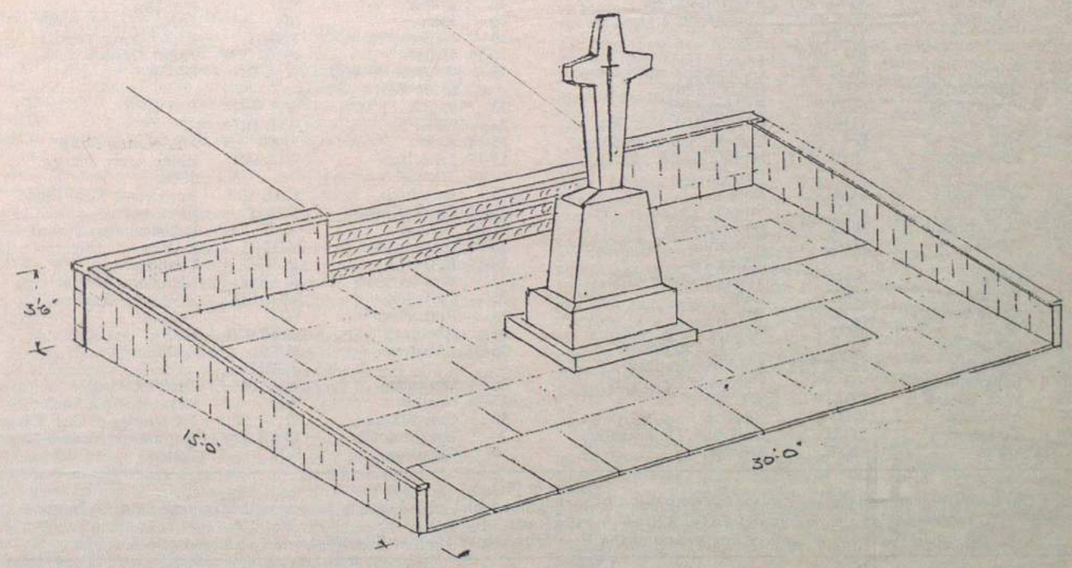
I would like to use *The Wire* to bring readers up to date with our plans to build a Royal Signals War Memorial in 11th Signal Regiment in this the 70th Anniversary year of the formation of the Corps.

When the Master of Signals and the SOinC visited India they were both taken with the ceremonial at the end of a recruits pass-off parade in which the passing off Troop marched in slow time, in file, off the parade ground dividing either side of their War Memorial, giving it 'eyes inward' as they did so. This gesture was recognised as being both moving and correctly symbolic of the new recruit respecting those who have gone before him and was something that we could copy to our advantage.

The location of our War Memorial will be at the side of the square in Helles Barracks alongside the entrance road into the barracks. It will be in the middle of that side of the square. Steps will probably be required to accommodate the difference in level between the road and the square and a sketch of the likely design is shown including the surrounding walls. A site meeting will confirm the exact position of any steps. The memorial itself is the sword of peace mounted on a traditional plinth style base with a crowned figure of Mercury positioned as shown. The stonework will be in Balmoral red granite. The design and location have met with very wide acceptance and I cannot at this late stage consider changes to either. However, I can accept helpful comment from readers of *The Wire* in two particular areas.

First, the question of the inscriptions that will appear on the face and obverse of the memorial itself. On the face we should have an acceptable form of words that will cover everyone who has given or will give their lives in the service of the country and the Corps. Something such as 'In memory of all members of the Royal Corps of Signals who have given their lives in the service of their country'. It is not essential that the obverse is used but a suggestion has been made that the Corps Collect be inscribed there.

Second, I am sure that all members of the Corps will wish to have the Books of Remembrance closely associated with the memorial, if not located at the actual site. They will also wish to have recorded

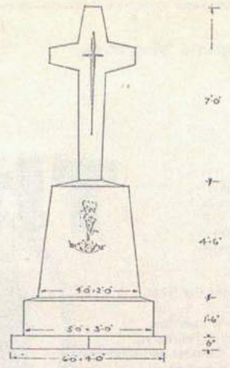


every single campaign in which members of the Corps have been killed. The proposal is that the design will incorporate a series of inscribed bronze plates in the surrounding walls, one plate telling visitors where the Books of Remembrance are located and can be seen, whilst the remainder will be used to record the campaigns.

It will be difficult to compile a list of campaigns that will be both complete and incontrovertible and still not give offence to anyone, without very careful research and this will take time. I hope the concept of plates carrying this information will be popular because it will give us time to get it right.

So, I invite help from readers of *The Wire* in these two matters, the first urgent, the second not so. If anyone has proposals regarding the inscriptions on the Memorial, will they please send them to me as quickly as possible c/o RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Would all readers who are concerned that any of the campaigns in which their colleagues were killed may not be recorded please send details to me at the same address.

There is obvious danger in making oneself a hostage to fortune with targets that prove impossible to achieve, but I am hopeful that we may surprise comrades at the Catterick Reunion in this Anniversary Year with a first sight of their long awaited War Memorial.



# NOTES FROM THE OFFICE OF THE REGIMENTAL COLONEL

## ROYAL SIGNALS RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY EVENTS—1990

**KEY**

| | |
|---|---|
| BC | Blandford Camp |
| BH | Blue Helmets |
| CG | Catterick Garrison |
| HA | Harrogate |
| MDT | Mobile Display Team |
| OM | Officers' Mess |
| RIT | Regimental Information Team |
| TGRIT | Training Group RIT |
| RSB | Royal Signals Band |
| ORLS | Officer R and L Staff |
| SRLS | Soldier R and L Staff |
| SM | Sergeants' Mess |
| WH | White Helmets |
| * | To be confirmed |
| AB | Airborne |
| SR | Signal Regiment |
| RC | Recruiting Carvan |

| Date | Place | Participants | Events |
|---|---|---|---|
| **May** | | | |
| 1-11 | Lancs/Merseyside | 1 ADSR | KAPE |
| 1-11 | Humberside & EDIST | 22 SR | KAPE |
| 1-2 | Plymouth | 30 SR RIT | Tiverton College |
| 4 | Catterick | WH, MDT, TGRIT, BH, RSB | Commander's Opening Show |
| 5-6 | Bristol | 30 SR RIT | Gloucester County Show |
| 5-7 | Gloucestershire | WH | County Show |
| 5-7 | Porthmadog | MDT | Railway Gala |
| 6 | Clifton Park | TGRIT | Clifton Park Fun Day |
| 6 | Hull | BH | Costello Sports Stadium |
| 7 | Bournemouth | 30 SR RIT | Wotton Basset Lions Fayre |
| 7 | Wakefield | TGRIT | Rotary |
| 8-11 | Wales | MDT | Schools Visits |
| 10-14 | Bournemouth | 30 SR RIT | Bournemouth Pier |
| 12 | Cardiff | MDT | Bryntirion Comp School Spring Fair |
| 12 | Enstone | WH | Young Farmers Club |
| 12 | Terrington | MDT | Gala |
| 13 | Knaresborough | TGRIT | Fun Run |
| 14-16 | Wales | MDT | Schools Visits |
| 18 | Wildenrath | BH | 21 Signal Regiment |
| 18-20 | Plymouth | 30 SR RIT | Lord Mayors Day |
| 19 | Loughborough | BH | University Open Day |
| 19 | West Yorkshire | TGRIT | WI |
| 20 | Blandford | WH, BH | Reunion |
| 20 | Yorkshire | TGRIT | Yorkshire TV Telethon |
| 21-25 | Wales | MDT | Schools Visits |
| 26 | Heathfield | 5 AB RIT | Show |
| 26 | Wetherby | WH, BH | 150th Wetherby Show |
| 26-28 | Temple Newsham | TGRIT | Steam Fair |
| 27-29 | Stoke-on-Trent | MDT | Festival |
| 27-29 | Exeter | 30 SR RIT | Taunton Carnival |
| 28 | Hove | WH | Hove Lions |
| 28 | Hull | BH | Newlands Home |
| 29-31 | Bristol | 30 SR RIT | Royal Bath & West Show |
| 30-31 | Shropshire | MDT | |
| **June** | | | |
| 1-3 | Bath | 30 SR RIT | Royal Bath & West Show |
| 1-4 | Shropshire | MDT | Craven Arms Game Fair |
| 2 | Bolton | WH | British Aerospace |
| 2 | Redcar | TGRIT | RUFC |
| 4-6 | Aldershot | WH | BAEE Rushmoor Arena (LEYLAND DAF) |
| 7 | Taunton | 30 SR RIT | Lady Meades School |
| 7-9 | | WH | South of England Show |
| 8 | Taunton | 30 SR RIT | Bishop Lydeard School |
| 8 | Sennelager | BH | Morrison Cup |
| 9 | Taunton | 30 SR RIT | Watcombe School |
| 9 | Halifax | TGRIT | Gala |
| 9 | Shropshire | BH | Donnington |
| 10 | Luton | WH | Fun Day |
| 10 | Flint | BH | Delyn in the Nineties |
| 10 | Church Fenton | TGRIT | RAF Church Fenton |
| 10-14 | Helston | 39 SR RIT | Armd Services Show |
| 12 | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt | WH, BH | BAOR |
| 13 | 21 SR, 13 SR | WH, BH | BAOR |
| 14 | SHAPE | WH, BH | |
| 15-16 | Bath | 30 SR RIT | Mid-Norton Show |
| 15-17 | Sennelager | WH, BH | Rhine Army Summer Show |
| 16 | Dunsfold | 5 AB RIT | Aerodrome Field Day |
| 16-17 | Castle Howard | TGRIT | Country Fair |
| 18-22 | Torquay | 30 SR RIT | Babbacombe Carnival |
| 18-25 | Glasgow | MDT | KAPE |
| 19-24 | Rotherham | TGRIT | Tattoo |
| 23 | Weston-Super-Mare | 30 SR RIT | Clevedon Carnival |
| 23 | Catterick | WH, BH | R Signals Reunion |
| 24 | Rotherham | WH | Tattoo |
| 25 | Aberdeen | 32 SR (V) | KAPE |
| 26-30 | Aberdeen | MDT, TGRIT | KAPE |
| 26 | Harrogate | WH, BH | Cocktail Party |
| 27-28 | Norfolk | WH | Royal Norfolk Show |
| 30 | Cultybraggan | 32 SR (V) | TA Display & CCF Camp |
| 30 | Bournemouth | 30 SR RIT | Sturminster Newton Show |
| 30 | Gateshead | WH | Tattoo |

The Cover Picture

Our front cover picture shows members of 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn deployed in a tactical setting with a Tactical Satellite Terminal TSC 510 (with cruciform antenna) and a PRC 320 HF manpack set.

Our back cover picture is an artist's impression of the New Museum building at Blandford.



# THE CORPS NEW MUSEUM—A PROGRESS REPORT

by Brig R. L. Stonham and Lt Col J. R. T. Paterson
New Museum Project Team

## INTRODUCTION

This article is in the form of a progress report to follow the article in the July 1989 issue. During the last nine months, we have been working with consultant architects (Plincke, Leaman and Browning) and designers (Communication by Design) on outline plans for the new museum. The main discussion areas have centred around outline concepts for the building and interior displays. Also, during this period we submitted an application for outline planning permission for the site at the top of Black Lane, near the existing Guard Room, but outside the Camp perimeter. Approval of this application was given by the North Dorset District Council on 4 January 1990.

## OUTLINE BUILDING CONCEPTS

In order to keep costs down, the building will be steel portal frame construction with 3m high brickwork walls surrounding it; the remainder of the vertical cladding being profiled steel sheet in the same material as the sloping roof, which the architects claim will achieve a 'polished' effect by accurate detailing. Simple internal finishes will confine costs to providing a basically sound building with a minimum of fat. The exhibition area will be two and a half times the area of the existing museum and will provide the correct environmental conditions for the conservaiton of the collection and the much needed storage facilities, neither of which are available at present.

## OUTLINE DISPLAY CONCEPTS

It has been agreed that the museum will use modern lighting, visual and inter-active display techniques and be divided into the following five areas:-

**The Main Exhibition Hall**—containing a chronological presentation of the history of army communications, in tableaux form, from the Crimean War to the present day, and including a 'forward look' section on 'Royal Signals Today and in The Future'.
**The Technical Gallery**—which will offer the enthusiast an opportunity to study communication equipment and operations in more detail.
**The Blandford Room and Corps Memorabilia**—containing our Corps memorabilia and explaining the history of Blandford Camp itself, including the United States connection.
**Medals Room**—displaying our excellent medal collection.
**Temporary Display Area**—Short term exhibitions will be housed here and will change frequently. May be used to display items of our collection held in store or may be sponsored by individual companies and organisations to show equipments being developed.

## THE MAIN EXHIBITION HALL

The selection of subjects and artifacts to be included in the main exhibition hall has generated much discussion, for while there is no lack of material in our Corps history or of equipment in the museum collection, there is a limit to the number of displays, imposed by space and the need for effective presentation. This part of the museum will be designed for popular appeal and hence the method of presentation and the story line for the historical narrative displays must be carefully chosen.

As a first plan, the following principal displays, or tableaux, have been chosen:-

**Early Telegraphy and Telephony**—1792-1905, to include a 'working' model of the heliograph.
**The First World War, France and Flanders 1914-1918**—Displays to include 1914-1918 signal office dugout, and an aerial combat diorama (to provide a backdrop for early radios).
**Animals in War**—including, of course, the famous pigeon 'William of Orange'.
**The Development of Wireless Communication 1914-1945**—this display to show some early radios and include the Austin 7 wireless vehicle. Graphics and photographs will show the variety of work and operations undertaken by the Corps between the wars, notably in the Middle East and India.

**The Second World War, 1939-1945**
**Western Desert**—A principal exhibit, the ACV in a desert setting.
**The Far East**—Tableaux depicting a line Section in Burma.
**The Signal Office**—A typical signal office of World War 2 at a rear HQ with ATS Teleprinter and Switchboard operators.
**North West Europe 1944-1945**—A display based on the WS10 multi-channel set and its deployment from Normandy into Germany as the link between 21 Army Gp Tac HQ and rearward echelons.
**The Airborne Signaller**—A Section depicting airborne signals in action. The display includes a jeep, parachute containers and equipment, radios and cable.
**Clandestine Operations**—A tableaux illustrating an SOE agent in occupied France operating a 'suitcase' set. Photographs and graphics describing the base station and the women operators of FANY to whom the agents worked. Tableaux inspired by the TV series 'Wish Me Luck'.
**Interception and The Ultra Secret**—A Section showing the important role of the 'Y' Service and Royal Signals Special Operators. The German cypher machine Enigma is displayed, and the story of the Ultra secret told.

**Post War Operations**
**The SAS Signaller**—A fully equipped 'Pink Panther' (LWB Landrover) is the main exhibit.
**Malaya and Borneo**—A tableau depicting a jungle re-broadcast station manned by Gurkha Signals, during the emergency operations.
**Korean War and The Suez Operation**—This Section is intended as a tribute to National Service Soldiers and Reservists who contributed to these operations. The rear link of the Gloucestershire Regiment in Korea is depicted, and we hope to display a fully equipped Saracen Command Vehicle as used in the GOC's Tac HQ in the final stages of the Suez Campaign in November 1956.
**The Bruin Communication System**—A scale model of a Brigade Commhead deployed in Germany is planned, together with some Bruin equipment. An electronic diagram and maps will explain the system layout, and allow the visitor to 'set up' communication links. Additional Bruin equipment will be in the Technical Gallery, with descriptive data.
**The TA Brigades**—Section depicting the role of 11 and 12 Sig Bdes (V) and TA elements of 2 Sig Bde with particular reference to the part played by the Womens' Royal Army Corps. An Austin K9 with D11 radio and Radio relay equipment will be shown.
**The Falklands War**—A tableau based on the Falkland Corps' painting.
**The Corps Today**—An important section covering Corps activities today, including Electronic Warfare and Information Systems and a look forward into the future.

Thus the visitor leaves this part of the exhibition hall with a final impression of the Corps activities in modern settings with a forward look.

## THE CURRENT SITUATION

Our consultant architects and designers presented outline plans to an Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Corps Committee on 19 December 1989. Following this presentation, the Corps Committee reaffirmed the need for a new Museum, to be located at Blandford; it further directed that steps should be taken to incorporate the Catterick Historical Room as an integral part of the Blandford Museum, to be open to the public as soon as possible and to receive a percentage of the trading profits from the new museum in due course. Also, it was agreed that the Consultants Detailed Preparation Phase should not commence until donations received in response to our fund raising appeals were sufficient to cover the cost of this phase.

The priority, therefore, for the Project Team is for fund raising. The appeal to retired Officers was launched in October 1989 and contributions have already exceeded the target figure set; retired Soldiers are being approached over the next few months. All serving Officers and RSMs in regular and TA Units should have received a personal letter from the Signal Officer in Chief by this time; and Units are planning fund raising events for the 1990 Corps Museum Year—our 70th Anniversary. An 'in house' video is currently available for distribution to Units to help in bringing the project to the notice of all ranks. Finally, we are following up every possible avenue in support of the external appeal and plans for this are based on two fund raising functions, one in May at Blandford and another in London later in the year.

## CONCLUSION

The current museum staff and the Project Team, whilst maintaining the momentum of the building and design planning, are primarily involved in plans for fund raising. We would appreciate ideas, comments and suggestions which would help in achieving the aim of creating for the Corps a new modern museum of which we can all feel proud. Correspondence to the Museum Project Office, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH, would be most welcome.

## COLONEL H. W. C. STETHEM OBE, CD

**Colonel D. Banks CD**, Base Commander of Canadian Forces Base Kingston, Ontario, Canada writes:

Historically, Kingston is the home of the former Royal Canadian Signals and presently accommodates the Canadian Forces School of Communications and Electronics. As part of a continuing project, certain prominent buildings on the base have been dedicated to the memory of 'Signallers' who have made significant contributions to their Corps/Branch throughout the years.

As such, it was my pleasure on 27 October 1989, to name the Base Headquarters Building 'Stethem Hall' in memory of **Colonel H. W. C. Stethem OBE, CD. Buster**, as he was affectionately known, was quite a remarkable officer. He read for his degree at the Royal Military College of Canada and was commissioned into Royal Signals in 1937. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and in 1948, transferred to the Canadian Corps of Signals in the rank of Major.

At the dedication ceremony, in addition to our Colonel Commandant, **Brigadier General M. F. Webber**, and numerous military and civilian dignitaries, were both our Royal Signals Exchange Officers **Major J. F. Burnage** and **Captain N. Borrill.**

The following is the text of the address.

**Mrs Stethem**, Members of the **Stethem** family, **General Webber**, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

We are gathered here today to honour a distinguished soldier.

**Colonel Stethem** was born in Kingston, Ontario in July 1915. Following his graduation from the Royal Military College, he was appointed to the Royal Corps of Signals, British Army in 1937. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel before transferring to the Canadian Army in 1948 in the rank of Major. He then served at the Royal Canadian School of Signals, Barriefield, Ontario and at Headquarters, Eastern Ontario Area at Kingston.

**Colonel Stethem** was appointed General Staff Officer, Grade One, at the Canadian Army Staff College, Kingston, in December 1953. In September 1956, he was appointed General Staff Officer, Grade One, in the Directorate of Signals at Army Headquarters, Ottawa. From August 1959 to April 1961, **Colonel Stethem** served as Command Signal Officer at Headquarters, Eastern Command, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

In May 1961 **Colonel Stethem** was promoted to the acting rank of Colonel whilst so employed and appointed Commander of 57 Canadian Signal Unit in the Congo.

On his return from the Congo in May 1963, he was appointed as Deputy Director in the Directorate of Signals Operations and Plans at Army Headquarters.

In July 1963, **Colonel Stethem** was appointed Commandant Royal Canadian School of Signals and in November 1964, assumed the dual responsibility of Head of Corps for the Royal Canadian Signals. Upon integration of the Canadian Forces in 1967 **Colonel Stethem**, while still serving as the School Commandant, had the honour of being appointed as the first Base Commander of CFB Kingston.

After his retirement from the Canadian Forces in 1968, he served faithfully as the Secretary of the Royal Military College Club until his untimely death in 1981.



Col D. Banks and Mrs Stephanie Stethem at the naming ceremony

All of us who knew him or in some way were associated with him are better individuals because of that association. He demanded the best from his subordinates, but far more importantly he demanded even more of himself. He was a man of few words, but those words were predicated with directness and sincerity and almost always followed by his well known infectious laugh.

The dedication of this building today is our way of saying thank you to **Colonel Buster** for his efforts on behalf of the Corps, the Branch, the Canadian Forces and the community as a whole. In addition, it will serve as a reminder to all those who pass through this base of the esteem in which we hold this fine gentleman.

## BRIGADIER A. T. MORTIBOY MBE, ED

**Brig Tony Mortiboy** is currently the Colonel Commandant of the Army's Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals and Chairman of the Communications and Electronics Committee for the 1990 Commonwealth Games.

As Colonel Commandant, **Brig Mortiboy** is the Army's most senior Signal officer. He is responsible for maintaining and developing the professionalism of one of the Army's most technical groups, as well as ensuring that the Corps' traditions and history are maintained—thus he acts as titular head and patron.

Born in Otaki in 1934, he was educated at St Patrick's College in Silverstream near Wellington before being commissioned into the Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals in 1954.

**Brig Mortiboy** has served in many appointments during his career, including: Chief Signal Officer, Deputy Commander of the Army's Field Force and Territorial Force, Adviser to the Army's most senior officer, the Chief of General Staff.

He was awarded the Efficiency Decoration in 1966 which recognised 12 years of Territorial Force service, and was made a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire three years later. In 1981 he was appointed honorary aide-de-camp to Her Majesty the Queen.

In civilian life, **Brig Mortiboy** is managing director of the Auckland Regional Chamber of Commerce. Before taking up his current appointment in August, he was the organisation's general manager for seven years. He has one daughter and six sons.



Brig A. T. Mortiboy



**— From our "In" Tray —**

## TWELVE FROM TWENTY-EIGHT MAKE 17,000

**TWELVE FROM TWENTY-EIGHT MAKE 17,000**

Twelve members of 28 Sig Regt led by **Capt Deborah Wheatley Price** took part recently in an expedition to Kenya during December 1989 and January 1990.

Ex Kenyan Backstop was a four and a half week trekking and climbing expedition and its aim was to climb Mount Elgon (14,178ft) and Mount Kenya (17,058ft).

On arrival in Nairobi on 3 December 1989 the team was taken to Kahawa Barracks, the home of the British Army Training and Liaison Staff Kenya (BATLSK) where kit was sorted and compo rations unpacked. The following day was spent in Nairobi hiring vehicles for the three weeks acclimatisation phase which was to include some camel trekking.

The team then set off in two locally hired minibuses with **Albert** and **James**, the drivers, for Lake Naivasha, the first base camp. The journey afforded views of coffee and tea plantations and spectacular views as the descent into the Rift Valley began.

Mount Longonot was the first objective and in the scorching heat, the team took just two hours to reach the crater rim of this extinct volcano. This was followed by a circumnavigation of the rim to its highest point of 9,111ft from where in one direction one could see Lake Naivasha and beyond, and in the other, there was the deep crater with the floor covered in dense forest.

The second objective from the Lake Naivasha Base Camp was to trek through Hell's Gate, Njorowa Gorge. Whilst walking through the National Park there were a few close encounters of the wild kind, the animals ranging from rock hyrax to zebra, giraffe to buffalo. One of the wardens accompanied the team to some geothermal springs hidden in the deep cliff faces of the gorge which supply 15 per cent of Kenya's electricity.

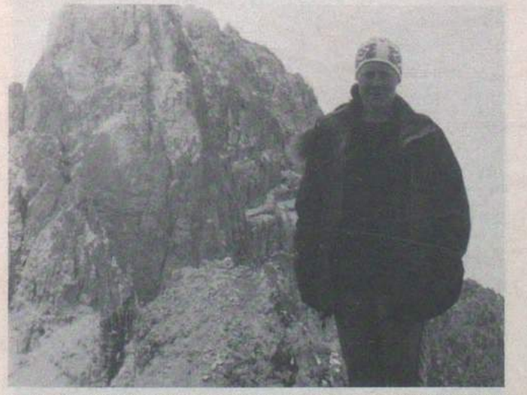
The final day at Lake Naivasha was more leisurely with a short trek up another crater, this time to see the bright green alkaline lake in its centre, a great contrast to the freshwater of Naivasha, a few miles away. A short stop was also made to observe some of the larger inhabitants of the lake, namely the hippopotamus.

On 9 December the team moved north to Thomson's Falls, where after a short trek, camp was pitched for the night.

**LCpls 'Arnie' Robertson** and **'Gaz' Smith** from the REME, assisted a group of French tourists in getting their vehicles started, and then tracks were made in the direction of the Aberdare National Park.

The road up to the park was exceedingly muddy in places and this tested team spirit somewhat. It emerged that certain members of the team such as **Sig 'Clean Hands' Brown** did not think that mud packs were good for their complexions. There were two notorious mud patches and no sooner had the vehicles got stuck than locals appeared from everywhere, freed the vehicles and demanded payment. It would seem that these spots are cultivated to bring in local revenue.

It was originally planned to spend a few days in the Aberdares walking at altitude but this was forbidden by the warden because of the wild animals and so only an overnight stop was made. This, however, was not without incident. The REME members of the team successfully repaired an expatriates Range Rover with an amazing mixture of insulating tape and gel (a typical botch job?) and replaced a fan belt on one of our minibuses.



Capt Deborah Wheatley Price stands on Pt Lenana, Mt Kenya with Nelion in the background

After the Aberdares, we made a trip to Lake Nakuru to see the fantastic sight of the thousands of flamingoes, for which the lake is famous. A day was spent as tourists on a game drive where the species seen included warthog, baboon, waterbuck, colobus monkey, ostrich, jackal, and the prize observation—a leopard.

The minibuses once again gave trouble, a flat battery remedied by an overnight recharge, then onwards via Eldoret and Kitale to Mount Elgon on the Kenyan/Uganda border. A base camp was set up in the foothills and the ascent had to be made accompanied by armed wardens because of the threat of raiding tribesmen from Uganda.

The ascent was hard work with the ground boggy under foot, the air thinning with altitude and the scorching sun. The complete team reached Koitoboss Peak, the highest peak on the mountain within Kenya.

The efforts of a hard climb were rewarded by a spectacular drive down through Tambach into the Rift Valley to Lake Baringo, a scene from paradise. Playful hippopotami provided the early morning alarm call and later in the day, a boat trip was made to take a closer look at the vast array of birdlife and of course the other lake inhabitants, the crocodile and hippopotamus.

The final part of the acclimatisation phase was from 17-22 December and consisted of camel trekking from Colcecchio Ranch along the Ewaso Nyiro River, but first the minibuses had to get to the base camp. First of all overheating was the problem but then 50 miles from the destination a fan belt snapped. No problem we thought—since spares had been bought a few days ago but alas they were the wrong size—call in the REME. After each team member confessed that he or she had forgotten to pack a pair of tights, crepe bandages seemed the only answer. A succession of three bandages took us over extremely rough and steep roads to the base camp.

There the introductions took place between the team, the twelve camels and seven guides who were to be our companions on the trek. Only one of the guides spoke English so communicating soon became an art.

Now camel trekking does not consist of riding the beast all day and having an easy time. On the contrary, at the break of day one loads all the kit onto the camels, sends them on their way with some of the guides and then does a fast route march with the fittest of the Samburu/Masai tribesmen through the bush, up and down hill until the sun just gets too hot. A base camp is then found and one lies in the cool of the trees for the afternoon, sits round the fire in the evening and then goes to sleep to start the cycle once more the next day—excellent fitness training! At least that is the theory.

Now the reality—well the programme until midday was adhered to but in the afternoons there was much to be learnt about the bush survival skills. The tribesmen taught the group to dig for water on a dry river bed, make fire by rubbing two pieces of wood together, make



The team celebrates at Pt Lenana

bows and arrows and finally how to kill, skin, cut up, roast and eat goat.

The acclimatisation phase over, it was back to Nairobi for 24 hours before heading for the main challenge—Mount Kenya.

It had been decided to tackle the mountain from the northern, Sirimon route and the first night was spent at Old Moses Camp (11,300ft) having hired guides and porters (for the food) from Bantu River Lodge.

A frosty start to the trek up to Liki North Hut at 13,100ft, and the altitude made the steep, steady climb even harder. The hut was reached by midday and the afternoon was spent rock climbing on the nearby crags. One of the expedition members became ill at this stage and as his condition had not improved by the following morning, three of the team had to be sent down again.

Christmas Day saw the team trek ever upwards to Shipton's Camp (14,600ft) with the peak of Point Lenana always in the background although often shrouded in cloud. Progress was slow but steady. Once camp had been set up, crackers, miniature cake and Christmas Pudding, previously concealed was brought out and enjoyed much to the amusement of the guides and porters who thought our wearing of paper hats, tinsel and balloons was quite strange—maybe the altitude and this effect on the Mzungu (white men)!

An early start on Boxing Day meant that the scree slopes were easier to ascend as they were still frozen. The final ascent to Point Lenana was tough, stops were short and frequent but the summit was reached at midday by eight members of the team. The mandatory photos for posterity were taken and the achievement was marked with a miniature bottle of champagne. Then came the descent, harder than the ascent in terms of the concentration required to conquer the scree slopes and boulder fields at the start of the Chogoria route. Unfortunately **SSgt 'Les' Robinson** slipped and gashed his leg. However, the expedition leader revelled in the chance to do some emergency surgery and once patched up the group went down to Minto's Hut (14,400ft) where they had an early night after the exhausting day.

The original plan of splitting the group into two and attempting Nelion and a high level circular walk around the peaks was abandoned at this stage as a stomach bug plagued the group weakening various key individuals. Anyhow, the main objective had been achieved.

A long day's trek down the spectacular Chogoria route was just reward for the previous day's efforts and the night was spent at Meru Mt Kenya Lodge where the team was reunited and enjoyed the first hot shower since arriving in Kenya!

The final descent was into Chogoria town on the edge of the National Park. The booked transport failed to turn up and so the expedition leader used her expert bartering skills to hire a local minibus which took the group back to Nairobi and marked the end of the climbing and trekking phase of the expedition.

Prior to the journey to Mombasa a day was spent exploring Nairobi securing some souvenir bargains to take home.

A delayed flight enforced an overnight stop in the misnamed 'Hotel Splendid' at Mombasa which everyone was glad to put down to experience. New Year's Eve took the team north to Watamu and the Ocean Sports Hotel which was the place to go to celebrate the New Year according to the locals. Three New Year's were celebrated in succession, Kenyan, West German and British.

Early flights back to England meant that only two days were spent at the coast. The new experiences of swimming in the Indian Ocean, walking out to the reef, a trip out to see dolphins, snorkelling in a marine national park amid shoals of tropical fish and hermit crab racing meant that the days were action packed and enjoyable. Unfortunately plans for deep sea fishing and sailing on a dhow were not fulfilled as the time for the long trek back to Nairobi arrived all too soon.

On reflection, the expedition was a once in a lifetime experience for most of the team members who were: **Capt Deborah Wheatley Price, SSgt Les Robinson, Sgt Martin Bamford, Cpls Dave Coleman, Martin Taylor, LCpls Christine Hall, Jackie Cottage, Arnie Robertson, Gary Smith, Steve Kelly, Sig Billy Ferrie** and **Alan Brown.**

Travelling to game parks, fresh water lakes and volcanic mountains with craters opened the team's eyes to the beauty of Africa. The simple mud huts, dirty streets with beggars and busy bustling markets brought home to all the team that there is immense poverty and a huge divide between rich and poor. Each person had to face hardships, new responsibilities and the challenges of living in an arduous tropical environment working much of the time at altitude. It tested the courage, resourcefulness, humour and team spirit to the limit. The most memorable few days for all were those ascending Mount Kenya. Hard work, grit and determination took the team to where they stood amongst the clouds—a tremendously rewarding experience. Nevertheless the expedition was judged a great success by all who took part, many of whom eagerly volunteered for any future expeditions!

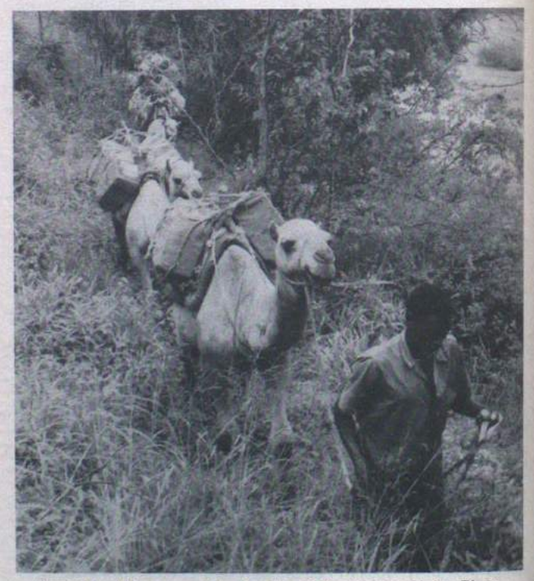
The expedition was sponsored and assisted by Sally Line, Landrover, Hawaiian Tropic, BAT (UK and Export), Camcorder User magazine and Canon to whom the team are most grateful.



LCpl Christine Hall not quite sure whether she likes the look of the native chameleon




The team cross the equator for the first time. Cpl Dave Coleman asks where the white line is



Camel trekking along the banks of the Ewaso Nyiro River



# THE ROYAL SIGNALS DISPLAY TEAMS (RSDT)

**THE ROYAL SIGNALS DISPLAY TEAMS (RSDT) PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC RSDT** | **Lt Col Phil Spooner** |
| **Executive Officer** | **Maj (Retd) Dickie Bird** |
| **RSDT Senior NCO** | **SSgt Dave Curgenven** |
| **Admin Offr** | **Mr Lionel Brown** |
| **Team Secretary (for almost 20 years)** | **Mrs Sonja Ledger** |

**Royal Signals Motorcycle Display Team—The White Helmets**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Capt Kit Lewis** |
| **Team Sgt** | **Sgt Gary Elliston** |

**Royal Signals Freefall Parachute Display Team—The Blue Helmets**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Capt Jan McKee** |
| **Team Sgt** | **Sgt Phil Raven** |
| **OC Quicksilver** | **Capt Peter Smith** |
| **NCO ic TGRIT** | **Sgt Ron O'Reilly** |
| **NCO ic RSDT Wksps** | **Sgt George Franklin** |

Team Members recently said 'goodbye and thank you for your enormous contribution' to an officer who has dedicated 10 years in the pursuit of excellence for the display teams and who is synonymous with the enormous success enjoyed by the White Helmets in their Diamond Jubilee Year and ever since. He is **Lt Col Freddie Lockwood OBE** who, after a long and distinguished career returned to Catterick to spend his last five years as a Serving Officer as OC RSDT followed by a further five years as the Teams' RO3.

He took over RSDT at a time when the White Helmets' finances were at a low ebb and the Team was having to borrow money from Corps funds. His handling of the Teams financial affairs rapidly transformed this situation and its finances have been on a sound footing ever since.

He was as enthusiastic about Quicksilver's displays and its ability to provide grand pageantry as he was about the White Helmets. He ensured that any backdrop or other scenery produced by the Teams' workshops could be dismantled and used again and again. The castle wall and gates that provide the entrance to the arena for Old Comrades' Weekend were one of his many ideas.

He established an excellent rapport with show business agents and show organisers, from which both parachutists and motorcyclists will continue to benefit. **Lt Col Lockwood** has retired to live in Richmond, so the benefit of his great experience is close at hand and much appreciated. We send him and **Mollie** our best wishes for a long and healthy retirement.

To **Capt Malcolm Coupar** and **Sgt Steve Whittick**, Team Capt and Team Sgt of the Blue Helmets, we say 'au revoir and very many thanks for all your hard work'. Au revoir rather than goodbye because although they have now handed over their appointments as full time Team Members, we hope that they will continue to parachute as and when their new duties permit. Both have made valuable contributions to the successful transposition of the Blue Helmets from a seven displays a year Team into a full time Display Team. To **Malcolm**'s wife **Nicki**, our especial thanks for putting up with rarely seeing **Malcolm** for the last two years.

Inevitably the White Helmets are also saying 'farewell and thank you' to some of their Stalwarts. **LCpl Ossie Grady** leaves after five seasons for 21 Sig Regt and **Sig Chippy Joiner** after four seasons for BT. After three seasons **LCpls Gary Hall** (to join the Fire Service), **Gary Welsh** (to 22 Sig Regt), **Mick Raddie** (leaving the Army) and **Sig Pete Hepple** (for a new trade). **Sig Darren Frost** has also left the Army.

A very warm welcome to **Maj Dickie Bird** as the new Executive Officer (and to **Margaret**), to **Capt Jan McKee** as the first lady ever to become the Team Captain of a Military Parachute Display Team and to **Capt Peter Smith** as the new OC of Quicksilver's Teams.

Congratulations to the 21 volunteers who recently passed the arduous two week Selection Course for the White Helmets. A very warm welcome to the 13 new riders who will start training in January for the 1990 Team (the other eight will join the Team in 1991).

All four Teams have had a very busy Show Season, the Quicksilver Teams having spent more time away from home, on the road than either the parachutists or the motorcyclists and without the pleasures of having visited the Continent. However the White Helmets did give exactly 100 formal displays and the Blue Helmets 61 (in 1988 they gave 36 and in 1987 only 7).

# THE PRINTER'S ANGLE

**THE HOPCRAFT FAMILY TAKES PART IN THE RMP AND CITY OF CHICHESTER MARCHES**

I was interested to read in *The Wire* November issue the account of the RMP March at Chichester.

As we live just five minutes from the start my family and I decided we would attempt the shortest walk of seven miles.

The sun shone as we left our house, but we had only gone 200 yards when my wife decided she was wearing the wrong shoes, so she and my 13 year old daughter **Rebecca** returned home to change.

My son **Andrew**, aged 16 and I decided we would go on ahead and book in as the set off time of 1030 hrs was fast approaching.

So efficient were the Soldiers in the booking-in tent that we were in and out before my wife and daughter arrived. We logically thought that they would be waiting at the start—how stupid. Eventually we found each other and set off only 10 minutes late.

**Andrew** was 'elected' to carry a back pack of drinks and snacks for the walk.

Up to Goodwood airfield some 1½ miles into the walk everything was fine except for a little mongrel dog that had set its heart on trying to trip me up and was yelping as it dashed through my legs for the umpteenth time. The dog was eventually called away by a rather overweight lady who decided to stop for a rest.

Through the beautiful Goodwood Park we paced and then we were confronted with our first hill that seemed to go on and on and on. The dreaded familiar cry known to all parents the world over 'How much further, Daddy?' rose from my daughter's lips. 'Nearly half way' I said without any conviction.

The sun was beaming out of a cloudless sky, the temperature was in the 80s. My decision to stop for a drink was greeted with 'thank goodness' and 'about time'. When it came to my turn to have a drink out of the communal flask only an eggcupful remained. The family just smiled sweetly when I politely told them it was not my idea of sharing.

On we pressed until we reached the top of the hill and a little further on seemingly out of nowhere like a mirage were two NCOs astride a bowser dispensing plastic cups of water. There were even bowls for the dogs.

At last we reached the Trundle, the highest point of the walk with a beautiful view of the countryside with the sea in the distance. It was at this point that an icecream van appeared and after sampling various ice lollies, the Hopcrafts regained second wind and started the second half which was down hill.

The walk back was uneventful except that my son and I became caught up with a German contingent and we lost the girls who had stopped to be sprayed by a garden hose a local resident of Lavant village had strategically placed in his front garden.

With the finishing line crossed we waited for the girls. Some quarter of an hour later they appeared at the rear of a large Canadian troop who had walked the 21 miles and were being applauded in by the watching crowd. The girls on receiving all this applause had a fit of the giggles and started waving to all and sundry.

We collected our bronze medals with a sense of pride and achievement and resolved we would come back next year and have a go for the gold.

Our thanks go out to the many people who had organised this event with such precision and the politeness and encouragement of the soldiers given to a local family, one of many, was an experience we will not forget.

(The contributor is **Mr Keith Hopcraft**, Director, Holbrook and Son, printers of *The Wire*.)

## CAPTAIN JACK HARGREAVES MBE

Congratulations are due to **Capt Jack Hargreaves** who received the award of the MBE in the New Year Honours in recognition of many years service to the National Radio Network and to the CCF at Bridlington School.

Few, if any of today's Cadets will even remember **Jack** as he retired as Senior Net Monitor and Editor of the NRN Newsletter in 1978, however most Officers and Instructors in the ACF/CCF will know him, and those who listen to the RSGB News will also know the name (G5VH or GB2RS for News), Many serving Officers and other ranks will remember his influence on their early lives either at Bridlington School (3B as was!) or over the net.

**Jack** did his bit for the War effort (1939/45 that is!) though he never actually served in Royal Signals he was associated with the early days of Radar.

Following the War, **Jack** commenced working for Bridlington Grammar School (as it was then called) in 1946, joining the JTC(CCF) in the same year with the rank of Adult Under Officer. After 13 years promotion came to Second Lieutenant, and later, in 1963, having reached the rank of Captain, he took command of the Army Section at school. Finally in 1979 **Jack** retired from School, but not from the CCF and continues to this day serving the Signals Section which owes so much to him.

For 20 years **'Capt Jack'** was the Senior Net Monitor of the National Radio Network—then largely restricted to the Junior Training Corps (later the CCF) and was regularly required to attend meetings on Cadet matters at the War Office. During this period the Net flourished and was very active both on CW, Voice and a Met Net for a few privileged schools which were able to contribute with meteorological information due to their locality. Every lunch time and for many other hours during the day the net was active—at one point some 'bright spark' realised that schools in the North took the same exams at different times from those in the South—yes you have guessed the rest, so that was stopped by **Jack**. The No 12/R107 set was the standard, though a few had 52 sets issued, later to be replaced by the 19 or 62 sets. They worked and regular communications were established—something that many senior Officers in Royal Signals will recall, now—perhaps these notes will prompt them to write to the Editor with further information or to confirm their interest. Around this time there was a great release to the surplus market of the No 19 set. Readily available from Lisle Street at £2.10s they provided the easy means by which many 'pirates' invaded the net! One wonders how many of these are now respectable amateurs of even members of the Corps (Come on, own up some of you!). The problem was overcome by the introduction of the first form of authentication, a single day letter, later by the adoption of the official authentication and now replaced, of course, by BATCO.

The NRN is alive and well in the 90s each station has a PRC320—probably the first time that we have ever had a current set on charge. The Voice net operates on a somewhat lower key these days, due to the much greater demands of modern education, and, indeed, the considerably increased variety of activities offered elsewhere. The Met Net has been replaced by a Data Net with a Mailbox situated in Blandford and run by Radio Group, some photographs of this having been published in *The Wire*, recently. The termly competitions are now very popular—The Field Competition continues in the summer, and the Voice Competition the spring terms. The Christmas Competition is an innovation, passing more realistic 'battle' traffic from base locations.

For those who do not know the National ACF/CCF Inter-district Radio Net is a country-wide HF Radio Network, set up by MOD, to give Cadets experience in long distance working using voice and morse. Certain stations are also permitted to operate a special Data Net through a Mailbox situated in Blandford. The Network is of particular value to Cadets who wish eventually to operate their own Licenced Amateur Radio Station or who may be considering Royal Signals as a career.

Sponsored by Commander Communications UKLF, control is delegated to Commander School of Signals, and through Radio Group at the School day to day control is vested in the Senior Net Monitor. Any qualified Cadet Unit can apply for a Call Sign, though a Morse capability and thorough knowledge of Voice procedure as set out in Cadet Signal Training, are necessary. Only Cadets who hold their Crossed Flags 'Classification' can operate on the net, thus it is a readily attainable goal for those keenly interested in signalling. Any reader interested or requiring further details should contact: **Capt Mike Buckley**, Springfields, 12 Ranmore Avenue, Croydon, Surrey CR0 5QA.

## BRITISH EX-SERVICEMEN'S WHEELCHAIR SPORTS ASSOCIATION

**From: Gordon Perry, Secretary**

I joined the Corps in Scott Squadron, AA College Harrogate, in January 1970, following which I served in 19 Airportable, a short spell with the White Helmets, a four year stint with 1 Div, then I returned to the UK and was posted to a Rear Link Detachment with the King's Regiment.

During my posting with 1 Div I injured my left hip, and after many many months of treatment and tests, all to no avail, I returned to England on posting in November 1977. I had now had my injury for over a year, and the doctors still did not know what was wrong with me. Six months later, in June 1978, at the QEMH Woolwich, I had my first operation, and it was discovered that I had bone cancer in my pelvis. Well, I had radiotherapy treatment at the Westminster Hospital in London, and at first things seemed to be improving. At this stage I was posted to the School of Signals, where I had a short enjoyable tour with the Exercise Troop there.

In February 1979 it was discovered, at a routine check-up at the Westminster Hospital, that the cancer had returned, and that quite drastic action would have to be taken. I had by now had a dozen operations on my hip, and although I was to have some more, the big one was still to come. On 5 June 1979 I had a hindquarter amputation, that is to say I had my left leg and hip removed. At this time I was approaching my 25th birthday and wondering if I would see it.

The story gets much more cheerful from now. I was discharged from the Corps in May 1980, and started work in London as a teleprinter operator for a large shipping company. Now I work in the Word Processing Department for one of the City's largest law firms.

I had always had a strong leaning towards sport, mainly football, so I started swimming, and quickly became involved in disabled competitions. During one of these meetings I was approached by a gentleman in a wheelchair who asked me if I would like to try playing wheelchair basketball. Well, I had never been in a wheelchair, and like most young men found the idea out of the question. But, I went along, watched, and found that I was interested. The rules are the same, the baskets are the same, and it is the most competitive sport in the world. I joined the team, playing in the second division of the Great Britain Wheelchair Basketball League.

Within 18 months I was selected to play for Great Britain in the World Cup in Halifax, Nova Scotia. This was the start of a wonderful part of my life. Over the next seven years I played basketball for Great Britain over 40 times, in many countries, including the United States and all over Europe. In 1982 I also started competing in Marathons, and in April 1983 I won the biggest marathon in the world, The London Marathon. Indeed, since then I have competed in every London Marathon, this year will be my eighth. In 1985 my club, the First Division Champions, won the World Championship Club Tournament at Crystal Palace. The team I was with at that time was very successful, but it was that success that began to make life seem easy. Three years ago I split and formed a new team. We had to start life in the Third Division but having won that, and gaining promotion over the next two years, this year saw us in the First Division for the first time.

Two years ago I joined the British Ex-servicemen's Wheelchair Sports Association, a new association set up solely for ex-servicemen and women, and I am the National Secretary and also the Vice-chairman. We send a team of ex-service people to the USA each year to take part in the Paralysed Veterans (the Americans call all their ex-servicemen Veterans) of America Games. In 1988 it was held in San Antonio, Texas, in 1989 it was in Long Beach, California. This year it is to be held in New Orleans. We have been very successful in these games, last year we came home with 22 gold medals, 8 silver and 5 bronze. We are hoping to hold our first games here in England in 1991 at Stoke Mandeville, the centre for disabled sport in the UK. We have recently come under the wing of the British Legion, who will be helping us to fund these games.

So, you see, my life has been very fulfilling, and I have seen a lot of the world. There has been no recurrence of my cancer, and I am in the best of health. I train regularly, I am a keen weight-lifter, I play National League Basketball for a first Division team, I still compete in marathons, and generally get the most out of my life. I am a qualified Basketball coach and fitness/weight training instructor.

Through my sport I have been privileged to help people, and regularly raise funds for different associations. This year, like last year, I will be competing in the London Marathon, and will be raising money for the British Ex-servicemens Wheelchair Sports Association. If anyone out there wants to help, please do so. All monies received would be put to good use.

Finally, to all those friends I made in the Corps, I send my best wishes and it is nice to read *The Wire*, and to be able to see the successful careers being carved by you all. I loved my years in the Corps, and my only regret was that my career was cut short. If anyone wishes to get in touch please do so. I would be more than happy to hear from you. And if anyone knows of anyone who could benefit from joining BEWSA please pass on my address.

(**Gordon Perry** served in the Corps from December 1969 until May 1980. His address is: 116 Chadwell Heath Lane, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex RM6 4AE.)

## RETIREMENT PRESENTATION HERR RICHARD BECKERS

Readers will recall **Lt Col B. Chubb**'s personal message advising 28 Sig Regt's proposal to mark the retirement of the Burgermeister of Tonisvorst, **Herr Richard Beckers** by presenting him with a gift from past and present members of the Regiment which was printed on Page 99, March 1989 issue.

They will be pleased to know that contributions were received from many former members of the Regiment, from well wishers and the Officers' Mess, Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' and Corporals' Messes and Golden Axe Club, 28 Sig Regt.



## GREAT RICHMOND CHARITY DUCK RACE

**by SSgt Glen Brook**

210 (24 Airmobile Bde) Sig Sqn is holding the Great Richmond Charity Duck Race on Saturday 21 April 1990 on the River Swale at Richmond.

The event will involve 5,000 plastic ducks being launched from Richmond Green Bridge into the River Swale. The ducks will waddle their way down the Swale to the finishing line at Mercury Bridge. Each duck will be numbered and sponsored for the token sum of £1. All winners will be notified by mail or telephone and results will be published in the local press. The first six past the post should earn their sponsors £2,000 approximately, with local charities gaining up to £3,000. Those to benefit include Muscular Dystrophy, Friends of Scorton Hospital, St John's Centre and the NSPCC.

Anyone wishing to sponsor a duck, or two, should contact **Sgt Archie Fulton** on Catterick Mil 2831 or **SSgt Glen Brook** on Catterick Mil 2819.

## COMBINED SERVICES FOOTBALL

Three members of the Corps were included in the Combined Service Party of 16 players which recently toured Portugal. There were: **Sgt S. (Sandy) Brown**, 238 Sig Sqn; **Sgt A. (Alan) Higgins**, 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt and **Sig P. (Paul) Brown**, School of Signals.

All three played in all three matches the results of which were:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Forca Fuzileiros Portgual 1 (Portugese Royal Marines) | Combined Services 9 |
| Estoril 2 (Portugese League Club) | Combined Services 2 |
| NATO Forces Iberlant 1 | Combined Services 5 |

Yet another fine player has been lost to Corps, Army and Combined Service football with the premature release of **Cpl S. (Steve) Welsh**, School of Signals, to join another former member of the Corps, **Michael Cheetham**, in the ranks of professional footballers, with Cambridge United. His departure brings to a total of seven young soldiers who have left the Army, in the last three years, to seek fame in the Football League (four in the last year).

## WIMBLEDON FOOTBALL CLUB WITH OUR CORPS IN BLANDFORD

These photos show Wimbledon Football Team with their Chairman, **Mr S. G. Reed**, Manager **Bobby Gould** and Coach **Dave Kemp** being put through their paces in the gymnasium at Blandford during a three day visit. Unfortunately the recent storms precluded the team completing the assault course but they tackled all the other 'endurance tests'. They also took part in the SW District cross-country league race and acquitted themselves well. We hope they enjoyed their visit as much as their hosts did in entertaining them.





## KANCHANABURI AND CHUNGKAI WAR CEMETERIES

The photograph shows **Maj Gen R. Benbow** accepting on behalf of the Museum Committee from **Cpl Bob Elkins** of 30 Sig Regt the album of photographs he took of Royal Signals memorials in the Kanchanaburi and Chungkai War Cemeteries in Thailand. The Museum will now be able to arrange for copies of individual photographs to be made for the families of those remembered in these memorials.



Also present at the handing over were: *L to R:* Lt Col E. M. Powell, Lt E. Wise WRAC, Lt Col F. M. Orr, Brig R. F. Baly, Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon, Lt Col G. N. Donaldson, Brig R. L. Stonham and Dr P. J. Thwaites

### ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM OF ARMY COMMUNICATIONS DONATIONS TO FUND RAISING APPEAL

The article on the New Museum which appears on page **131** outlines the need for funds to be raised. Many serving and ex-members of the Corps have already been contacted. If you have not, and wish to make a donation, we would be pleased to receive it, great or small. Please complete the Donation Form and send it to us with your cheque or postal order. All donations will be acknowledged.

### DONATION FORM

**To: New Museum Project Team**
**School of Signals**
**Blandford Camp**
**Dorset DT11 8RH**

I enclose my cheque/postal order for £..... made payable to 'The Museum of Army Communications'

Name (Block Capital) .....

Postal Address .....

.....

.....

Date .....

## ROYAL SIGNALS GALLANTRY AWARDS BOARDS

**ROYAL SIGNALS GALLANTRY AWARDS BOARDS**

Since the decision was first taken by the Corps Committee in 1986 to have boards erected showing the names of all Corps members who won gallantry awards between 1920 and 1986 provisional lists of names have been published in *The Wire* and the *Journal* in 1987 and 1988.

Drawing on the comments made by readers on these two lists, and on fresh evidence supplied by MS1(b) Branch of the Ministry of Defence, a third list of 563 names has now been produced.

In drawing up this third list the following criteria, based on the advice of MS1(b), have been used:-

All awards of GC, DSO, MC, DCM, MM, GM and QGM have been included automatically.

Awards of the Order of the British Empire (CBE, OBE, MBE, BEM) have been considered only where an official citation accompanied the award. Of these awards only those citations which show that the subject was under fire, or in immediate danger of death by enemy action, at the time of the incident for which the award was made have been included in this list.

Mentions in Despatches have not been included.

The list of names will be on display in the Museum at Blandford and in the Historical Room at Catterick until December 1991. Comments are invited from anyone who believes that omissions or errors exist in this list. In view, however, of the large number of awards issued in the categories GC, DSO, MC, DCM, MM, GM and QGM, particularly during the Second World War, any comments on omissions from the lists of winners of these awards need to be accompanied by details of the date of the award, and the full name and army number of the recipient. Previous attempts to identify such awards based solely on the name and theatre of operations have proved unsuccessful.

Only 11 awards of the Order of the British Empire have been included and the names are listed below. For other awards under this category to be considered the request would need to be accompanied by a copy of an official citation on which the case could be judged.

Comments should be made as soon as possible, in writing, to: The Deputy Director, Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.

All comments received with the appropriate evidence will be examined and any necessary changes incorporated into the lists in the Museum and in the Historical Room. During 1992 the final list will be used to produce the Gallantry Awards Boards which will be hung on permanent display at Blandford.

Awards of the Order for the British Empire:-

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Temp Capt | R. H. | Farlow | MBE 1943 |
| Cpl | E. J. | Bates | BEM 1944 |
| Lt Col | J. F. | Shearer | OBE 1945 |
| Act Capt | J. D. | Banning-Lover | MBE 1945 |
| Temp Capt | J. N. | Gallagher | MBE 1945 |
| Lt | A. R. B. B. | Dale | MBE 1945 |
| Lt | C. D. | Didcott | MBE 1945 |
| Sig | W. | Atkinson | BEM 1945 |
| LCpl | T. R. | King | BEM 1945 |
| Sgt | E. C. R. | Barker | BEM 1945 |
| Cpl | G. R. | Burrows QGM | BEM 1983 |

## NEW CORPS PAINTING

The Museum Committee has decided to recommend to the Corps Committee that a painting should be commissioned in 1992 which will depict some aspect of the work of the Corps during the Malayan Emergency of 1948-1960.

The Committee is now looking for a specific historical incident, which can be depicted in the painting and stand as a symbol for the Corps' participation in these operations, and would welcome suggestions from members.

If you remember a specific incident from this campaign involving members of the Corps or soldiers of Gurkha Signals which you think would make a suitable subject for this Corps painting please write to: Deputy Director, Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.



## — Movements —

### OFFICERS

FEBRUARY 1990

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| Lt Col D. F. M. Collyer | MOD (MS7) |
| Maj R. J. J. Ellis | RSRE |
| Maj I. R. Fielder | Staff Coll |
| Maj A. D. Forster | 201 Sig Sqn |
| Maj T. J. Gigg | Staff Coll |
| Maj R. S. Hewitt | HQ 12 Sig Bde (V) |
| Maj G. A. James | Staff Coll |
| Maj J. S. H. Johnson | Staff Coll |
| Maj A. N. Morphet | Higher Education Centre (Germany) |
| Maj I. A. Noble | HQ Trg Gp R. Signals |
| Maj G. Smith | 22 Sig Regt |
| Maj R. M. Thurston | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Maj R. G. Vale | Liverpool University OTC |
| Maj P. G. Walker | Staff Coll |
| Maj C. J. Whittaker | Staff Coll |
| Capt S. J. Ardagh-Walter | 22 Sig Regt |
| Capt B. P. Avison | Defence Export Organisation |
| Capt R. M. Dobson | HQ 1 (BR) Corps |
| Capt P. H. Eaton | Staff Coll |
| Capt P. R. Ford | HQ 1 (BR) Corps |
| Capt J. D. Forrest | 16 Sig Regt |
| Capt R. H. Gladwin | 35 Sig Regt (V) |
| Capt D. A. Hargreaves | Staff Coll |
| Capt A. E. Kendall | Staff Coll |
| Capt P. King | Staff Coll |
| Capt R. G. Mather | AAC Centre |
| Capt P. A. Osment | Staff Coll |
| Capt C. C. Richards | 28 Sig Regt |
| Capt J. A. Terrington | Staff Coll |
| Capt A. K. Trimble | HQ 1 (BR) Corps |
| Capt M. F. Tucker | Staff Coll |
| Capt D. J. Whitby | Staff Coll |
| Lt D. P. Hix | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Lt R. A. Licence | 11 Sig Regt |
| Lt N. P. Longley | 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| 2Lt D. J. Watts | School of Signals |
| 2Lt A. S. Williams | School of Signals |
| 2Lt T. O. Wood | School of Signals |

MARCH 1990

| *Rank and Name* | |
|---|---|
| Lt Col D. W. Dobson | SANGCOM |
| Lt Col J. D. M. Ingram | SHAPE (BAE) |
| Maj R. J. Carter | 39 Sig Regt (V) |
| Maj J. M. Gale | 14 Sig Regt |
| Maj K. W. Goodfellow | RSRE |
| Maj B. Hewitt | 14 Sig Regt |
| Maj L. A. Jeffery | MOD (DSS) |
| Maj M. A. Little | Berlin Sig Regt |
| Maj N. Patton | HQ 2 Sig Bde |
| Maj R. J. Steed | HQ BAOR |
| Maj G. J. Whyman | 16 Sig Regt |
| AMaj E. Heritage | AA Coll Harrogate |
| AMaj A. J. Rock | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Capt I. Cameron-Mowat | RMCS |
| Capt M. S. Castle-Smith | School of Signals |
| Capt S. E. Felton | 30 Sig Regt |
| Capt N. W. Gill | 602 Sig Tp |
| Capt D. W. Larkham | CTCRM |
| Capt L. C. Lightfoot | SANGCOM |
| Capt D. P. Meyer | RMCS |
| Capt G. H. A. Odling | 8 Sig Regt |
| Capt T. J. Pengelley | MOD (DM(A)) |
| Capt A. H. Rodgers | 8 Sig Regt |
| Capt A. J. Wood | 244 Sig Sqn |
| Lt M. W. G. Adams | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Lt G. A. P. Ashton | AA Coll Harrogate |
| Lt I. P. Birleson | 13 Sig Regt |
| Lt A. D. Burgin | 30 Sig Regt |
| Lt G. H. Hume | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Lt S. E. J. Parry | 16 Sig Regt |
| Lt P. A. Smith | 11 Sig Regt |
| Lt E. H. Williams | 22 Sig Regt |
| Lt D. G. Wright | 21 Sig Regt |

### WOs and SNCOs

FEBRUARY 1990

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| WO1 A. Roberts | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| WO2 P. J. Cuckow | 30 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (YofS) W. Jackson | 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| WO2 B. Lewis | Scarborough Sig Trg Centre |
| WO2 M. P. McGrath | AA Coll Harrogate |
| WO2 P. M. Reynolds | 14 Sig Regt |
| WO2 F. J. Share | 602 Sig Tp |
| WO2 (YofS) W. Toah | 15 Sig Regt |
| A/WO2 J. Abernethy | 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| SSgt G. D. Myerscough | 259 Sig Sqn |
| SSgt D. F. Petty | 11 Sig Regt |
| SSgt A. C. Talbott | 16 Sig Regt |
| SSgt D. K. Taylor | 633 Sig Tp |
| A/SSgt D. S. Alexander | 259 Sig Sqn |
| A/SSgt D. Stapleton | HEC Mulheim |
| A/SSgt C. P. Tough | 16 Sig Regt |
| A/SSgt S. Wardle | 9 Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. D. Aubrey | School of Signals |
| Sgt D. C. Ball | School of Signals |
| Sgt D. Burgess | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt W. M. Chambers | 259 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt R. Counley | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. A. J. Cox | School of Signals |
| Sgt W. Croft | 3 RHA |
| Sgt A. T. P. Cummings | School of Signals |
| Sgt R. A. Dickinson | School of Signals |
| Sgt K. J. Dicks | School of Signals |
| Sgt M. R. Edwards | School of Signals |
| Sgt M. Fairclough | 13 Sig Regt |

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sgt S. Ferris | .. .. .. .. | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt B. J. Geddis | .. .. .. .. | 242 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt S. J. Gerrish | .. .. .. .. | 259 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt G. J. Haslam | .. .. .. .. | School of Signals |
| Sgt P. R. Hickinbottom | .. .. .. | 45 Fd Regt |
| Sgt S. L. Hutchinson | .. .. .. | School of Signals |
| Sgt M. D. Kelly | .. .. .. .. | School of Signals |
| Sgt A. Knight | .. .. .. .. | RAF Mount Pleasant |
| Sgt M. T. Licence | .. .. .. .. | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. H. Lowe | .. .. .. .. | School of Signals |
| Sgt A. Mann | .. .. .. .. | 242 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt K. J. Mardling | .. .. .. .. | 28 Sig Regt |
| Sgt G. Meiring | .. .. .. .. | HEC Mulheim |
| Sgt T. R. Murrell | .. .. .. .. | JCUFI |
| Sgt I. R. McAlroy | .. .. .. .. | 633 Sig Tp |
| Sgt A. F. McLeod | .. .. .. .. | 633 Sig Tp |
| Sgt S. R. Nobbs | .. .. .. .. | 28 Sig Regt |
| Sgt D. L. Palmer | .. .. .. .. | 1A and SH |
| Sgt M. F. Potts | .. .. .. .. | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt J. P. Ramshaw | .. .. .. .. | JCUFI |
| Sgt G. S. Roberts | .. .. .. .. | Comms and Sy Gp (UK) |
| Sgt W. W. Roberts | .. .. .. .. | AA Coll Harrogate |
| Sgt G. Sherman | .. .. .. .. | School of Signals |
| Sgt M. J. Simmonds | .. .. .. .. | Berlin HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. R. Skelton | .. .. .. .. | School of Signals |
| Sgt R. A. South | .. .. .. .. | 2LI |
| Sgt J. S. Spiers | .. .. .. .. | 13 Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. T. Sweeney | .. .. .. .. | School of Signals |
| Sgt J. R. Thomas | .. .. .. .. | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt K. J. Tillman | .. .. .. .. | 262 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt S. J. Vaughan | .. .. .. .. | HEC Mulheim |
| Sgt D. J. Wheatley | .. .. .. .. | DMA |
| Sgt S. Wilde | .. .. .. .. | 259 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt K. T. Wilson | .. .. .. .. | School of Signals |
| Sgt A. Woodley | .. .. .. .. | School of Signals |
| Sgt D. H. Yates | .. .. .. .. | 21 Sig Regt |
| ASgt K. S. Balsdon | .. .. .. .. | 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| ASgt D. J. Black | .. .. .. .. | 225 Sig Sqn |
| ASgt M. J. Brunning | .. .. .. .. | 15 Sig Regt |
| ASgt I. P. Cole | .. .. .. .. | 8 Sig Regt |
| ASgt C. J. Jarvis | .. .. .. .. | 1 R Hamps |
| ASgt I. Kenny | .. .. .. .. | 8 Sig Regt |
| ASgt J. D. Laverick | .. .. .. .. | Fortress HQ Gibraltar |
| ASgt P. R. Locker | .. .. .. .. | 1 R Irish |
| ASgt M. A. Main | .. .. .. .. | 15 Sig Regt |
| ASgt S. K. Maycock | .. .. .. .. | 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| ASgt W. J. Morrow | .. .. .. .. | 28 Sig Regt |
| ASgt D. G. Owens | .. .. .. .. | 13 Sig Regt |
| ASgt P. R. Sandford | .. .. .. .. | Comms and Sy Gp (UK) |
| ASgt C. D. Tait | .. .. .. .. | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| ASgt T. J. H. Varney | .. .. .. .. | 13 Sig Regt |

MARCH 1990

| *Rank and Name* | | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|---|
| WO1 C. Redman | .. .. .. .. | 30 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (YofS) K. M. Parker | .. .. | QG Sig Regt |
| WO2 A. R. Parry | .. .. .. .. | 238 Sig Sqn |
| WO2 C. M. Thompson | .. .. .. | 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| AWO2 G. Duffy | .. .. .. .. | 15 Sig Regt |
| AWO2 A. G. R. Hoensch | .. .. | 11 Sig Regt |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| SSgt T. Broomfield | .. .. .. | HQ Afcent |
| SSgt A. J. Byrne | .. .. .. .. | 15 Sig Regt |
| SSgt I. Drinkall | .. .. .. .. | RARDE |
| SSgt A. P. Fullwood | .. .. .. | 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| SSgt J. Godfrey | .. .. .. .. | 238 Sig Sqn |
| SSgt G. A. Hitchen | .. .. .. | 31 Sig Regt (V) |
| SSgt T. Jenkins | .. .. .. .. | 38 Sig Regt (V) |
| SSgt R. A. D. Jonas | .. .. .. | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| SSgt M. Taylor | .. .. .. .. | School of Signals |
| SSgt G. A. Thomson | .. .. .. | School of Signals |
| ASSgt R. T. Warne | .. .. .. | 249 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt D. W. Atkinson | .. .. .. | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. Beverley | .. .. .. .. | 633 Sig Tp |
| Sgt K. A. Bowker | .. .. .. .. | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt C. N. Braid | .. .. .. .. | 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Sgt S. R. Bungay | .. .. .. .. | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt F. J. Carter | .. .. .. .. | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt D. Crooks | .. .. .. .. | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt G. R. Crozier | .. .. .. .. | 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Sgt H. R. Evans | .. .. .. .. | 225 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt P. A. Fluck | .. .. .. .. | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt R. M. Frape | .. .. .. .. | 251 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt C. C. Gardner | .. .. .. .. | 633 Sig Tp |
| Sgt P. F. Gardner | .. .. .. .. | Comms and Sy Gp (UK) |
| Sgt J. W. Hagger | .. .. .. .. | 39 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt B. P. Hayles | .. .. .. .. | 7 Sig Regt |
| Sgt G. R. H. Hems | .. .. .. .. | ACIO Stoke on Trent |
| Sgt D. J. Hizzett | .. .. .. .. | 9 Sig Regt |
| Sgt D. R. Hood | .. .. .. .. | UK Sp Unit SHAPE |
| Sgt M. Jones | .. .. .. .. | 35 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt L. W. King | .. .. .. .. | 14 Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. M. Moodie | .. .. .. .. | 240 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt S. Mullery | .. .. .. .. | School of Signals |
| Sgt B. Murdin | .. .. .. .. | 33 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt V. Murphy | .. .. .. .. | 14 Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. E. Neighbour | .. .. .. | 38 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt P. O'Brien | .. .. .. .. | NORTHAG Air Sp Radio Sqn |
| Sgt M. F. O'Crowley | .. .. .. | Comms and Sy Gp (UK) |
| Sgt R. A. Owen | .. .. .. .. | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt T. P. Petherbridge | .. .. .. | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. F. Quinn | .. .. .. .. | 259 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt P. A. Raven | .. .. .. .. | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt E. C. Ridley | .. .. .. .. | 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Sgt M. K. Tiffany | .. .. .. .. | 28 Sig Regt |
| Sgt C. M. Ward | .. .. .. .. | 9 Sig Regt |
| Sgt F. G. Waters | .. .. .. .. | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. T. Waugh | .. .. .. .. | AA Coll Harrogate |
| Sgt C. Weir | .. .. .. .. | 31 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt N. White | .. .. .. .. | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. A. Wickham | .. .. .. .. | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. Williams | .. .. .. .. | 3 Queens |
| Sgt M. Wray | .. .. .. .. | 240 Sig Sqn |
| ASgt K. C. Drew | .. .. .. .. | 1 BW |
| ASgt J. S. Hogan | .. .. .. .. | 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| ASgt D. C. Laverick | .. .. .. | 22 Fd Regt |
| ASgt R. J. Malt | .. .. .. .. | 249 Sig Sqn |
| ASgt N. J. Middleton | .. .. .. | 249 Sig Sqn |
| ASgt J. R. Miller | .. .. .. .. | 4 Fd Regt |
| ASgt D. J. Watson | .. .. .. .. | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |


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GCHQ



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## ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during January 1990:-

| | |
|---|---|
| 56 Div (City of London Signals) OCA Branch | £300.00 |
| 42 Sig Regt Officers Club | £150.00 |
| In memory of Maj Gerry Funnel | £50.00 |
| N. H. Chadwick | £50.00 |
| In memory of George C. Sampson | £34.00 |
| In memory of Col Seys Phillips | £30.00 |
| J. E. Neale | £20.00 |
| P. M. Sparling | £13.00 |
| P. B. Cairns | £ 9.00 |
| Misc | £48.00 |
| | £704.00 |

The following donations were gratefully received during February 1990:-

| | |
|---|---|
| SSgt Smy and Bravo Troop, 1 Sqn 13 Sig Regt | £1486.31 |
| In memory of Maj (Retd) J. J. Ryan | £ 100.00 |
| RSA Lincoln Branch | £ 50.00 |
| RSA Eastbourne Branch | £ 20.00 |
| In memory Col Seys-Phillips | £ 15.00 |
| Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB, MBE, DL | £ 7.50 |
| Misc | £ 10.00 |
| Total | £1688.81 |

# NOTICES

## DEATHS

**Barrows—Cpl R. A. Barrows**—died 18 December 1989.
**Bateman—Lt (Hon Capt) Bateman**—died 13 October 1989.
**Baxter—SSgt J. Baxter**—died 26 December 1989.
**Bell—WO2 E. Bell**—died 1 November 1989.
**Bilverstone—Sgt H. J. Bilverstone**—died 21 December 1989.
**Blake—S. Blake**—died 23 January 1990.
**Brown—Mrs E. Brown**—widow of **Lt Col R. A. B. Brown**—died December 1989.
**Burns—Cpl J. R. Burns**—died 27 September 1989.
**Burrows—Sgt R. A. Burrows**—died 2 November 1989.
**Campbell—Cpl M. J. Campbell**—died 24 December 1989.
**Cass—WO2 R. Cass**—died 31 August 1989.
**Church—Sgt S. R. Church**—died 19 November 1989.
**Coates—Sgt E. Coates**— 8 November 1989.
**Cole—Maj E. W. G. Cole**—served 1926-64—died January 1990.
**Collie—WO2 C. Collie**—died 27 January 1990.
**Cunningham—WO1 D. Cunningham**—died 17 October 1989.
**Curtis—Mrs D. J. Curtis**—widow of **Brig F. C. Curtis**—died 13 February 1990.
**Dyson—SSgt G. C. Dyson**—died 26 January 1990.
**Firth—Mrs N. Firth**—widow of **Brig H. R. Firth**—died 2 March 1990.
**Fowler—Miss M. M. E. Fowler**—daughter of **Lt Gen Sir John Fowler KCB, KCMG, DSO**—died 13 February 1990.
**Gale—WO2 P. W. Gale**—died 25 December 1989.
**Gooding—Sgt J. A. Gooding**—died 1 December 1989.
**Govey—Sgt W. E. Govey**—died 17 January 1990.
**Greenstreet—WO1 R. S. Greenstreet**—died 21 November 1989.
**Gwynne—WO1 Gwynne**—died 21 November 1989.
**Hansen—Cpl T. J. Hansen**—died 31 December 1989.
**Hayden—Sgt F. C. Hayden**—died 20 April 1989.
**Howell—WO2 B. Howell**—died 10 December 1989.
**Jeffs—SSgt J. R. Jeffs**—died 20 December 1989.
**Jourdain—Col F. W. S. Jourdain**—served 1916-45—died 17 January 1990.
**Lamb—Maj J. M. Lamb**—served 1941-61—died 12 December 1989.
**Lee—Sig F. G. Lee**—served 1935-46—died 22 January 1990.
**Leverston-Allen—SSgt R. A. Leverston-Allen**—died 17 December 1989.
**Matthews—SSgt H. Matthews**—died 13 November 1989.
**O'Connor—Sgt D. O'Connor**—died 6 February 1990.
**Panton—Col J. H. E. Panton OBE**—died 27 September 1989.
**Percival—WO2 S. Percival**—served 1929-61—died 13 February 1990.
**Policella—Sgt J. Policella**—died 13 January 1990.
**Reeves—Sgt W. H. Reeves**—died 17 December 1989.
**Royan—SSgt D. E. Royan**—died 6 December 1989.
**Ryan—Capt J. E. Ryan**—served 1936-45—died 8 January 1990.
**Sanderson—Maj (Brevet Lt Col) (Hon Col) M. G. Sanderson TD**—died 9 March 1990.
**Slater—Sgt A. Slater**—died 4 November 1989.
**Smith—Capt N. H. Smith**—died 12 November 1989.
**Stedall—Sgt L. J. Stedall**—died 28 December 1989.
**Stevens—SSgt A. S. Stevens**—died 2 May 1989.
**Thompson—Sgt J. B. Thompson**—died 31 December 1989.
**Thornton—Sgt G. C. Thornton**—died 24 December 1989.
**Vicke—WO2 R. S. Vicke**—died 5 June 1989.
**Westwood—Maj J. M. Westwood**—served 1942-64—died 26 January 1990.
**Willcox—Mrs**, wife of **Brig A. M. Willcox**—died 10 March 1990.
**Williams—Sgt G. J. Williams**—died 7 December 1989.

## OBITUARIES

**Beale—Maj B. W. Beale. Maj (Bertie/Bill) Beale** who died on 19 November 1989 enlisted in the Corps as a Boy Apprentice in 1923. His 36 years service took him to many interesting places and appointments. He was commissioned in 1940 whilst serving in Egypt and promoted Captain soon afterwards whilst with Palestine Force Signals. After post war service in Germany he left the army in 1949 but was recalled in 1952 and took up an appointment with Western Command Sig Regt. He will undoubtedly be best remembered for his outstanding sporting achievements, mainly in athletics, from 1924-39, but he was also a fine hockey player and continued to play to a high standard at the age of 47 years. His individual awards included the Royal Corps of Signals Cross Country under 17 years Special medal in 1926 and winner of the 1931 Bulford Garrison Cross Country Championships. **Maj Beale** will be remembered with pride by his family and all who knew him and admired his sporting prowess.

**Button—Frederick Button** died on 18 December 1989. Affectionately known as **'Alfie'**, he served in the Corps from 1927-41 and on leaving the Army was employed as the Sports' Storeman in 11 Sig Regt for many years. He was a member of the Corps display Team—Horses and Motor Cycles. An active member of Catterick Branch where he was Standard Bearer for the Branch for more than 30 years. A popular man he will be much missed by his many friends in Catterick and Catterick Branch.

**Coslett—Maj N. J. Coslett. Norman Coslett** was an experienced soldier whose long career in the Corps (1932-67) covered courageous service in the Western Desert, Crete, Syria and the first seige of Tobruk. During those actions his infectious enthusiasm and determination contributed greatly to the maintenance and continuity of vital communications. His post war service which covered Pakistan, Singapore and the United Kingdom were equally efficient and memorable. A modest man whose calm reassuring and competant manner gained for him the respect of both senior and junior colleagues. His death occurred on 10 March 1990. He is survived by his wife **Edna**, a loyal supporter of the Corps, and two daughters.

**Collie—WO1 C. Collie.** It is with regret that we record the death of **Clifford Collie** which occurred on 27 January, aged 75 years. He served in the Corps for 27 years from 1934-62. He was a member of the Association for nearly 45 years. We offer our sympathy to his widow, **Jeanne** in her loss.

**Jewell—R. G. Jewell. Brig F. L. Clarkson MBE** writes: **Reginald George Jewell** packed in more work for the community than most men. Born on 16 February 1911, he was almost always known as **'Jimmy' Jewell**. He joined the 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals as a TA Boy in 1927. Embodied at the outbreak of World War Two, he served in the UK, Egypt and India and was then parachuted in to join the Chindits and was captured by the Japs in 1944. He was released in late 1945 with the rank of WO 1 (RSM).

On his release he joined Tecalemit on their managerial staff. He became an active trade unionist with ASTMS and was for 23 years their Devon area treasurer and, on his retirement, received a



handsome reward from them. During this time he gave a lot of his time to his passion of soccer; he was a First Class referee and, on one occasion, refereed an FA Cup semi-final.

On his retirement he gave his life to charities, mainly service charities. He founded the Plymouth Federation of Old Comrades' Associations, a grouping of all Old Comrades' Associations of all three Services in the area. **Jimmy** was firstly this Federation's Chairman and later its President. It was very much **Jimmy**'s baby—each year he personally organised a concert in the Plymouth Guildhall on the Friday before Remembrance Sunday on the lines of the annual concert at the Albert Hall. He was a Council Member of the Burma Star Association and the President of the Branches of the Dunkirk Veterans Association and the Football Referees Association and Vice President of the Royal Signals Association.

**Jimmy** knew everyone and everyone knew **Jimmy**! He was a charmer—he could charm the birds from the trees—and this side of his character enabled him to further the charities he fostered. One Flag Officer Plymouth was heard to say that if ever **Jimmy** poked his smiling face round his office door he wanted something. All this work was recognised by the City of Plymouth when in 1987 he was named as Plymouth's 'Citizen of the Year'; for his honour the Lord Mayor presented him with a handsomely inscribed crystal decanter at a ceremony in the Council Chambers.

**Jimmy**'s last years were dogged by ill-health: he died on 5 February 1990 at the Royal Naval Hospital, Plymouth—of which hospital he was Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Friends. Thus died a man who was devoted to the welfare of others. Our sincere condolences go out to his widow **Ivy** and to their two sons.

**Jimmy**'s funeral took place at St Andrew's Church—Plymouth's principal church. Some 750 mourners attended. Apart from family and friends, the mourners were headed by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Plymouth, the Flag Officer Plymouth and by the National Chairman of the Burma Star Association and the President and Chairman of Plymouth Branch, RSA; there were many representatives of the Services and civilian organisations. The officiating clergy were the Vicar of St Andrew's and the Chaplains of both the Burma Star Association and the Dunkirk Veterans Assocation. At the alter lay the National Standard of the Burma Star Association and the standards of the local Branches of the Burma Star Association, the Dunkirk Veterans Association and the Royal Signals Association. Forty-five other standards lined the aisle. **Jimmy** would have liked all this and would have been very proud: but, surely, no man deserved it more. God bless you **Jimmy**.

**Leah—CQMS W. Leah—Bill** joined the Corps as a boy soldier. After service in Egypt he was posted to Singapore Fortress Signals in 1939. He was evacuated from there on 13 February 1942 and eventually reached Ceylon later going to India where he qualified as Foreman of Signals at Jubbulpore. On his return to the UK he was posted to 1st Airborne Division and taken prisoner-of-war at Arnhem. He later lost both legs through frost-bite whilst being force-marched from Stalag 8. After the war he went to live in Australia where he developed a solar heating system in his house, maintained a large vegetable and flower garden and developed an interest in Esperanto. He died on 25 December 1989. **Bill** is survived by his wife **Sheila**.

**Lockie—Sgt M. D. Lockie**. It is with regret that we, the members of Catterick Branch, announce the death of **Malcolm Lockie** (known to many in the Corps as **Mel**) on 8 January 1990 at the early age of 54. Following a brief spell in the Post Office, **Malcolm Lockie** joined the Royal Sussex Regiment in 1953 at the age of 18 and during the next 10 years saw service in Korea, Gibraltar, North Africa and BAOR. He transferred to Royal Signals in 1963 and trained as a Telegraphist. He remained in the Corps until 1975 and again spent much time overseas including Bahrain and BAOR, and attained the rank of Sergeant. On leaving active service he was appointed as an Instructional Officer in the Trade Training School and continued in this career until his death. As an Instructional Officer he was heavily involved in the development and running of individualised and computer assisted telegraphist training.

His many interests included cricket, dog training and Bridge. He was a member of the Army Cricket Umpires Association and appointed as an umpire of the South Durham and North Yorkshire League. During recent years he was an organiser and active participant in the annual Umpires Seminar held at Keele University. As a member of the Dales Dog Training Club he was well known for his obedience classes and was conducting training when first taken ill with what proved to be a fatal heart condition. As a Bridge player and enthusiast he assisted in local organisations and was a player of more than local repute.

In every way **Malcolm** was a respected and well liked member of the Corps and local communities of Catterick, Colburn and Richmond. The sysmpathies of his colleagues and many friends are extended to his wife **Anne** and his son **Robert**.

**Massey—Mr Albert Massey**—His association with the Army spanned from 1944 to 1982, died on 31 January 1990. A member of Bristol Branch since 1958 he was Standard Bearer for the Branch for the past five years. **Albert** enlisted into the Gloucestershire Regiment in 1944 and served with them until 1948. He joined 44/50 RTR TA in 1950 and transferred to the Corps in 1957 joining 57 Sig Regt TA. He retired from TAVR in 1982. Bristol Branch send sincere condolences to his widow **Doris** and to the family.

**Woolhouse—Capt A. M. Woolhouse**. It is with deep regret that the Jersey Branch report that **Capt Andy Woolhouse** passed away peacefully on Saturday 28 January 1990 aged 87 years.

**Andy** who served in the Corps from 1921 to 1948 was Mentioned in Despatches for service in Afghanistan; he also served in Quetta during the earthquake in 1928. He was captured in Singapore in 1942 whilst serving with Fortress Signals and subsequently worked on the railway in Thailand.

**Andy** was a long time member of the Jersey Branch and although disabled as a result of captivity he was always cheerful and an active Branch member. Regrettably he became housebound in the later years of his life.

He will be remembered with much affection by all members and we extend our deepest sympathy to his wife **Patricia** and son **Michael** and the family.

## THE COMMONWEALTH WAR CEMETERY AT FAJARA (THE GAMBIA)

**The Princess Royal** during her visit to The Gambia last month spared the time to visit the Fajara Commonwealth War Cemetery where she saw five graves of members of the Corps who are buried there; **Lt J. C. Hall, Cpls K. G. Berry, E. C. Dobson, E. W. Holbrow** and **Dvr H. J. Whipps**.

**Her Royal Highness** found the cemetery beautifully kept and very peaceful. We are very appreciative of this visit.

Any reader knowing the present whereabouts of any next of kin of the above named kindly contact the Regimental Secretary at RHQ.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**Mrs Irene Howard** (widow of **Maj R. E. Howard**) and daughters **Beverly** and **Joanne** would like to thank all the members of the Corps for their cards and messages of sympathy, and for the many donations to the Marie Curie Foundation given in memory of **Sid**. They are deeply grateful to everyone for their kindness and support.

## THE CORPS FAMILY

We ask all readers, Branch Secretaries and former colleagues to please notify Regimental Headquarters of any deaths that may occur in order that appropriate follow-up action is taken. In many instances we remain unaware of these occurrences and have to rely on daily newspapers and other sources.

It is our wish to pay tribute to service in the Corps in the Death/Obituary column of *The Wire* and to maintain a link with the family. Please assist where you can.



## FOR SALE

**ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' EPAULETTE RANK SLIDES**

Rank slides are available from the PRI, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH. Tel: Blandford Military ext 2236 or Civil (0258) 452581 ext 2236.

Slides are held in CRB (Summer) and Olive (Winter pullover) shades.

| Rank | Cost Per Pair (incl postage) |
|---|---|
| Second Lieutenant | £2.98 |
| Lieutenant | £2.95 |
| Captain | £3.42 |
| Major | £2.57 |
| Lieutenant Colonel | £2.87 |
| Colonel | £3.36 |
| Brigadier | £3.72 |
| Major General | £3.75 |

Also available in Winter shade only—R Signals ACF and R Signals CCF in ranks Second Lieutenant to Major. Prices as above.

## PERSONAL

Would anyone knowing the present whereabouts of **Sgt** and **Mrs Sowerby**, who served in Bangkok in 1958-61 or their twin children, **Mary** and **Joseph**, please get in touch with **Mrs A. Wallace**, Poole Farm, Poole Lane, Woolacombe, North Devon EX34 7AB. The children are the god-children of **Mrs Wallace**'s mother, the late **Mrs Nunn** and she would like to trace them.

## FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE

**Lt Col C. J. Walters** writes:

'I am an avid collector of old military postcards (especially World War 1) and whilst browsing through some cards in an antique shop I came across these two photographs.

No 6A Tp. 7 Selection Regt R Signals October 1984. Instructors **Sgt Matthews** and **Cpl Bunce**. There are no other names on the back of the photo.

53 Squad 4 Coy 1st OTB R Signals 1945. Instructor **Cpl McIntosh**. The names on the back listed left to right from the top are: **Chapman, Charlsworth, Harding, Miller**(?), **Layer**(?), **Macgregor, Cole, Jeremiah, Reeves, Salmon, Wells, Shaw, Dixon, Weymes, Noverazz, Smith, Gibbs, Cpl McIntosh, Yool**(?), **Evans** and **Proat**.

Does anyone recognise these groups?

I also collect Corps 'Sweetheart' brooches which were popular between the wars. I would be pleased to hear from anyone who has any of these or other Corps memorabilia for sale or exchange.'

Please write to: **Lt Col C. J. Walters**, Communications Branch HQ BAOR, BFPO 140.



No 6A Troop 7 Selection Regt R Signals Oct 84 Inst Sgt Matthews Cpl Bunce



53 Squad 4 Coy 1st O.T.B. R Signals 1945 Inst Cpl McIntosh

## REUNIONS

**OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS DINNER**

The next President's Dinner will be held at Welbeck College on Saturday 19 May 1990.

The dress will be Mess Kit for serving officers and Black Tie for retired officers. The cost will be approximately £12. Limited accommodation is available on request.

Applications, including a contact address and telephone number, should be sent to: The Adjutant, Welbeck College, Worksop, Notts S80 3LN or by telephoning: Worksop (0909) 476326 Ext 30.

Applications should arrive at least two weeks prior to the Dinner.

**56 DIVISION (CITY OF LONDON SIGNALS) OCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The AGM of this Old Comrades' Association is to be held at the Headquarters 31 Sig Regt (V), 190 Hammersmith Road, London W6 7DL on Sunday 8 April 1990 at 1100 hrs, for 1130 hrs, by kind permission of the Commanding Officer.

A curry lunch has been arranged for 1200 hrs to follow the AGM, at which members' families and friends will be welcome. The price will be £5 per head, and a buffet will be provided as an alternative to the curry. Bar facilities will be available.

Individual notices will be sent to all members on the mailing list, in due course, together with a proforma to be completed, to indicate intention to attend or otherwise, for return direct to the Deputy Chairman, **Maj R. D. Hughes TD**.

**GUARDS ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNALS—1943**

Anyone who served in this unit and would be interested in having a reunion or a 'get together' during the Catterick Reunion weekend is asked to contact **G. W. Whalley**, 7 Coniston Court, Windermere Crescent, Ainsdale, Southport PR8 3QT.

**145 (MAIWAND) COMMANDO BATTERY RA (1962-1977)**

To commemorate the 110th Anniversary of the Battle of Maiwand an all ranks reunion is to take place on Friday 27 July 1990 in Plymouth. All those who served in the Battery and who would like to attend please contact **Tom Browne** at 52 Widewell Road, Roborough, Plymouth PL6 7DW.

**HORA HENA, EKALA AND KANDY**

This year's Reunion will take place at the Belmont Hotel, Leicester on Friday 26 October 1990. It is hoped that as many as possible who served in Hora Hena, Ekala and Kandy will be able to attend this year.

Last year 63 people including wives enjoyed a buffet supper and dancing. It is hoped that even more will be there this year. Further details from **Mr Harry Moore**, 1 Blue Granite Park, The Green, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire LE12 7AG. Tel: (0533) 375423. He will be delighted to hear from anyone who served at one, or all, of these locations during 1944 to 1950.

**PARA 90**

The 50th Anniversary of the formation of Airborne Forces will be marked over the weekend of 6/7 July 1990 at Aldershot. Any past or present members of Airborne Signals wishing to attend should contact the Admin Officer, 5 Airborne Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, Arnhem Barracks, Aldershot GU11 2AU. Tel: (0252) 24431 ext 4547.

**7 PARA RHA—PARA 90**

1990 marks the 50th anniversary of Airborne Forces. This jubilee will be celebrated over Airborne Forces weekend in Aldershot on 6/7 July 1990 during which 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery will be holding its own reunion party in Lille Barracks. The Regiment is keen to contact past or present serving members of attached corps. If you served with the Regiment please contact **WO1 (RSM) Byford** on Aldershot Military 2522—347522 with details of your present address or alternatively forward your name and address to the RSM at Lille Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2NQ.

## GUERNSEY BRANCH

**From L. W. Barbe Esq Hon Sec Guernsey Branch**

After receiving responses from about 200 members to the planned Guernsey week in May, I am afraid that only 29 definite bookings were made so it has had to be cancelled. It is regrettable but understandable that it would work out too expensive for the majority of members.

I wish to thank all branch secretaries for their help and co-operation in contacting members for me and the extra work they have done in this regard. I will be returning the £30 deposit sent to cover the functions that were to be booked, as soon as possible.

**1940 DUNKIRK VETERANS ASSOCIATION**

In 1990 the 50th Anniversary of the evacuation of the BEF from the beaches of Dunkirk in 1940, will be commemorated.

The 1940 Dunkirk Veterans Association, not surprisingly, is organising a major Pilgrimage to the beaches, to take place during the weekend of 26 May-28 May inclusive.

Large crowds are expected to attend together with some 50-60 'Little Ships' of The Association of Dunkirk Little Ships, with a Royal Navy escort and, hopefully, Royal Patronage.

The programme will include: On Sunday 27 May—Parade and March Past in Dunkirk Town, Memorial Services and wreath laying at the Memorial on the beach, and in the British Cemetery.

On Monday 28 May—Parade and March Past in Le Panne, Memorial Service and wreath laying.

The Pilgrimage is open to all, and if you would like further information of the Pilgrimage please contact: Galina International Battlefield Tours, PO Box 143, Hull, North Humberside HU6 7JF. Tel: (0482) 804409.

Further commemorative events planned for 1990 include: On Wednesday 18 July, Grand Parade of Dunkirk Veterans only, in Aldershot. 14-16 September, Channel Ports Reunion of Dunkirk Veterans only, in Margate. For further information on these events please contact the Hon General Secretary, 1940 Dunkirk Veterans Association: **Mr J. E. Horton**, White Wickets, Parkgate Road, Neston, South Wirral L64 6QQ. Tel: 051-336 3530.

Intending visitors to Dunkirk are advised to act quickly.

**TOUR OF NORMANDY 1990**

The proposed Tour of Normandy 3 to 9 June 1990 is alive and well! The response to the original announcement was poor and the Central Committee decided not to support the venture. So the organisation of the Tour has now been taken over by Reading Branch of the Association.

There are still a few vacancies on the 1990 Tour and interested persons should submit their provisional bookings as soon as possible. The original itinerary still stands; it will include visits to all the landing beaches, the two airborne DZs, various invasion museums and some of the war cemeteries, including the main British War Cemetery at Bayeux, where a wreath will be laid on 6 June 1990.

All enquiries to: **Alan E. Foot**, 96 Chiltern Crescent, Earley, Reading, Berks RG6 1AN. Tel: (0734) 61952.

**51 (HIGHLAND) DIVISION PILGRIMAGE TO FRANCE**

A Pilgrimage which will include tours of the Somme Battlefields ceremonies at Beaumont-Hamel, Abbeville, St Valery-en-Caux and tours of the Normany Bridgehead is being arranged between 6 and 12 June 1990. Those interested in taking part are asked to write to **Lt Col (Retd) A. Rose**, at Army Headquarters Scotland, PO Box 85, Edinburgh EH1 2YX. Members of units and formations who fought with the Highland Division in 1940 and in North West Europe in 1944-5 are very welcome to take part in this reunion.

**SHELLFIRE CORNER REUNION**

A reunion of those who served in the Dover area between 1940 and 1945 is being organised by **Ken Flint**—ex Corps—of 77 Lydia Road, Deal, Kent CT14 9JY. The reunion is to be held on 27 June 1990. Anyone interested is asked to contact **Ken Flint** giving your name (or maiden name if appropriate), former unit or ship and present address.

**MORECAMBE REUNION**
*for those who served*
**FRIDAY 10 AUGUST 1990**
**Dome Theatre, Morecambe**
**(Annual Service Charity Presentation)**
**COMBINED SERVICES FESTIVAL**
**Monday 6-Saturday 11 August**

## RETIREMENT

**Capt T. E. Hall MBE (Ted)**, PSAO 93 Sig Sqn, 38 Sig Regt (V), is retiring in August 1990 after 44 years service. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess members of 93 Sqn will be dining him out on 11 August 1990 and would like to invite any ex PSI's or ex Mess members of the Squadron who wish to attend. Please contact **Mrs Chris Tanczos** on Blackburn civil (0254) 62444 or Blackburn mil (754) 8029 for further details.

## HM THE QUEEN'S GARDEN PARTY AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Our **Colonel-in-Chief HRH The Princess Royal GCVO** may attend the Garden Party on Thursday 19 July 1990.

Any members of the Corps who receive invitations to attend on this date are asked to notify the Regimental Secretary at RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD in order that they may be included in the Corps organised party and presented to the Colonel-in-Chief.

## CORPS DATES

Please make a note in your diary of the following Corps events which will take place in 1990:-

| | |
|---|---|
| 8 May | Corps Officers' Dinner at the London Press Centre |
| 20 May | Blandford RSA Reunion |
| 16 June | Corps Officers Lunch—Blandford |
| 23/24 June | Catterick RSA Reunion |
| 18 December | Corps Carol Service in London affiliated Church |

Further details will be published nearer to each event.

**CORPS DINNER**

The dinner will be held at the London International Press Centre, 76 Shoe Lane, London EC4 on Tuesday 8 May at 1900 hrs for 1930 hrs. Dress: Dinner Jacket.

The cost of the dinner is £16.50 which includes wines at table. A Pay Bar will be open for pre-dinner drinks from 1745 hrs. Limited NCP Car Parking is available free of charge.

All Royal Signals Officers, Regular or Territorial, serving or retired are eligible to attend. WRAC Officers who are serving, or who have served with Royal Signals are also eligible to attend.

Applications for tickets to the Regimental Secretary, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. **Cheques to be made payable to Royal Signals Corps Fund.**

**CORPS LUNCHEON**

The luncheon will be held at the Headquarter Mess, Royal Signals, Blandford Camp on Saturday 16 June 1990 at 1200 hrs for 1300 hrs. Dress: Lounge suit.

The cost is £10 which includes pre-luncheon drinks and wines at table.

All Royal Signals Officers, serving or retired, their wives and grown up children are eligible to attend. WRAC Officers who are serving, or who have served with Royal Signals, their husbands and grown up children are also eligible to attend. The widows of Regular Officers are also eligible to attend and those wishing to do so will be guests of the Corps. As far as possible invitations are sent directly to widows, but any reader who is aware of a widow not having received an invitation is asked to notify the Regimental Secretary of her name and address. **Cheques to be made payable to Royal Signals Corps Fund.**

## CHEQUES

Cheques forwarded to RHQ should be marked 'for the attention of the Chief Accountant'. They should not be loosely enclosed with *Wire* notes or photographs.

**Artillery Open Day 1990**
**At Larkhill**

**Military Preview Day—Friday 29 June**
**Open Day for the Public—Saturday 30 June**

**10.00am to 6.00pm**
**Arena Programme**
**(including The King's Troop RHA)**

**Firepower Demonstration**

**Parachute Drop**

**Static Displays of Historic, In-service and Future Vehicles and Equipments Industrial Displays**

**Side Shows, Helicopter Rides, Shops Commando Slide, Parachute Tower**

**Bars and Restaurants Many Other Attractions**

**Souvenir Programme**

**Entry Free**

**Car Parking £7.00—Coaches £75.00—Minibuses £30.00**



# REPORT FROM ULSTER




**15 Sig Regt**
**BFPO 801**



**225 Sig Sqn**
**BFPO 801**

**MESSAGE FROM THE COLONEL IN CHIEF**

The following is the text of a message received from Buckingham Palace:-

*I was delighted to receive your kind message of loyal greetings today, 1 February 1990, on the occasion of the 15th Signal Regiment being reformed and placed under the command of Lt Gen Sir John Waters KCB, CBE the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland, I would like to send best wishes to all ranks of the Regiment. Anne Colonel in Chief.*

**FORMATION**

The Regimental sign was unveiled by the Commander Land Forces, Northern Ireland, **Maj Gen D. P. Thomson CBE, MC** at the formation ceremony. (This was despite the sabotage of the curtain by **WO2 (RQMS) Duncan Henderson.**) The CO, **Lt Col S. M. Siddall**, then cut a cake specially baked in the Garrison kitchen depicting the Regimental emblem of an Egyptian cat.

The formation was celebrated by all ranks during the weekend. A 'toasting in' evening was held in the Peake Club and on Sunday 4 February the Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs and their families joined the Officers for a curry lunch in the mess.



The CLF, Maj Gen D. P. Thomson CBE, MC *(left)* and the CO 15 Sig Regt, Lt Col S. M. Siddall *(right)* cutting the cake



Sig (now LCpl) Wayne Prout, Cpls Sammy Aderson and Chris Collin in the RQMS Dept proving that stores are for storing

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Hugh Bardell** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Ron Clay** |
| **AO** | **Capt Andrea Perks** |
| **Tech Adjt** | **Capt Dave Burden** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Mick Orange** |
| **RQMS** | **WO2 Willy Ironside** |
| **CC** | **Sgt Howie Ripley** |

**DEPARTURES**

We say goodbye to **Capt Paul Towers** and family, **WO2 (SSM) Taff Cox** and family, **WO2 (RQMS) Wynne Gordon, SSgt Bailey, Sgts Rob Hood, Mick Jones, Andy Hilton, Nick Armer, Cpl Horner** and family, **Dave Roberts** and family, **Ian Woodcock** and family, **Clive Ward** and family and **Sgt Steve Bennett** and family. **Cpls Ian Lee, Si Lambert, Mac McLaren, Liz Johnson** and **LCpl Alison Cable.**

**ARRIVALS**

We welcome **Capt Dave Burden, SSgt** and **Mrs Crawford, Sgt Leitch** and **Cpl Pete Peak.**

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations go to the **Towers** family who produced a baby girl, **Olivia** in November. Congratulations also go to **Capt Paul Towers** who leaves us on his promotion to Major. Congratulations to **WO1 Cliff Davey** following his recent selection for commission and to **WO2 Dave McNulty** on his promotion to WO1 on posting. Congratulations on the marriage of **Cpl Adi Storey** and **LCpl Alison Cable.** Congratulations also to **LCpl Oz Hewson** and **Pte Michelle NcNulty** on their marriage.

**SUPREME BEING COMPETITION**

The Squadron held its first Supreme Being Competition which was a test of both mental and physical skills. After much enthusiastic response the competition was held from October-December 1989 and comprised physical events such as 100m sprint, 400m, 3 mile run, cycling, gym tests, golf and a 9mm pistol shoot. The mental events were chess, a maths test, current affairs, computer skills, an English language paper, memory recall tests and a spelling test. The eventual overall winner of the cup and 1989 'Supreme Being' was **Cpl Steve Draycott** with joint second places going to **Cpl Phil Crossley** and **WCpl Alison Taylor.** A large well done to them and all who took part.

**SPORT**

The Squadron continues to participate in most sporting activities. We are well represented in the rugby, football, hockey and squash leagues. Well done to the Squadron Basketball team of **WO2 Mick Orange, SSgt Bill Brockie, Sgts Rob Hood, Troy Phillips, Cpls Steve Draycott, Steve Bennett** and **LCpl Noddy Holder** who won the Northern Ireland Minor Unit Basketball Championships and reached the semi-finals of the Zone B Army Championships in UK on 26 January 1990. The Northern Ireland Badminton Championships were held on 26/27 January 1990 and a special mention must go to **WCpl Lorna Proctor** who was narrowly defeated in the ladies singles semi-finals. The Unit Volleyball team is eagerly awaiting the Northern Ireland Minor Unit Championships on 1 February 1990 and hope also to quality for the Army Championships in UK.

**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.**

## 233 Sig Sqn
## BFPO 801

**COMMCEN TROOP**
**FLEMING FULTON SCHOOL**

The Troop with its ability to combine fund raising with having a good time, managed to raise £275 for the 'Fleming Fulton' school for handicapped children. After the 'singles' living in dinner, the Peake Inn was the venue for a party, a normally innocuous question 'what does the piper wear under his kilt?' led to a considerable amount being raised! In response to this question the AO **Lt Jackie Pollock WRAC** was the final adjudicator.

Item number two saw the ladies line up against 233's first 15. **Cpl McNair** is set for a trial with Scotland after her 25 yard conversion. The ladies ran out 11-7 winners, however they 'wimped out' when invited to the communal sing-song in the showers after the match. The bucket went round during the match, helping to swell the total.

The next activity was the raffling of a 'candlelit dinner' for two in the Squadron conference room/restaurant 'Chez Gerry'. Tech Tp's resident smoothie **Cpl Garth McKimm** was the lucky winner and had the honour of being escorted by the 'femme fatale' of the Exchange **Cpl Caroline Crossley**. A sumptuous meal plus first class 'plonk' was served up by the OC **Maj Corbet** and OC Commcen Tp **Capt Hindle**.

Finally **Cpls Caroline Crossley** and **McNair** 'attacked' HQNI disguised as Tea Ladies and offered their 'Brew and Biccies' to the bemused Staff and raised a considerable amount to add to the other efforts.

The Troop wishes to thank all of those who took part in the above activities and also all of those who gave their hard earned cash. On a visit to the school by **SSgt Archie Arbuckle, Sgt Hunter, Cpls Caroline Crossley** and **Lisa Cook**, the cheque was handed over to the headmaster, who was most appreciative of the efforts of all those who took part.


**DON'T SAY GOODBYE**

**SAY HELLO.**

If you're about to leave the Services the prospect of Civvy Street could be as daunting as it is exciting. After all, you've got to resettle, make new friends and generally take on a new life.

Why not say hello to The Royal British Legion. We can be a great help by providing a link with the past and a friendly social environment with sporting and recreational facilities for people with similar backgrounds to your own.

And, of course, your membership will ensure that we're always there to help ex-servicemen and women in need.

For details of membership or more information about the work of The Royal British Legion please send off the coupon.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Please send me details on
Becoming a member of The Royal British Legion ☐
The benevolent work of The Royal British Legion ☐
Send to: The National Recruiting Officer, Headquarters, The Royal British Legion, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1 5JY.
Name _____
Address _____
_____ Postcode _____





LCpl Scot Ribbons, Cpls Lisa Cook, Heather McNair and Cpl (now Miss) Caroline Crossley offering refreshments to HQNI

**B SHIFT**

The all-new Lisout Alfa worked well on the second attempt, with the help of the day workers and the B Shift guinea pigs. A lot of the younger members of the shift were dreading the thought of all that torn tape and the infamous tape factory.

Leaving the shift during the last three months were **Sgt Nick Gibson** for Colchester (not as an inmate), **Cpl Dyliss Newell** for Bulford on promotion to Sergeant and **Pte Lorriane Allen** for sunny Cyprus.

New arrivals were Sgt Dave Marshall returning from civvi street, **Sig Guy Craker** and **Scott Whittaker** from BAOR, **Pte Mel Ducker** fresh from the factory and newly married **LCpl Toon** from sleepy Donnington.

**INDIA TROOP**

Our long awaited new Tech Workshop (Portacabin Deluxe) arrived in November, and after initial teething troubles (the power points didn't work etc), **(FofS) Mick Milne** now has no excuse for not having room to do anything.

On the sports scene **SSgt (YofS) Gary Stratton** tried to relinquish the job of OIC Basketball in favour of being OIC Squash, and, yes you guessed, he's now OIC Both. Well done **Gary**, saves **Dave Matthews** a job.

It must be spring over here already as three out of our four WRAC members have announced their impending marriages, and so we send our best wishes to: **WLCpl Caroline Jeffrey** and **LCpl 'Divis' Armstrong, WLCpl Sue Stanfod** and **LCpl Bob Heaps** and **Pte Kim Shirreff** and **Cpl Neil Perham**, all of Whisky Section. It must have something to do with the VDUs.

Congratulations also to **Sig Ravenhill** and his wife **Leslie** on the birth of their first son, **Adam**; to **Sgt Howard** and **LCpl Prosser** who have both announced their respective engagements (not to each other!) and to **Capt David Vardy** on the purchase of his fifth computer and managing to get two out of five to work!

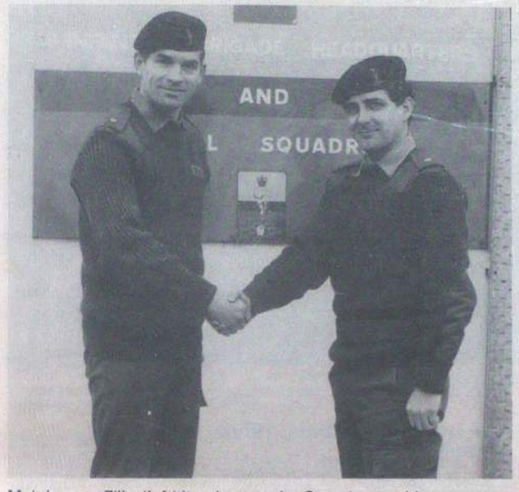
As usual we have had (more than) our fair share of departures and arrivals, and to this end we say cheerio and all the best to: **Sgt Ian McAlroy, Cpls Ritchie Brown, Dave Bryant, Moody, Radar Nott** and **LCpl Siddans**, and a hearty welcome to **Sgt Keith Wightman, Cpls Croxford, Crabtree, Patrick, LCpl White, Sig Law, Randall** and **'Piggy' Hogg**.

**STOP PRESS**

**SSgt Dave Matthews** finally qualifies for his GSM NI by serving 30 consecutive days in the province. This is only because **SSgt (YofS) Gary Stratton** went on leave to El Salvador (three days before the trouble started—talk about 'out of the frying pan and into the fire') and so **SSgt Matthews** had to stand in for him.



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




Maj Jeremy Ellis *(left)* hands over the Squadron to his successor Maj David McDowall

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj David McDowall** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Jake Thackray** |
| **OC Comms Tp** | **Lt Mike McGinty** |
| **RSM/AO** | **WO1 (RSM) 'Dixie' Dean** |
| **RQMS** | **WO2 (RQMS) Bob Taylor** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (YofS) Paul Forryan** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 (FofS) 'Noddy' Baugh** |
| **MTWO** | **WO2 (MTWO) Pete Mulvihill** |

**IT'S TOUGH AT THE TOP**

And finally the OC, **Maj Jeremy Ellis**, could take no more of it. He leaves us after an eventful tour, a broken reed of a man, despatched to RSRE to rest and recuperate, no more to enjoy the climate of the sun-soaked northwest coastline, the pleasures of the Commander's morning briefing ('Nothing to report from comms, Sir'), and the vagaries of the Officers' Duty transport timings schedule. Through the most difficult times for the Squadron (the Lisburn 'fun run' bomb), and those remembered with fondness (giving away all those 'difficult' Units to the upstarts from Armagh City), he sat in the chair of responsibility and shouldered the blame for our occasional errors. He will be particularly remembered for his caring, father-like concern for those under his command (not many people can say '28 days, march him out please RSM' and make it sound as if they are being generous), and his magnanimous approach to the Brigade Staff's lack of technical awareness. We thank both him and **Fiona** for all they have achieved in the last two years, and wish them the very best for the future.

**. . . AND WHILST ON THE SUBJECT OF SINKING SHIPS . . .**

**Capt Brian Williams REME**, our long suffering AO, also decided enough was enough, said a big thank you to all those who'd contributed to his receding hairline over the last 24 months, deposited a sackful of bounced cheques on the RSM's lap and headed for Stranraer and the freedom boat. A sly move this; at least the OC had the good grace to provide us with a replacement. It is only now, as the 2IC and RSM come to the end of another 70 hour week, that we discover just how much work **Brian** actually did—come back! all is most definitely forgiven.

And who could forget the Yeoman? Goodbye and good wishes to **YofS Ron Coburn** and 'hello', and 'stag on' and 'make the coffee' to **YofS Paul Forryan.**

**AND DON'T I KNOW YOU? . . .**

A hearty welcome to our new OC, **Maj David McDowall**, fresh from the rigours of HQ 1 (BR) Corps, all briefed up and (as yet) nowhere to live. He is particularly welcomed by **RSM 'Dixie' Dean**; the two of them have met before in 244 Sig Sqn when a certain young thruster of a Corporal called **Dean** had an equally thrusting Lance Corporal in his detachment who went by the name of **McDowall**—this might have something to do with the fact that the RSM is now inspected three times a day—is there a connection?

**OPERATIONAL SUMMARY**

1990 began with a busy time for everyone. Mike Tp, much reduced by the loss of personnel to 15 Sig Regt, have been out on the ground here, there and everywhere (all at the same time) as the Foreman gets the last few hours out of them before his departure. Rover Gp continues to show 1 R Hamps how it's done and Comms Tp has been developing an intimate relationship with their compatriots down in 3 Bde as 'one way interference' becomes the key phrase of the new decade. It's all just one big adventure.

**MT TROOP**
**FROM THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT**

It's not that we're paranoid, or anything (well, **Dvr 'Trigger' Cassidy** is, but that's another story), but the fact that we're up here whilst the rest of the Squadron's down there means we get left out of everything—well it's time we had our say in *The Wire*, so here goes:-

We're brilliant we are—no, honest, we're really good. We do all the cabbying about for all the Staff as well as the Squadron. We're the ones who get lemoned to pick up everyone in the morning and deliver everyone home safely at night—not a word of thanks, mind—oh, no—we have to make do with just four 10 hour claims each every week, and we hardly ever crash. In fact, we only had four of the 14 Squadron accidents last year—and that's with 898,914 miles covered—not bad.

So, who are we? Well, there's the MTWO, **WO2 Pete Mulvihull** (when he's not playing squash with the RQMS), there's **Sgt Rick Shepherd**, the impresario of the Squadron club, and there's the boss of the LAD, lean, mean **Sgt George Campbell**.

But who does the work, right? Well, there's not room enough for everyone, but people like **LCpl Kev Harvey**, our smoothy of a details NCO: 'It'll be in front of Brigade HQ in two minutes Sir' (and he gets away with it every time) stand out, as does **LCpl** 'Look at my machinery' **'Scouse' Rood**. The boys of the LAD, **Cpl Barney Taylor** and **LCpl Kev Penman** keep us on the road more than we want to be, **Sig** 'Active' **Edge** keeps the floors of the guardroom scrubbed squeaky clean, and **LCpl Taff Greenway** runs well on three cylinders, OK, that's it. Everyone else will get a mention next time.

**COMMUNICATIONS TROOP**

Originally it was intended to start this in a really unconventional way (ie a list of Troop personalities), but things move so quickly up here on the Northwest frontier that its all just too difficult—we'll settle for some hellos and goodbyes instead.

Its a fond goodbye indeed to **Lt Emma Pascoe**, who's slipped away to manage (if that's the right word) a trunk node in sunny York. Coming up fast on the rails is **SSgt Gordon Hitchen**, moving off to 31 Sig Regt (V). Some have obviously drawn a winning ticket in M&RO's lottery of life: **LCpl Paul Elson** disappeared to collect Trabant numbers in Berlin, and **'Woody' Wood** headed south towards Cyprus, whilst others obviously did not: **LCpl Terry Bowen** particularly, posted from SYSCON 8 Inf Bde to SYSCON 15 Sig Regt. **Pte Pete Harthern** gets the trip of a lifetime (to Bielefeld—well, you only want to go there once, right?), whilst **Pte 'Scouse' McMahon** and **Cpl Gareth Conjoice** have proved that it's possible to be taken in by more than one set of glossy brochures—they've joined the civvy plod. Good luck to everyone and their families, and thanks for everything.

Hellos next; firstly to **Lt Mike McGinty**. RPC arrivals too (the wrong computer button was pressed at Pioneer M&RO): **LCpl 'Jim' Reeves, Ptes** 'Demon Driver' **Drysdale, 'Curly' Limb, 'Mac' McCormick** and **Stuart Lane** all arrived to join the 'GI Joe junior fan club' at Rover Gp—get patrolling!

**CONGRATS AND COMMISERATIONS**

Let's talk about the ups and downs . . .

Congratulations go out to **Cpls 'Taff' Malaney** and **Carl Budding** for well earned promotions. In addition, **Cpl Tony Scoines** and **LCpl Mick Stout** for success on their various boards. **Cpl Shean Dewar** has passed his AAC pilot selection—good luck to him for the fixed wing assessment. On the down side of life, a sincere get well soon to **LCpl 'Geordie' Finlay** and **Sig Simon Mallin**, both injured in an end of year RTA—we need you back soon boys, so don't try and pretend that it's serious.

# — News from Headquarters —

## Army Apprentices' College Harrogate



Scott Sqn 89C Tech

**SCOTT SQUADRON—RECRUIT TROOP**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Rct Tp OC** | **Lt Andy Duncan** |
| **Rct Tp Sgts** | **Sgt Jim Harris** |
| | **Sgt Danny O'Brien** |

Picture the scene, Squadron Commander's office, Squadron conference 1700 hrs, Friday 26 January 1990.

**Sqn Comd**: One last thing 2IC *Wire* Notes for Monday 29 January 1990.
**2IC**: No problem Sir, its all sorted, **Lt Duncan** can sort it.
**Lt Duncan**: No problem Sir, its all sorted, **Sgt Harris** can sort it.
**Sgt Harris**: No problem Sir (jiffed!).

The 51 members of 89C tech arrived at Harrogate on 31 October 1989 to be greeted by **Sgt Jim Harris** and **Sgt Danny O'Brien**. After processing, documentation and allocation of a bed space, they were all introduced to the Army barber. After asking for flat tops, short here and left alone there, they all came out looking the same, short back and sides!

The next day they started their Basic Recruit Training and began to settle down to College life. As usual there were the usual Inter-Squadron Sports competitions; these consisted of rugby, football, hockey, cross country and swimming, all the points gained from each competition going towards the Inter-Squadron Sports trophy. Scott Sqn won all but the swimming, so it won the contest overall, a good result.

**BRADLEY SQUADRON**
**MOVEMENTS**

There have been several changes since our last contribution, the most notable being the arrival of our new Sqn Comd—**Maj S. P. Hunt**. Coinciding with the Christmas parties—I wonder how he arranged that?

Forty one members of intake 89A graduated on 21 December and have gone their various ways except for a few who have remained with us to supervise the initial stages of the new intake of 90A who arrived on 9 January.

**Sgt Sheppard** has moved on to become the new Provost Sgt and in his place we welcome **Sgt Dobson** who joins us from Rawson Sqn.

**Fran**, our Clerk, has left us to accompany her husband on his move to Cambridge and we are very pleased to welcome **Helen** as her replacement.

**Lt Bewsher** has moved across to College HQ to 'assist the Adjutant' and on a temporary basis we welcome **Lt Elliott** and **Sgt Oakes** from Penney Sqn, who are looking after 90A until half term.

Our final goodbyes go to **Sgt Jim Torrie** who leaves the army to join the Metropolitan Police and **CSgt Jessiman** (Scots Guards) who after a brief stay with us has left the Army at the end of 36 years service to take up a post at Menwith Hill. Our best wishes to them both.

**THE MILITARY TRAINING TROOP**
**Report by Sgt Downs**

Since our last report, the Troop Commander has changed. Outgoing is **Capt Halewood**, who is off to pastures new in BAOR, and perhaps to improve his golf handicap at Sennelager.

In his place, we welcome **Capt McDonald** to the Troop, on his first posting with the Corps. **Capt Halewood** was dined out in true Military Training Tp manner, an evening at Whitburn, complete with the Regimental band of the RRF, but who invited the 'surprise guest'?

'A new broom sweeps clean' it is often said, and it is true, now that **Capt McDonald** is firmly 'in the chair'. Changes in the military training exercises will ensure an action packed time spent with the Military Training Tp in future!

During the Winter term a double intake of Recruits and the changes in the training programme ensured a lot of hard work for staff. However, the Troop's Christmas party at the end of term was a chance to let their 'hair down', (those who have any!). The function was held in the Drovers Arms, and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

We have also said farewell to **WO2 George Evans** on retirement to civvy street, we wish him luck for the future.

**Sgt Neil Allamby** decided he was too brainy to be a Technician and trade re-allocated to Driver Lineman. Still not satisfied he has defected to External Leadership Tp, in exchange for **Sgt Les Whitaker**.

To swell our numbers, we welcome to the Troop **Sgt Ritchie Plummer** from 14 Sig Regt, and **Sgt Les Whitaker** all the way from EL Tp. We also welcome **Cpl John Levins** from 30 Sig Regt via SASC Depot, and **Cpl Rod Cowan** from 5 AB Sig Sqn.

With the Spring term upon us we wait, with bated breath, our next batch of recruits, and the SA80 rifle later in the year.

**OPERATOR WING**
**Report by SSgt (YofS) Easton**

Although the author is unsure of the last occasion notes were scribed for the pages of the Corps magazine, it was certainly in the days when we were known as Tg Wing as opposed to our newer and grander title of Operator Wing. This being the case, it is almost a year since the Wing made a contribution so there is a fair amount of catching up to do.

**NOMENCLATURE**

The Wing title changed in the New Year to encompass the new Tele Op (Sys) as well as the established Tele Op (Tg) trade training. The first class of System Ops are now more than half way through their apprenticeship and students and instructional staff have both risen to the challenge.



**MOVEMENTS**

In August, **Maj Cheesman**, left with his golf clubs and computers for the School of Signals, where, as well as having ample opportunity to reduce his handicap, he is also involved in producing and amending publications. **Maj Tunmore** has also come and gone. Also recently left is **Sgt MacCafferty**, bound for the sharp end in the form of 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt, **Sgt Tony Freeman** left to count Junior Leaders in Bradley Sqn and **Cpl Tony Vivian** left for 8 Sig Regt. Thanks for all the hard work.

**ARRIVALS**

Arrivals in the last few months include, **Sgt Andy Kevins** from Northern Ireland, **Sgt Dave Best** from 35 Sig Regt (V) and **Cpl Phil Wright** all the way from Rawson Sqn. We also welcome **Mr Bill Jackson** as our latest civilian instructor. **Bill** previously worked in the Unit LAD and has had to swop his overalls for a jacket and tie. Welcome to you all, and hope you have a rewarding and enjoyable tour.

**THE SCICON AUTOMATIC MESSAGE SWITCH**

The Scicon Automatic Message Switch or AMS to its friends was installed in the Wing during the early summer of this year. It is a state of the art message processing facility already in use in Hong Kong and Northern Ireland. Under the guidance of **Mr Terry Buss, Sgts Frank Jones** and **Mick Brown**, Apprentice Telegraphists have had plenty of hands on experience and have found it to be a real asset in trade training.

**KEITH THOMAS BEM**

The Wing staff extends its warmest congratulations to **Mr Keith Thomas** on his award of the BEM. In 1972 **Keith** formed the Penny Pot Youth Club and under his leadership the club has flourished, developing a special interest in supporting local and national charities.

**POSTSCRIPT**

Old soldiers never die . . . or so the saying goes, and it would appear that at least some of them serve as instructors in Operator Wing in the College. Our resident Historian **Mr Mick Thornton**, has calculated that the present staff, military and civilian, have completed some 700 years in uniform between them. Is this some kind of a record?

**COMMEX TROOP**
**Report by WO2 (YofS) Ruthven**

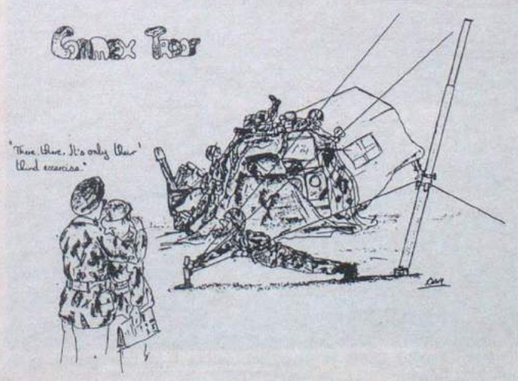
**PERSONALITIES**

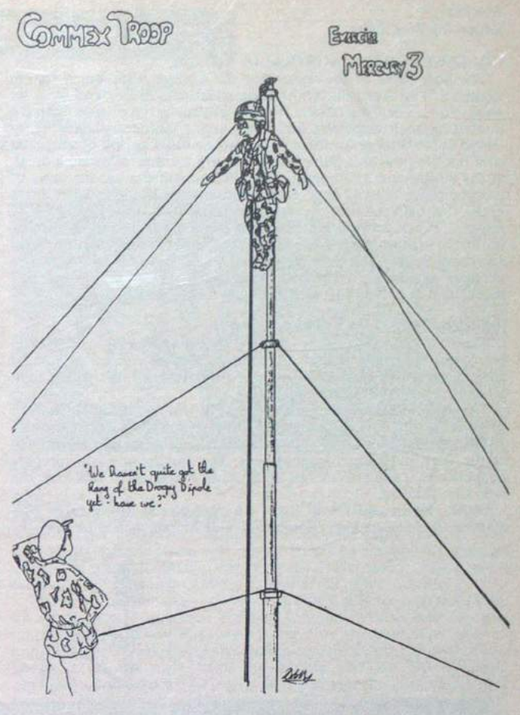
| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Capt Luckett** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 Bill Ruthven** |
| **SQMS** | **Sgt Jim McMahon** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Chels Lovett** |

**FAREWELLS/ARRIVALS**

Firstly I would like to say farewell to **Sgt** (soon to be SSgt) **Rob Ibbotson**, his wife **Helen** and the family who are on their way to sunny 9 Sig Regt. Good luck **Rob** to you and the family and all the best for the future.

Secondly a warm welcome to **Sgt Chels Lovett**, his wife **Dianne** and the family who have just arrived from 1 Queen's, Tidworth. I hope you have an enjoyable stay.




**CONGRATULATIONS**

Heartiest congratulations to **Cpl K. B. Smith** and his wife, **Sarah** on the arrival of son **Christopher**. Also **Sgt Rob Ibbotson** and **Helen** on the birth of daughter **Catherine**. Happy sleepless nights!

The lads have been kept busy all year spending a lot of the time on various exercises. That is in between increasing the population. Although we do attempt to impart all our knowledge to the apprentices I think the two attached cartoons depict life in general on a good day.

The Summer Golf Competition turned up another bandit in the Troop. The Yeoman of Signals ended up winning overall with **Chels Lovett** taking the longest drive (back to Tidworth) and **K. B. Smith** nearest the pin.

**COLLEGE SUB-AQUA CLUB**

The end of the 1989 season saw the departure of a most successful club member and organiser, **Capt David Wilson RAEC**. SADS though he may be to bid a fond farewell to ACC Harrogate he will, I am sure, be more than happy to become a denizen of the warm Cypriot waters. The achievements he leaves in his wake include a number of minor expeditions to Scotland, most notably to St Abbs and AT/JLs and their trainers have achieved a total in excess of 10,000 logged minutes under Neptune's mantle!

The club bids farewell to **Lt Col Danells** who now stands down as Chairman of Mercury Divers but whose fair and firm guidance will be sorely missed by all members.

Looking to the 1990 season, a number of exciting dives are in prospect. Twenty five AT/JLs are at present undergoing British Sub-Aqua Club Novice Diver training. The first 'open water' dive for these voluntary 'Atlantians' was in mid-January and for those who made the grade, a major expedition to Cyprus' south-eastern seaboard at Easter is busy bubbling. In addition, a visit to Fort Bovisand in late April is ready to go into the pot. This is at present being planned by the two new Sub-Aqua Diving Supervisors in the Club, **Sgts Carmichael** and **Flooks**, without whom the sequel to this watery article could not be written.

The club's aims this year will be to carry out at least 250 dives, half of these being logged by AT/JLs; to produce at least six BSAC qualified AT/JL Sports Divers; to execute at least one exercise of four days or more, and one weekend exercise and to dive each AT/J'. at least 15 times.

**RUGBY**
**Report by Maj Slater**

**COLLEGE vs WEST AUSTRALIA YOUTH**

The high point of the season for the College team was a fixture against a West Australia Youth team which was in England for a six week tour. The Australians were a physically large side with an interesting back alignment and some very competent players. They stayed at the College for three days during a bleak period of snow and sleet but the game was played on a near dry surface following a break in the weather on 31 January. The pitch provided a superb game of running rugby. The College played with a strong wind at their backs in the first half and held the Australians until half time (9—14 to the visitors). After the interval the strong running and incessant backing up by the visitors proved too much for the home team and the final score was 9—44. The College can take heart from the fact that they were up against a well drilled representative side playing the best school and county colts sides in England during their tour.

**ACROSS TRUST—AUSTRIA**

Three apprentices from the Army Apprentices' College in Harrogate were selected to accompany 12 handicapped or invalid citizens on a trip to Austria arranged by Across Trust which took place between 1-10 September 1989.

The three volunteers were **LCpl Kevin Eaves, AT David Cook** both from Scott Sqn and **LCpl Derek Johnstone** from Rawson Sqn.

The journey from London to Payerbach in Austria was made in one of the Trust's Alligator Jumbulances. The Jumbulance is a specially adapted coach and provides all the necessary facilities to look after the sick and disabled.

**Derek, Kevin** and **David** made up part of the lifting team who assisted the handicapped people who were known as and treated like



AT LCpl Kevin Eaves shares a joke with Miss Sheila Hudson—a VIP!

'VIPs'. The VIPs were looked after and their every need taken care of on the 30 hour journey to Payerbach.

On arrival each VIP had a helper who shared their room in the hotel and who was responsible for their welfare. The week long visit was planned to give the VIPs the holiday of a lifetime. Many trips and outings were arranged and included a visit to Vienna, a ride in a cablecar and a train journey through the mountains.

On the last evening before returning to London a fancy dress party was held in the hotel with both VIPs and helpers dressing up for the occasion. The evening was a great success and everyone had a wonderful time.

All in all the trip was most rewarding for both VIPs and helpers. Our apprentices gained much from the experience and have made many new friends.



## School of Signals
## Blandford Camp
## Dorset



*Back Row L to R:* 2Lt I. A. Blower (Ian), 2Lt J. W. Dakin (Jon), 2Lt C. R. Foster (Charlie), 2Lt R. H. King (Robbie), Lt J. M. Lawrence (Jane) and 2Lt T. M. P. Mountford (Marc)
*Front Row L to R.* 2Lt D. L. Naden (Dave), 2Lt T. D. Smith (Tim), 2Lt D. J. Watts (Darren), 2Lt A. S. Williams (Andy) and 2Lt T. O. Wood (Tim)



# News from Regiments

## Berlin Sig Regt
## BFPO 45

**HISTORIC FUN RUN**

Less than 12 hours after the biggest New Year's Eve Party, soldiers and their families were amongst thousands of runners who started to form up in readiness for the first East/West Berlin Fun Run. From the military point of view the only formality was to be 'signed out' at the mobile RMP Checkpoint by the Victory Column. Once numbered we eagerly awaited 1400 hrs when the Mayor of West Berlin Herr Walter Momper would start the run. The atmosphere was euphoric, as it has been in Berlin since 9 November 1989. It was an historic race that would be unremarkable in any other city in the world in which East and West Berliners, accompanied by runners from every European country united together in a bond of comradeship. Having started we all moved forward steadily towards the wall and then through the Brandenburg Gate. At this point everyone stopped to have their photographs taken and to be welcomed by the GDR Border Guards. Champagne was flowing and the East Berliners were ecstatic and bewildered at this unusual event. The runners made their way down the Unter Den Linden, past the British and Soviet Embassies and around Alexander Platz. At this point **WO1 (RSM) Rab Young** and **SSgt (YofS) Steve Rose** were offered a cup of 'Eastie' tea which is a beverage to be looked at only. This was a run not to have been missed. With one last backward glance at the imposing bulk of the Brandenburg Gate and the clearly visible mound of Hitler's Bunker we were back in West Berlin. After our brief excursion to the East it was time to pose for photographs and to talk of the experience of being the first military to cross the wall without going through Checkpoint Charlie since 13 August 1961.



So this is what it looks like! SSgt (YofS) Steve Rose, Sgt George Murray, WO1 (RSM) Rab Young, SSgt (FofS) Sid Kassim and Cpl Geoff Richards pose on the other side



SSgt (FofS) Kassim being strangled by the RSM—wrong headdress Foreman!



We made it. All smiles. Mrs Susan Gold has lost her number!

**BRIGADE TROOP**
**TRAINING WING TROPHY**

On a cold December morning the Regiment split into six man sections to embark on an epic day of training consisting of physical fitness, weapon handling, fire fighting skills and a timed event involving the changing of two full sets of landrover wheels.

The first team got away at 0800 hrs led by **Cpl Dave Laverick**. They set a fast pace to Ruhleben Fighting City only to find later that the majority of the other teams were faster. The stretcher race followed immediately; it was a fairly demanding course covering 2km with two obstacles on the way. **LCpl Mo Morris** and **Sig Del Whyman** obviously impressed the OC with their gut wrenching impressions at the end. Next was the shooting—a lot of teams lost few points here. Praise must be given to the MT on their excellent shooting, especially **LCpl Peach**. The fire fighting was a new experience for most of us and enjoyable; some members of the teams finished that particular stand rather wetter than they started.

After the day's events, we returned to the Stadium Tavern for the results. The winning team was Sector Tp led by **Cpl 'Geordie' Raine**, who in turn was presented with a fine trophy made and designed by **Sgt Bunny Hutchinson**.

Thanks must go to **Sgts Hutchinson** and **Watkins** for organising such a fine day's entertainment and we all look forward to next year's event, hoping it will be that little bit more demanding (honestly).



Bde Tp firefighting

**FAREWELLS**

Bde Tp has recently said farewell to: **Cpl** (now Sgt) **Jim Stillie** and his wife **Lynn**: he goes as RLD Sgt to the Irish Guards; **Cpl** (now Sgt) **John Laverick** and family to Fortress Gibraltar; **LCpl Chris Davies** and family to 3 Armd Div Sig Regt; **Sig** (now LCpl) **John Collins** and his family to 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and **LCpl Mick Darbyshire** and his family to 656 Sig Tp.

Bde Tp would like to wish them all good luck and happiness in their new postings.

### ARMY COMMCEN BERLIN

The Commcen has a total of 17 'workers' of whom nine are male and eight female. It has two detachments: three Operators to Allied Staff Berlin Commcen and two to Commcen Helmstedt.

On 16 January, Comd 4 Sig Gp **Col P. E. A. Chaddock** visited the Regiment and as part of the programme spent 30 minutes in the Commcen; this included a brief on the Automatic Message Switch (AMS).

On the sporting front, Sector Tp recently ran a Squash Competition. The winner was our Troop Commander **WO2 (YofS) Langford** but the Commcen managed the runner-up position with **LCpl Jamie Gardner**. In the Plate Competition **LCpl Andy Forster** (Radio Section) was the winner and again the Commcen managed the runner-up trophy with **LCpl Les Wodcke** moving his considerable bulk around the court at speed. **LCpl Jamie Gardner** and **LCpl Mick Darbyshire** (SHQ) had another claim to fame when they finished runners-up in the Corps Badminton Doubles.

Congratulations go to **Sgt 'Geordie' Raine** on his promotion and our Best Wishes to **WLCpl Sarah Rix** on her marriage to **Keith**, who has recently arrived in Berlin with the Irish Guards. Good luck.

The Commcen says farewell to the following: **Cpl Tony Bunce**—233 Sig Sqn, **Cpl Eddie O'Connell**—3 Inf Bde, **Sig Nick Cotton**—Falklands and then 30 Sig Regt.

Finally we would like to say welcome to **Cpl Jules Williams** and **WPte Jill Howard** who we hope will enjoy Berlin.

### BERLIN SOLVES ITS MANNING PROBLEM

Regular readers will know that the Regiment is currently bringing into service a brand new trunk system.

In these days of manpower shortages, the problem has arisen as to who will crew the new vehicles and, more to the point, who will sign for them. The solution to this is called the 'Continental TA' and the Regiment recently deployed to the streets of Berlin on a dazzling recruiting drive in an endeavour to sign up some likely civilians. Your correspondent was on the scene and captured the spirit of Berlin's latest project in the following pictures.



Attestation of recruits:
LSgt Harper (Grenadier Guards attached) swears in two new linemen (V)



SSgt (FofS) Kassim (with spectacles) has been involved with the new trunk project from the outset. Seen here with his new Tele Tech Sys (V), he says: 'These lads all worked on Bruin so if they 'bear' with it the new system will be a doddle, . . .'

### HQ SQUADRON

Under the impression that subscribers to *The Wire* will only read articles of interest your columnist has been silent for at least the last four years. While the Squadron is presently administered by **WO2 George Bardsley, WO2 Alan Gold, WO2 Colin Ross, Sgt Neil Chatterton, Cpl 'Pete' Youngson** and **LCpl 'Taff' Gumm** (names from other arms are omitted as being superfluous) the sad highlight, probably of the decade, is the retirement of **Herr Werner Koester MBE**.

**Herr Koester** will be well known to all members of the Corps who have served in 229 Sig Sqn, 29 Sig Regt or our present Regimental Title in his role of Civil Labour Supervisor, or prior to 1975, as Chief Clerk at Brigade Headquarters. In both posts he was responsible for the recruitment, administration and well being of the 400 civilians working in Berlin on behalf of the Regiment.

After serving in the 1 (Austrian) Div in Southern Italy and seeing service at both Anzio and Salerno, **Herr Koester** joined the staff of the British Commandant Berlin in 1946 as a Storekeeper for the Control Commission. The following year he was recommended and accepted for the post of House Supervisor to **Sir Christopher Steele**, the British High Commissioner. There he was responsible for the staff, accommodation and works services of the Commissioner's Residence. On the departure of **Sir Christopher** to Bonn, **Herr Koester** remained with the Control Commission repossessing Ex-Nazi property, including houses, for the use of the British Army. In 1954 he was transferred to Berlin Infantry Brigade and became Chief Clerk in the Families' Office where he became responsible for handover and takeover of VIP quarters. 1955 he was promoted to Brigade Chief Clerk and it was from this date that his long association with the Civil Labour organisation was born. In the same year he also became the Official Liaison Officer for the 1955 Beating Of Retreat at the Funkturm. The event was the first of its type in Berlin and the forerunner of the famous Tattoo. He held this honorary appointment until 1984. He was appointed MBE in 1975.

**Herr Koester** will be warmly remembered by the many members of the Corps helped or advised by him during the last 43 years. We wish him a happy retirement and much enjoyment in his pursuits of ornithology, photography and fishing. It is significant perhaps, and certainly a measure of the esteem with which **Herr Koester** is held, that HQ Sqn notes will not be written again in the foreseeable future unless . . .!'



The CO, Lt Col Mike Collins, presents one of many farewell presents to Herr Werner Koester MBE



## 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
## BFPO 32

### RHQ

Congratulations to **LCpl Jon Bath** and **Cpl Dave Harries** who were both promoted on the last working day before Christmas. They were invited to pull a Christmas cracker with the Commanding Officer during the RHQ lunch-time party and found (to their not-so-great surprise!) a tape cleverly hidden inside.

We welcome **Capt Alastair Harwell** as the Ops Officer; he is having rapidly to relearn the art of marking maps and speak German on recces but has otherwise settled down very quickly to the hectic pace of life in RHQ!

During the Christmas stand-down the Adjutant, **Capt Bob Sharp** 'tied the knot' with the Regiment MO! We wish him, **Mary** and Guinwig the dog much happiness.

Stop Press! The Adjutant would like to announce that the Regiment is in the enviable position of having received notice that a Signalman is to be posted in from Catterick. An auction will be held and Sqn Comds are invited to place their bids in good time as it is felt there will be a great deal of interest in this soldier.

### VISIT OF BRIG M. G. TAYLOR MBE

Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps visited the Regiment on Friday 12 January and met soldiers and officers from most departments. During an informal lunch in Jimmy's Bar in the Officers' Mess, **Brig Taylor** presented **Maj Scott Ewing** with the GOC Northern Ireland Commendation.



Sgt Wells explains to Comd Comms how to play Space Invaders on the ERV ATE



Comd Comms looking smug after beating the Space Invaders Hi-score on ERV 041. The FofS, Sgt Dave Thorpe and Cpl Stu Ridgeway can't believe it!

### M TROOP
### COMINGS AND GOINGS

The last couple of months have seen an alteration in the structure of the Troop and a number of personnel changes in the small, intrepid band of technicians. **Capt Russ Davey** has relinquished command of the Troop to **WO1 (FofS) Dave Gorse** and taken up the post of Tech Adjt in RHQ. He has, however, retained a small bolt hole in the Troop so as to pop in now and again for a cuppa and a 'chat'.

We have said farewell to **WO1 (FofS) Chris Platts** and his wife **Ann**, returning to the UK for his last six months of service, and **Cpls Dave Bowes** (off to play with a large Sky TV receiver at Balado Bridge) and **'Dinger' Bell** (hoping to earn more than the Foreman on 'the outside'). Thanks for everything and good luck for the future.

Incomings have been limited to **Cpl Lee Turbitt**, making the long trek across camp from 1 Sqn. He is, however, doing his bit to ease the manpower problem; he and his wife **Helen** have just produced a future technician. Congratulations.

### VISIT OF COMD COMMS 1 (BR) CORPS

On Friday 12 January the Troop was visited by the new Comd Comms. He was met by **Capt Russ Davey** and was then given a brief tour of the Troop facilities and vehicles by the FofS. Despite only staying with the Troop for a short time Comd Comms was both impressed and concerned by the number of jobs and responsibilies carried out by each man. We must be good!

### QM TECH

The following have recently been posted in. They and their families are welcomed to Verden: **Sig 'Geordie' Ross** with his wife **Pat** from 8 Sig Regt and **LCpl 'Geordie' Rain** and his wife **Martine** on transfer from RPC.

The following leave on posting. They are all long-serving members who will be sadly missed: **Cpl 'Brad' Bradley** to 212 Sig Sqn, **LCpl Darren Kemp** to 4 Div, **LCpl Mark Vile** to civvy street, **Sig 'Jock' High** to 21 Sig Regt and **Sgt Erich Ridley** to 3 Inf Bde.

As usual the postings out outnumber the arrivals. RSMRO please note!

Congratulations to **Cpl Paul Selby** who has finally passed his driving test.

### VERDEN STATION GOLF CLUB

Flushed with success from winning the BAOR Inter Unit Team Competition, the Golf Officer **Capt Mick Ledwards** thought it would be a good idea to form a Verden Station Golf Society. The Inaugural meeting was held in November. The attendance and interest shown in the agenda points confirmed the need for such a society and gave encouragement to the newly formed committee. The Society has a strong membership of all standards, including lady members, and would be delighted to accept any challenge from a society or Regimental team.

### PAGE TROPHY

The winter months have not deterred the Squadron in its pursuit of the Page Trophy. Just before the Christmas break teams were successful in winning the squash, volleyball and orienteering competitions.

Squash was probably a foregone conclusion with the complete Regimental team and several reserves in the Squadron. However, the volleyball and orienteering teams both entered with some trepidation.

The volleyball team, superbly marshalled by **Sgt Dave Thorpe** of Tech Tp, proved beyond doubt that practice makes perfect. With a large squad selected mainly from TM Tp and MT he finally produced a team which on the day was unbeatable. The final against 1 Sqn was hard but the first round game against 207 Sig Sqn was certainly the toughest. The following players are to be congratulated on their fine performance: **WO1 Bob McClafferty, SSgts Geoff Pearson, Roy Partington, Sgt Dave Thrope** (Team Captain), **Cpls Alec Haddow, Ian Price, Benny Voar, Gaz Williams** and **LCpl Dave Williams**.

The orienteering teams consisted of members of the LAD led by **SSgt Jim Patterson**. An unknown quantity, they surprised the Regiment by completing the course well in front of the favourites, 2 Sqn. **Maj Geoff Cary** will be looking closely at individual timings when selecting his next Regimental team.

These results have ensured that the Squadron has maintained a strong position on the leader board. With the same commitment to the forthcoming March and Shoot competition, victory should be assured.

## 1 SQUADRON

**Report by Mrs Gyl Girard**

23 November was no ordinary day for the men and wives of 1 Sqn. The OC **Maj Paul Taylor** had agreed to allow Ex Pink Rhino to proceed. The object of this one day exercise was to introduce 16 wives and one daughter to the rigours of a signal exercise.

After the OC's briefing, the 'Troops' were divided into two groups, each to learn the basics of the SMG (instructed by **SSgt Dave Bradshaw**) and the 9mm Browning Pistol (instructed by **WO2 Pete Lawlow**).

After moving out to the training area, the action began. **Sig Trevor Croxon** and **'Mac' MacMillan** took on the challenge of teaching the driving of 4 tonne trucks. A couple of the eager troops **(Paula Hutchinson** for example) had not sat behind the driver's wheel before, but were quick to learn to manoeuvre the vehicle through the wooded trail. Just wait 'til they reach the autobahn!

**Sgt Colin Weir** assisted the Troops with the awkward, but extremely important NBC suits, which were gladly donned in the chill morning air. Much to everyone's relief the gas chamber was not part of the exercise!

The SMG and pistol shooting was a major highlight. Most of the Troops were rather nervous about firing the weapons. However, once the first bullet had landed on target, the Troops enthusiastically tried to obtain the highest score. **Sgt Neil James** announced **Rachel Perry** as the 'champ' of the SMG, while **Sgt Al Martin** declared **Jane Pryke** as the pistol sharpshooter.

The Trunk Node admin area was erected under the supervision of the Sqn 2IC **Capt Dave Somerville,** and under the charge of the crewman, the Troops learned how to set up Radio Relay, Central Switch, Node Command and Power detachments. As with all the men involved **Sig Bob Ingram** and **Sam Brownlee** eagerly answered the questions from their group, explaining in basic terms the functions of the equipment in their truck. Communications were a great success.

Naturally the exercise would not have been compete without the lunchtime 'doggy bag' and the evening compo meal, prepared by **Cpl Mark Lloyd,** assisted by the hungry Troops. Much to our pleasant surprise the meal was nothing like our husbands had led us to expect!

The final segment of the exercise was led by **2Lt Phil Wheeler.** Walking quietly through the woods, the need for silence and camouflage was stressed. A small demonstration of lights flashing, doors slamming, coughing and lighting of cigarettes made this quite clear. The moment all the men had been waiting for occured on the way back within 100m of the vehicles. AMBUSH! Although the Troops were expecting this, the flash of light and LMG fire took them by surprise; some froze, some ran and some 'hit the deck'!

The de-brief took place in the Squadron Bar were **Maj Paul Taylor** explained that the exericse had contained as many realistic elements of a normal exercise as possible and had achieved its goal. Indeed, everyone felt great satisfaction from participating in it. An understanding of their husbands' work had developed. Although it had only been a one day exercise, for most it had been the experience of a lifetime.

### EAGLE TROOP

**RSIT**

The first two weeks in December brought the Royal Signals Inspection Team knocking on our doors. Had all our efforts been in vain? Time would soon tell as men in coveralls clambered over our wagons poking into even the smallest corner asking why this is kept where it is? Well done to everyone for all their hard work and we look forward to next year's visit by RSIT.

**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

We extend a warm welcome to **2Lt Jaws Wheeler**, the new OC Troop, **LCpls Matt Whitcher, Bob James** and **Sig Johno Johnston** and his wife **Tracey.**

A fond farewell to **2Lt Ian Walton, Sig Croxon,** and **LCpl Phil Kenworthy**, we wish them all the best in the future.



Members of Eagle Tp during Ex Pink Rhino

### HAWK TROOP

The Troop would like to welcome **Cpl Mick Ginty,** his wife **Tracey** and daughter **Kim** to Verden from 30 Sig Regt, and also **SSgt Neil Ardern** and wife **Anne, LCpls Si Clark** and **Geordie Musham** to the Troop from across the corridor.

We say farewell to **SSgt Dave Bradshaw** who is leaving on a four month detachment to the sharp edge of Sardinia. A gentleman to the last he leaves his wife **Ilene** at Verden. Also leaving are **LCpl Pete Wigmore** to the School of Signals and **Sgt Dave Gill** to '1 Civ Div'. We wish **Dave,** wife **Liz** and daughter **Kirsty** all the best in their new life in civvy street.



There really is somebody out there! Liz MacMillan, Carol Taylor, Ann Buckingham and Angeline Taylor



### GOLF TROOP

On return to barracks after Ex Highland Malt III it was preparation for the never to be forgotten experience—RSIT.

The Troop say goodbye to **SSgt Neil Ardern** and **LCpl Geordie Musham** on their punishment posting to Hawk Tp. **Cpl Spike Parry** and **LCpl Sean Willy** to Civ Div, **Cpl Willy Scoots** to 7 Armd Vde and last but not least, **LCpl Ian Campbell** and his family to 7 Sig Regt.

Hellos to **Cpl Sammy Johnstone, LCpls Taff John, Andy Stafford, Steve Taylor, Sig Keith Millen, Jay Phillips** and **Deno Aslett.**

## 2 SQUADRON

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Geoff Cary** |
| **2IC** | **2Lt Adam Parsons** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Mick Comber** |
| **OC P Tp** | **2Lt Kester Russell** |
| **OC R Tp** | **Sgt Phil Parker** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) Tom Patterson** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt Mick Tucker** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt (YofS) Guy Benson** |

The end of a very busy year for 2 Squadron which has seen the complete reorganisation of the Divisional Main Headquarters brought about mainly by manpower shortages. The new ideas were trialled on Ex Highland Malt III which took place in November in an area north of Hamburg. Despite the route to the exercise area taking us through the centre of Hamburg all the dets managed to find their way to the initial location without any significant diversion, although rumour has it that takings for the Drive-In McDonalds were up that day. The exercise itself was a success with all the ideas put forward being trialled and approved; no doubt though there will be more changes made before we find the ideal solution.

The final event of the year for the Squadron was the annual visit of the Royal Signals Inspection Team and the REME PRE team. Three weeks of intense activity preparing the vehicles culminated in a 10 day inspection period during which the Squadron aquitted itself very well finishing with one very well presented and four well presented dets. Congratulations go to **Cpl Digger Brooks, LCpl Ken Marsh, Sig Traf Trafford, Bottle Le Boutiller** and **Thommo Thompson** and to the rest of the Squadron for all the hard work put in to produce such a good result.

On the sporting front the Squadron has not been able to emulate its achievements of last season on the football field, this time losing in the preliminary round of the Generals Cup to HQ Sqn 2—0.



Sgt Jeff Martin (Inter Services Marathon Champion) receives his Army Athletics Colours 1989 from Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps

**COMINGS AND GOINGS**

With all the reorganisation that has ben going on there have been several changes within the Squadron management; our 2IC **Capt Alistair Harwell** has left us to become Ops Officer in RHQ. We wish him success in his new job. We have at last got a new SQMS, **SSgt Tom Patterson** joining us from 1 Sqn. Welcome to the Squadron; this means that **Sgt Colin Milne** can now revert to his proper job of Wavell Manager.

As usual there have been numerous changes within the Troops, Papa Tp would like to welcome **2Lt Kes Russell** or **Kestrel** to his friends, having recently arrived from Sandhurst, taking leave over



'But Sir! I don't like shaving-foam on Strawberry Tart'. OC 2 Sqn takes coffee with Brig Waugh

Christmas and following it with a trip to Snow Queen; no more soft options! Welcome also to **Sig Brian Cowser** recently arrived from 8 Sig Regt. Farewell to **Sig Daz Holman** who leaves on promotion to go to 30 Sig Regt and congratulations are in order for **Sig Radders Radcliffe** recently promoted to LCpl which is very well deserved.

Rover Tp appears to have had almost a complete change of faces as it says goodbye to **Cpl Stu Alister** off to 1 Inf Bde at Tidworth, **Cpl Mez Merrill** of to 5 AB on promotion to Sgt, **LCpls Dave Spence** and **Bob Roberts** to civvy street and **Sig Bob Parkinson** to 14 Sig Regt and **Parky Parkinson** to Colchester. Hello to **LCpl Trev Allen, Sig Jack Jackman, Ted Page** and **Millington** all poached from Papa Tp and finally congratulations are due to **LCpl Smudge Smith** on his recent promotion and to **Mrs Smith** on the birth of their son.

On Wednesday 1 November Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps **Brig T. I. W. Waugh** visited the Regiment on a farewell visit. During his time with the Squadron he saw the new Divisional Headquarters set up and had a chance to meet the members of the Squadron over coffee and cakes in the Squadron bar. Whilst in the Regiment he presented **Sgt Jeff Martin** with his Army Athletics Colours.

## 3 SQUADRON

**ARRIVALS**

We welcome our new Sqn Comd, **Maj Paul Towers,** his wife **Susan** and family who have recently arrived from 225 Sig Sqn. **Cpl Greig Terry** also joins us from 19 Inf Bde, along with his wife **Debra** and family. The only other arrival in the last couple of months has been that of **LCpl 'Jacko' Jackson**'s and **Mrs Jackson**'s baby boy. Congratulations!

**DEPARTURES**

We say goodbye to: **LCpl 'Daz' Blanchard** off to 21 Sig Regt, **LCpl Dave Lydford** off to civvy street and **Sig 'Gaz' Sinclair** who is to be a staff car driver in Blandford. We also bid a fond farewell to the outgoing Sqn Comd, **Maj Scott Ewing** and his wife **Nicky** on posting to 1 Sqn.

**SHQ TROOP**

Life in the Troop has settled down somewhat now that RSIT is over. Rumour has it that the Foreman has 'Landed' and is now enjoying a well deserved rest in UK.

We wish **Cpl Richie Cove** and **Caroline** all the best for their future and hope that they well enjoy many happy years of married bliss.

**OSCAR TROOP**

The most significant event to take place in December was undoubtedly the visit of RSIT. However, the Troop did not allow the high workload to interfere with a busy social life.

**LIMA TROOP**

On Ex Highland Malt **LCpl 'Jacko' Jackson** was lost for words; having dislocated his jaw. **Cpl Chris Gleadow** and **LCpl Ian Watson** spent most of the exercise hoping the rubbish dump would be unloaded.

The journey back to camp was quite eventful; various elements of the Troop decided not to follow the route card, and managed three different routes back to camp.

In December the RSIT team visited, intent on ruining some careers but despite a few worried faces the Troop emerged unscathed.

## 201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 30

The Stag Sqn is preparing itself for another busy period—six and a half weeks on exercise in three months is not a bad introduction to 1990.

On Friday 5 January 1990 **Maj Roger Batho** handed over command of the illustrious Stag Sqn to **Maj Andy Forster**, straight from the MOD. We welcome the new Squadron Commander and his wife **Frances** and hope they have a pleasant and enjoyable tour here in 'sunny Hohne'. The outgoing Squadron Commander departed in style, being driven out in a Ferret Scout Car. We wish **Roger, Lesley** and family all the very best for the future and in his next post with the MOD. We thank them for all that they have done for the members of the Squadron and their families.




Maj Roger Batho hands over command of the Squadron to Maj Andy Forster

On the sporting front the Squadron has again been participating in many different events namely, cross country, football and boxing.

In December the Squadron hosted the first round of the BAOR Novice Grade 3 Boxing Championships. A tremendous evening ensued with 10 Fd Sqn RE winning the event by five bouts to two.

The score however did not truly reflect the efforts of the Squadron team with every bout except one being decided by a majority verdict.

Congratulations go to **Sig Jason Raybould** and **Jack Malone** on winning their fights and commiserations to the gallant losers who provided stiff opposition: **Lt Mike Rogers, Cpl 'Porky' Ruxton, LCpls 'Al' Henderson, 'Stumpy' Webb** and **Sig 'Titch' Anderson**.

The football team is also enjoying its most successful season for many years, currently lying second in the 7/22 Bde league; having recently beaten 1 Regt AAC Wksps REME in the General's Cup they are through to the second round. However the replay of the 1 Armd Div Cup quarter final against 2 Armd Fd Amb from Osnabruck was a hard fought contest with 2 Armd Fd Amb scoring in the last minute of extra time to win 2—1.

We now come to the Hello's and Goodbye's.

We say farewell to: **Cpl 'Dusty' Miller** to Catterick on promotion, **WCpl Julie Cooke, Sig Paul Chalk, Pte Ronnie Corbett** all to NI. **LCpl Sammy Faulds** to 21 Sig Regt, **LCpl Gordon Tunstall** to 14 Sig Regt. **LCpl Dave Perkins** to Belize, we wish them and their families all the very best for the future. We also say farewell to **LCpl Andy Rose** and **Pte Trevor Cooke** as they go off to civvy street.

We extend a very warm welcome to the following newcomers to the Stag Sqn: **LCpl Brewis, Ptes Collumb, Endericks, Hancock, Stead, Cfn Anderson, Sig Richardson** and **Dvr Edwards**.



201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn at the end of the 1989 exercise season



## 207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 37

The Squadron has seen many changes over the past months. The most notable, being the departure of Squadron Commander, **Maj John Willis** and his family, to Warminster. **Maj Willis** said goodbye to the Squadron in his own inimitable style, otherwise known as Ex Cold Jerboa II '89.

### EXERCISE COLD JERBOA II '89

Ex Cold Jerboa II took place in subzero temperatures between 27-30 November on the Soltau-Luneburg Training Area. The aim of the exercise was to practise all aspects of military skills taught throughout the year, within a pre-determined scenario. The Squadron was divided into two platoons and an enemy platoon operating under the pseudonym of the Soltau-Luneburg Mob (SLUM!) was provided by the Signal Regiment in Verden.

The Squadron returned to barracks cold, wet, but still smiling and the overall results were calculated. The evening's prize giving ceremony took place in the Jerboa bar, with the best overall section consisting of **Cpl Kidd, LCpls McGuckien** and **O'Dell, Sig Allen, Gourley** and **Leak**. Best JNCO's awards went to **Cpl Kidd** and **LCpl Donavan** and **Sig Harris** collected the best Signalman award. After the prize giving, the Squadron said its final farewell to **Maj Willis** by transporting him out of the barracks 'bed-bound'!

The Squadron now welcomes **Major Mike Dyer** and **Annie** to Soltau and wishes them a successful time here.

### SPONSORED LINE BARROW PUSH

It was late in October when members of 207 Sig Sqn were saddened to hear that **Cpl** (Scotty) **Scott**'s new born son, **Daniel**, had to be casevaced to UK because of a heart condition. This, of course, meant a lot of UK travel and the end result meant a posting for **Scotty** to 2 Div in York. The Sqn SSM, **WO2 Drain**, decided that some form of fund raising event was needed. With a devious mind it was hatched as a Barrow Push using the old line barrow from the line shack. On a clear yet cold Saturday on 9 December 1989 members of the Squadron paraded ready for the off with the aim to complete 100 laps of a camp circuit. This was started at 0900 hrs by **SSM Wally Drain** and **SSgt Porky Hawkins**. The total amount raised that day was DM 776.20. DM 200 was handed over to **Cpl Scott** for incidental expenditure and the remainder will be sent to Jimmy's Children Hospital in York. Thanks to all those who took part.

### ALPHA TROOP

The Troop looks forward to a successful and busy New Year with a new Troop Commander at the helm, **Lt Rab Mulholland** and his wife **Gill** and family. The Troop also welcomes back **LCpl Westerman** and **Sig Taff Jones** on their return from Fortress Falklands, and bids farewell to **Lt Mathew Edwards** and **Sig Chalky White** who now embarks on the return Falkland flight.

### BRAVO TROOP

The Troop welcomes its new Commander, **Lt Ian Walton** and also **Cpl Willie Scoots** who both join from Verden. Ex Highland Malt followed shortly after their arrival, allowing the new boys to see what it's all about.

The Troop now looks forward to a busy and eventful New Year programme.

We would like to say farewell to **Cpl Chris Kidd** and family, posted to Catterick and **LCpl Kirsop** on his way to Northern Ireland. Congratulations to **Sig Steve Gourley** and **Pam** on their marriage and best of luck for the future.

### LS AND GC PRESENTATIONS

The Brigade Commander, **Brig P. A. J. Cordingley**, presented **WO2 (YofS) Riding, SSgt Cullingworth, Sgt Green** and **Cpl Hayes** with LS & GC medals on 9 January. Congratulations from all in 207 Sig Sqn.



You don't mind if I take my cut now, do you Fitz?



WO2 (SSM) Wally Drain and his driver trialling the new replacement Line Rover!

## 212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 36

**FAREWELL TO MAJ COLBORN**

We have said goodbye to our leader **Maj Hugh Colborn** and his wife **Jill. Maj Colborn** took command of the Squadron in January 1988. He goes to a UK job in the MOD and we wish **Hugh, Jill, Robert** and **Matthew** the very best. He is replaced by **Maj Tim Inshaw** and his wife **Sally** who have just arrived from the Staff College in England. We look forward to serving under him in the coming Exercise season.

**OSCAR TROOP**
**Report by Cpl Bill Walker**
**BOWLING NIGHT**

In November the Troop held a Bowling competition in the Voxtrup Bowling area, organised by our illustrious leader **Lt Burke**. The competition got off to a rocky start when the two star players **SSgt Ray Bray** and **Cpl Craig Morgan** threw their Teddies in the corner after being knocked out in the first round.

Congratulations to the victor of the evening **LCpl Ray Pendrick** who swears it was all beginners luck and still has not got the beers in.



Oscar Tp Bowling Night

**FAREWELLS, CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOMES**

A quiet few months as far as postings go. The Troop welcomes **Sig 'Herbie' Hancock** from 8 Sig Regt. We wish him all the best during his tour in the Squadron. We also welcome **Sig 'Roxanne' Scott** back from his six month swan in Cyprus with 4 RTR.

We say goodbye to one of the old faithfuls, **Sig 'Baldrick' Boorman** with his cushy number to Sandhurst.

**PAPA TROOP**

We have said goodbye to **LCpl Paul Hornsby** and **Maria** and also **LCpl Sammy Wright** and **Rosie**.

**Sig Kevin Blake** is almost back amongst us after his recent back operation and is now recovering; we wish him all the best.

Meanwhile the Troop hierarchy have been off enjoying themselves. **SSgt Kev Jones** skiing in Bavaria while **Lt Rob Meinertzhagen** has been swanning in P Coy. The things people do to get away.

**CANADA**
**Report by Sig George Quar**

The first leg of our journey to Canada was spent in the Royal Irish Rangers barracks in Osnabruck due to a mix up over check-in and departure times. Eventually we were taken by coach to Hannover where we flew to Prestwick airport in Scotland for refuelling and then onto Calgary. After a three hour drive we arrived at Camp Crow Foot where we were entertained for the evening.

After a few days to acclimatise, we started work. The job of **Sig 'Gibbo' Gibson** and myself was to listen in to Company and Squadron nets for breaches of security. This was quite amusing, at times hearing comments like: 'Can't you see me yet, I've been standing on top of this tank with a torch for the last 15 minutes'. Very tactical! We carried out this job on a shift basis working three days on and one day off. It was interesting though at times a bit mundane. After three weeks of this we were ready for a change.

We then spent a week adventure training. This was mainly skiing up at Fortress Mountain, though we also went caving and visited the Jasper Ice Fields. The last night of the trip was celebrated by going into Calgary.

On returning to Camp Crow Foot, we found that our flight back to Germany had been delayed from 27 November to 6 December which sadly meant another nine days in Canada.

Eventually it was time to leave and we boarded a VC 10 back to the UK. After landing in Brize Norton we then flew to Gutersloh twice (the first time we had to return to Brize because of fog) and arrived back in the unit on 7 December.

We both enjoyed our time in Canada and would thoroughly recommend it.

**ORIENTEERING**

The fifth event in the 1 Armd Div Orienteering league was held at Spanger Holz near Verden, on 8 December 1989. Despite the relative inexperience of the Squadron the team did well with the results being as follows:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2nd | **SSgt (FofS) Dave O'Brien** | 31 min 28 sec |
| 19th | **WO2 (YofS) Bob Pemberton** | 37 min 10 sec |
| 32nd | **Lt Rob Meinertzhagen** | 40 min 48 sec |
| 45th | **LCpl Phil Tanner** | 45 min 57 sec |
| 48th | **Cpl Graham Beech** | 46 min 47 sec |
| 69th | **LCpl Kyle Barker** | 59 min 18 sec |
| 71st | **LCpl Tony Brooks** | 59 min 48 sec |
| 76th | **LCpl Mo Morris** | 63 min 33 sec |

Everyone ran on the 'B' course and hopefully a few new converts have been found, despite the earlier jokes about orienteering clothing—'Who are these train spotters?'. Our thanks to **SSgt (FofS) Dave O'Brien** who has generated the interest in Orienteering in the Squadron this season.

**CROSS COUNTRY**

The season has so far brought mixed results. The Squadron competed in the 1 Armd Div championships at Hohne and finished in fifth place.

In the Westphalia league, the Squadron has done better. The results of the most recent event which took place is Osnabruck are as follows:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3rd | **LCpl John Fairley** | 28 min 56 sec |
| 13th | **SSgt Dave O'Brien** | 29 min 57 sec |
| 32nd | **Lt Rob Meinertzhagen** | 31 min 45 sec |
| 33rd | **LCpl Neale Mullin** | 31 min 45 sec |
| 37th | **LCpl Kyle Barker** | 32 min 04 sec |
| 53rd | **Cpl Graham Beech** | 36 min 02 sec |

**LCpl John Fairley** has improved beyond measure this season and has now taken the place of the FofS as the man to beat. We look forward to a good second half of the season.

**INTER-TROOP COMPETITION**

Over the 'slack' period before Christmas, the Squadron held an inter-troop competition organised by **SSgt '3 Strands' Wilson**. To give the radio Troops a chance, SHQ split into two teams, MT and LAD forming one team and the rest of SHQ the other.

The competition consisted of seven events with points for each event going to a master scoreboard. The winners of the individual events were as follows:-

Volleyball — Oscar
Hockey — MT/LAD
Football — SHQ
Orienteering — SHQ
Basketball — Oscar
Squash — SHQ
Trailer Race — Oscar

The overall positions were:-

1st — SQH
2nd — Oscar
3rd — Papa
4th — MT/LAD



## 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
## York

Returning from leave on the 8 January 1990 and deploying to BAOR on Ex Flying Falcon on 31 January, the periodic search for people willing to admit they could write was rejected in favour of a collection of photographs selected from the 2IC's **(Maj Richards)** desk drawer.

**PERSONALITIES**

Welcomed to the Regiment are **Maj Terry Canham, Capts David Hix** and **Bob Yeomans** and sightings have been made of the Training Officer **Capt Tim Peacocke**, recently returned from Belize.

Farewells go to **Maj Bob Vale**, off to Liverpool UOTC, **Capt Nick Metcalfe**, detached to JCSC at Sandhurst (but threatening to return briefly for his handover in May) and **Maj Kevin Barrett** to Shrivenham.

Congratulations go to **WO1 (YofS) Mick** (or is it Michael?) **Drake** and **WO1** (SC) **Alastair Sykes** on being selected for commissioning.



At the Officers Regatta Capt Peter Holliday concentrates on getting everything wet!



On 18 October 1989 more Sergeants' Mess Beer flowed at the GOC's (Maj Gen D. M. Naylor MBE) Dining Out



On the 19 July 1989 our Commonwealth Gold Medal Winner, Cpl Callender joined the Regimental team in Aldershot to win the Carrington Cup and Prince's Cup at the Army Finals



On 2 August 1989 the Officers v Sergeants Cricket Match was played on the sports fields of Imphal Barracks. SSgt (YofS) Mick Dawson Captain of the Sergeant's Mess Team conceded defeat and handed the trophy to the CO, Lt Col John Griffin. The occasion was celebrated afterwards in true sportsmanlike fashion in the Officers' Mess with a barrel of Sergeants' Mess Beer!



Cadre Course 1989

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

| | |
|---|---|
| **PERSONALITIES** | |
| **OC** | **Maj Mike Cost** |
| **2IC** | **Capt James Morley-Kirk** |
| **AO/OC Sp Tp** | **Lt Tom Ponton** |
| **OC Comms Tp** | **Lt Stephen Williamson** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Mal Hopper** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 Dougie MacTaggart** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt Russ Lifton** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Jim Monkman** |
| **ORSQMS** | **SSgt Glen Brook** |

**WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS**

Welcome to the following who have arrived to swell our ranks: **Maj Mike Cost, Sgt Nick Baughan, Cpl Mawbey, LCpl 'Alf' Garnett, Sig Jerman** and **Wardle**. We also bid farewell to: **Sgt Terry Gigg, Cpl** (now Sgt) **Al Higgins** and **Sig Watson**. Discharges have also taken a battering with us bidding farewell and good luck for the future to: **Cpls Dick, Hebden, Murray** and **LCpl Robson**.

**OPERATION ORDERLY**
**by LCpl 'Mac' McPhee**

Some members of the Squadron have been deployed on Op Orderly in various parts of the country.

The lucky few who went to Edinburgh found out how expensive life is North of the border, namely **Cfn 'Hanger' Reiling** and **LCpl 'Waz' King**.

Other members of the Squadron drew the short straw and went to the Sheffield area. On arrival there was no sitting around and staring at four walls; it was action from the outset. There was a flood of 999 calls; the record number of calls answered by one crew in a day being 16. During this time our illustrious **LCpl 'Jabba' Hewitt** was saving lives, or so he says. We never did find out if he got that snooker table into the ambulance!

Each ambulance was crewed by a driver (well he had a licence—probably for a TV), a medic and a policeman. If you happen to be in the Sheffield area make sure you carry your own A-Z as the local constables only know how to direct drivers down dead-ends and the wrong way down one-way streets. These were just a few of the traffic 'naughties' that we were allowed to get away with (Typist's Note: Can I have a blue light for my car please?). However, our thanks go to the South Yorkshire Police for making us comfortable (on the gym floor) and to **PC Stevie Hague** for his tips on how to enjoy your free time.

On the whole everything went well with special mention to **LCpl Pool** who, it seems, can not tell a red light from a green one and to **Sig Peake** for his undoubted lack of ability to reverse.

**HOCKEY**
**by SSgt Mark Simcox**

The Squadron's form has not been very good over the past two years. Having not won a game in that time the new season's games were undertaken with an air of pessimism. But to the delight of the older members of the team qur first game against RAF Boulmer ended with the Squadron winning 2—0. This was, in fact, due to the influx of new players who were not content to sit back and accept what had gone before, not to mention their superior skill.

Since that momentous occasion the Squadron has improved its determination to win. This year is seen as a trial for the Squadron to find out who will fill a place in our best team. The recent postings in of a new OC, **Maj Mike Cost** and **SSgt Mark Simcox** has provided a surge forward in enthusiasm for hockey which will hopefully pay good dividends next season. So watch out Harrogate, your monopoly on the NE District Minor Units Cup is soon to be severely dented.



NBC survival using a combat greenhouse during the Feldom NBC Battle Run



Cpl Ollie Hollingsworth shows off his latest hairdo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# 656 Sig Tp (Fwd)
## BFPO 107

| | |
|---|---|
| **PERSONALITIES** | |
| **OC Tp** | **Capt Adrian Campbell-Black** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Dave Smy** |
| **Tp Tech** | **Sgt Muzz Murray** |
| **MT NCO** | **Cpl Steve Ellis** |
| **Stores NCO** | **Cpl Steve Bretherton** |
| **Crypto NCO** | **Cpl John Baker** |
| **The Rest** | **Cpl Neil Cooper** |

With echoes of 'who and where is 656 Sig Tp?' still resounding around the Corps, I embark on this overdue sitrep from the 2 Inf Div Sig Regt Forward Troop in Lippstadt.

**DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS**

There have been many changes recently in the Troop line up: we bid farewell and good luck to **Capt S. D. Hodges** (the shortest OC ever), **Sgt Adrian Broadbank** and his wife **Jackie** (yet again sun tanning in Cyprus), **LCpl** (Retd) **Paul Egan** and **Erika** to Civ Div, **Cpl Terry** (or is it Teddy?) **Fleet** and **Jeanette, Sig Joe Page** (now LCpl), **Sig Billy Billcliff** and finally good luck and congratulations to **LCpl Simon McGaw** in the Falklands; see you back here in March.

A welcome to Lippstadt and the Troop goes to the new OC **Capt Adrian Campbell-Black** (Capt Courageous), **Sgt Muzz Murray** and **Ulrike, LCpl Adrian Lawrence** and **Sylvia, LCpl Chalky White** and **Debbie** (we look forward to meeting **Sylvia** and **Debbie** in the near future), **LCpl 'Action' Jackson** and **Lynne, LCpl Wilf Wilford** (all the way from 22 Sig Regt) and his wife **Suzanne**, recently married **Sig Tim Baldwin** and **Marie** and last **Sig Andy Hodson** and **Paul Hynard**.

There have been far too many new babies to list them all by name but our congratulations go to all Troop members and their wives for their conscientious efforts towards solving the problem of the demographic trough.

**EXERCISE ECHTERNACH TRIANGLE**

Ex Echternach Triangle was the Troop Summer Camp this year in the Harz mountains. Not the first choice of venue of the 'management' but difficulties in clearance for our planned and recceed camp in Luxembourg meant a hasty switch to plan 'B'. This 'second choice' proved ultimately to be enjoyable and rewarding. The activities included the old favourites of canoeing and hiking, and also, the not so familiar cyclotouring. This may have initially seemed to be something of a 'swan' but approximately 60km per day in Harz mountain terrain soon hushed the critics and resulted in several saddle-sore troopers. Perhaps **Cpl Neil Cooper**'s instructional period on bicycle maintenance was useful at long last.

**INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS**

Minor adventurous training involvement this year has included Ex Dechi Queue. This was a hiking and climbing exercise in Sardinia led by the previous SO2 (Comms) 2 Div Fd HQ, **Maj Bob Turnbull**. Lads from the Troop who followed out of curiosity were **Cpl Steve Ellis, LCpls John Wright, Stu Bull, Sig Joe Page and Sig** (now LCpl) **Simon McGaw**. We are assured that except for beer, pizza and spectacular scenery this was an arduous, demanding and blister-creating adventure.

**Cpl Neil Cooper** and **Sig Andy Hodson** did not hang around long after Summer Camp but were soon off to Norway to canoe the fjords as members of a team of adventurers from 22 Sig Regt on Ex Amphibious Viking.

Most recently, **Cpl Cooper** and **LCpl Fergie Milne** travelled to UK to take part in the Lanyard Trophy Competition. For this demanding event the weather on Dartmoor was not kind and the competition was stopped at the halfway mark. However, a 'well done' must go to anyone who volunteers for such a competition. The things people will do for a few days leave in UK.

**KOHIMA CELEBRATION**

The Troop celebrated the Divisional battle honour of Kohima this year with a formal dinner, with guests from 2 Div Fwd HQ and the RSM, 22 Sig Regt. An enjoyable evening was had by all. Several of the wives were relieved that the infamous pre-dinner historical presentation by the Tp Comd on 'Kohima' had been dropped in favour of a post-dinner recital of messages of good wishes. These included one from the CO who unfortunately could not attend.

**EXERCISE KEY FLIGHT**

Ex Key Flight brough the Troop under the wing of our Regiment from late August to early October. This was an exercise with a difference, involving the Troop in a wide variety of tasks.

Prior to the Regiment's arrival, the appalling weather was not enough to wipe the smiles from the faces of the 'tent erection club'. This trusty band was led by **Cpl John Baker** under the supervision of **WO2 (RQMS)** 'Just a couple more' **Redmond**.

**LCpl Dave Lynam** found himself typecast and was jumping yet again to the call of 'Del Boy', assisted this time by his apprentice **LCpl Action Jackson**.

656 Tp is familiar now with providing the important service of exercise canteen facilities and goes from strength to strength: this year's fayre included daily fresh gateaux and percolated coffee. There is no truth in the rumour that **Cpl Steve Bretherton** is leaving the Army to run a 'Bratty' wagon outside Churchill Barracks.

During the exercise the OC's main task was to act as umpire for 210 Sig Sqn. The Troop assumed he had got the wrong end of the stick when he appeared on the first morning wearing cricket whites. His field signals were also a bit of a revelation.

**VISIT OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER**

The Troop was recently visited, (not just socially, we were soon to discover) by our CO, **Lt Col J. H. Griffin**. Although the outline programme for the visit had been decided and approved by the CO, we were very much of the mind 'anything can happen'. The visit began as planned at 0550 hrs with a run in the first snowfall in Lippstadt this year. It would appear that this was as much of a jolt to the CO's system as everyone elses'. There is a rumour that **LCpl Action Jackson** runs at that time every morning. We don't know how he finds the energy for afternoon PT as well.

After a swift breakfast the day continued with a parade and inspection by the CO. Further inspections of the Troop garages, non-exercise vehicles and then the Troop accommodation were quickly followed by a move to the training area at Ehringefeld for the military training phase of the visit.

Three main activities were planned to test driving skills, physical endurance, team work, weapon skills and general military knowledge. On a brisk winter morning it was with relish that we had a go at **Cpl Steve Ellis'** Landrover and trailer course. The competitors pulled and pushed the trailer by hand so much we wondered why he had bothered taking a landrover at all.

With **LCpls Fergie Milne** and **Fred Perry** emerging as the overall winners. The presentations made and farewells said the CO left us for UK.



Cpl Neil Cooper (without canoe) on Ex Amphibious Viking—Norway



A well earned rest during Ex Dechi Queue—Sardinia

## 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
## BFPO 114

**1 SQUADRON**

There have been many changes, so for all you ex 1 Sqn members, here is the current management team:-

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Sqn** | **Maj R. G. Thomas** |
| **2IC** | **Capt S. Jones** |
| **Ops Officer** | **Lt L. Mitchell** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) R. J. W. McMahon** |
| **OC C Tp** | **2Lt E. Baker** |
| **OC D Tp** | **Lt J. Prior** |
| **OC E Tp** | **2Lt J. Clare** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 (FofS) S. Bibby** |
| **FofS Designate** | **WO2 (FofS) R. Downie** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) D. Till** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt (YofS) J. Murray** |
| **MT** | **Cpl A. Moran** |

On the recent Lance Corporal to Corporal promotion board the Squadron came off extremely well. We actually managed to achieve three quarters of the Corps' Tele Op (RR) promotions! Well done to you all, posting orders to follow! We are keeping our fingers crossed for the Signalmen to Lance Corporals list.

**C TROOP TRUNK NODE 043**
**TROOP MANAGEMENT**
**2Lt Baker**
**SSgt Stachini**
**Sgt Cox**

What a start to the New Year we had, with half the Troop away on Ex Snow Queen and five members of the Troop doing day on, day off guard for 14 days. The few who were left had the pleasure of preparing 14 trucks for PRE and 10 for Serv Inspection. However, despite such a shortage of manpower, the Troop Cpls, **Cain, Keilty** and **Raine** managed to present all trucks in very good condition. Well done!

**D TROOP**

January saw a mad rush to scrape away the winter blues, get the vehicles ready for PRE and three quarters of the Troop disappear on Ex Snow Queen. They did think about the rest of the Regiment who were still involved in the first exercise of the year, though . . .!


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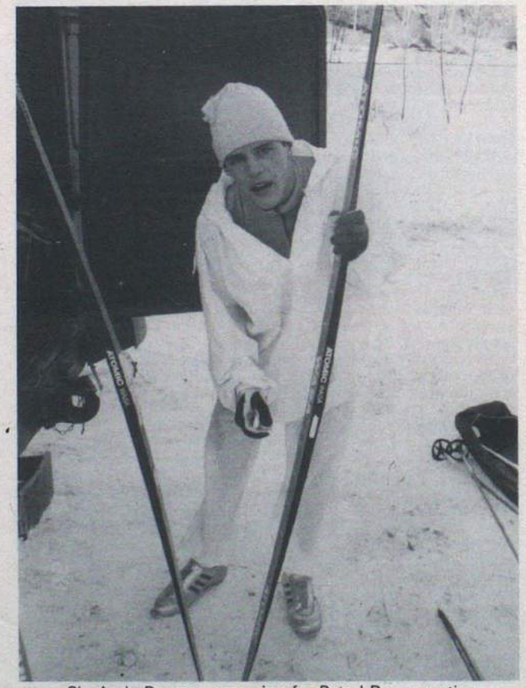
## 202 Sig Sqn (33 Armd Bde)
## BFPO 16

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj J. L. Fletcher** |
| **2IC** | **Capt M. Baines** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) McAllister** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (YofS) Wayman** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt (FofS) Martin** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) Mullins** |
| **OC Ardennes** | **Lt D. F. Kenyon** |
| **TO SSgt** | **SSgt Nelson** |
| **OC Rhine** | **Lt P. Baker** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Sloane** |

**3 ARMD DIV SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS**

When **Maj Jo Fletcher** led the Squadron ski team of **Cpl Fritz Arunasalon, LCpl Stan Haworth, Sig Andy Dawson, Taff Kinsey** and **Pte B. A. Braithwaite** off to Norway in early December, little did any of them know of the success that lay ahead. Under the watchful eyes of 22 Sig Regt ski team, the totally novice team fought to control those uncontrollable planks of wood in less than ideal ski conditions. A lot of hard work was put in during the three weeks in Norway and it was not long before those efforts would be rewarded. January saw the team in camp training on the ranges and putting in a lot of endurance work, prior to a final week of training in Mittenwald, Bavaria. That final week proved to be the turning point when all the teaching came together; skiing on Olympic courses in Seefeld, Austria was a great advantage. The training period sped by and then the team travelled further into Austria to meet up again with 22 Sig Regt in Fulpmes for the Div Ski meeting. It was to prove a worthwhile journey as the team dominated the opposition in all races winning the 4 × 10km, 4 × 15km, and 4 × 7.5km Biathlon and reaching the finals in the Patrol Race, thus winning the overall Minor Unit Nordic Championship. The results were not only good enough to win the Minor Unit Competition, but the team did well enough to qualify for the Army Championships alongside the Major Units. A truly excellent performance for a first year novice team.



Sig Andy Dawson preparing for Patrol Race practice





Pte 'BA' Braithwaite RPC in 10km race action



Minor Units Champions
*L to R:* Sig Andy Dawson, Pte 'BA' Braithwaite, Cpl Fritz Arunasalon, Maj Jo Fletcher and LCpl Stan Haworth

## 204 (4 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 17

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj R. M. Crombie** |
| **2IC** | **Capt E. Heritage** |
| **2IC Designate** | **Capt P. Davies** |
| **OC O Tp** | **Lt P. R. M. Evans** |
| **OC P Tp** | **Lt C. J. Macintosh** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) C. L. Saveall** |

**EXERCISE SLIDE TRIANGLE**

A group of 10 departed for the mountains of Norway in early December to commence training for the Divisional Nordic Ski Championships. The party, led by **Capt Eric Heritage**, consisted of **SSgt Brian Tanner** (Chief Instructor), **Sig Jason Allison, Joe Smeeth, 'Fadz' Fadzilah, 'Scotty' Scott** and a number of individuals from other Units. The outward journey was not without mishap as **Sig Smeeth** was convinced he could remember the way to Gol but instead overturned the trailer so we arrived many hours behind schedule. The snow conditions were slightly below par but this presented perfect bush country for **SSgt Tanner** to take the novices through during their introductory sessions to nordic skiing.

During the training some biathlon training was undertaken. **Joe Smeeth** and **Scotty Scott** were soon battling for the honour of being the top shot—but it was **Sig Fadz Fadzilah** who scored in the end!



Sig Jason Allison demonstrates the biathlon pose

**EXERCISE SLOPE TRIANGLE**

Whilst the Nordic skiers were away, the Unit Alpine team was tanning itself on the glacier in Kaprun, Austria, for there was precious little snow upon which to ski. **Cpl Mark Potter** was in charge of the team. In the team were **LCpl Eddy Hedley** and **Pte Mike Patterson**.

**DIVISIONAL SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS—FULPMES**

The Divisional Ski Championships once again took place around Fulpmes in Austria. For the first time the unit entered both disciplines, nordic and alpine, with a six-man and five-man team respectively. Sadly the Nordic team was thoroughly outclassed finishing at the foot of the table in every event, but next year the team intends to seek revenge upon arch rivals 202 Sig Sqn who made a clean sweep of the Nordic Minor Units event. There was a little more joy on the alpine side with varying but overall reasonable performances by the team in every event: indeed, **LCpl Eddy Hedley**'s jump on the downhill race was most spectacular. Of particular note was the performance of **LCpl Rupert Thomas**, who finished as one of the top 30 seeds, well ahead of every other Regimental alpine skier.



Sig Scotty Scott races ahead of the 3 Armd Fd Amb representative during the third leg of the 4 × 10km relay event

# 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
# BFPO 15

## FAREWELL TO COMMANDER COMMUNICATIONS

On 4 December the Regiment said farewell to **Brig T. I. M. Waugh OBE**, Commander Communications 1 (BR) Corps. The day was designed to show him as much of the Regiment as possible during in barracks military training.

**Brig Waugh** was whisked around the Squadrons and Departments to see training tests including mental agility, driving and AFV recognition. On behalf of 2 Sqn **Sig Nobby Clarke** cast down the gauntlet to challenge the Brigadier to a test for AFV Commanders. **Brig Waugh** watched **Clarke** race round a course of obstacles and a reversing test and then donned headphones and helmet himself.

Everything was going all right until **Cpl 'Gaz' Steel** had an attack of deafness during the brake test. Seconds after the FV 432 crashed over the Ford Capri, the RMP patrol was on the scene. Despite some fast talking the Commander was led away in 'cuffs'.

After an excellent buffet **Brig Waugh** expressed his thanks to the Regiment for the day and for its support over the past two years.



'Dear SO1, wish you were here, having a smashing time!'



Brig Waugh tries the 'Now look here officer . . .' approach as Sgt Steve Talbot looks on with glee



Receiving one spotless mess tin (of ARU fame) from Sig Eddie Edwards

## INTER SQUADRON BOXING COMPETITION

The Herford based Squadrons managed to field 36 boxers for this year's Inter Squadron Boxing Competition despite the difficulties of exercises and the Regimental reorganisation. The Competition took place during the period 29 January to 1 February though the essential preparation had been going on for many months before.

The final was set for the evening of 1 February with the band of the 16/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers providing the musical backdrop. The Garrison Commander, **Brig M. A. Wilcox**, was the Guest of Honour and was escorted into the arena while the band played a welcoming fanfare.

A spirited and courageous series of bouts was then enjoyed and enthusiastically supported. Particular mention should go to **Sig Adam Teale** (1 Sqn) and **Baz Hearn** (3 Sqn) for possibly the most memorable fight of the night.

In addition to presenting prizes to the evening's fighters, **Brig Wilcox** presented **Sig Paul Howard** with the award for the best overall boxer of the competition. The Team Captain for 2 Sqn, **Sig Billy Cuthbertson**, collected the cup for the very close fought Inter Squadron Boxing Competition.

The coaches for the boxers were **WO2 (SSM) Alf Ramsey, SSgt Bud Abbott, SSgt John Brooks, SSgt (SQMS) Ron Wodger, SSgt Danny Daniels** and **LCpls Geordie Leask** and **Dave Taylor**; whose efforts resulted in a professional standard in the novice boxing.



LCpl Hammy Hamilton strikes against Sig Carl Parry but lost on points



## HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj M. G. Smith-Rewse Glosters** |
| **QM (A)** | **Maj J. H. Richardson** |
| **QM (T)** | **Maj B. Young** |
| **MTO** | **Capt A. B. Cornet RCT** |
| **OC LAD** | **Capt D. Vaughan REME** |
| **OC PRI/Fams Offr** | **Capt M. Kennedy** |
| **RCWO** | **WO1 G. J. Broadwater ACC** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (BSM) J. F. Brotherston RA** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) B. J. Lawrence RA** |

In late November the Squadron entered teams from the LAD, MT and a combination TM Tp, ACC and Pioneer into the Regimental Military Skills Competition. The recently purchased trophy for this event is called the 'Howes Cup' in honour of **Cpl David Howes**, tragically murdered in Northern Ireland in March 1988. The MT turned in a particularly creditable performance to finish fourth equal and **Dvr Alastair Robertson** was awarded the prize for the best competitor—the sight of him, at 5ft 2in and 8½ stone, laden with weapon, webbing and bergen, lives in the memory.

It fell to the Squadron to organise the two day Regimental Skill-at-Arms Meeting at Sennelager in December. Once again teams from Squadron did well. The TM Troop/Pioneers combination won the SLR Roupell and the Section Match, and came runners-up in the Falling Plate and Inter Troop Competition. The MT Team were runners-up in the Section Match and third in the Roupell.

The Inter Troop Tug-of-War produced the latest manifestation of rivalry between MT and the LAD in the final. The MT, led by the MTO **Capt Andy Cornet** and **SSgt Vic Porter**, emerged clear winners after two straight pulls.

We have said a reluctant farewell to TM Tp which transferred to 3 Sqn as part of the Regimental reorganisation. Their loss is sadly missed for they provided a strong shooting and running talent and an intellectual powerhouse.

In January the Squadron was active in support of the Regimental Ex Quadriga Herald; many miles were covered and frequent changes of location took place all with a gratifying lack of traffic accidents.

## HELLOS AND GOODBYES

We have recently lost a number of familiar faces. **Cpl Barry Bostock**, our Stalwart Battery Storeman, has left for 11 Sig Regt after more than five years invaluable service in the Regiment. **Cpl Kirkland ACC** has obtained his long sought after posting to CAD Kineton and been replaced by **WPtes Elizabeth McIntosh** and **Michelle Coultham** from the ACC Depot. **Cpl Bruce Pearce**, who 'carried' the battery shop for so long, has left for the School of Signals and our assistant armourer **LCpl Brain** has achieved a lifetime ambition to move to 1 Para. **LCpl Mick Conception, Sig Michael Sherwood** and **Steve Keelty** left the QM(T)'s for the School of Infantry, 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and 30 Sig Regt respectively. We welcome in their places **LCpls Michael Charlton** and **Damian Kemp** and **Sig Jonathan Parr**.

## 1 SQUADRON

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj G. J. T. Rafferty** |
| **2IC** | **Capt I. J. Bradshaw** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Ramsey** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 (FofS) Poland** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt (YofS) Purves** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) Ward** |
| **OC P Tp** | **2Lt D. J. M. Quinn** |
| **P Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Sykes** |
| **OC C Tp** | **2Lt O. D. Bryant** |
| **C Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Dubique** |
| **OC K Tp** | **2Lt C. D. Cook** |
| **K Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Abbott** |

The final sporting event of 1989 was the Inter Troop Tug-of-War Competition. 1 Sqn was the original stable for men of raw steel with grit, determination and herculean strength; this source seemed to have run dry! However Panther and Kiwi Tps did well to come third and fourth respectively—Cheetah sportingly only won a single pull.

Early in the new decade the Squadron geared itself up for the first Regimental exercise. **YofS Purves**'s first priorty was to find out if **Sgt Dave Purnell** would be able to manage to come this time. . .

Ex Quadriga Herald was designed to clear out the communicating cobwebs and warm up for the old favourite 'Flying Falcon'. The emphasis was on frequent and quick moves by the nodes and 'hair tearing' bouts by the men from the OSC as they struggled to maintain comms. Did we hear **Sig Mac McDonald** and **'Shakey' Beard** say how much they were looking forward to the next one?

## HELLOS AND GOODBYES

A warm welcome to **2Lt Damian Quinn**, transferred from 2 Sqn, and **WO2 (FofS) Mick Poland** who we congratulate on selection for promotion to WO1. A welcome also goes to **Sgt Dave Thomson, Cpl Paul Weston, LCpls Pete Blagg** and **Nobby Clarke**.

Farewell to the exuberant 'Ozfoz', **WO1 (FofS) Sprog Brogden** RA Signals, **Lt Tony Picknell** and **Sig Steve Stimson**, though the latter two are only moving to 2 Sqn. Farewell also goes to **Cpls Mall Harriden, Steve Corlett** and **Dave Currie**. Our thoughts also go with **Cpl Ray** and **Sally Perks** who had to depart suddenly after only a short time in the Unit; we wish **Brummie** a speedy and full recovery.

## BIRTH

Our congratulations go to **LCpl Steve** and **Tracey Watson** on the birth of **Gabrielle Dawn**.

## 2 (ARMOURED) SQUADRON

**SHQ**

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj M. J. Dent MBE** |
| **2IC** | **Capt D. S. Smith** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) C. Calow** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) M. S. Baron** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt (YofS) P. J. Stoddart** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 P. L. Edmonds RA Signals** |
| **MT** | **Sgt J. P. McGowan RCT** |

The past few months have been a hectic time for the whole Squadron. The recent Regimental reorganisation brought us another armoured Troop, A2. This has meant much work for the 'technocrats' notably **SSgt John Jamieson** who spent several sleepless nights producing the new HQ cabling diagrams in time for the Regimental exercise held between 15-18 January. It all worked and he is to be congratulated. Indeed the whole exercise went remarkably well—some minor tuning of the admin was the only obvious requirement before the Squadron deploys on Ex 'Flying Falcon'.

## HELLOS AND GOODBYES

We welcome all the Technicians and Driver Electricians from 3 Sqn who join SHQ. The new **'Oz Foz', WO2 'Smiley' Edmunds** and his family join us for two years. We say farewell to **Sgt Steve** and **Suzannah Cherry, Sgt Kev** and **Jan Enfield, Cpl 'Georgie' Stobbs** (off to civvy street), **LCpl Paul** and **Liza Carling** and baby **Jade** whom we wish a speedy recovery and **Sig Adie Priestley** who moves to RHQ to become a Tele Op (P and A)! Finally we say goodbye to **WO2 (FofS) Mick Poland** on his move to 1 Sqn and offer our congratulations on his selection for promotion to WO1.

## A1 (MAIN HQ) TROOP

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **2Lt D. S. Quinn** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt J. A. R. Brooks** |
| **Tp Sgts** | **Sgt S. R. Talbot** |
| | **Sgt S. Townsend** |

## THE HOWES CUP

November was dominated by training for the 'Howes' Cup; well at least for some members of the Troop. These chaps were carefully selected to 'volunteer' for this newest and most gruelling of Regimental competitions involving all aspects of military skills: a 20.5km forced march and shoot, an arduous 24 hour period of all manner of military skills brought to a close by a pleasant 4km stretcher race. All hail to members of the team for achieving a magnificent joint third place and for being one of only a handful of teams to finish complete.

## EXERCISE QUICK FIRE

And so to December and the inevitable wind-down to 'Crimbo', a clear month according to the year planner. Then it started, whispers in the corridor, hushed voices at NAAFI break. Yes, you guessed it, the higher echelon is planning a secret call-out. But we the victims had discovered the truth! So at 0400 hrs on Monday 11 December the SNCOs entered the 'singlies' accommodation for a surprise awakening only to find alarm clocks ringing and chirpy voices shouting 'Morning Staff, couldn't you sleep? . . .' So there were 27 members of the Corps forming an infantry Platoon! The illustrious Platoon Commander **Cpl** 'Leadership Course' **Lawton** and Platoon Sergeant **Cpl** 'I like power' **Jackson** were set to work organising us into sections and raiding the Troop Office to 'acquire' the 'pink' which proved to be quite handy! So after some 30 hours of fierce hand to hand fighting we give a vote of thanks to: The Red hordes for invading Munster Nord Training Area, a place we all know and love. The weather for being just cold enough, below freezing that is! The ground for being soft enough to dig in. The maps for being only slightly out of date.

Sgt **Steve Townsend** for saying it was the bumpy ground and not **LCpl McArdle** that severely dislocated his ankle. And finally **2Lt Damian Quinn**, never mind Sir, the AAC got us back!

**BORDER CONTROL**

Next on the agenda was to change tracks for tyres and head out to the IGB to see at first hand the changes taking place along the Division's Sector. After a three hour journey it took us only minutes to set up in the shack which was to be home for the next two days. Then it was off to Helmstedt for a 'recce' led reluctantly by **2Lt Quinn** and **Sgt Talbot**. In the morning we were met by the British Frontier Service Official who spent the following two days trying to explain the phenomenal changes that had taken place in the previous three weeks.

**FAREWELLS**

As 1989 ends and the New Year begins we have the usual farewells; **2Lt Damian Quinn**, our illustrious bobsleigher, is off to 1 Sqn, **Sgt Steve Talbot** moves to A2 Tp, **Cpl Ian Ray** is off to Belize, **Sig Billy Cuthbertson** off to SHQ TP and finally **LCpl Francis** is off to 211 Sig Sqn.

**ARRIVALS**

We welcome our new 'leader', **Lt Tony Picknell**, from 1 Sqn, **Sgt Steve Talbot** moves to A2 Tp and **LCpl** (now ACpl) **Chaz Fox** from 7 Sig Regt. Welcomes also go to **Sig Barney Stonestreet** from A3 Tp and **Sig Williams** the long awaited RR Op from 1 Sqn.

**A2 (FWD HQ) TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Lt I. P. F. Vingoe** |
| **Tp Sgts** | **Sgt D. Catchpole** |
| | **Sgt G. Coffin** |
| | **Sgt S. Martin** |

**END OF AN ERA**

Not only was 1989 the end of a decade it was the end of an era as A2 Tp departed from 3 Sqn to join 2 Sqn with the role of providing Divisional Forward HQ. Several people had to move to other locations and others were posted in. All went well and despite the short preparation time the new role was practiced with great success on Ex 'Quadriga Herald'. We now all look forward to a period of stability and hard work before Ex 'Flying Falcon' in February.


WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

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**FAREWELLS**

We say farewell and best wishes to: **Sgt Dave Catchpole** going to SHQ as Trg Sgt, **Sgt Steve Martin** going to A1 (Main HQ) Tp and **Cpl Mick Curtis** going to 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and **Sig 'LA' Law, Fazackerly, Murray, Kaczur** who all move to A1 Tp and to: **LCpl 'Chappy' Chapman, Sig 'Simmo' Simpson** and **Jay Webb** who move to A1 Tp and to **Sig 'Ali' Hayes** who moves to A3 Tp.

**A3 (RADIO) TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **2Lt J. A. Giscombe** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **SSgt K. Nicholls** |

**EXERCISE 'QUADRIGA HERALD'**

The exercise started really well as RRB5, with **LCpl Dave Rooney** and **Sig Dave Thomas**, did not even make it out of the garages! After the initial deployment **Cpl Smyth** and **Sig Fawcett** stayed in the same location. RRB with **LCpl Taylor** and **Sig Gordon Grassick** appeared to do likewise! The quote of the exercise must go to **Sig Scourfield** when he said to **Cpl** 'Turtle' **Thompson**, 'Oh look, it must be 2 Sqn.' 'Why?' asked **Thompson**, 'Because it's got yellow flashing lights!' RRB6 was crewed with **Cpl Andy Harriott, Sig Barton** and **Hayes** and RRB1 was crewed with **Cpl Ian Spruce** and **Sig 'BN' Challiner.**

**HELLOS AND GOODBYES**

We welcome **Sig Ali Hayes** from A2 Tp and say farewell to **LCpl John Imrie** off to civvy street, **Sig Jarvis** and **Lomas** to 200 Sig Sqn and **Sig 'Barney' Stonestreet** and **Neil Llewellyn** to A1 Tp.

**3 SQUADRON**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Capt B. F. Williams** |
| **OC N Tp** | **2Lt I. C. Gray** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) J. Sommerville** |

Friday 12 January saw the reorganisation of the Squadron and a change of Squadron Commanders. **Maj Rick Barfoot** moved sideways in preparation for commanding 1 Sqn and **Capt Barry Williams** slid into the chair.

To commemorate the reorganisation and say farewell to A2 Tp, the Squadron attended a formal dinner which included a number of presentations from the out-going OC and in reply **Maj Barfoot** was presented with a Port Decanter.

3 Sqn now welcomes all the members of TM Tp into the fold and we hope to go from strength to strength. With all the Regiment's technicians and linemen we are now the 'Hairy Fairy' Squadron.

**TM TROOP**

The Troop has been warmly welcomed into 3 Sqn and the finer points of the integration progress smoothly. In this busy season **Sgt Geordie Merrie** has taken over as Tp Sgt from **SSgt Danny Daniel, Cpl Dave Richardson** is NCOic Ptarmigan Section and **Cpl 'Ted' Heath** is NCOic Radio Section.

**WO1 (FofS) Terry Witts**, as OIC Cross Country, had the task of organising the Regimental Cross Country on 26 January. The detailed planning had commenced in early December with the assistance of **SSgt Daniel** and **Sgt Merrie**.

The night before the race a large storm brought down several trees and branches but **(FofS) Witts** managed to co-opt the Forstmeister into a small clearance operation before the start of the race.

The day was cool, windy with a threat of rain as the 144 runners lined up to be started by the CO, **Lt Col A. J. Raper MBE**. Approximately four miles, two hills and lots of mud later **Cpl Steve Southam** led the pack home. He was followed in by another league regular, **SSgt Ken Sykes**.

The winning Troop was the team from the Divisional Headquarters but the Cross Country Cup for the winning Squadron was presented to 1 Sqn.

**MOVING?**

**Have you told RHQ? Your *Wire* will be sent to your old address unless you tell us of a change.**



# 200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
# BFPO 41

**B TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Tp** | **Lt Appleby** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **Sgt Richmond** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Cpl Dobbins** |

Firstly, the hellos and goodbyes. We say farewell to **Capt Forrest, SSgt Shortis, LCpl Simcox** and **Sig Wildish** and **Walker**, and wish them well for the future on their chosen paths. We also welcome **Sgt Richmond** and **Sig Lomas, Penny** and **Owen** and hope they enjoy their tour with us.

**EXERCISE QUADRANT EXPRESS**
**by LCpl 'Toby' Fearnbank**

I had just been posted from 16 Sig Regt (RCZ), to 200 Sig Sqn (FCZ) so this was my first exercise 'Up Front'. It was the best exercise I have ever done. Instead of sitting in a field in Belgium for two weeks, we managed 17 moves in four days! Unfortunately my Radio Relay had a punch up with a tanker on the second day so I became 'enemy' for the rest of the exercise and that's when the fun really started, with ambush practice on Rebros.

We attacked Altn HQ in our respirators and were eventually spotted by **LCpl Chris Truelove** who sounded the alarm and so we let off smoke as we left in a hurry. Full marks go to **LCpl Keith Betts** who drove us there in the enemy panzer. Roll on next exercise!

**SHQ—ORDERLY ROOM/UAO**
**by LCpl Hanley**

The Orderly Room/UAO goes from strength to strength after a very busy and hectic year. All staff involved actually believe that their 'In trays' do have a bottom (but it is still a rumour). The motley crew headed by **Sgts 'Griff' Griffiths** and **Chris Crickmore**, have both taken over their posts since our last report and consists of **LCpl Rich Hanley, Sig Alan 'Nearly Mr' Stevens** and **Shirley 'Sure Hands' Bennett**, the Squadron Typist.

In November we said goodbye to **Sue Denholm** the Squadron Typist, who everyone thought was trying to get into the Guinness Book of Records for the most persistent use of a telephone. We wish her all the best back in 'blighty'. (And keep trying. We are certain you will achieve a new world record.) We also soon say goodbye to **Sig Alan Stevens** who has decided that umpteen docs inspections, duty driver during exercises, Summer Camp in the middle of winter, and the rumour of more snow in England and in Bavaria (being a keen skier), that civilian life seems to be more favourable. All the best **Alan**.

**Sgt 'Griff' Griffiths** who arrived in the Squadron in July as ORS has already established himself as the Manager of the football team. We welcome him and wife **Michelle** and daughter **Gemma** and hope they have an enjoyable tour. We also welcome **Mrs Shirley Bennett** as our typist, who we have already noticed spends more time at the typewriter than any other typist in the Squadron's short history.

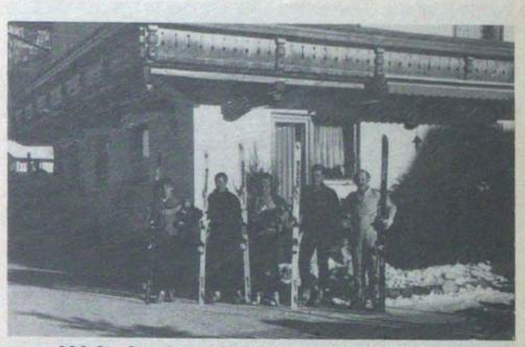
Lastly we welcome **Sgt Chris Crickmore** who arrived in the Squadron in July as the Squadron Pay Sgt after making the exhausting journey from 4 Armd Wksps. He and **Sgt Griffiths** were told soon after their arrival that they were going to find out what happens on an exercise, and for one short but enjoyable night they relived their basic training days on Ex Potent Gauntlet. We hope that **Sgt Crickmore** and his wife **Andrea** enjoy their tour here.

Congratulations go to **LCpl Rich Hanley**, firstly for passing his RSDCC course and secondly for announcing his engagement to his fiancée **Kerstin**; the marriage will take place in June. We wish them all the very best for the future.

**ALPINE SKI TEAM**

200 Sig Sqn Alpine Ski Team again deployed to the Stubai Glacier to prepare for the Divisional Ski Meet, Ex Pipedown XXV held in Galtur, Austria from 14-24 January 1990. The team stayed at Haus Hintner a comfortable, inexpensive and friendly Pension located in the town of Neustift, some 22kms from the Glacier itself.

When we arrived there was no snow in the valley; however conditions on the Glacier between 3,000m and 3,500m were found to be perfect. The Team Trainer, **Sgt Jim Latimer** taking full advantage of the conditions soon got to grips with the task in hand. Up at 0645 hrs each morning, PT, breakfast, transport to the slopes followed by a hard days training through poles and then back to the Pension for more PT!



200 Sig Sqn Alpine Ski Team outside Haus Hintner
LCpl Ashford, Cpl Inglesant, LCpls Bremner, Ariss and Sgt Latimer (Trainer)

There was no let up in the training and in the end the effort paid off. **Sgt Jim Latimer** went on to take the Alpine Veteran prize. **LCpls Paul Ashford** and **Billy Bremner** improved their seeding places over last year and the two newcomers **Cpl Bob Inglesant** and especially novice **LCpl Darren Ariss** put up very creditable performances.

In the end the Unit combined Alpine and Nordic teams, (Minor Unit Champions last year), were narrowly beaten into second place. Disappointment aside, the training value and experience gained by all involved proved more than worthwhile.

Finally, for those who question the military significance of alpine skiing or doubt that hard work, courage and commitment are required to reach racing standard, I would say just one thing. Stand at the top of the downhill course. Then ski down it!

**NORDIC SKI TEAM**

In preparation for the Divisional Ski Meet at Galtur, Austria the Nordic Ski Team deployed on two training exercises. Ex Skating Quadrant took place in Svingvol, Norway. For the majority of the squad it was their first time on Langlauf skis. After excellent instruction from the team instructor **LCpl Ray Till** we were all skiing to a dubious standard but 'dobbing' perfectly.

The squad was housed in a six man chalet and with living in such close proximity we rapidly found that **Sig Mitchell** was very easy to wind up even by the Squadron 'sprogs' **Sig Tony Penny** and **Brian Owen.**

For the week prior to the Ski Meet we moved down to Galtur to acclimatise and familiarise ourselves with the terrain. Due to the lack of snow the races were moved to a different valley so little advantage was gained. However, the team performed well and came away as Minor Unit Patrol Race Champions and second overall in the Military Combination, proving that the Corps has all the necessary military skills and discipline to beat the rest! **The Team: Lt B. A. Appleby, Cpl N. J. Trengove, LCpls N. J. Bedford, R. A. Till, Sig V. K. K. Mitchell, B. Owen** and **Sig A. Penny**.

**COMMCEN DETMOLD**

Commcen Detmold is a 200 Sig Sqn responsiblity, but is manned by four members of the WRAC on detachment from 4 Sqn, 16 Sig Regt in Bielefeld. Personalities are **Cpl Cindy Gawthorpe, LCpl Ellie Churchward, Ptes Angie Leiper** and **Sarah Spalding**.

Since the middle of 1989 the Commcen has changed to part time working hours but nevertheless the girls are kept busy detached from their parent Regiment. They are largely outnumbered by the men but also they are very welcome and enjoy the hectic social life provided by the Squadron in between exercise commitments. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate **LCpl Ellie** (Stokoe) **Churchward** on her marriage to **Sgt Al Churchward** in October last year. Also best wishes and good luck to **Pte Angie Leiper** who is to be married in March to ATpr **Mark Campbell**, 4 Regt AAC. Lastly, the Squadron wishes farewell to **Cpl Cindy Gawthorpe** and good luck with her future posting to Commcen Korbecke.

## SQUADRON FOOTBALL TEAM

This is just a quick scribble on the Squadron's football. Firstly we would like to say farewell to **Sgt Colin Day RAPC** who looked after the team's best interests in the last season. Best wishes to you and your wife on your move to 4 Armd Wksps REME.

The team got off to a good start this season. Straight after Ex Potent Gauntlet we managed to get a team together to take part in the 4 Armd Div Sig Regt Inter Squadron Competition. Having been drawn for a bye in the first round, we played 3 Sqn in the Semi-final and won this game 4—2. We then meet HQ Sqn in the final. After a hard game it became apparent that we were not destined to win. The game lost 3—0. We stepped forward to collect our runners-up trophies.

This had been our first competition of the season, having put a team together at short notice it was a good result.

After the Inter Squadron Competition we entered the BAOR Minor Units Challenge Cup, 4 Armd Div League and the 4 Armd Div Minor Unit Challenge Cup.

It was now time to get a squad together and get some training in **Pte Smudge Smith** RPC our qualified coach and **Cpl Geoff Trotman** (trainer) started to knock the rough edges off the team.

The team got off to a good start playing five games before Christmas in the league and winning them all.

In the BAOR Minor Units Challenge Cup we were to play our sister Bde Sig Sqn. After extra time the score stood at:-

211 Sig Sqn—1 200 Sig Sqn—1

A return match was fixed and we went to Minden to take up the challenge. Straight from kick off everyone could see it would be yet another hard game. In the first 15 minutes 211 Sig Sqn went in front with a fine goal. This was quickly answered by **LCpl** (Mad Jock) **Vance** who got the equlizer. The score at half time was 1—1.

The second half saw the Squadron team take the game to 211 Sig Sqn, with two more goals put in by **LCpl Jamie Hart** and **Pte Dougie Cockburn** and that's how it finished: 3—1 to 200 Sig Sqn. In the next round we were to meet 4 Armd Fd Amb again at Minden. It all started well with **LCpl Tommy Vance** putting the Squadron one up. It remained like this until 15 minutes to go when 4 Armd struck back to put in two goals knocking the Squadron out of the BAOR Minor Units Challenge Cup.

Out of this cup the Squadron took up the challenge in the 4 Armd Div Minor Units Challenge Cup. Drawn against BMH Rinteln in the quarter final off we went. The match underway **LCpl Boz Beardall** made a dramatic strike in the first 10 minutes to put the Squadron on its way. This was the pattern to be followed for the rest of the game. **LCpl Paddy Calderwood** got a hattrick, **LCpl Jamie Hart** got one more and BMH even helped by putting in an own goal after being pressurised by **LCpl Paddy** (who was getting ready) **Calderwood**. The final result 6—1 to the Squadron.

In the semi-final we were drawn against 114 Pro Coy RMP, on a very muddy and windy day. Again the Squadron started well with Pte **Dougie Cockburn** getting the opening goal shortly followed yet again by **LCpl Paddy Calderwood** with a fine header. 114 Pro Coy RMP were not out yet. They came back to put in two goals. At half time and after some stern words the game got underway. In a hard fought second half neither team looked like winning until in the last 20 minutes the Squadron found new legs and started getting the strikes on target. Some fine performances were put it. **LCpl Tommy Vance** had some close attempts also **LCpl Billy Bremner** and **LCpl Jamie Hart** all putting 114 Pro Coy RMP under pressure. **Pte Smudge Smith** (Captain) never giving up with the encouragement, kept the team going. Then in the last five minutes **Cpl Jerry Browning** hit a beautiful long range shot to put the Squadron in front again. It was to remain this way until the end of the game. The Squadron winning 3—2.

The Squadron now looks forward to the final to be played at Herford.

## THE SQUAD

**Sgt Griff Griffiths**—Manager, **Cpls Jerry Browning, Geoff Trotman**—Trainer/Treasurer, **LCpls Keith Betts, Boz Beardall, Billy Bremner, Paddy Calderwood, Nobby Hall, Jamie Hart, Steve Sorbie, Tommy Vance, Pte Dougie Cockburn, Dvr Steve Muir, Ptes Nick Nichol, Smudge Smith**—Coach/Captain, **Sig Taff Thomas** and **Cpl Baz Brooks**—Magic Sponge/Critic.

## FAREWELL TO THE BRIGADIER

On a cold December morning, 200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn bade farewell to our Brigade Commander **Brig M. J. Walker OBE**.

**SSgt Bob Shortis** set about creating a master plan, to organise a few surprises for the Brigadier's quiet goodbye drinks with the Squadron in the Gauntlet Club, our Squadron bar. The Brigadier's last stop before leaving his command. The Squadron assembled in the club and were shortly joined by the Brigadier and the Bde HQ staff. Once everyone had satisfied themselves at the buffet and bar it was time for the speeches and presentations.

The Squadron presented the Brigadier with the symbolic track pad suitably mounted with a lick of fresh paint and also a copy of 'The Vital Link' a book containing our Corps history. The speeches highlighted some of the more amusing moments of the Brigadier's tour.

Eventually the time came for the Brigadier to make a tactical withdrawal with as he put it 'the minimum of fuss'! Once outside it became apparent that a discreet exit was not to be. Parked by the door was the Brigadiers taxi, one of our panzers draped in cam driven by **Cpl Bax Brooks** with **Sig Duplock** riding shotgun. The Squadrons SNCOs took up the ropes attached to the front of the panzer and were relieved to hear the engine ticking over (we were told the pack was in LAD). So off we went 'towing' the Brigadier atop his war horse of the 90's and led by the band of 4/7 DG. The route out of camp was lined by members from all Units within the Brigade and the Brigadier was bid a hearty bon voyage.



The Brigadier being towed out



# 211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn BFPO 29

## THE NORDIC SKI TEAM

It was the time of the year for six carefully hand chosen volunteers from a cast of 100 to obtain one landrover, paint it in 'non-military' colours, dig deep in their pockets for cash, open the sports store, find half the ski kit missing or in need of repair and finally to leave Minden for the slopes of Norway.

Those selected, due to their ability to differentiate between a nordic and alpine ski, were **SSgt Mick Boyle, Cpl Mark Pryke, LCpl Kevin Byrne, Sig David Hewitt** and **Keith Savage** all under the capable leadership of **Capt Ian Lawrence**, and all newcomers to the sport.

## EXERCISE SVINGVOL QUADRANT

The team left Minden for Denmark, our point of departure for Norway in December. The first objective was to get as many stamps as possible in our passports. Entering Denmark was no problem, but with no passport control at the ferry port no stamp was obtained on departure.

The evening meal was purchased on the ferry. The crossing was very rough, and the faces of many of the team soon matched the colour of the sea!

No passport control on arrival in Norway meant disappointment on the stamping front again. However there was some excitement when an elderly Norwegian man decided to lie down in the snow and await an ambulance. Passports were quickly forgotten as **SSgt Boyle, Sig Hewitt** and **Savage** rushed to apply first aid. The elderly gent was wrapped up in hessian to keep the snow and cold at bay, and escaped soon after in an ambulance. Needless to say it is hoped that he survived the trio's efforts.

After a five hour journey we reached our destination, Austlid (40km northwest of Lillehammer), the joint 4 Div R Signals/REME Nordic Ski Camp. After a six hour wait we finally got our hut, number 38, home for the next three weeks. Everything was unloaded, and all the electrics checked out. The TV and video worked, as did the microwave and fridge which brought a sign of relief from **Cpl Pryke**. Why, we all asked? The next few weeks told us. We decided that he was really in training for two competitions, the Div Ski Championships and the Div 'Give me more food and if anything edible is put near me I'll eat it' Championships. Any challengers?

We couldn't wait to get on to the snow, and the camp provided us with the instructors. We were split into two groups, both for novices, and given lessons throughout the first two weeks. Unfortunately snow was limited for the first few days and we spent most of the time being blown off Skei Mountain, with temperatures of − 10°C and winds of 30mph.

Each day brought new techniques to learn, classical one phase, two phase, three phase, double poling, skating downhill, four phase, and as many other phases as you want. Coupled with all that was the guess work on which wax to use on the skis, each wax being specific to the temperature. The wrong choice meant either the whole of Norway stuck to our skis or nothing could stop us sliding. Lectures in the evening soon made our guesses on waxes more calculated. After that sticking and sliding soon became a thing of the past. Further lectures on biathlon events/weapons, clothing, cold injury, and ski preparation proved also to be very useful. By 2130 hrs each day we were all in bed exhausted (bar the Video King).

The highlight of the week was undoubtedly the Friday visit to Lillehammer—the ration run. All six showing an interest in filling the shopping trollies with as much food as possible.

The second week brought more snow and a drop in temperature to as low as − 20. It also gave the team a chance to prove they had learned something by taking the British Ski Federation Bronze Test. All passed with flying colours, and **LCpl Byrne** got a special mention for remaining tee-total since leaving Germany. He was also nominated for an APTI course by **SSgt Boyle**. That week also brought our first race, a 5km classical. All did reasonably well with **SSgt Boyle** having the best time from our team closely followed by **Sig Savage** and **Capt Lawrence**. **Sig Hewitt** brought up the rear, and possibly had his skis on back to front.



SSgt Boyle, Sig Savage and Cpl Pryke preparing skis for racing

We also had a chance to fire on the range. It was not much fun lying in the snow at −20°C, especially when having to reload the magazines. This had to be abandoned when there was no sensation left in fingers and toes.

On the third week it was time to perfect our techniques. It snowed all weekend and conditions were good. This week also brought our biggest test, a 15km race of two circuits, around the lake, over a treacherous course. Again all competed well with **SSgt Boyle** leading the way, yet again.

Finally it was time to pack up and return to Minden for Christmas. Unfortunately there was no snow, so **Capt Lawrence** devised a training programme that helped the team get over the Christmas indulgences quickly.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## 7 Sig Regt
## BFPO 15

**3 SQUADRON**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj W. Wilson RA Signals** |
| **2IC** | **Capt G. Harwood** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Whiting** |
| **OC A1** | **Lt S. J. McConnel** |
| **OC A2** | **2Lt G. W. Fletcher** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (YofS) Curley** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt (FofS) Erskine** |
| **MT Sgt** | **Sgt S. Cook** |

**NEWS FROM THE MT**

For what seems like an age, 3 Sqn has been moving from the maelstrom of South Camp to the quiet of North Camp. Apart from problems because of the weather and the altitude, the move is welcome. Only the CO and RSM seem able to find us and we also have a bigger (but no tidier) office.

The trusty workforce of **Sig Taff O'Connor** and **Cally Callaghan** (Snitch and Snatch) have kept up the move and work hard to keep the 3 Sqn fleet on the road.

We are sorry to say goodbye to **Sig Karl Bent** who was posted to A5 Tp only to then see A5 Tp posted to 5 Sqn. All the best **Karl**—the tank suit does things for you.

**GOODBYE DIGGER**

**Maj Gary Barnes'** last day as OC 3 Sqn was one he will not forget easily. He was carried around the camp in various forms of transport. Firstly on a surf board and then the heavily cammed up FFR NAAFI trolley, which sped off in the direction of the good old Australian HQ, (the Squadron Bar).

A cage in the corner was an apt venue for a Kangaroo Court. Judge **(Sig) Grant Cowie** listened to the charges read by the Prosecutor, **(Sig) Rob Close**. Sig 'Figure Eleven', the defence lawyer, was silent as the accused **Maj Gary Barnes** RA Signals, was found guilty on all seven charges and ordered to pay for yet another good night!



Maj 'Bird Man' Barnes

**JNCO's CADRE COURSE**

**Sig Rob Close** of A1 Tp achieved Top Student on the Regimental JNCO Cadre Course held late last year. He had some tough competition, especially from **LCpl Stu Pattison-Turner** who performed extremely well on his command tasks.



Top Student Rob Close receiving his award from Brig M. A. Willcocks, Comd Herford Garrison

**A1 TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Tp** | **Lt S. J. McConnell** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **SSgt M. George** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt B. Alexander** |

The new A1 Tp is an amalgamation of the old A1 and A3 Tps but with half the number of men. Ex Flying Falcon will be the new Troop's first test. It operates on a reduced radio village and half the previous RRB. The fleet of vehicles held by the Troop is a credit to it's members.

Despite a busy exercise season ahead, the Troop has managed to squeeze into the programme Ex Alpine Wander, an expedition to the French Alps in July and a parachuting weekend for them and their families. A cultural visit to Hamburg has also been arranged by **LCpl Scouse Thomas** but minus the ladies this time.

**HELLO'S AND GOODBYE'S**

Over the past few months there have been a number of changes, many promotions and goodbyes but few hellos.

The Troop bade farewell to **Sig Herbie Hancock, Crampton** and **Metcalfe** and sends best wishes to the School of Signals. **Sig Dave Robinson**, a Regimental footballer, leaves A1 Tp for 22 Sig Regt. Congratulations to **Danny Locker** who leaves A1 Tp to go to 1 Royal Irish Rangers on promotion to Sergeant. Also congratulations to **Cpls 'Taff' Furnival, Triv Trivett, LCpls Pattison-Turner, Douglas, Pleasted** and **Chapman** on their respective promotions. Best wishes to everyone.

**3 SQUADRON**

The Squadron bids farewell to **SSgt (SQMS) Pete Collinson** who has gone to HQ Sqn and says hello to **SSgt (SQMS) Paul Eyre** who has arrived from 1 Sqn. One of the first tasks that the new SQMS had to supervise was the handover of A5 to 5 Sqn, it has certainly lightened his workload. We must congratulate **Cpl Trev Henry** and **Sgt Doug Tait**, both in the SQMS department, on their recent promotions. **Sgt Doug Tait** is now off to 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and we wish him and his wife all the best for the future.

**A2 TROOP**
**TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Tp** | **2Lt G. W. Fletcher** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt G. Frazer** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt B. Shane** |

For the first time in 12 months the Troop will be deploying in its normal role as an HQ 1 (BR) Corps' radio village. We are now in the fortunate position of having a large number of new recruits fresh from Harrogate to be blooded on Ex Flying Falcon and we can boast that we are one of the few Troops in the Corps to be up to establishment (well almost!).

With hellos, of course, come goodbyes and we have lost **Cpl Mark Brunning** on promotion to Northern Ireland and **Sig Gordon Cowan** to A5 Tp. Congratulations and best wishes.

Congratulations also to **Cpl Dougie Mountain** on his success in passing the PYQ examination and **LCpl Bill Haley** and 'Body' **Knowles** or their recent promotions.



**5 SQUADRON**
**MOVEMENTS AND PERSONALITIES**

As a result of a further reorganisation within the Regiment, the past three months have witnessed a number of memorable events. None more so than the arrival of A5 Tp from 3 Sqn—welcome aboard the Tankees!—and sadly, the loss of a few of our staunch Squadron members to other departments within the Regiment. Some notable farewells are; **Capt Robin** 'I've saved my pay of higher rank' **Clapp, WO2 Andy Dipple**—who leaves us on posting to the Comms and Sy Group UK and **SSgt Clive Doughty** to the dubious delights of 1 Sqn. **SSgt Paul Dixon** of Corps Lighting Tp also departs to go back to some real soldiering—his words—with his own Corps of Royal Engineers at Nienburg.

On the other side of the coin, apart from the mighty A5 Tp, we say hello to our new Squadron Commander; **Maj Steve Marshall** and his wife **Myrtle**. A welcome also to **2Lt Allan Francis, WO2 (SSM) John Riley** and **Freda** and to **LCpl 'Bangers' Bibby** who tells a wonderful tale about compo sausages! We trust that you will all enjoy your tour here. At the time of going to press, the Squadron personality list reads as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj S. G. Marshall** |
| **2IC** | **Lt T. C. Cooper** |
| **OC CLT** | **Capt M. Tressider** |
| **OC A5 Tp** | **Capt D. Whimpenny** |
| **OC Man Tp** | **2Lt A. Francis** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 J. Riley** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 G. Plumb** |
| **Sqn YofS** | **WO2 C. Heeles** |
| **A5 YofS** | **SSgt N. Hawley** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt C. Deary** |

**THE ANGLO/GERMAN CONNECTION**

The Squadron paraded under the tender mercy of the area Forst Meister. Armed only with picks and shovels, no experience but bags of enthusiasm, we marched off to undertake the construction of a dry stone wall near Maresfield Barracks. With **LCpl Mick Davies-Morris** waving his excused everything chit, the lads soon proved that the squadee-proof wheel barrows were anything but that. **'Taff' Webb** won the prize for the fastest barrow in town. With any luck, on the next project, he'll put something in it. With the wall completed and photographs duly posed for, the Forst Meister bade us farewell—no doubt with a sigh of relief and the unenviable task of doing it all over again by himself. It has been suggested, that the OC has his mind on some similar jobs later in the year. Probably explains all the pokey drill we're doing lately.



Sig Jonathon Edmonds adds weight to his request for a posting



The Squadron with an amused (bemused?) looking Forst Meister after completing the wall. Next stop Berlin!


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# 8 Sig Regt
# Catterick Garrison

**Brig M. W. H. Roberts OBE**, Commander of HQ Trg Gp R Signals and Catterick Garrison paid his initial visit to 8 Sig Regt on 13 December 1989. During this visit he made two presentations. **Sgt E. H. Calvert**, who is an Instructor in Ptarmigan Wing received his LS & GC medal. He has been at 8 Sig Regt since January 1989 and has represented the Regiment at full-bore shooting and swimming. The Commander also presented **Mr John Stockley** with the Imperial Service Medal. **Mr John Stockley** retired in April 1989 after 37 years of Crown service. He will be best remembered in the Corps as an Instructional Officer orignally at the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate and since 1985 at 8 Sig Regt.



Sgt E. H. Calvert is congratulated on receiving his LS & GC by Brig M. W. H. Roberts

**FAMILY TRADITIONS**

**SSgt Derick Witchell** and his son **Sig Paul Witchell** are both serving at 8 Sig Regt.

**SSgt Witchell**, the Regimental MT SSgt, arrived in Catterick in November 1988. He has, since joining the Corps in 1971, served mainly in BAOR and the UK although he did some globe-trotting whilst serving at 30 Sig Regt.

**Sig Witchell** is in Papa Tp, 1 Sqn. He is training to be a Tele Tech (Sys).




SSgt D. A. Witchell and Sig P. Witchell at Vimy Barracks

The family links with Catterick Garrison date back even further. **SSgt Witchell**'s grandfather, **Mr Jack Woodaytt**, also served there. A member of the Corps on its' formation, **Mr Woodaytt**'s photograph, (taken outside a mess in Catterick) and his medals are in the Corps Museum. **SSgt Witchell** will be serving at the School of Signals when this goes to press. In keeping with tradition, **Sig Witchell** will be joining him in Blandford on completion of his training.

**Maj Tim Mountford**, (commissioned July 1966) was visited by his son **2Lt Marc Mountford**, (commissioned December 1989) in the Royal Signals Officers Mess prior to Christmas.

**Maj Mountford** is the Regimental Training Major. **2Lt Mountford** is due to be attached to 1 Armed Div HQ and Sig Regt prior to his Troop Commanders course at the School. Both are ex-Welbexians.



Maj T. Mountford and 2Lt M. Mountford in the Officers' Mess

**1 SQUADRON TABLE TENNIS COMPETITION**
**by LCpl A. J. Rimmer**

The Squadron has always been heavily involved in Regimental Sport but **Sgt Henry**'s idea of a Squadron Table Tennis competition straight after the holiday, did turn some heads.

After a slow start **Sig McNamara** and **Soulsby** with much persuasion and planning got the competition off the ground.

Thirty two people started and the straight knockout competition was played during dinner and evening times. The Grand Finale was to be held in 'Jimmy's' (the NAFFI complex) in a form of a Smoker.

To much surprise the semi's and final were contended by four of Queens Gurkha Signals. The attendance and atmosphere rapidly developed as the evening got underway.

The semi-final and final were refereed by two extremely smart Signalmen namely the organisers (complete with bow ties). They were played at a very high standard, the semi-final was best out of three games, and the final best out of five. The competition was won impressively by **Cpl Argbarru** (Andy) **Sherpa** and second, third and fourth were **LCpl Nirmalkumar** (Lucky) **Bhatachan, LCpl Ratnabahadur** (Ratty) **Pun** and **Sig Shyamkaji** (Pop Star) **Thapa** respectively. The tropies were presented by the OC Papa Tp, **Capt Shelagh MacLeod**.

**SUPPORT FOR BABYLINE**

**Mrs Maureen Young** and the wives of 8 Sig Regt answered the Blue Peter Babyline appeal and set up aluminium can collection points around the camp. They were then sorted, crushed and loaded up in boxes.



The total number filled an area of over $4m^2$ and delivered to the area collection point in York. The can collection continues on the camp. The local Scouts have taken on the re-cycling now that the Babyline Appeal has reached its goal. They are raising money for the Watson Scout Centre building project. Thank you to all who helped.

**A CHALLENGE TO YOU**

As a result of an article in the Catterick Garrison Gazette by 1 Bn PWO, the late entry Officers at 8 Sig Regt decided to open a challenge to other Regiments. The 10 late entry Officers have a total of 260 years service between them. Does your Unit have either more service between the LE Officers or more than 10 LE Offices on strength at the same time?



The LEOs *(left to right):* Maj Terry Lightfoot, Lt Col Tom Stoddart, Maj Geordie Gainford, Lt Dereck Boyd, Majs John Turner, Dot Ryder, Roger Courtney and Capt Colin Bachelor
*Absent on duty:* Capt F. Calvert and Lt Fred Gardner

# 9 Sig Regt
# BFPO 58

**1 SQUADRON HAPPY VALLEY HILL CLIMB WINNERS**

On Wednesday 29 November 1989, the 1 Sqn Cross Country team did it again by winning the Happy Valley Hill Climb race in Episkopi. The race begins in Happy Valley and finishes 3.5 miles later in Episkopi Garrison. Although it is only a short course the run is a steep uphill climb and is a real test of personal fitness. 1 Sqn runners achieved a well deserved victory and added yet another win to their string of firsts in the Cross Country League.



1 Sqn Cross Country Team
*(Left to right):* Cpl Garrett, LCpl Codling, WO2 (SSM) Whitehouse, Cpl Barker

**ESBA MINOR UNITS RUGBY KNOCK OUT CUP**

The ESBA Minor Units Rugby Knockout Cup was again hosted by 33SU RAF at Ayios Nikolaos on Sunday 4 February 1990.

2 Sqn were defending champions and gathered in their spectacular pavilion (otherwise known as an Army 9 × 9). No shortage of competitors, albeit somewhat inexperienced.

Our first encounter of the rugby kind pitted us against 262 Sig Sqn. (The eventual plate winners). Although making very hard work of the game 2 Sqn eventually won by 6—4.

With a 4—0 deficit facing the Squadron at half time, not to mention a very strong wind blowing against us, the outcome was very gratifying.

The points came from a well worked try set up by **Sgt Watton** and scored by **Cpl Shotton**. The conversion was achieved by **Sgt Fanning**.

The draw for the semi-finals placed 2 Sqn against 33SU with their much vaunted pack.

However, as the saying goes — 'the forwards decide who wins the game and the backs decide by how many'. On this occasion the forwards faced with a large and experienced 33SU pack played extremely well emerging as a unit of eight that took everything 33SU had to offer and came out on top.

The backs then decided that 10—0 sounded like a good score, and proceeded to score the points with some entertaining rugby. Tries came from **Sgt Watton** following a charge down by **LCpl Smith**. Then after mounting pressure in the second half 2 Sqn No 8 **Cpl Rescorle** made a fine forward break with a try near the posts, which was converted by **Sgt Fanning**.

The opponents in the final were 2 Fd Regt RA, who were very fit and keen.

The game started with 2 Sqn kicking into the wind. It was a bruising encounter with no quarter asked or given. A useful ball was won in the line by the OC **Maj Wilson**. This combined with a hard team effort saw the team through to the end of the first half, with no score.

The second half gave 2 Sqn the advantage of a strong wind which was used to pin 2 Fd Regt into their own half, where after mounting forward pressure a penalty was awarded to 2 Sqn for a moment's indiscipline by our opponents.

This was a pressure kick to end all pressure kicks. Taking a true Captain's decision **Sgt Fanning** elected to take the kick himself. The kick, although difficult, was good and gave 2 Sqn a 3—0 lead.

After this and until the end of the game 2 Fd Regt attacked again and again. Only magnificent tackling by 2 Sqn, **Cpl Shotton** to the fore enabled us to hang on until the final whistle for a deserved victory.

The Garrison Commander **Col Champion**, presented the trophy to team Captain, **Sgt Fanning**.

# 11 Sig Regt
# Catterick Garrison

**HANDOVER OF RSMs**

January is usually seen as a time for preparation for the year ahead. Not so for **WO1 (RSM) Ben Britton**. The RSM's final 10 days (or more) were spent 'saying' farewell to the Regiment, culminating in his being dined out in the Royal Signals Headquarters Mess and being 'seen into' the Royal Signals Officers' Mess on 12 January 1990. We all wish **Mr Britton, Beryl** and family the very best for the future and their tour with 28 Sig Regt.

**WO1 (RSM) Douglas** took over the reins on Monday 15 January 1990. Welcome to you and your family.




**3 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Sqn** | **Maj S. J. Smith** |
| **2IC Sqn** | **Capt C. J. Manning** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) M. G. P. Bohanan** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) K. V. P. Sandy** |
| **Trg Wing** | **SSgt J. M. MacLean** |
| | **SSgt R. Thompson** |
| | **Sgt D. Caldwell** |
| | **Cpl I. Goodson** |

November saw the start of some bitter weather in the North East (nothing unusual for us in Catterick) and the second miracle of the year, Trg Wing going out on the ground to Whitburn for a weeks range camp. This turned out to be very cold but successful where an 85% pass rate was achieved with only a few minor hiccups along the way, ie, a low flying glider skimming over our heads. We believe that the pilot was on a suicide mission, however, we did manage to get rid of him in the end when our gallant **(SSM) Mick Bohanan** decided to put up a flare, forgetting that we were firing out to sea in one of the busiest shipping lanes in the North East of England. This did get rid of the glider but, alas, brought with it its own problems in the shape of the Tyneside Police Launch and the Air Sea Rescue looking for a ship in distress (or was it the Sqn 2IC as we could not find him either), we believe he was perhaps hiding from the daily lunchtime runs organised by **SSgt Rolly Thompson**. Notwithstanding all this, a very good week was had by all and they have talked us into doing it again very soon.

**FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES**

We would like to extend farewells to **Sgt John Lennon** who has left us to take up a post in civilian life, we wish him luck in this and in his forthcoming marriage and to **Cpl Ian Goodson** soon to leave us for 2 Inf Div where we hope he will have a happy and rewarding tour.

We extend a warm welcome to **Sgt Caldwell** who has joined us from the sunnier climes of Cyprus and wish him the very best for his tour in Catterick.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

We extend our warmest congratulations to **WO2 (SSM) Mick Bohanan** on his selection for promotion to WO1.



SHQ Line Up: *Rear L-R:* SSgt MacLean, Sgt Caldwell and SSgt (SQMS) Sandy
*Centre L-R:* Mrs Cox, WO2 (SSM) Bohanan, OC Maj Smith, 2IC Capt Manning and Mr Thorpe

**ULSTER TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Lt S. O. France** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt E. T. Strefford** |
| **Tp Cpls** | **Cpl C. Martin** |
| | **Cpl M. Pegg (Op Orderly)** |
| | **Cpl S. Lockwood (On Course)** |

Yet again another Ulster Tp has passed through 11 Sig Regt out into the big wide world to take up their positions within the Corps. The team from Ulster Tp lost yet another member of staff, **Cpl Andy Evans**, recently promoted and posted to Germany. We would like to take this opportunity to wish both **Cpl** (now Sgt) **Evans** and his wife **Audrey** every success in the future. The new Ulster Tp formed on 8 January and after the confusion of the first week all the new recruits settled in to some serious training.

**BATTLEAXE PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Lt I. Meers** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Howland** |
| **Tp Cpls** | **Cpl O'Brien** |
| | **Cpl Leyland** |
| | **Cpl Pope** |

**PASS OFF**

Pass Off day on 15 December was the culmination of a lot of hard work, the weather was just about right and a very large turnout of parents and friends enjoyed an excellent parade. The Reviewing Officer for the parade was **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE**.

As well as winning the Champion Troop Competition the Troop managed to raise the sum of £1,563 for charity which was shared equally between the North of England Children's Cancer Research Fund and the St John's Centre Catterick which helps local mentally handicapped children and is staffed by volunteers. Both charities were represented at the Pass Off, **Dr Louise Parker** of the NECCRF provided posters, leaflets and collection tins to assist the Troop in its fund raising.

The money was raised by a sponsored clean-up of Newcastle City Centre which was well supported by the local community and was a great success in improving the local people's perception of the Army. **JCpl Jenkins** presented the cheques. He had raised nearly £200 for charity which is a remarkable achievement and a great credit to him. The Troop is now with 8 Sig Regt for trade training.





The Reviewing Officer, Maj Gen Birtwistle inspects Battleaxe Tp during Pass Off Parade



*L to R:* JSig Dowsett, Watson, Vowles, Walker and Wilson. Sgt Grey and JSig Davidson demonstrating the use of the rope ladder



Cpl Burn and Master Burn on behalf of St Johns receives a cheque from JCpl Jenkins of Battleaxe Tp



'All this NBC and respirator training is a bit of a laugh!'



Dr Louise Parker on behalf of NECCRF receives a cheque from JCpl Jenkins of Battleaxe Tp

**KOHIMA TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Tp** | **Lt A. D. Burgin** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt 'Geordie' Edminson** |
| **Tp Cpls** | **Cpl Tony Brine** |
| | **Cpl Les North** |
| | **Cpl Bob Wallace** |

The dust has finally settled and the line up is confirmed.

The new look Kohima formed on 18 September to operate alongside Iron Tp led by **Lt Pete Cubbin** and his merry band. The Troop is in full swing. The Cadre has blended together and taken over part of Barry Block.

Whilst JNCOs have been badge hunting on courses at Warminster and Pirbright, most successfully I may add, the Troop Sergeant has had his work cut out maintaining the services.

# 13 Sig Regt
# BFPO 42

**BRIG P. I. PALMER OBE, ADC**

During Comd (BR) RCZ's farewell visit to 13 Sig Regt he was presented with a chunk of the pre-privatised Berlin Wall, complete with blue grafitti. The Brigadier, during his tour as Comd (BR) RCZ had been regrettably unable to visit 3 Sqn, which is located in Berlin, but the Squadron was anxious to remind his of its existence.

**Brig Palmer** has made frequent visits to the Regiment attending briefings; touring operational areas; visiting the Birgelen HIVE; and the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. He also accepted a cheque for DM4,200 from Bravo Tp for the Corps Benevolent Fund, which was raised during a 24 hour sponsored swim last summer.

On his farewell visit the Brigadier presented four LS & GC Medals to **WO2 Barbe, SSgt Bain ACC, Sgt Waugh REME** and **Cpl Golding RPC**. In addition to two members of the Regiment received awards in the New Year Honours List; namely **Lt N. C. Mapp** was made MBE; **SSgt Amy WRAC** was awarded the BEM. Lastly, **WO1 Tyrer RHF** received a CinC UKLF Commendation for his work in the aftermath of the Lockerbie Disaster.

The Regiment thanks the Brigadier for all his hard work as Formation Commander and wish both him and his wife well in their retirement.



Brig Palmer accepting the cheque for DM4,200 from SSgt Dave Smy in the presence of all the members of Bravo Tp



LS & GC Presentation

*Back Row (L to R):* WO1 (RSM) Dobson, Sgt Waugh, WO2 Barbe, SSgt Bain, Cpl Golding and CO Lt Col A. M. Wallace

*Front Row (L to R):* Mrs Waugh and son, Brig P. I. Palmer, Mrs Golding and son and daughter

**BRAVO TROOP**
**TWENTY-FOUR HOUR SPONSORED SWIM**

On a cold, wet and windy Saturday afternoon of 25 August 1989, 15 members of the Troop, together with their wives and girlfriends gathered at the Birgelen Pool to take part in this 24 hour swimming event.

The idea was to have at least one person swimming up and down the pool at any one time, with the total lengths being recorded. At 1600 hrs on the dot the first swimmer **Cpl 'Chaz' Roberts** was sent on his way by the OC's wife **Mrs Ann Doherty**.

Throughout the first evening the weather conditions worsened and by 0200 hrs the next morning the weather was so bad that it could easily have been the middle of winter. Around this time **Sig Malin** was due to swim, as he dived in he was heard to shout in a much higher voice than usual 'never again'.

As Sunday lunchtime came and went, spirits were high as conditions improved and the end was in sight. The swim was completed by the CO **Lt Col A. M. Wallace**. At 1600 hrs exactly **Mrs Wallace** sounded the horn to mark the end of the 24 hour marathon.

The organiser of the event, **SSgt Smy** heaved a short-lived sigh of relief because he soon found himself flying through the air, fully clothed into the freezing water. He has photos which prove who was responsible for that—so beware.

After the totals were added up and the money collected, a distance of 2,188 lengths or 34 miles had been swum, the amount of cash raised was DM4,200, which was donated to the Royal Signals Association Benevolent Fund.



Detachment Commander's Course—January





This photograph shows all the swimmers who took part with their wives and girlfriends



This photograph shows the wife of the Sqn Comd, Mrs Ann Doherty setting Cpl 'Chaz' Roberts on his way at the start of the marathon swim

**1 SQUADRON**
**A AND C TROOPS**
**PERSONALITIES**
**OC A&C Tps** **Lt Tony Clark**

**A TROOP**
**WO2 Brian Thompson**
**SSgt Taff Clancy**
**Sgt Shane Knight**
**Cpl Al McPhail**

**C TROOP**
**WO2 Marc Sipson**
**SSgt Jock Dengate**
**Sgt Joe Jordan**

**WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS**

A hearty welcome to the new lads of both Troops, they are: A Troop: **LCpls Neil Worsnop, 'Jim' Reeves, 'Sly' Ellaway** and **'Jonny' Briggs** and C Troop: **LCpls Smith, Izard** and **Cox**.

Wishing them a pleasant tour at Birgelen. Congratulations to all those Signalmen too numerous to mention on their promotion to LCpl. Further congratulations to **Cpl Al McPhail** and his wife **Wendy** who look forward to many sleepless nights with their newly born son. Finally, farewell to **LCpl Howard** and his wife **Tracie** who are off to Berlin.

**CROSS COUNTRY SEASON 1989/1990**

The cross country season began at RAF(H) Wegberg on 11 October 1989 and the last race before the Christmas break was at RAF Bruggen on 6 December. The Regiment hosted the first race of the second half of the season and notable performances were turned in by **Lt Fec (RM), WO2 Lancaster, SSgt Patchitt, Sgt Smith (RM), Cpls Edmond, Berry, Watts, LCpls Blackman, Sharkey, Hartley, Dodds, Sheridan** and **Rolfe**.

The WRAC team did particularly well in the RCZ championships held on 1 November, coming third overall. Congratulations to **LCpl Blackman**, who came third in the race. **LCpls Blackman** and **Hartley** now go forward to the BAOR championships on 18 January—at which they will be presented with BAOR cross country colours.

Stop press: In the race, **LCpl Hartley** was placed fourth and **LCpl Blackman** fifth.

**BASKETBALL**

On 16-17 January, the BAOR WRAC Inter-Unit Basketball Championships were held at JHQ Rheindahlen. 13 Sig Regt (the defending champions) claimed third place this year, from an entry of eight teams. Seven of the regimental side were 2 Sqn members, including **SSgt Robinson, Sgt Brady** and **LCpl Hartley**—who were selected for the BAOR Squad.

**NETBALL**

After claiming the runner-up slot in last year's BAOR Inter-Unit Netball Championship, this year we came out winners. Six of the eight-strong squad are members of 2 and 3 Sqns, **SSgt Robinson, Sgt Brady** and **LCpl Hartley** were selected for the BAOR squad.

**REGIMENTAL FOOTBALL**

Following the disaster of the 88/89 season (when the Regiment was withdrawn from the league) the 89/90 season has seen a total reversal of the team's fortune, with an unbeaten start, placing the side top of the division. With only three league matches remaining, the Regiment is well placed to lift its first major trophy for many years—watch this space! A staggering total of 26 players have represented the Regiment to date, but special mention should be made of the consistent high levels of performance by **LCpls Benson** and **Smith** and **Sig Bettany** (with congratulations to the latter on being selected for the Corps BAOR team for the first time.

In the Army Challenge Cup, the team faced an early exit, losing 1—0 in the first round. Cup success can still be achieved however, with a forthcoming semi-final draw against 16 Sig Regt in the RCZ Major Unit KO Cup.

**HQ SQUADRON**

In the pre-season run up to the arrival of the 'white stuff' **Sgt Rich Carey** and **WCpl Bev Hoole**, both Scottish National Ski Council and Joint Services Downhill Ski Instructors ran a series of courses entitled Skilful Sliding, on a slag heap in Holland! Let us quickly make clear however that this past community eyesore has been developed into one of the largest artificial ski slopes in Europe with two single line lifts and a sprinkler system. A mere 45 minutes from the Camp gates, this excellent facility has been, until recently, an undiscovered source of adventure training.

The age limit of participants had to be limited to 7-65 years and the ability restriction was no worse than 'couldn't stand on your own two feet' and no better than 'double somersaults' (without the full twist). As it turns out we all but reached those limits!

All over the hill learners learnt, fallers fell and posers posed but one or two were not satisfied with convention and went in search of true adventure! Alas, zipping off the plastic mat across the grass and into the undergrowth is not quite what is meant by off piste action!

Full Regimental support and a very good financial deal enabled 60 members of the Unit and families to take part in the venture with a considerable loan being provided by OC HQ Sqn. Many of the participants used these courses to improve their standards before heading for Bavaria on Ex Snow Queen and although an artificial slope can be somewhat unforgiving of errors, as an aid to teaching and improving it is to be highly recommended.

There were two cases of slight 'dishevelment' but if there was a pound for every smile and laugh then by the end we could have bought the place.

Thanks go to the instructors as mentioned above, assistants **SSgt Steve Shannon** and **LCpl Tim Stevens** and to **Maj MacCulloch** for the financial support.



The first group of happy skiers pose before the start of the course, obviously they didn't realise what was to come



# 16 Sig Regt
# BFPO 35

These notes were going to start with an eye catching headline—'Sleepy Hollow Regiment does nothing, reported as attempting to wake up but source unreliable'. However, my journalistic integrity honed to the highest moral level by avidly following page three of a well known paper prevented me from committing this folly. The public will know that it was a lie, but surely it is a better headline than 'We have had a busy start to the year'. To open the batting, an 'on the spot report' from two visits. Well, we have got to use the photographs somehow, otherwise two more paragraphs will need to be written.

**VISIT OF COMD (BR) RCZ**

**Brig P. I. Palmer** paid a farewell visit to the Regiment on 22 December 1989. He attended the Regimental Carol Service and was presented with a Krefeld 'Silkman' as a farewell gift at a joint Officers' and Sergeants' Mess function. The visit came to a close with the Brigadier presenting the Regiment with the 'Crook and Bavin' Shield for the most successful sporting unit within the RCZ.



Brig Palmer receives his Silkman

**VISIT OF COS BAOR**

**Maj Gen F. G. Sugden CBE** visited the Regiment on 19 January. He was most impressed with the programme as the theme for the day was 'What's missing'. As can be seen from the photographs that, inspite of the Staff's belief that we can still do everything, the cuts are real at regimental level. However we are glad to report that the excellent food produced by the Sergeants' Mess was real enough, even if the baby chickens seemed to be suffering from the same cut-backs as ourselves. (Stop Press—I have now been informed that they were in fact Quail and not under-funded MDD'd chickens.)



The CO points out our actual holdings

**RHQ TROOP**

| | |
|---|---|
| **CC** | **WO2 (ORQMS) Boyd** |
| **ORS** | **Sgt Jim Peat** |
| **ORC** | **LCpl Babs Rogerson** |
| **ORP** | **Pte Gail Armstrong** |
| | **Sig Stud Aitchison** |
| **Docs Clk** | **LCpl Spot Clark** |
| **Pampas** | **Cpl Jo Green** |
| **Movs** | **Miss Martina Rowland** |
| **Postie** | **LCpl V. Pearson** |

We said farewell to **Sgt John Woolley** our faithful Docs/Pampas Sgt who joined HQ NORTHAG on promotion and nothing to do! Come back, all is forgiven! **John** worked hard to keep the docs up to scratch and only remembered to go home occasionally! Also farewell to our **Sgt Steve Gorman** who has left our Orderly Room for JCUFI. Alas we miss his little moans and complaints. We said hello to **Sgt Jim Peat** who arrived from sunny Cyprus with his wife and finally his dog which was left behind in kennels and forgotten by the flight staff for a few weeks. **Jim** dutifully went to collect it at the airport armed with a big bone and some flowers. All three appear to have settled in nicely even though the weather doesn't agree with them here in rainy Krefeld. We also said hello to **WCpl Jo Green** whom we plucked from our Rheindahlen Sqn to come and do some real work!

Our Movements Clerk has had continuous headaches with getting all the kiddies out from Boarding School, clearing leave applications and booking and unbooking numerous flights for the Regiment. Fortunately no-one ended up walking to UK. Our Draughtswoman will be leaving us shortly to have a baby draughtswoman and no-one is volunteering to do the drawings in her absence.

There's been no time for sports afternoons due to heavy workloads and staff on courses, leave or postings.

**1 SQUADRON**

**SHQ**

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Sqn** | **Maj Jim Harris** |
| **Admin Offr** | **Capt Mandy Tindall** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Babs Davies** |
| **Admin Sgt** | **Sgt Liz Williams** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Lenny Mills** |
| **Chief Clerk** | **Cpl Jo Green** |
| **Asst Clerk** | **Pte Caroline Cove** |
| **PTI** | **Cpl Carol Matten** |
| **Dvrs** | **LCpl Sandy Borrowdale** |
| | **LCpl Sarah Rimmer** |
| | **Pte Michelle Upson** |
| **Storeman** | **LCpl Mal Brookes** |
| **Typist** | **Mrs Yvonne Radzimierski** |

The New Year saw a change over of command. **Maj Elaine Newnham** left us to attend Staff College—we all wish her the best of luck. She was replaced by **Maj Jim Harris**, yes 1 Sqn has a male Squadron Commander!

We also say farewell to **Capt Mandy Tindall** who leaves us to undertake the Paymasters Course at Worthy Down—we wish her all the best in her new career with the Royal Army Pay Corps.

Moving down the corridor the new SSM, **WO2 Babs Davies** has been making her name in various WRAC Sports. The Squadron has won some notable events, the latest being the BAOR WRAC Basketball Championships. Well done to everyone involved.

The Admin Sergeants' job has also changed hands recently. **Sgt Gill Cross** left us on promotion, to take up an appointment to Tp SSgt at RMAS Sandhurst. **Sgt Liz Williams** joins us from Aldershot, and with her strong Scottish accent has brought a breath of fresh air to the Orderly Room. I just wish she'd keep the pet 'Haggis' under control!

We also say a second hello to **Cpl Jo Green** who returns as Chief Clerk after a spell in the Regimental Admin Office. Welcome back **Jo**! The Orderly Room 'Clerk', **Pte Caroline Cove** is leaving us for Worthy Down—good luck in your reallocation to Staff Clerk.

And finally hello to the PTI, **Cpl Carol Matten**, the Drivers, **LCpls Sandy Borrowdale, Sarah Rimmer** (congratulations on your recent promotion and good luck in the new job), and **Pte Michelle Upson** (welcome to the Squadron), and last but not least the SQMS, **SSgt Lenny Mills** and his trusty Storeman, **LCpl Mal Brookes**.

Oh, and **Yvonne** the typist.

**OSCAR TROOP**

On 10 December two teams of extremely skilled bowlers from Oscar Tp trotted off to the Rheindahlen Bowl to take part in the Corps Rheindahlen bowling competition.

In a desperate attempt to 'trash' the ladies team the men from Oscar Tp only managed to beat them by 20 pins, well done girls!

There were six teams and in the final; the men came third equal and the ladies came last, but thanks to the excellent organisation by **LCpl Peach** from Comms Branch (they won by the way) an excellent evening was had by all and we look forward to revenge in May.



The Teams

*Back Row (L to R):* LCpl Jules Rideout, Cpl Kev Esson, WO2 (YofS) Ron Geekie Allan and Sgt Pete Boon

*Middle Row (L to R):* Cpls Elaine Musgrave, Gordon Maclean, SSgt Kim Neilson and Cpl Bernie Smith

*Front Row (L to R):* Pte Trudy Yule and LCpl Cossy Calabrese

**2 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Mike Complin** |
| **2IC** | **Lt Pete Doherty MBE** |
| **OC J Tp** | **Lt Julian Swindells** |
| **OC R Tp** | **Lt Karen Osterburg** |
| **OC S Tp** | **2Lt Mark Hanby** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Steve McKechnie** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (YofS) John Dyer** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt (FofS) Ian Dobson** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) Brian Lauder** |

The last three months have seen the arrival of **Maj Mike Complin** from Hohne and **Lt Pete Doherty** from Cyprus. We wish you and your families an enjoyable tour.

Sadly we have to say farewell to **Capt Alison Gordon**, posted to RSIT and our Squadron Clerk, **LCpl Gill Polson** who leaves us shortly for civilian life.

Congratulations go to **Lt Pete Doherty** on the award of an MBE in the New Year Honours List.

**SQUADRON RE-ORGANISATION**

December saw the sinking without trace of Kilo Tp resulting in the re-organisation of the Squadron from four Troops to three. Luckily, the lifeboats under the guise of J, R and S Troops came to the rescue and picked up all the survivors.

**SQMS DEPARTMENT**

**SSgt (SQMS) Brian Lauder** and his merry band of Troop Storemen have been active with the lead up to the Regimental Board of Officers which was hectic enough, but the demise of Kilo Tp and the backloading of stores and equipment that went with it ensured the department felt no embarrassment at picking up their wages at the end of the month.

**Question**

What does an SQMS department do when the work's finished and there are only two days to go to leave?

**Answer**

Pray for rain, to flood the SQMS stores and order a move to another location.

**DS Solution**

Parade the Squadron at the end of a PT lesson (which incidentally happened to be aerobics—apologies to all wives who attend once a week, it's hard work!) and transform the cellar of the Sergeants' Mess into the new SQMS and Troop stores. This task was completed in one morning and resulted in the soldiers getting an unexpected 'shopping' afternoon.

The SNCO's unfortunately had to carry on working.

On the sporting front the Squadron has continued to make a name for itself.

**SOCCER**

As we go to press, 16 Sig Regt has just beaten 28 Sig Regt by 3—1 in the Army Cup Competition. Goals by **Cpl Tony Mee, Sig Mouse Fielding** and **Mark Johnson** (all 2 Sqn) ensured a handsome victory.

**ANGLING**

The Regiments' successes this season culminated in **Sgt Glen Henderson** being crowned Royal Signals BAOR Individual Champion.

**GOLF**

The Regimental golf team, having won the RCZ Summer League have carried on where they left off and are the current leaders of the winter league. There is no truth in the rumour that **WO2 (SSM) Steve McKechnie** spends Wednesday afternoon in the office and the rest of the week on the golf course.

**THE FIRST FEMALE 'JETTY DOG'**
**by Pte Carol Marshall**

Having been at 4 Sqn 16 Sig Regt in Bielefeld for only seven weeks I was given the opportunity to spend a sailing season working at Kiel Training Centre. The previous year I'd participated in a leg of Ex Caribbean Venture on the Royal Signals yacht and enjoyed the experience (despite being rather seasick for the duration). I decided Kiel was an opportunity not to be turned down.

I arrived at Kiel on 23 May 1989, unsure as to what to expect ('Howards Way' flickering through my mind!). As there was no WRAC accommodation I was given a room in the Sergeants' mess, along with the only other member of the WRAC, who worked in the Pay Office. The following day after having it explained that I was to be the first WRAC to be employed as a Jetty Hand, I joined the other 'Jetty Dogs'. They knew I would be working with them but seemed unsure as to what I was actually doing there. I was set to work with one of the lads who took me through all the terminology and parts of a boat which I needed to know about.

Our main job entailed handing over the yachts to Skippers and taking them back again on their return to Kiel. We were to ensure the boats were left clean and everything was in working order. We would do all repairs that required no special skills ourselves. This was an ideal way to learn the ins and outs of the workings of a yacht. This was definitely a change from being a Switchboard Operator.

Within a week of being at the British Kiel Yacht Club I was told to pack my bags as I was off sailing for a fortnight. I joined the other crew members of Kranich (a 56ft wooden yacht built for the 1936 Olympics) on Santander I. Over the fortnight we visited various ports in Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Santander was just the first of many sailing trips I was able to make during my time at Kiel, my last being the collection of the Club's new Halberg Rassay 29s from Ellos, Sweden. I soon became hooked on the sailing and gradually the seasickness wore off. In any case the enjoyment was worth the few hours seasickness.

The other Jetty Dogs realised I was there to stay and that I did not expect any preferential treatment. I was soon accepted as 'one of the boys!'. We were never short of work to ensure the boats were ready for courses, regattas and private charters. We would quite often be



Pte Marshall after receiving 'The Dyas Rules'



working weekends as well. It is not actually until you're working at an establishment like this that you realise just how much effort is involved to ensure the smooth running of such adventurous training exercises.

It was a most enjoyable, worthwhile six months. I've discovered a sport in which I'd like to continue and gain more experience. I'd gained my Competent Crew qualification in my first few weeks at Kiel and have gained much more self confidence on board a boat. I also had the pleasure of being presented with the 'Dyas Rules', an award for achievement in adventurous training. I'd recommend spending a sailing season as a Jetty Hand at Kiel to any WRAC Servicewoman who enjoys sailing and is prepared to work hard. It's an opportunity I wouldn't have missed, and I would like to return next year.

**OFFICERS AND WARRANT OFFICERS v SENIOR NCO's BOXING DAY FOOTBALL MATCH**
**OLD v BOLD**

Boxing day just would not be the same in Krefeld without some physical encounter or the other. This Christmas a soccer confrontation between the Officers/Warrant Officers v the Senior NCO's was the order of the day.

A large crowd had gathered for the occasion and they were not to be disappointed. The football in the first half was fast and furious and although no goals were scored it was end to end stuff. Only some fine goalkeeping by the seniors keeper prevented **Lt Pete Doherty** scoring a hat full.

The second half was just as competitive but it was a case of those who had plum pudding and those who had a little more. Those who had a little more (the Officers/Warrant Officers) buckled under the relentless pressure of their younger adversaries to concede three goals without reply, not a true reflection of what was an extremely close fought encounter.



The Officer's/Warrant Officer's Team



The SNCO's Team

**CANOEING—1989**

1989 was a very successful year for the Regimental canoeing team.

Within BAOR the team retained the Downriver league title with **Sig Paul Haigh** winning the individual title. In the summer the Slalom Competition saw the Regiment playing second fiddle to 19 Fd Regt RA in both BAOR and Army events. Notably **Cpl Andy Dobson** was third individual at the Army Slalom Championships. On to the BAOR Sprint and Marathon Championships where the team won individual events. K1 marathon—**Sig Haigh**, K1 sprint—**SSgt (FofS) Dobson** and in K1 Sprint and marathon, titles to **Cpl Dobson/SSgt Dobson** (only our mother can tell us apart!). This year finished on a high note with the team winning the unit team event at the Army White Water Championships held on the River Dee in December. The Squad looks forward to more successes in 1990 and would like to thank the Corps and Regiment for the support given in 1989.



Pictured above is the CO 16 Sig Regt with the Canoeing Squad Displayed are the spoils of 1989

*L to R:* Sig Haigh, Cpl Dobson, CO, SSgt Dobson, LCpl Broders

**EXERCISE TOP CLASS**

Three days escape and evasion initiated by an active edge callout. A change of scene for the Regiment, talked about beforehand and much talked about afterwards.

There were to be 30 runners, the remainder forming a hunter force. To add realism, there was a dog demo when volunteers (victims) were plucked from the spectators.

**2Lts Mark Hanby** and **Ian Ellis** acted as Platoon Commanders until deployment when they were joined by **Lt Martin Prodger** to do an extra long first leg.

The first to be captured were **Cpls Mandy Russell** and **Jeb Stewart**. The three subalterns soon joined them after being 'set up'. With compromised checkpoints the hunter force had a field day. Smiling **Jim Harris** at hunter force control 'talked' information from the runners, after their long and cold wait.

After release (what luck!) there was a little sustenance. The cold night brought forth initiative or just plain cheek and more comfortable surroundings.

**Cpls Taff Alden, Mick Wheater** and **Dave Hutley** had a slight identity problem and ended up running from each other. They were however, the first team home.

With the final checkpoint compromised only the most dedicated succeeded. Back at control, cold and hungry runners chatted about their experiences, whilst cold hunters looked on.

It is rumoured that there may be another similar exercise; this one was a rumour too.



Capt Alison Gordon and her team after release from the pen!

# 21 Sig Regt
# BFPO 42

## K TROOP
### ARRIVALS AND FAREWELLS

Farewells to Troop **SSgt Dick Taylor** and his wife **Eileen** and son **Stuart** posted to 9 Sig Regt, also to **Cpl Ian Hearn** and his wife **Sandra** to civvy street; good luck from all in K Troop. Welcome to Wildenrath to new Troop **SSgt Kev Fitzpatrick** and his wife **Deborah** arriving from Cyprus, also to five new faces from Catterick, **Sig Garcia, Robertson, Tranter, Thomson** and **Taylor**.

### VISIT BY COL P. E. A. CHADDOCK

K Troop was visited by Commander 4 Sig Gp, **Col Chaddock**. The visit went off without a hitch, other than the RSM and **SSgt Fitzpatrick** having to hold the tent down which the wind had threatened to turn into a Hanglider. This did not prevent **Cpl Bob Maxted** from stealing the show with his now familiar Fibre Optics Demo. Also on the scene was **Sig Kevin Ingley** on the Battle Damage Repair (BDR) demonstration.

The visit also included a tour of the Wing Operations Centre (WOC) where **Cpl Rob Carter** was demonstrating Airfield Survival Measure Switching. The Technicians of K Troop, **Sgt** 'Spot' **Williamson** and **Cpl Steven 'Rolley' Christie** were also out in force with Ptarmigan and Triffid on show. Well done to all K Troop members for all the hard work which made this a successful visit.

### TROOP FOOTBALL
### K TROOP (RAF WILDENRATH) v H TROOP (RAF BRUGGEN)

K Troop seeking revenge for defeat eight years ago by H Troop, started the game well winning most of the early possession, with **Cpl Les Crowder** and **Sig Nigel Penney**, taking advantage of some early chances and at the end of the first half had gained a well deserved lead by two goals to one.

The second half began with H Troop's **Cpl Bill McKeegan** leading an early assault, thereby reducing the deficit. The reply was quick in coming and with some fine play up front K Troop took control of the match scoring several more goals and eventually taking the honours eight goals to three thus extending the Troop's unbeaten run to three matches under the Management of the Troop Clerk **Mr Tom** (come on you Spurs) **Johns**. Italy here we come!

Well done to both Troops for providing a skilful and entertaining game played in good spirit. K Troop look forward to another return match at RAF Bruggen.

## L TROOP RAF LAARBRUCH
**'Bringing a touch of colour when all around is blue'**

### PERSONALITIES

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp OC** | **Capt Robin Seaword** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Terry Hague** |
| **Maint Sgt** | **Sgt Andy Elliott** |
| **Project Sgt** | **Sgt Rocky Hudson** |
| **Tech Sgt** | **Sgt Colin Brown** |
| **MT** | **Cpl Pete Rouse** |
| **Tp Clerk** | **Frau Busse** |

### HAILS AND FAREWELLS

We say goodbye in this issue to **SSgt Mick Denny** and his wife **Sue** on their posting to Benbecula; our thanks for all your hard work and much luck go with you. Our resident vegetarian, **Cpl Pete Lee**, leaves us for Shetland; **LCpl John** and **Linda Brennan** have departed for Cyprus and **Sig 'Scraggy' Scragg** had no sooner arrived then he left for Northern Ireland. All is not lost. We welcome **SSgt Terry Hague** and his wife **Diane, Cpl Charlie Rigg** and **Karen, LCpl Adrian Luckman** and **Gabriele** and **Sig Craig Wilson**. Very best wishes go to **LCpl 'Jacko' Jackson** and his wife **Vicky**, hope the trip 'South' goes quickly and much luck in your new posting to Bruggen (wherever that is).

### L TROOP RUNNING TEAM(S)
### RHEINDAHLEN FUN RUN
**by Cpl Bob Davis**

'Walk-on-water' Tp entered two teams for the annual 10km 'fun run': Team 1 of **Cpl Bob Davis, LCpl 'C J' Johnstone, LCpl Mitch Mitchell** and **Sig Wildman Wildish**; Team 2 of **Capt** 'Old man' **Seaword, SSgt Mick Denny, Sgt Rocky Hudson** and **Mrs Sue Denny**. The day started cold and windy, but the heat of competition was soon felt by all the 289 runners. Team 1 came a very close second to an RAF team from Wildenrath and congratulations go to **LCpl 'CJ' Johnstone** and **LCpl Mitchell** for their ninth and tenth placings, **Capt Seaword**—fifth 'Vet' and **Sue Denny**'s fifth placed lady—well done everyone for a good day's running!

### BISMARCK RELAYS
**by LCpl Mitch Mitchell**

The Troop also entered a team in the 13th Bismarck Relay with a little help from **Cpl James** (3 Sqn Clerk) and **Sig Jervis** (M Troop). The team consisted of **Cpls Bob Davis, James, LCpls Mitch Mitchell, Chris Kelly, Sig Wildman Wildish** and **Jervis**. The day got off to a bad start with the demise of the M Troop Sherpa and a detour to Soest for fuel (faulty fuel gauge as well!). We arrived after four hours and another detour around Herford at the Maresfield Barracks venue. After a very hard race our team finished 13th of 42 teams—a creditable result.

### THE GODDE TROPHY CROSS COUNTRY

Part of the Station Cup Competition, this year's event saw a very large field of runners brave the hazards of the Boar Wood. The Troop ran 'en masse' and improved on last years result by finishing third overall.

### THE RING ROAD CHALLENGE

This event was run once a month last year and consisted of a staggered start 10km road run around the Laarbruch perimeter. Congratulations to the overall winner, **LCpl 'C J' Johnstone** (one of our Royal Engineers) who had a best time of 34 mins 22 secs but had less runs to count. The 'Boss' ran away with the Veterans' prize; all prizes were presented by **SSgt Mick Denny** and the whole thing starts again shortly.

### 854 TROOP (V) CAMP

Our volunteer sister Troop 854 Tp of 81 Sig Sqn (V) came out this year to participate for the first time in an RAF Maxeval Exercise. This was valuable experience for everyone involved, with all 26 visitors taking an active part in learning and carrying out their war role—they demonstrated a high degree of expertise and great enthusiasm. After the exercise, the TA worked alongside L Troop soldiers completing airfield projects—the installation of new cables, rewiring buildings, maintaining cable and installations, maintenance and fitting new terminal equipments.

Not all their time was spent working however, L Troop managed to inflict a 5—0 defeat on the visitors at football. The 854 boys tried everything including replacing all 11 players but to no avail. Ten volunteers managed to take time off from their busy schedule to have a glider flight over the base. Their last day was concluded with a warm-up visit to a local Schnapps Brennerei before suffering another defeat at the hands of the Troop in a games night. Finally, thank you for all your hard work. We look forward to your next visit and a continuing association.

### EXERCISE DECI BAIL

Ex Deci Bail which involved the OC **Capt Seaword** and **LCpl Chris Kelly** of the Troop, together with three other members of the Squadron **(Sgt Piper, Cpl Rogers** and **Sig Dickinson)**, trekking across Sardinia, climbing Monte Linas and generally making everyone else in the Troop jealous. Tales of hardship and the sight of **Chris Kelly**'s ragged feet were bad enough, but the book-length PXR and hundreds of photographs were just too much!



OC 854 Sig Tp Capt Bob Manifold and his 'merrie men'

### EXERCISE ICE WARRIOR

Ex Ice Warrior was an escape and evasion exercise held during the period 27 November to 1 December. It involved personnel from both 1 and 2 Sqns together with a limited participation from HQ Sqn and 26 Sqn RAF Regt from RAF Laarbruch. The exercise was the brain child of the 2IC of 2 Sqn, **Capt Graham McNeill**, who for weeks before had, single-handedly, arranged communications, locations, players, transport, helicopter and canine support, and a host of other matters. In true Corps fashion he managed to hide the majority of this information from all players until the last two working days before Startex.

To provide a challenge to both runners and hunters, the exercise area was chosen as the rolling woodland of the northern Eifel region. This gave a degree of cover for the runners, plus a few hills to run up and water obstacles to cross. The exercise also eventually involved the local populace, who were convinced that a mass prison breakout had occurred.

### A HUNTER'S VIEW

In order to give the hunters a fair chance of capturing at least some of the 60 runners, despite having a strength of some 130 men, we also used both RPC and RAF Police dogs and handlers, Image Itensifier Weapon Sights (IWS) for after dark and two Puma helicopters. Our thanks go to 13 Sig Regt for the Pioneer assistance and RAF Gutersloh for dogs and Pumas.

**Maj Dick Good** and **WO2 (SSM) Paul Symth** of 1 Sqn headed a team of DS who ensured fair play. Their other role was to act as 'friendly agents' for the runners, and through a chain of nightly RVs gave a limited amount of tinned food and directions to follow on their unmarked 'escape maps'.

Once captured, a reception committee at the Hunter Force HQ 'hosted' prisoners for around four hours, giving them hot tea and biscuits, before handing them over to the DS for release back in the field. This cell was to have been run by **WO2 (SSM) Pete Bradbury**, following his experiences of terrorising pre-SSgt and Det Comd courses at 30 Sig Regt, but due to a case of broken leg, this task was passed onto **SSgt (FofS) Neil Henly** of Roetgen and **SSgt (FofS) Sheppard** of 2 Sqn.

Long hours of operations in sub-zero temperatures and mobile patrols were undertaken by four Platoons, commanded by **Capts King** and **Holms** and **SSgts Butch Bragg** and **Steve Barrington**. These platoons did the capturing of the runners, assisted by the noses, and teeth, of the dogs.

All in all an enjoyable and somewhat difference exercise for everyone, and our thanks go to the HQ Sqn caterers for providing the hot food and drinks needed in the cold conditions.

### THE RUNNERS TALE

The runners tale began early on Monday 27 November with a round robin of subjects designed to give us an insight into such fine arts as survival navigation, equipment improvisation, agent contact and RV drills plus first aid.

Come the promised lunch break (a subsequent 'Red Herring') we were herded into the Squadron tea bar, where, we were told in no uncertain terms by **SSM Paul Smyth** that the exercise had begun and we were to stay put! Well we did, that is until some of us decided that the first RV was the automats in the 24 hours NAAFI. Off they went through a side door which was conveniently left open, only to be sent scuttling back at the sight of the 'Special Agents'.

The afternoon developed into a strip search followed by us nervously climbing into our escape uniform which consisted of a norgy shirt, jersey, coveralls, BCH, poncho and tobacco tin. Once our escape tins were checked for blow up bars of chocolate and fold away duvets we were placed into closed down four ton vehicles and driven to our respective drop off points.

### THE RUN

Pre-run nerves soon melted away as the distances from the drop off point (DOP) increased. For most of us the first night was uneventful with only two runners being caught. The first RV was approximately 10km from the DOP, and this had to be reached by last light on Tuesday 28 November. The mild weather on Monday gave way to bitterly cold conditions which were to last for the rest of the exercise. On Tuesday evening, after most of us had made the first contact, the hunter force started to take its toll, with 18 runners being caught in such 'remote' locations as a schnell imbiss and telephone boxes. The small town of Eicherschied will take a while to recover. A small point to note at this stage is the 'first' capture of **SSgt (YofS) 'Rambet' McHugh**, a crate goes to **Sig Forsyth** 2 Sqn. From the prisoner reception area a strange cry was heard 'where did Wingate go to?'

Wednesday came with a blast of cold dry weather, again the runners 'laid up' in such rough locations as barns, kitchen floors, cellars and (still waiting confirmation) **Lt Stocker** in the Officers' Mess at a local barracks. The hunter force however had become increasingly clever in their capture techniques to the extent that **LCpl** 'Del boy' **Kavanagh** was observed being 'escorted' out of a local farmers kitchen complete with attached kitchen table.

Meanwhile back at the prisoner reception centre another group of runners expertly led by **SSgt (YofS) McHugh** had been caught (again), once more the strange sound was heard 'has anybody seen Wingate'!

By Thursday most of us had managed to make it to the area of the final RV, 'had anybody seen Wingate?' The only problem with reaching the RV was getting through the constant stream of vehicles that were patrolling the area. Eventually at last light on Thursday 30 November the exercise ended with all the runners being transported back to the reception area for a welcome hot meal and brew. 'Had anybody seen Wingate?' Thanks must go to 2IC, 2 Sqn **Capt Graham McNeill** and all the back up crew who together made the exercise a very demanding and rewarding one. A happy note at the end; 'some had seen Wingate' (200m down the road from the reception area doing a good impression of a local navvie).

### EXERCISE HICKLING'S HIKE

0500 hrs, one cold, November, Monday morning 4 Sqn sat awaiting their fate. The Squadron Commander **Capt Andy Hickling** had called an exercise for all Squadron personnel but prior briefings had been vague, to say the least, and the red herrings which had been thrown in had left everybody totally confused. Having been told to parade in civilian clothes the Squadron sat in the tea bar discussing previous experiences in hushed whispers, the tension evident. Enter the Sqn Comd—complete silence! An initiative exercise was to take place over the next five days with varying tasks designed to test the ingenuity and stamina of everyone concerned. All ranks in the Squadron soon departed with the only proviso—that they returned, five days hence, at 1000 hrs.

With the tasks including appearing on TV, getting the autographs of various celebrities and visiting as many countries as possible, the challenge to all was stiff. Within a couple of hours the 13 three man groups had spread to the four corners of the earth—or so we thought. As it turned out all the groups bar one headed for the UK, although the group headed by **LCpl Pete Gait** did arrive in Blighty via Sicily. The Air Trooping Flight which left RAF Wildenrath on the Monday lunch-time looked more like a Squadron moving back to the UK on a permanent basis although the coffers of the RAF indulgence system certainly benefited.

Once in England most headed for London although **Sig Jimmy Burns** was heard to say—'London, isn't that in Soho?', much to the disgust of the more cultured members of his group! The Houses of Parliament, BBC TV, Fortress Wapping (The Sun) and the Union Jack Club soon became over-run by persistent squaddies.

It soon become clear that the hardest task for those in London was not to appear on TV but to get to the highest point possible on land. The two obvious targets ie the National Westminster building and the British Telecom tower were both 'guarded' by security personnel drawn exclusively from the unsmiling, Guards Regiments. The appearances on television will not be recorded in the annals of their history although the appearance of **LCpl Ian Webster** and cohorts in an edition of Tomorrow's World, **Sig Simon Staddon** and **Ako Atkinson** on Channel 4's 'The Right to Reply' were more forgettable



LCpl Pete Gait, Sig Simon Staddon and Aki Atkinson with Kenny Everitt having survived Sardinia and the Sunday Sport

than most. However, bravery awards must go to three of the senior members of the Squadron who endured one hour of Derek Jameson to appear for five seconds in the studio audience of a SKY TV production.

Autograph hunting proved a very enjoyable task from some groups with **Cpl Mick MacDonald, Sig Vince Prince** and **Gary Wilsea** not only gaining the apparent financial support of a little-known MP but also having tea and biscuits with Michael Caine and Roger Moore in a very respectable London hotel. However, an appearance on Page nine of the Daily Star was their coup-de-grace, although enlisting the rest of the Squadron in raising a million pounds was not the most popular move of the week.

As the week drew on and the tasks were completed thoughts turned—over a pint of beer in the Wellington!—to the journey back to RAF Wildenrath. Even more modes of travel were employed for the return but for those back in camp it was definitely a shock when all had returned by the cut-off time except for two groups and they were well en-route.

The exercise was enjoyed by everyone who took part, although bank manager's may have something to say later in the month. Everybody returned with recollections, souvenirs and their faith restored, to some degree, in human nature. However, could the duration next year be two weeks!



Comedian Gary Wilmott with the Wellington Pub drinking team of Sig Mark Wylde, Cpl Harry Fellows, Sig Wally Walledge, Sig Al Worthing, Cpl Baz Hardman and LCpl Spike Poole

**VISIT OF THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**

On 7 December 1989 the leader of Her Majesty's Opposition, **The Right Honourable Neil Kinnock MP**, visited 21 Sig Regt during his visit to RAF Germany. He was accompanied by the CinC RAF Germany, **Air Marshal Sir Roger Palin KCB, OBE** and the Commander 4 Sig Gp, **Col P. E. A. Chaddock**. After a short briefing by the CO, **Lt Col Philip Whitemore, Mr Kinnock** saw a demonstration of traditional and modern skills used by the Regiment's Tele Mechs on the four Main Operating Bases in Germany. These demonstrations were laid on by the Wildenrath Airfield Troop under the command of **Capt Mick Bailes. Mr Kinnock** tried his hand at repairing a 100 pair cable,



LCpl Robbo Robinson introduces Cpl John Collins, Sig Willie Rushton, Gary Roberts and Andy McMorran to Mr Kinnock



Cpl Les Crowder finds Mr Kinnock is 'hot stuff' when sealing a 100 pair cable joint

blowing a fibre bundle through a micro-bore tube and carrying out a fusion splice on two fibres, a very delicate operation.

He was then shown a static display of the Regiment's tactical communications which deploy in support of both the Harrier and Support Helicopter Forces. The display included Trunk Node 40 commanded by **Lt Ashley Stocker**, a Harrier access node commanded by **Capt Graham McNeill** and a Support Helicopter Flying Site terminal commanded by **Cpl Watts**.

The visit was an unqualified success with **Mr Kinnock** displaying a deep interest in the technical complexity of our communications task. However, he made a point of talking to all the soldiers and was keen to hear of the human aspects of service life.

Was it coincidence that the only two Army Units **Mr Kinnock** visited were the BAOR Rugby finalists 21 Sig Regt (Air Support) and 1 RWF!

**BACK TO SCHOOL**

On Monday 18 December 1989, the CO Lt Col Phillip Whitemore, together with soldiers and families of the Regiment, visited the Erich Kastner School at Singhofen near Koblenz.

On return to barracks the CO was approached with a view to maintaining this association. Since then the school has been 'adopted' by the Regiment and our Christmas visit has become a regular item on the Regiment's 'Forecast of Events'. After a very enjoyable day when presents were distributed, the CO presented the School with a cheque for DM1000.

It was now time for the children to leave for home but the teachers invited us to the local sports club and kindly entertained us there.



The helicopter pilot, Maj Ken Bailey, WO2 Joe Fairbairn and members of 3 and 4 Sqns with Father Christmas and the children of Erich Kastener School



# 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) BFPO 35

**RHQ PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Comd** | **Lt Col Arthur Merrick** |
| **Dep Comd** | **Maj Hugh Goodman** |
| **Adjt** | **Capt C. C. Richards** |
| **Ops Offr** | **Capt Jack Cowen** |
| **Tech Adjt** | **Capt Adrian Pearce** |
| **RSM** | **WO1 (RSM) Bob O'Hara** |
| **Regt YofS** | **WO1 (YofS) Jim Williamson** |
| **Regt FofS** | **WO1 (FofS) Colin Turner** |
| **ORQMS** | **WO2 (ORQMS) Chris Martin** |
| **ORS** | **Sgt Pete Street** |
| **ORC** | **Cpl Mark Allen** |
| **Filing and Despatch** | **Sig Paul Mason** |
| | **Sig Stevie Brown** |
| **Typists** | **Judie and Julie** |

**NEWS FROM HQ**

We said farewell to the Adjutant, **Capt Andrew Trimble** who has been posted to HQ Arty, 1 (BR) Corps. We wish him, his wife **Daryl** and his newly born son **Patrick** all the best in their new Unit. In his place we welcome **Capt C. C. Richards** from 16 Sig Regt.

**Cpl Mark Allen** is welcomed into the Orderly Room in his new post as ORC in RHQ.

**ONE SQUADRON**
**SHQ**

The Squadron has said farewell to the OC **Maj Alan Evans**, who has left for MOD. We wish him and **Hilary** all the best. In his place we welcome **Maj David Jones** and his wife **Rachel**.

**GOLF TROOP**
**NEW ARRIVALS**

Golf Tp has welcomed yet another Troop OC: **Lt Jacky Foster**, who has walked across the corridor from Foxtrot Tp. The Troop also welcomes **Cpl Taff Shane** and his wife **Dawn**, who have come from 2 Div, and **LCpl Elgenia** and his wife **Jackie**, who have flown in from sunny Cyprus. We hope that they all have a successful tour.

We wish to congratulate **Sgt 'Max' Maxted** and his wife **Vanessa** on the birth of their third child: a very large baby son, **Stephen**.

**DEPARTURES**

The Troop said farewell to **Cpl 'Jenks' Jenkinson**, who has moved down the road to 16 Sig Regt, and to **LCpl Sue Goodwin** who left us to start her training as an officer. All of us in Golf Tp wish them the very best of luck.

**FOXTROT TROOP**
**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

There has been quite a hectic change-over in the Troop lately, even all the way to the top, with the loss of **Lt Jacky Foster**, who has left us to walk across the corridor to Golf Tp, closely followed by **Cpl Davie Coleman**.

Other farewells are to **LCpl Andy Jones** and his wife **Lisa** and to **Cpl Bob Crossley** and **Helga**, who are all off to 21 Sig Regt. Goodbye to **Cpl Mark Compton** and **Mary** and **Cpl Dave Toulson** and **Lesley Joan**, who are all going back to the UK farewell and goodluck to all of you in the future,.

Welcome to the Troop for **2Lt Debbie Wadsworth**, we hope you enjoy your time in the chair.

Other new members are **Cpl Bryant** and his wife **Anke** and **Cpl Inman** and his wife **Kathleen**.

**VISIT OF MAJ GEN R. F. L. COOK**

The recent visit of the SOinC, **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook**, provided the chance for Foxtrot Tp, in its role as executive switch, to deploy on to the Regimental Square.

This display for the SOinC also provided the opportunity for the new Troop Comd, **2Lt Wadsworth**, and the new Sqn 2IC, **Capt John Floyd**, to see the Troop set up for an exercise.

The SOinC was given a quick briefing on each installation and then spoke to nearly every member of the Troop. This event gave **LCpl Cook** an opportunity to practise his photography, and let's hope that next time his flash doesn't let him down!



The SOinC, Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook, talking to Cpl Jim Yule. 2Lt Debbie Wadsworth on right



The SOinC with SSgt (FofS) Terry Norman, SSgt Smithson and Maj Alan Evans

**2 SQUADRON**

The Squadron says farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Barry Lewis** and his wife **Sandra** and wish him well in his new appointment as RQMS at Scarborough Signals Training Centre. In his place we welcome the new SSM, **WO2 (SSM) Carl Clark-Darby** and his wife **Lisa** who join us from 38 Sig Regt (V).

Just to prove how good we are in 2 Sqn the new SSM has been selected for promotion to Warrant Officer Class 1 after only one week in the job!

We also welcome the return of the Squadron fish after their winter break in **SSgt Joe Harris**'s pond.

**OSCAR TROOP**

Oscar Tp has been doing rather well on the sporting front recently, with wins in the Regimental BFT and cross country competitions, (we might even let another Troop win something one day).

The Regimental Boxing Team (consisting mainly of Oscar Tp) beat 16 Sig Regt in a closely fought RCZ semi-final. Good luck in the final against 21 Sig Regt.

Goodbyes from the Troop to the following: **Cpls Kenny Sappleton, Neil Buckingham, Greg Sharp, Steve Easter, Paul Woodruff, Sig Ginge Anderson** and **Lee Street**.

Hello to all new members too numerous to mention by name.

Congratulations to **Sgt Martyn Littlewood** and his wife **Lorraine** on the birth of their daughter, **Cheryl Anne**.

**PAPA TROOP**
**COMINGS AND GOINGS**

The 'Management' (**Lt Paul King, SSgt Joe Harris** and **Sgt Jon Duckworth**) are amending the Troop nominal rolls at such a rate that they can only fit in one sports afternoon a week.

Farewell and good wishes to **LCpl Craig Auld** (happy penguin hunting), **Sig Ty Devlin** and **Bruce Forsythe** who go to 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt respectively.

Welcome from Catterick **Sig Blakey, McKenzie, Downey, Pinnock** and **Dyre**. We would also like to welcome into the fold members of SHQ who have finally seen how the other half live.

Congratulations from Papa Tp to **SSM 'C-D' Clarke Darby** on promotion to Warrant Officer Class One. Also to **LCpl Palmer** on his substantive promotion.

**TO BUSINESS . . .**

**Sig Downey, Pinnock** and **McKenzie** hope to see more of the Regiment than just the front gate, **LCpl Weir** hopes to get this own room, **Cpl Harris** hopes everyone in the block keeps their rooms in a decent state, **Sgt Duckworth** hopes to complete a Combat Survival course without getting savaged (again!) by any RRF 'catchers' on Escape and Evasion exercise, **Staff Harris** hopes (vainly) that the Grecian 2000 maintains the present state of his crowning glory, everybody hopes **Lt King** will stop smoking.

**SUPPORT SQUADRON**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sqn Comd** | **Maj Peter Robinson** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Keith Jones RPC** |
| **QM (Tech)** | **Maj George Clark** |
| **QM (Admin)** | **Maj (Retd) Colin Stephens** |
| **UAO/Pmr** | **Capt Vic MacDonald-Evans of Denovan RAPC** |
| **LAD** | **Capt Jane Wintermeyer REME** |
| **RMTO** | **Lt Mick Davis** |
| **TOT** | **Capt John Phillips** |
| **Trg Offr** | **Capt Julian Bunce** |
| **SSM** | **SSgt Alex Turner** |

(Apologies to those whose names do not appear. A guaranteed way to get your name in print, of course, is to write the notes.)

**COMINGS AND GOINGS**

During the last few months there have been a number of departures and arrivals in the Squadron. The first and leaver of the largest hole was **WO2 (SSM) Bill Woodmason** who decided that after 22 years—plus service that civilian life beckoned, he will be sorely missed by all members of the Squadron and Regiment alike. We all wish **Bill, Hazel** and their family every good fortune and success in their new life. In the interim **SSgt Alex Turner** has half released, only half, the SQMS reins and is ably filling the SSM slot prior to his posting to 16 Sig Regt. **Capt Nick Keen**, and his bride **Pam**, left for the delights of HQ NW District leaving the Training Wing in the canoeing hands of **Capt Julian Bunce** (an officer who can fit more canoeing and work into one day than would seem humanly possible). **WO2 Brian Parkhill** is keeping his efficient eye on these canoeings and goings—it just isn't football is it? **Capt Rod Gladwin** who, over the past two years has built the PRI into an organisation that would do credit to any large hypermarket, has left us to take-up the post of QM 35 Sig Regt (V) leaving **Capt Keith Jones** a man of many hats to manage the PRI before the next 'officer plot' comes into force. **Cpl Kev Butler**, the Regimental Postie, decided that there was life after the daily mail run and has gone to join the Cadre at 11 Sig Regt.

Finally and on a very sad note our condolences to **Mrs Shirley Boyle**, her son and daughter on the loss of her husband, **Maj Jack Boyle**, our late Squadron Commander.


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## 30 Sig Regt Blandford Camp

**NEW YEAR HONOURS**

Congratulations to the Commanding Officer **Lt Col G. N. Donaldson OBE** and the Adjutant **Capt Phillipa A. Owens MBE** on their awards in the New Years Honours List.

Also to **SSgt (YofS) C. K. Luckham BEM**, who has left us for 211 Sig Sqn BAOR and **Sgt C. L. Johnson BEM** for their achievements.

The awards are a reflection of the outstanding work of all those who took part in the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group Namibia, South West Africa.



Lt Col G. N. Donaldson and Capt Philippa Owens

**WAR GRAVES IN THAILAND**
**by Cpl Bob Elkins**

Ex Siamese Diamond was a 7 Armd Bde Sig Sqn adventurous training exercise held in Thailand during which it was decided to visit the Jeath War Museum set up at the end of the Second World War and run by the local Buddhist monks.

There are three main war cemeteries, one at Kanchanburi, one across the river at Chungkai and the third is at Thandyuzayat in Burma.

There are over 160 known members of the Corps buried at the two cemetries the team visited. **Cpl Elkins** with the help of **Capt Hudson** and **Cpl Hayes** photographed all the memorials dedicated to the members of the Corps and had them mounted in an album.

The Album, cataloguing the war graves, was presented by **Cpl Elkins** on 15 January 1990 to **Maj Gen R. Benbow CB**, who accepted the gift on behalf of the Corps Museum.



Grave of Dvr S. D. Bray

**COMMANDER 2 SIGNAL BRIGADE FAREWELL VISIT**

**Brig J. O. C. Alexander OBE** visited the Regiment on 11 December 1989 to say his farewells before leaving his post as Comd 2 Sig Bde.

The Brigadier spent the morning talking to the Troops, many of whom had recently returned from the operation in Namibia.

At lunchtime **Sgt Andrew Foster** was presented with his LS & GC Medal by the Brigadier in the presence of his wife **Sonja** and children **David** and **Angela**.

Finally the RSM handed over the 30 Sig Regt flag flown whilst on Op Prosperous to show the Regiment's appreciation of the Brigadier's support throughout his command.



LS & GC presentation: Brig J. O. C. Alexander, Sonja Foster, Sgt Andrew Foster and their children Angela and David



RSM Peter Hayward hands over the 30 Sig Regt flag to Brig Alexander

**RETURN FROM NAMIBIA**
**by Lt John Adams**

So much for the luxury club class flights that everyone was expecting. The penultimate group to return from Namibia chartered not a British Airways Jumbo, but instead they hitched a lift with Brize Norton's favourite airline. Their Hercules landed on time in the early hours at RAF Lyneham.

A press conference had been organised to greet the returnees as they arrived back at Blandford. The last two vehicles still painted in United Nations white were used as a backdrop against which the returning Troops posed for eager photographers and cameramen. **Capt Alistair Beard** obliged by re-enacting several emotional reunions with his fiancee until the press' appetite had been satisfied. Eventually **Cpl Fenelley** and the rest of the lads were allowed to start their well-earned leave.

We should spare a thought for the handful of the contingent who are still in Namibia. **Lt Col Andy Widdett** and his small team will be staying put as signal advisors to the Force Commander of the Military Component of UNTAG for a little longer. However we hope to see them back in April.

Now is perhaps a good time to look back over the past 10 months and reflect upon both the changes that have taken place in Namibia

and the work done by the British contingent.

Originally the soldiers of 30 Sig Regt deployed with the primary role of providing rear links from the three Infantry Battalions spread over the country back to the Force HQ in the capital, Windhoek. However, since the initial deployment in April 1989, the contingent has performed many additional tasks.

The technicians took on the mammoth task of fitting some of the UN's many vehicles with Motorola VHF and HF radios. In the space of a few weeks over 500 fits were completed.

Operators from the Regiment were loaned to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to man his HF stations during the massive operation to return more than 40,000 refugees to Namibia. This meant providing communications into Lusaka, Lubango, Luanda and Geneva.

There was an additional requirement to provide an HF air tasking net. This was important in a country the size of Namibia, where the most convenient way to travel is on one of the frequent flights in Spanish crewed transport aircraft or Italian crewed helicopters.

The telephone system in the country was very limited, particularly in the north where the long running border war had been fought. Nevertheless, UN Civilian Police and military monitors amongst others required reliable communications with their bases in remote areas of the north east and north west. Radio relay operators and technicians from the Regiment took over the redundant South African radio relay equipment and managed to provide a reasonable service for the users.

Perhaps the busiest time for the whole contingent was the build up to the elections in November. The voting took place over five days in polling stations which travelled to the remotest villages. At all times these polling stations had to be able to communicate with their respective electoral headquarters. It was from these headquarters that we controlled VHF and HF nets enabling all polling teams to be contacted. At times this job was frustrating and it was almost, always hectic. However perseverance and tact by the signallers controlling the net, particularly when dealing with people who had a very poor grasp of English, ensured that the communications and the elections worked successfully. In the final count, it was announced that over 98% of those registered voted.

One of the most rewarding aspects of working with the UN in Namibia was the chance to meet and work with people from over 100 countries. As might be expected, the British and Australian contingents formed very close links and many friendships were forged. However, slightly more surprising was the ease with which good working relationships evolved with Eastern Bloc members of the UN, especially those from Poland.

It is true that after six months, almost everyone was keen to get back to UK. However, I am sure that those members of the Regiment who managed to complete a tour in Namibia will count themselves lucky. It was a chance to put to the test the training and hard work practised in Blandford. In the event the success of UNTAG depended very largely on communications and amply demonstrated the professionalism of the soldiers involved.



'Boon' the tame Baboon guarding the det at Oshakati



Cpl Les Waite 'at home'



Full Ballot Boxes waiting to be counted in Ovamboland



Lt John Adams and Cpl Fenelly at 'Election Control' in Oshakati



# 31 Sig Regt (V)
# Hammersmith

The New Year not only brought in a new decade, it also heralded the arrival of an action-packed intensive training programme for the build up to Ex Calm Fence 1990. In order to get our priorities in the right order the CO, **Lt Col Lionel French** decided that a management conference weekend was needed early in January. All the Officers and SNCOs assembled in Crowborough Training Camp for the two day event. Noted for their absence were 47 Sqn SNCOs who had previously organised a Squadron skiing trip to Europe; they said that they had actually found some snow! Whilst the Officers turned their minds to Ex Calm Fence 1990 the SNCOs, led by the RSM, spent Saturday vigorously rehearsing a range of military skills which included an assault course. **FofS Ray White** was particularly enthusiastic about this as it had been some time since he had done one! On the Saturday night the Officers, led by **Maj Alan Duncan** enjoyed a guided tour of a nearby Vinery, followed by dinner. Meanwhile the SNCOs remained behind to dine in our new RSM, **Mr Ferry**.

20-21 January saw us on exercise with comms working well. It was mainly TAC based apart from two radio relays one from 47 sited in a Garden Centre, much to the curiosity of the shoppers (the owner was so impressed, he has asked them back as a special attraction). 41 Sqn sited their radio relay on Wimbledon Common a few yards away from the start of an orienteering competition but **LCpl Pete Trayner** declined to enter as he was polishing his vehicle after an entanglement with a line crossing at Southfields TAC which was not quite high enough for a Triffid! During the exercise, 47 SSM, **WO2 Keefe** showed his aptitude as a cook/spud-peeler, ably assisted by the 2IC, **Maj Keith Bruce-Smith**, and Ops Officer **Capt Linda Coe**.

The Brigade exercise on 2/4 February was held this year in Leek where we met up with our sister Regiments 33 and 35. Whilst some got stuck into the exercise others carried out recces for a future Brigade exercise. However, **Capt Andrew Cornish** and **Sgt Kim Burt** spent much of Saturday on the hardshoulder of the motorway.

**83 SQUADRON**

The last few months at Southfields have seen some ups and downs.
The Christmas party brought the ups despite hung-over frowns,
Whilst Line Tp caused the crashing downs as drainpipes hit the floor,
Watch out!, duck now, well that was close, just don't stand by the door.
The Troop OC was dumbstruck, it really was a shame,
He's only just assumed command, and now he'd get the blame.
'Where's that duty lineman gone?' he confidently cried,
'Sorry **Mr Russell**' came the giggling reply—
He saw what happened to the pipe and ran off to his truck,
So OC Line just stared ahead and cursed his awful luck.
He's not the only recent one to join the Squadron Mess,
The 2IC of A Troop also joins us too no less,
A migrant from an OTC, **Clare Runnicle**'s her name,
Yet another Subaltern on the road to fame.
But B Troop just won't be left out and now has changed OC's,
We say 'farewell' **Mike Atkinson**, and please return the keys,
And say 'hello' **Lt Wyatt**, or **Richard** to his friends,
Recruiting hard despite the woes of demographic trends.
He has a new Troop 2IC, **Sam Todman** is her name,
Yet another legal fiend, our lives won't be the same.
Christmas really went quite well, the party was a blur,
Disco, food and lots of wine and voices heard to slur,
The Squadron Sergeant Major, or **Graham Brain** by day,
Made sure that all enjoyed themselves and even joined the fray,
**Lt Guy** of Lester made the raffle what it was,
Whilst A Troop sold the tickets and watched the door because,
The OC and the 2IC were hosting Mr Mayor,
As B Troop entertained the rest with all their usual flair.
So New Year came and quietly went—and Exercise at last!,
Storm Warning was its formal name, and storm relief the task,
What an omen it became with gales and rain to come,
The BBC now want our help to forecast April's sun!
Preparing for our Summer Camp now looms ahead of us,
So off to sunny Leek we went, aboard a great big bus,
The CP's were kept busy as the war game surged ahead,
The Dtg's just did their stuff in green and never red.
The stores are being ordered and plans are being planned,
An exercise a month they say will keep the switchboards jammed,
Our Triffid Radio Relay Ops will keep us all in touch,
So now the thought of getting comms won't bother us as much,
The lineman with their cable drums will keep us all plugged in,
The techs and Foreman in the mux, will make sure that we win,
So come on Summer, do your worst, Calm Fence is on its way,
We'll be ready to do our best and triumph on the day,
83 will hold its own for that's what it does best,
And whilst in horizontal mode, will still support the rest.



OK—who dropped the OC's contact lenses?



Sig Stokes 'Honest, Sarge I don't know how all those fag ends got there.' (Sgt Harding inspecting)



Lt Mike Atkinson contemplating the merits of the new Euromux

**47 SQUADRON**

New members include **Lt Mike Atkinson** OC F Troop, previously with B Troop, 83 Sqn; **Lt Felicity Bowden**, 2IC P Troop; **2Lt Steve Maddison**, 2IC G Troop; and **2Lt Richard Taylor**, 2IC F Troop.

Welcome to the Squadron.

The Sqn OC **Maj Chris Mote**, is currently enduring the hardships of Staff College at Camberley, and we wish him well in his studies. Meanwhile the 2IC, **Capt Tony Rose** is getting more grey hairs!

**41 SQUADRON**

The Christmas party was successfully organised by **Cpls Nick Tuck** and **Martyn Crabb. Sig Steve Shanahan, Steve McAuliffe, Mike Sinclair** and **Pte Karran Scarborough** always keen party goers were the first to volunteer to help with the preparations. **Sgt Kim Burt** was our MC for the evening and could not resist a wry smile when our OC **Maj Ian Christie** won the raffle and was presented with a sports bag.

**HQ SQUADRON**

Farewell to **WO2 (FofS) Graham Wood** with many thanks for all his help in the past and welcome to **SSgt (FofS) Lloyd Bowlby.** Welcome to **Capt Gordon Scott** who is OC Support Tp and under reorganisation with **Cpls 'Dinger' Bell** and **Paul Burton** who are now running the recruit training at Hammersmith.

**BASIC SIGNALLING SKILLS COURSE**

During the weekend 13-14 January 12 members of the Regiment took part in a Basic Signalling Skills (BSSC) in the following subjects:-

*First Aid*—How to rescue members of the Regiment after eating **Cpl Shaws** 'compo' breakfast.
*Voice Procedure*—How to get maximum leave from work to attend annual camp by:
*Rhythm*—By speaking to your boss in a Rhythmic manner and mesmerising him into agreeing with your wishes.
*Speed*—Speak so quick that he didn't quite get it all. But when 'collared' after the event you swear blind what you said was what you got.
*Volume*—Speak so loud you 'scare' him into obedience.
*Pitch*—Speak in such a high pitched voice that they worry about your health and give you time off to recuperate on camp.
*Electronic Warfare*—How to dodge paying your TV Licence, Electric bill and stuff like that.
*Electrical Safety*—How to dodge that iron, kettle, frying pan (electric) or is it flying pan? thrown by an angry spouse/girlfriend/boyfriend who thinks you are spending too many weekends with the TA (or the Training Major who thinks you are not spending enough).
*Generators*—If you fail Electronic Warfare you may need one to restore power.
*Switchboard*—How to avoid all those messy boardroom dramas by not getting your 'wires' crossed (or delivered by subscription).

After a weekend of intense study (and long walks) and concentration the following passed with flying colours:-

HQ Sqn—**Ptes Blake, Pearce, Kiernan** and **Sig Wort.** 41 Sqn—**Pte Blakelock** and **Sig Clarke.** 83 Sqn—**Pte Miller** and **Sig Godfrey.** 47 Sqn—**Pte Golden, Sig Haynes** and **Pte S'Ari.** RHQ—**Sig Sabre** (YofS's dog).

**SOUTHFIELDS TAC BURNS NIGHT SUPPER**

The two resident Scots Admin Officers, **Capts Jim Adam** and **George Devine** master-minded the Annual Burns Supper, an informal occasion which has become one of the main events in the social calendar. This year we were honoured by the presence of **Maj Gen W. T. Macfarlane CB** and **Mrs Macfarlane,** and with the traditional haggis, cock a leekie soup and Scottish Country dancing etc. **Capt Jim Adam** opened the proceedings with the Selkirk Grace after the guests had been piped into dinner and the meal which followed was superb, thanks to **Mr Schnable** our chef. **George Devine** addressed the haggis in ringing tones and it looked so good that it was almost a pity to eat it. **Maj (Retd) Jim Allan** had done his homework, doing the bard proud in his speech on the Immortal Memory and **Maj (Retd) Jim Mill** was no less impressive in his toast to the lassies. The star of the show, in her reply for the lassies, was **Mrs Madaleine Southey** whose address began by noting that not only was she a Southerner but she was also from South of the Thames. However the audience forgave her that, and loudly applauded her sparkling speech.

As the poet said, 'The night drave on wi' sangs and clatter', helped along by liberal doses of that lethal brew—Athol Brose. The Scottish Country Dancing started with a great deal more enthusiasm than skill—(something to do with the Athol Brose). **Maj Keith Bruce-Smith** tried to teach them but to little avail. **Maj Gen Macfarlane** and **Mrs Macfarlane** were in the thick of it, impressing us with their stamina and fleetness of foot. It was a thoroughly successful Burns Supper night.



Lt Col Conrad Graham throwing his weight around



Mrs Margaret Devine with Maj Gen Macfarlane and Mrs Macfarlane



# 32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)
# Glasgow

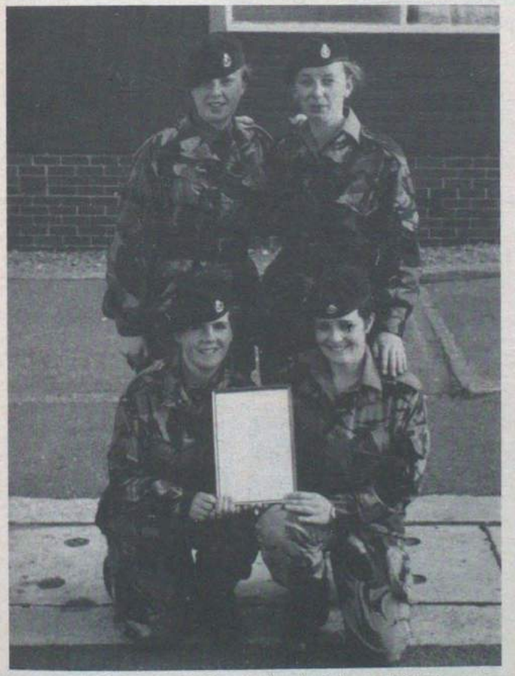
**52 (LOWLAND) SIGNAL SQUADRON**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj David Harvey** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Fiona Farquharson** |
| **AO** | **Capt Nick Nicholas** |
| **OC Mould Tp** | **Lt Roddy Sutherland** |
| **OC Conrad/Bde Tp** | **2Lt Pauline D'Arcy** |
| **OC TAOR Tp** | **2Lt Jackie Campbell** |
| **OC TAOR Tp** | **2Lt Shona McCallum** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Derek Bowstead** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Tam Padden BEM** |
| **PSI** | **Sgt Smudge Smith** |

**SUMMER CAMP**

Summer Camp this year saw the Squadron based at Saighton Camp Chester. Whilst Mould Tp, under the coordination of **SSgt Terry McVey** and **Tech Sgt Phil Skene** toured around Cheshire, our WRAC Det collected generators in an attempt to power what seemed like the Blackpool Illuminations. However all was not lost as their attempt secured them the presentation by the CO **Lt Col Michael Anderson** of a framed signal as evidence that communications had indeed been successful.

Things have now returned to normal within and we continue with trade training and military training interspersed with high activity from **LCpl Steve McVey** as he shouts instructions on early morning PT in the dark; aerobics from **SSgt Karen Swan** is proving to the men that yes they too can get those limbs moving; fun and games at Faslane Sports Drome; and a sense of humour testing at the RMR Endurance Course whilst breaking the ice in chest high water.



Lassies from 52 Sqn display their framed signal
*(Left to right):* Sgt Jean Thomson and Sgt Fiona Smith
*In front:* LCpl Carol McGurn and Sgt Karen Swan
*Absent:* 2Lt Pauline D'Arcy



Mould Tp comes down to earth

**FAREWELLS AND NEW ARRIVALS**

We take this opportunity to say goodbye to **WO2 Derek Bowstead** and to thank him for all the time and effort put into the Squadron over the past few years. **WO2 Ron Taylor** takes over and we congratulate him on his promotion.

Thanks also to **Sgt Smudge Smith** for stepping in as Squadron PSI over the past few months and welcome back to **SSgt John Lamb** who returns having been on loan to our Edinburgh Squadron.

We warmly welcome **2Lt Shona McCallum** into the Squadron from Glasgow UOTC and wish her all good fortune with us.

**SGT NEIL MEMORIAL TROPHY**

In memory of her husband **Robert, Isobel Neil** has presented a Shield to be given annually to the Sergeant or Staff Sergeant who has contributed most thoughout the year. Congratulations this year go jointly to **SSgt Terry McVey** of 52 Sqn and **SSgt John Taylor** of HQ Sqn.



SSgts Terry McVey and John Taylor having been presented with the Sgt Neil Memorial Shield

**HEADQUARTER SQUADRON**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Ann Sweeney** |
| **Paymaster** | **Maj Tim Straton TD RAPC (V)** |
| **Doctor** | **Capt Fiona Davidson RAMC (V)** |
| **Doctor** | **Capt Susan Langridge RAMC (V)** |
| **Padre** | **Maj John Silcox** |
| **TOT** | **Capt Dave Watt** |
| **QM (V)** | **Capt Chris McEwan** |
| **OC LAD** | **Capt Willie Cunningham REME (V)** |
| **OC RRTT** | **Capt Jim Sims** |
| **NRPS/AO** | **WO1 Ron Hamilton** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Rab Campbell** |

HQ Sqn have had a fair mixture of exercises over recent months. In June Ex Walk About, a military training exercise was 'midgied off' when we came under the frenzied and vicious attack of a million of the Argyll beasties. However plan 'B' was put into action and an enjoyable if somewhat different exercise took place, proving that 'flexibility' is always the name of the game.

August saw the Squadron on Incheailloch, an island in Loch Lomond, participating in various water sports including canoeing, water skiing and perfecting the art of falling off a sail board.

In September we went to Annual Camp at Altcar, where HQ Sqn was perpetually busy keeping the Regiment ticking over.

HQ Sqn are presently collecting silverware. The first piece was collected when **LCpl Mary Connor** (MT Section) was awarded the Myers Cup for the best young soldier of the year. It then went on to win the Whistler Bowl awarded to the best Squadron of the year.

In November the LAD added to the collection by winning the EMERs Section in Ex Scottish Bluebell.

**NEW ARRIVALS**

Welcome to our two new MOs **Capt Fiona Davidson** and **Capt Susan Langridge.**

**FAREWELL**

We bid a fond farewell to our outgoing MO **Maj Jack Mulhearn,** who served with us for many years. We wish him all the best.

**OFFICER TRAINING**

We have started the new decade in style. We hosted our first Dinner Night in January and amongst the guests were **Councillor Robert Logan** from Glasgow City Council and **Capt Toby Elliott** from the Polaris Base at Faslane. Word has it that members of the Regiment will soon be going to sea—well at least under it. The CO, **Lt Col Michael Anderson** has now put Scottish Country Dancing on the Officers training programme and the first session had us all reeling away at Cultybraggan. A new dance combination has formed as a result—the Bill and Ben Duo. We gather little 'Weed' can be found longing to join in from somewhere in the QM, **Capt Mick Besant**'s area. We are now into our Burns' Night celebrations and to both absent and friends away from us we say 'Haste ye Back'.



LCpl Sam Fraser hitching a free ride from a passing sail board

## 33 Sig Regt (V)
## Liverpool

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **CO** | **Lt Col D. G. W. Gardiner** |
| **Trg Major** | **Maj P. J. Bowles** |
| **QM** | **Maj R. Fortune BEM** |
| **Adjt** | **Capt D. J. Poole MBE** |
| **RSM** | **WO1 (RSM) J. J. Dent** |

The Regiment has returned to the serious business of meeting the TA training programme for 1990. This started with the annual mobilisation exercise which practises our volunteer soldiers in reporting procedures, check of clothing and equipment and documentation update. The rest of the weekend was spent moving into field locations for a comms exercise to 'blow the cobwebs' out of the equipment and sort out other problems.

All in all the whole exercise went extremely well which is a good start to the exercise year.

**VISITS**

**C-IN-C UKLF**

On Tuesday 5 December the Commander-in-Chief UKLF, **Gen Sir Charles Huxtable KCB CBE ADC** visited the Regiment accompanied by the Bde Comd 11 Sig Bde (V) **Brig Conrad Garton.** The General received a briefing on the Regiment and its numerous activities from the CO, **Lt Col David Gardiner** and then escorted by **Maj Derek Beckett TD,** visited HQ Sqn training in the Drill Hall. Following on from this he visited 59 Sig Sqn (V) at Edge Lane where he was welcomed by the OC, **Maj Stan Quayle TD.** Here he toured the TA Centre and saw a demonstration of communication equipment. Finally the General joined the Officers and SNCOs of the Liverpool Squadrons for a curry supper in the Officers' Mess.

**MR SEAN HUGHES MP**

The opposition Defence spokesman and MP for Knowsley South visited the Regiment on Saturday 20 January 1990. He was met by the CO and RSM at our Regimental Headquarters at Huyton and given a briefing on the Regiment's role and activities.

He toured the TA Centre and saw members of HQ Sqn participating in the regimental mobilisation exercise. He then moved on to 59 Sig Sqn (V) based at Edge Lane where he was invited to see a communication equipment display and meet Squadron Officers and soldiers.



The CinC UKLF meets SSgt (SQMS) Alan Proudlove who is a NRPS member of 59 Sig Sqn (V)



Cpl Eileen Halliday (a Regimental marathon runner) discusses her TA role with the CinC



He returned to Huyton for lunch in the Sergeants' Mess with members of HQ Sqn.

**PRESENTATION TO CANCER RESEARCH**

**LCpl Robert Conteh** who is currently serving with 59 Sig Sqn (V) (Liverpool) together with **LCpl Kevin Prince,** from 4 Div Sig Regt, presented a cheque for £2,000 to **Carol Fell,** Area Appeals Organiser for the Cancer Research Campaign on 11 December 1989.

The money had been raised by colleagues of **LCpl Conteh** in 4 Div Sig Regt as a result of holding sponsored events and who he had served with before becoming ill with cancer.

Readers will be very pleased to hear that after surgery **Robert** is now back on duty and feeling fit.

A letter of thanks has been received from the Cancer Research Appeal Organisation praising the efforts of all those concerned.



OC HQ Sqn, Maj Alan Gibbs, descibes MOBEX procedure to Mr Sean Hughes MP with WO2 Tommy Watkinson *(right)*

## 34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V)
## Middlesbrough

**'OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE'—THEY WORK AT CATTERICK/ HARROGATE AND JOIN 34 SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)**

Pictured here are just a few of the 'old guard' that enhance the Regiment's professionalism with their ex-regular experience. Their 200 or so years of combined Army experience is furthered by their civilian employment on the staff of the Army Apprentices College and 8 Sig Regt Trade Training School.



*Pictured from Left to Right:* Capt Bob Holmes—Tech Instructor (8 Sig Regt), Capt (Tfc) Mick Thornton—Op Instructor (AA College), Sgt Trev Alderton—Civ Tech (8 Sig Regt), WO2 (YofS) Keith Finch—Op Instructor (8 Sig Regt), WO2 (YofS) Keith Bark—Op Instructor (AA College), WO2 (FofS) Carl Bulter—Tech Instructor (8 Sig Regt), WO2 (YofS) Alan Watts—Higher Instructional Officer (8 Sig Regt), SSgt Terry Buss—Op Instructor (AA College) and Capt Peter Skinner—Op Instructor (AA College)

**SPOTLIGHT ON 45 (WR) SIGNAL SQUADRON (LEEDS)**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj C. P. Pickles WRAC (V)** |
| **2IC** | **Capt A. M. Grindrod R Signals (V)** |
| **PSAO** | **Capt G. G. Bonner R Signals (V)** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) M. I. Wilson R Signals (V)** |
| **PSI** | **SSgt S. A. Read R Signals** |

**A VERY SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

**Maj Clare Pickles,** OC 49 (WR) Sig Sqn (V) proudly presented a cheque to **Mr Garry Lemm** on Tuesday 30 January for the grand sum of £1,000 for Guide Dogs for the Blind. The money will pay for the training of a very handsome young golden labrador. The idea was the brainchild of **SSgt Mick Pollard** who, with the help and support of the whole Squadron, masterminded the raising of the money.

A variety of activities took place starting with a sponsored half marathon and fun run last May. During the following months raffles, charity auctions and individual donations enabled the Squadron to achieve the target of £1,000. Special mention must be made of the members of the Junior Ranks Club and the enthusiasm with which they supported the cause.

**Mr Garry Lemm** came to receive the cheque accompanied by his two German shepherds, Sonya (now retired) and Fresco his present guide dog. He received a further surprise when **SSgt Pollard** announced that a very special visit had been arranged for him to fulfil a seemingly unattainable boyhood dream. **SSgt Pollard** arranged for **Mr Lemms** to visit the Royal Irish Hussars at Catterick where he would be given a ride in a Chieftan Tank. Congratulations and thanks to all those who took part in the fund raising. 49 Sqn is proud to be able to give the gift of independence to a blind person.

And what will the dog be called? Jimmy of course!



*Pictured from Left to Right:* SSgts Mick Pollard, Jason Lattiebeaudiere, SSgt Ian Myers and Mr Garry Lemm

# 35 Sig Regt (V)
# Sutton Coldfield

**A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF**

The Regiment has ended an eventful decade with an extremely active and successful year which bustled with various activities and events; notably the Regimental Tattoo at Drayton Manor Park, Annual Camp, a large number of exercises, some very prominent visitors, an Area Presentation and last but not least the remarkable and unique Ex Executive Stretch. After such intensive activity our thoughts turned to seasonal matters and relaxation (a word so rarely used in 1989 that the dictionary had to be consulted to remind us of it's true meaning). Not surprisingly, after such a busy year it was difficult to adjust to a short period of leisure and move into a lower gear. This problem was soon recognised by the CO (our spiritual mentor) who promptly appointed a Yoga of Signals and ordered a massive relaxation exercise. Needless to say the various Clubs and Messes throughout the Regiment quickly followed orders and began to organise and implement Meditation sessions. Shortly afterwards an air of contentment and tranquillity descended on all Squadrons and spirits were raised everywhere!

Not everyone remained tranquil though; in particular the Paymaster, **Maj Mike Gaffney**, remains agitated at his lack of success in disposing of surplus stocks of Regimental mugs and ties despite aggresive sales methods. He dismissed suggestions to give them away as Christmas presents as seasonal folly. Rumours abound that massive discounts are now available—but hurry as stocks are not expected to last beyond December 1999. The term 'Collective Arrangements' has also become a constant source of irritation to the Adjutant, **Capt Ian Dudding**, who has still not managed to convince our junior officers what it actually means. Meanwhile **WO1 Mick Boyle**, our MTWO, has learned to his dismay that cosha is not after all anything to do with a Jewish Diet although he wishes someone could remove the stomach ache it has given him. Joking apart we welcome the 1990s with great enthusiasm and are now anticipating the many challenges that no doubt lie ahead in what promises to be a most interesting decade.

**SEPIA—A MODERN MYSTERY**

Lost—or misplaced after annual camp—a large consignment of Sepia photographs. Perhaps lost in transit now included in someone's treasured photograph album or gathering dust in the box in which they were despatched to some obscure location just waiting to be re-discovered. The mystery deepens; will it ever be solved? Who or what holds the solution? Is it a devious plot to undermine the efforts of the photographic industry? Have the missing photographs been framed? Who holds the key to the cabinet in which they are held? Can we expect a ransom note? Over to you Holmes?

**SAVOURY PIECES FROM THE SQUADRONS**
**48 SQUADRON**

The author of the following notes wishes to remain anonymous as he has clearly placed 48 Sqn in an enviable position of excellence that will surely be hard to follow. We will endeavour to protect his identity to prevent him from being Pulverised!

**EVEN MORE PRAISE**

Preparations for this years BAOR exercise started in earnest with Ex Inter City (a Regimental exercise). Further exercises are planned with a view to 48 Sqn maintaining its reputation as the best 'gulp' communication squadron in 11 Bde; which will again be proven in Germany later this year. The Squadron will also be entering a team in the 1990 Nijmegen March. Training for the event (which we expect to win) continues thanks to the efforts of the PSI **SSgt Dennis Jevons** and **2Lt Chris Heaton.**

Phew!

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Derek McConnell** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Suzy Reed** |
| **PSAO** | **Capt George Cairns** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Howard Sterry** |
| **OC V Tp** | **Lt Julian Webb** |
| **OC W Tp** | **2Lt Chris Heaton** |
| **PSI** | **SSgt Dennis Jevons** |
| **NRPS** | **SSgt Robert Heaselgrave** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Brian Hughes** |

**PAR(TY) EXCELLENCE**

The last decade was sounded out with a flourish, and the 1990s were heralded with relish by all at 48 Sqn. We are well known for the excellent social events the Squadron organises and the Christmas Party and Soldiers' Dinner proved the point once again. Special thanks must go to **Sgt Bagnall** and the committee for their excellent efforts. Special guests that headed a guest list of over 250 for the Christmas Party were **Lt Col David Dobson** and **WO1 (RSM) O'Hare.**

**COMINGS AND GOINGS**

The Squadron was delighted to welcome **Capt Suzie Reed,** our former Adjutant, to the post of 2IC. **Capt Reed** will be contining the fine work of the popular **Capt Harry Robinson,** whose departure to Birmingham University OTC will be remembered by all. The departure of **Lt Melanie Foster** to become OC LAD was met by the ceremonial treat of the 'tap', turning **Melanie**'s last night in the Squadron into a very cold and wet one.

**PROMOTIONS**

The following are to be congratulated on their recent promotions: **SSgt Peter Garratt** (also appointed FofS), **SSgt Brian Hughes** (also appointed SQMS), **Sgts John Bagnall, Margaret Hughes, Cpls Clive Chapman, Steve Daly, Diana Skehan, LCpls Raymond Blanchette, Carl Faulkner, Steve Hewitt** and **Tracy Walton.**

The promotion list also included two married couples.



Sepia—Could it be the guilty one lies hidden amongst this illustrious throng!



**AWARDS AND RECOGNITION FOR EXCELLENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

**2Lt Chris Heaton** is congratulated on receiving the award of 'Officer of the Year' in recognition of his fine performance in the Regiment. The Squadron's reputation for excellence was further enhanced by the performance of three soldiers who attended their B1 Triffid Course at Catterick. **LCpl Lee Vincent** took the award of top student and also achieved a 97% mark in his written exam. Not to be outdone **LCpl 'H' McLeod** scored 100% and passed with distinction together with **LCpl Raymond Blanchette,** who at the time was one of the few Signalmen on the course.

**89 SQUADRON (MOTTO 'INSPIRED BY INTIMIDATION')**
**BROTHERS IN ARMS**

You would be forgiven for being confused if you were confronted by the Bannigan brothers, all serving in 89 Sig Sqn. **Maj** 'I'm in charge' **Pat Bannigan** is the Squadron Commander, brother **Michael** is a LCpl RR Op and younger brother **Kevin** (the baby of the bunch) aspires to be a potential officer. Three brothers serving in the same Squadron, with elder brother as Squadron Commander, must surely be a first for the Regiment and perhaps for the TA! It doesn't always run smoothly though; **Michael** being a bit of a comic has (within the bounds of military discipline) been known to impersonate his brother **Pat** with hilarious consequences and new recruits are bewildered until they get to know who is who. The vehicle in which they travel to the TA Centre has been nicknamed the Banniwagen and the brothers collectively (Adjt please note) have also been nicknamed Triffid (Banni 1, Banni 2 and Banni 3). The last word goes to **Kevin** who says 'mum and **Pats** wife **Sarah** are the bosses at home'.

**AWARDS AND PROMOTIONS**

The following are congratulated on receiving Squadron Awards in recognition of outstanding performances and contribution to the well being of the Squadron throughout 1989 and where applicable on promotion: **Sgt Paul Fundak, Cpls Dave Butlin, Alan Vowles, Paula Mason, Debbie Adam, Alan Hawes, LCpl Lynn Coleman** and **Sig Colin Marshall** and last but not least special congratulations to **SSgt Charlie Walker** on being awarded the TA Efficiency Medal.



Brothers-in-Arms



Sgt Paul Fundak receiving his award for the Best Sporting Contribution



Cpl Dave Butlin delighted after his award for Best Overall Contribution

**CONGRATULATIONS AND COMMISERATIONS**

Many congratulations to **Cpl Alan** and **Cindy Hawes** on the birth of their baby boy, and commiserations to **Gayle Butlin** on having her tonsils removed at the tender age of (?)—keep on eating the ice-cream **Gayle**.

**WALES/WEST/SW DIST TA ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS**
**Reflections on the Event by Sgt Paul Fundak—Team Captain**

Halfway Forest in the middle of Sennybridge Training Area was definitely not a nice place to be on Sunday 11 February due to absolutely atrocious weather conditions with the high winds and heavy penetrating rain experienced by many parts of Britain. Unfortunately this was the venue for the Championships and we had to grin and bear it. The thought of wearing very light weight orienteering garments was looking less and less attractive but had to be endured. The event was made even more miserable by large numbers of wind-blown trees which blocked part of the course and obscured the view of others which made it difficult to distinguish between natural clearings and areas of wind-blown trees. Consequently because of a number of detours it was easy to become disoriented and running on a bearing became impossible. This was reflected in the slow overall times recorded during the competition. I began to feel somewhat guilty at having brought a relatively inexperienced team to what turned out to be a tough and severe competition and in inappropriate dress. Nevertheless they made a valiant effort in the face of adversity.

The finish was especially welcome, and the hot tea even more so. It turned out to be one of the most gruelling events I had entered in 15 years of orienteering. As for the results, it was clear after the retirement of two of our team that we would not be collecting any prizes and we failed to qualify for the UKLF Championships as a team. But top marks were given for team effort and spirit—it most certainly turned out to be a tough competition for equally tough individuals who serve throughout the TA and still manage to train for and enter these gruelling events.

All the following teams members are thanked for their efforts and dedication **Lt Hooper, 2Lts Barnes, Hyde, Sgt Purdy, Cpl Thomas, LCpls Pollock** and **Griffiths** and **Sig Blakemore.**

*FOOTNOTE*

*Contrary to the Team Captain's Report the results received from the Championship Organisers have confirmed that 89 Sig Sqn's team have qualified for the Army and UKLF Championships to be held 19-21 May 1990. Very well done to all team members!*

## 37 Sig Regt (V)
## Bristol

**FOCUS ON 53RD (WELSH) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)**

The Squadron's shooting team has had another good year at Bulford for the SW District SAAM. It won the Team Rifle, Team LMG and Falling Plate Competitions and was the Champion Team, it was also second in the Fire Team (Section Match) and contributed largely to 37 Sig Regt winning the Major Unit Championship. **Sgt 'Bonzo' Head** who captained the Squadron team came second overall in both the individual rifle and LMG competitions. He has been shortlisted to represent the Territorial Army Rifle team against the United States National Guard in America.

During the year the Squadron recruited four new Officers and, we welcome **2Lts David Watson, Gareth Davies, Andy Knott** and **Ashley Hayden**. 'Rupert' Tp is really complete now!

Camp was spent in September in the North of Scotland and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone! **SSgt Viv Joyce** was sent to man a detachment on a rock at the end of Fariad Head and was nearly blown away on several occasions.

**Sgt Nicky Neill** WRAC set up in an old Shack in the antenna field at Milltown, whilst **SSgt 'Geordie' Shields** went to Dounreay where he was horrified to find that drinking was strictly limited by the Navy—to non intoxicating beverages!

SHQ established itself in the very considerable comfort of Cameron Barracks, Inverness. A location of such popularity as demonstrated by the endless stream of refugees from RHQ!



'Maj Widgery I presume?'
RHQ finally tracks down OC 53 Sqn in Scotland


WHO FIGHTS FOR THE SOLDIER WHEN THE SOLDIER CAN'T FIGHT?



When a man has given his youth and strength to help us, it's our privilege and duty to help him and his loved ones when in need – even if he's still in the Service.

And when a Serviceman leaves the Army, Navy or Air Force, he and his family may have to face problems never encountered before. In fact, he may, in the defence of his country, have become disabled or have left behind a widow and children who desperately need advice and help.

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## 39 Sig Regt(SC) (V)
## City of London

**5 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Tim Hallchurch** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Nick Nichols** |
| **Ops Offr** | **Capt Marianne Needham-Bennet WRAC** |
| **PSAO** | **Capt Robbie Burns** |
| **OC Y Tp** | **Lt Graham Erskine** |
| **2IC Y Tp** | **2Lt Robert Stone** |
| **OC Z Tp** | **Lt Heather Collins WRAC** |
| **2IC Z Tp** | **SSgt John Marriott** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Stan Charles** |
| **NRPS** | **SSgt Brian Higgs** |
| **PSI Tech** | **Sgt Alex Scott** |
| **PSI Ops** | **Sgt Mo Johnson WRAC** |

**Report by Lt Graham Erskine**

The last thing I expected from **Maj Tim Hallchurch**, who will be known to many Corps members, was a request for 'a few paragraphs' for *The Wire*. Although I tried to impress upon him that I was the least qualified of his Officers to write this article, being newly transferred from an Infantry Battalion, he was adamant that one of the new boys fresh to 39 Regt should provide his first impressions.

Before I comment on my view of life in 39, allow me to quote **Capt Marrianne Needham-Bennet**, our Ops Officer, when asked to pen a few words about the new Officer recruits. "During my time with 5 Sqn there have never been more than three Officers so it is tremendous news that we have doubled our Officer strength. This follows from the addition of **Capt 'Nick' Nichols** from the Regular Royal Air Force, who is keen to get airborne again with our parachuting element; **Lt Graham Erskine** (yours truly) who, being a loud infantryman is always suggesting some good locations, not for radio sites, but for right and left flanking attacks on distant trees under cover of various munitions. He constantly wonders why everyone travels by Landrover between sites instead of tabbing and then he takes the new recruits off on map reading exercises bringing them back in someone else's car; and **2Lt Robert 'Shares' Stone** who can inform us of yesterday's movements on the Stock Exchange. These three will clearly bring a 'new look' to the Squadron." Well I did ask her!

During the last year the Squadron has had the good fortune to send detachments to BAOR, Denmark and to Cyprus. September saw eight members off to the Island of Aphrodite for a week. A rumour, put about by other members who spent that exercise on the Costa Del Stanbridge, that more time was spent on the beach than on communications was strongly denied by a bronzed **Lt Heather Collins**, the Radio Tp OC. Apart from the PSI (Tech) **Sgt Al Scott** mending an electric kettle, all went reasonably smoothly from the Cyprus end and, with the help of sun, sand and Keo, local radio training was carried out by **Cpl Debbie Brookes, Cpl Debbie Frankham** and **Pte Stephanie Payton** egged on by **Sgt George Alexander, Sgt Nancy Roy** and **LCpl Pete Morris**.

Other Regimental exercises included: Dogger Bank (which will be remembered as the exercise of 1989 after which things could only get better, when six of us attempted to operate four links on a 24 hour system); Runnel Stone in Denmark (when we practised communications and parachuting); and Farne Deep (which we shared with the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry). These were interspersed with Squadron level activities which are all happily remembered.

An additional exercise in the programme was Ex Fisher Bank. This was a military training 'competition' organised by the Regiment at Crowborough when 5 Sqn really excelled by providing first, second and fifth place teams. Activities ranged from water crossings and NBC to Trivial Pursuits, ensuring that mental and physical aspects were all provided for!

With another exercise looming in March, which will involve a detachment from Banbury going to Gibraltar while the rest of us enjoy the greenhouse effect, there are going to be lots of people drawing short straws.

Our most recent venture was to sample the excitements of the indoor 'urban' training at Swynnerton.

As can be seen from the photographs, our way of life in this TA Squadron is varied to say the least and we never waste a minute. All in all an absorbing and enjoyable part time career.



*(Left to right):* SSgt Douglas, Sgt Roy and WO2 (SSM) Charles find it is easier to laugh than to cry



Exercise Winter Fate:
Capt Nichols proving that a 7lb sledge hammer handle is weaker than Cpl Chalky Whites head



*(Left to right):* LCpl Dick Cherry and LCpl Gordon Shields inventing something

## TRAINING WING PERSONALITIES

| | |
|---|---|
| **Training Major** | **Maj Tony Elford** |
| **SSgt (YofS)** | **John Walesby** |
| **SSgt APVRO** | **Angie Bailey WRAC** |
| **SSgt** | **Mark Schofield** |

### THE WAY FORWARD

The Training Wing has been heavily involved in several projects which have included reorganising the training procedures and training weekends of which six have already taken place. These have been held as far apart as Dundee and Beaconsfield and have proved very successful towards qualifying the TA soldiers in their trade upgrading.

The Training Wing has seen a change in personalities in the past eight months. The new Training Major, **Maj Tony Elford**, arrived complete with pipe, rusty foreign car and a briefcase of jokes that only **Sgt Steve Dale** (PSI 1 Sqn) laughs at! The Wing sees him occasionally but only if his computer has crashed or the phone is disconnected! In June, after being promoted, **SSgt Mark Schofield** moved up the corridor from 1 Sqn into the Wing to fill a position which had been vacated by a WO2 (YofS) (he now knows why!). He has fitted in well after he managed to find himself a desk and chair.

Amongst his responsibilities he has been set the task of entering all training records on to a word processor. **SSgt Angie Bailey** volunteered to help and make it a joint venture which, without her computer expertise, would not have been possible. Along with that never-ending task he is busy rewriting a majority of the Regimental precis due to the new equipment which is unique to the Regiment and for which there are consequently none available from other sources. Along with records and precis to rewrite, thank God for the Amazonian rain forest! His posting lasts for three years so they should be complete by then! Needless to say the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Bob Brown** is banned from the word processor due to a small mistake (wiped disc clean).

**SSgt Angie Bailey** has spent many an hour down in the 'Black Hole' or 'Cold Hole', sorting out the personnel vetting of all soldiers. A course will be run in which instruction on the completion of vetting forms will be given, so that this may be achieved at the first attempt! This can lead to some pulling out of hair, depending especially on the temperature in the 'Cold Hole'.

Amongst **SSgt Angie Bailey**'s responsibilities is the booking of all Regimental movements. All favours have been used up by her at SBC London, haggling for flights and ferries to all corners of the world, so no more favours everybody. Can I have a return to Sydney please? No a single will be far better!

**SSgt (YofS) John Walesby** has been busy rewriting the RSTOs due to the major change over of radio equipment. This does take time but the Regiment will benefit greatly from his work. Along with that he has kept BT shares rising nicely, spending a great amount of time on the phone, booking training areas and locations both home and abroad for exercises which have included Denmark, Germany and Cyprus in the past year. Due to working hard (like all Yeoman of Signals) he has not found time for any fitness training so he has purchased a lovely pink mountain bike. He looks gorgeous modelling this superb piece of metal. The Wing is now renamed Training Wing/Bike Shed! There is, unfortunately, no room for his model train set.

A major change to the Wing also, has been the removal of a wall within, with grateful help from the Quartermaster **Maj Ron Collins**, who is pretty lethal with a hammer and screwdriver. A sad farewell was made to the carpet, the only carpet with a 'sell by date' on it, it was that dirty you had to walk uphill to get to the filing cabinet. The new one looks very much the same as the old one, the RSM is still waiting for his—QM take note.

Finally congratulations to **Maj Tony Elford** on promotion to Lt Col and a move to 16 Sig Regt in the future. Good Luck.

## TRAINING WEEKEND NORTH

**Report by WO1 (RSM) R. Brown**

Training Weekend North proved a great success for all who attended training but especially for the visiting training team who along with the Training Major—**Maj Tony Elford** sat down to a Regimental Dinner on the occasion of his dining out.

The weekend began with the RSM and **Sgt Ian Rogers** taking a left hand drive Bedford 4 ton receiver vehicle from London to Dundee in preparation for the training. The remainder of the PSI's were collected from British Rail Dundee in time to hit the local cafe with their biggest breakfast order for years—then **Sgt Ian Rogers** promptly doubled it.

The draw had been made for the PSI squash tournament to be held over the course of the three days. In fact such was the eagerness to give the '50 pence winner takes all entry fees' away that by 1730 hrs **Sgt Steve Dale** narrowly lost to the RSM in the final. This could well become a feature of future weekends with the RSM proposing an increase in entry fees.

Training began in earnest at 0900 hrs with the main event being the visit of GOC Scotland—**Lt Gen Sir John McMillan KCB, CBE.** The Squadron Commander of 2 Sqn **Maj Sandy Monks WRAC, WO2 (SSM) Jim Sturrock** and the **RSM** were discussing whether the visitor would be in kilt or not when **WO2 Jim Sturrock** had the brain wave of betting the RSM £1 that he would be wearing trousers—a bet quickly taken by an RSM who knew the GOC was a Gordon Highlander—I ask you, would he be in anything else? The visit, although only an hour, gave the opportunity for the Squadron to meet the GOC at their place of work.

To add spice to the weekend it coincided with the Scottish Cup clash of the two Dundee teams—a rather dull event as it turned out with the SFA arranging, thoughtfully, to have the replay on the next drill night. It may be an idea to send our training programme to the SFA as the last three Training Weekend Norths have seen a local derby on the Saturday.

The dinner began with photographs ably taken by **SSgt (ORQMS) Alan Gillard**, there was no order of seating other than to accommodate the Training Major's lack of height, all the 'tall people' got to stand at the back. A superb meal was prepared for us by **Mrs Ann Naismith (Capt Bill Naismith** 2 Sqns PSAO's better half) and 2 Sqn cooks. After the dinner a presentation of a pen set and plaque was made in an effort to wean the Training Major off his Amstrad before he gets to 16 Sig Regt. The joke told by the Training Major was not allowed to be printed due to the fact each unit is limited to only five pages in *The Wire*. After dinner festivities are best left as a memory to those who attended—suffice to say, it was a great evening. **Maj Elford** will be sadly missed by all the Regiment but in particular by the regulars—we wish you well in your command.



WO1 (RSM) Bob Brown presenting Maj Tony Elford with a memento of the Regiment





## VISIT OF COMMANDER 107 (ULSTER) BRIGADE

The Regiment had the pleasure of welcoming the Commander 107 (Ulster) Bde, **Brig C. J. M. Harrisson OBE**, on his first formal visit to the TAC at Clonaver Park.

The visit took place on a normal drill night on Tuesday, 16 January. He arrived at 2000 hrs and after discussions with the CO **Lt Col Ian Henderson**, he toured the TAC visiting various training activities. The tour ended with a visit to the Sergeants' Mess to meet the SNCOs, and supper with the Regimental Officers.

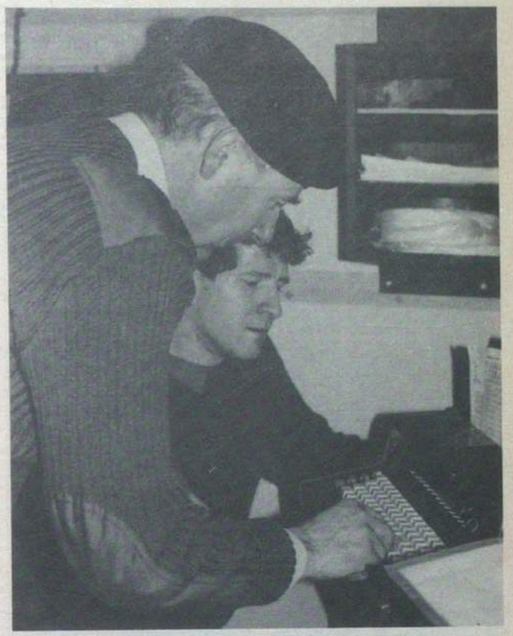


Commander 107 Bde, Brig Colin Harrisson chats to recruits during his visit to the Regiment

## GAGGLE OF HONORARY COLONELS

With the impending retirement of our Honorary Colonel, **Col Elliott Wilson**, the opportunity was taken to invite past Honorary Colonels, **Col Chris Lindsay**, **Col John McCann** and our proposed new Honorary Colonel, **Lt Col Sandy Cramsie** to lunch with the Officers on Sunday 4 February 1990.

On arrival they were given a brief on current equipment and role of the Regiment by the CO, followed by a tour of the TAC to meet members of the Regiment. The visit ended with an excellent lunch and a chance to chat to old friends and comrades. The lunch drinks were reinforced with a donation of some very acceptable 1976 Taylors Port donated by our QM (V) **Maj Joe Mitchell** to celebrate his 31 years of service in the Territorial Army.



'Can I have a go even if I only use one finger?' Commander 107 Bde tries to type a message on a trend teleprinter assisted by Cpl Stanley



Honorary Colonels past and present pose for the camera *(Left to right):* Cols Chris Lindsay, Elliot Wilson, Lt Col Sandy Cramsie and Col John McCann

**PASS OUT SURPRISE**

One of the Regiment's WRAC recruits, **Pte Joanne Jameson** got the shock of her life on her passing out parade at the WRAC Depot, Guildford on 24 January. During the 'eyes right' on the march past her eyes lit up when she spotted a familiar, dare we say it, elderly Officer standing close to the saluting dias in service dress. He turned out to be no less than our Paymaster—her grandfather, **Maj Jimmy Chambers.**

**Jimmy** had paid a visit to the depot, unknown to **Joanne**, to witness her passing out. Recruits from Northern Ireland rarely get visitors to the passing out parade due to the high travel costs.

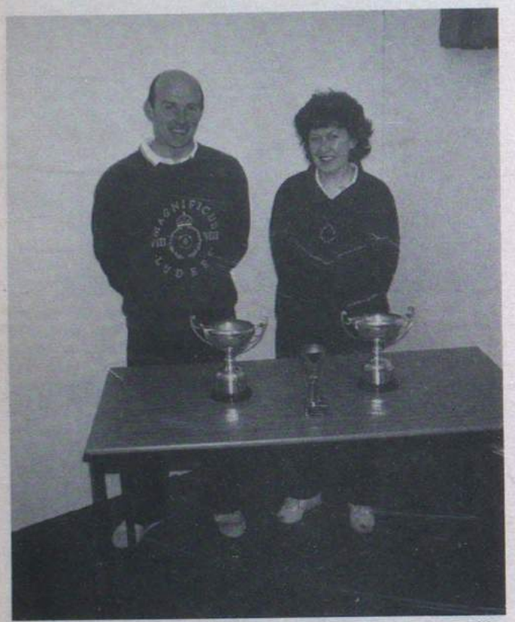
**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

**Maj Brian Hudson** has departed for 13 Sig Regt and we send him and his wife **Susan** all our best wishes for the future. A warm welcome is extended to **Capt Brian Peel** and his wife **Barbara** after his tour with 28 Sig Regt at NORTHAG.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations are extended to **SSgt Bernard Hume** on winning the men's singles competition in the Northern Ireland Badminton Championships 1989. Also to **Cpl Clasper** and **Sig Taylor** for picking up the men's doubles and **Sgt Collette Murray** and **Mrs R. James** who were runners-up in the ladies doubles.

Congratulations are also extended to **Pte Chris Perry ACC** who won the Champion Drill Prize at the TA 1/90 recruits course held at the Royal Irish Depot, Ballymena.



SSgt Bernard Hume and Sgt Collette Murray with their trophies from the Northern Ireland Badminton Championships 1989



Family affair. Paymaster Maj Jimmy Chambers with his grand-daughter Pte Joanne Jameson after her passing out parade at Guildford



Pte Chris Perry with his prize for Champion Drill Recruit won at the TA Recruits course at Ballymena



## 71 Sig Regt (V)
## Bexleyheath

**NEWS FROM THE TROOPS**
**882 and TAOR Troop, Harlow**

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp Comd** | **Lt Paul Wooler** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Dee Brooking** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt John Bell** |
| **PSI** | **Sgt Keith Bolton** |

**EXERCISE TARKARS ROOST—TROOP MILITARY TRAINING**

'Where's the cleaning wallet for your LMG?' enquired the Troop Commander. 'It's in the sand' came the reply. 'What are you talking about?' countered Troop Commander. 'I'm not being much help am I Sir?'.

**Lt Paul Wooler** had learned a lesson—don't fill in trenches in the dark until a complete kit and personnel check has been carried out. Half an hour after this exchange of words **Sig Gordon McKinnon** popped his head up from his second trench of the day with a somewhat sandy cleaning kit!

The Troop had deployed to the training area the night before with **LCpl Tony Perry** and his Section somehow navigating through the darkness to the sheep pen that would become their home. Everyone had to keep a look out for the enemy in the form of **SSgt Dee Brooking** and the others who 'must be shot on sight'.

The morning yomp to the defence site was more relaxed as everyone was certain that the enemy was bound to oversleep.

Digging began with **Sgt Brian Malyon** and **Peter Debnam** convinced the Troop Commander had it in for them as every other trench was to be dug in soft earth and sand—theirs was hard chalk!

The sand soon got the better of **LCpl Tony Perry** as the walls came crumbling down leaving his trench only 2ft deep but looking like a bomb crater! Eventually everyone was underground and ready for whatever the enemy could throw at them. The attack came with **SSgt Dee Brooking** leading **Cpl Sean Flanagan, Julie Basson** and **LCpl Sharon Burton.**

**Sig Mark Wood**, sharing a trench with the Troop Commander, found a novel way to blind him—just let off the illuminating flare by the trench and watch him disappear in a cloud of smoke.

With the enemy beaten back and running away, the Troop found it had to move to prepare to attack the enemy base. Their house had been recced, everyone briefed and all ready to go. **LCpl Richard Turnham**'s Section followed **Cpl John Taylor**'s into the smoke filled house and engaged in hand-to-hand fighting. With the enemy either dead or disarmed the searching and questioning of prisoners began. **Cpl Mick Fidgeon** soon found out that trying to search people while in full NBC kit is not easy. When he tried interrogating he found that easier.

'Grump ha krun snurf' he seemed to shout through his respirator. 'Mong shun snaffle' was the reply. 'It's OK, Sir, they're definitely not British. They don't speak a word of English'.

The exercise finished—it was time for the famous Troop barbecue and it was decided to let the enemy have some lunch, as they had cooked it.

**GOLF**

A friendly match took place at Cobtree Manor Golf Club between 71 Sig Regt and 36 Sig Regt on Wednesday 29 November.

The victors from the Regiment were: **WO1 Terry Curtis, SSgts John Atherton REME, Geoff Barrett, Frank Evans, Nigel Scott** and **Dave Mann**.

We look forward to a return game sometime in 1990 and thank 36 Regt for their hospitality.

We say farewell to: **WO2 (RQMS) Alan Hibberd, SSgts Bob Wade** and **Chris Webb.** All retiring into civilian life. We also bid farewell to:

**WO1 Dave Swann** on commissioning and **WO2 Tony Reynolds** on retirement.



Sig Brian Malyon digs in on the only chalk outcrop for miles



Cpl Mick Fidgeon listens to the football results while LCpl Terry Jones checks the pools coupon



Troop Commander, Lt Paul Wooler, finds that toes are useful when counting more than ten

# 265 Kent and County of London Yeomanry Sig Sqn

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sqn Comd** | **Maj David Hannam** |
| **2IC** | **Capt John Barber** |
| **PSO** | **Capt Jim Esson** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Danny Farmer** |
| **PSI** | **SSgt Bob Wilson** |

**WE'RE BACK SIR**

After a long absence from the pages of *The Wire* the Squadron returns with articles from all the Troops and a new management team. On the last day of Camp in September we said farewell to **Maj David Hewer** after two years in his appointment as OC HQ (KCLY) Sqn. He will be remembered for the sense of humour that his style of leadership gave and for reminding us that we can enjoy the TA despite a busy and demanding schedule. He is not far away as his new Squadron is also at Bexleyheath. We thank him for his service to 265 and wish him well in the future.

**ANNUAL CAMP 1989'**
**by Sig Paul Gibbs and Paul Owen**

In mid-September 890 Sig Tp deployed two detachments on the Brigade Ex Bright Fire One. Pangbourne Naval College Detachment, was under the command of **Sgt Keith Wrate** and RAOC Bramley Detachment was under **SSgt Pam Suddens.**

On their first evening the Pangbourne Det was delighted to find that the rations consisted solely of the chicken curry menu, causing **Sgt Wrate** some despair.

Venting exercise frustration was achieved with the erection of an official 'whingeing post' run by **Cpl Roly Simmons** and **Sig Tony Bagwell.**

Meanwhile in Bramley, just as det hygiene was becoming a problem the cavalry galloped over the hill in the form of an RAOC mobile shower unit back from the North African Desert.

Monday and Tuesday of the second week took on a more tactical flavour with a two day Squadron infantry exercise involving extensive use of APCs around the Longmoor training area. Enthusiastic performances came from **Cpl Geoff Masters, Cpl Debbie Castle** and **Sig 'Whitney' Houston.**

Wednesday was spent in Hawley Lake near Aldershot, designing and testing submersible rafts under the watchful eye of Royal Marines from HMS *Fearless*. A variety of range work on the Thursday culminated with the Patrol Competition on Friday, involving two speed marches, an NBC stand, the Longmoor assault course, a 30m pistol shoot and an imaginative first aid stand. Honours go to 884 Sig Tp under **Lt Simon Malik** and a special mention for the WRAC team under **Lt Gail Malik** and **2Lt Di Clare** for an excellent fifth place. A very productive and enjoyable camp.



Cpl Roly Simmons looking for his APC



Capt Jim Esson and SSgt Mick Mustoe trying to avoid being offered a ride on a Troop raft



Cpl Anne Duffy testing out the BFT course



**FORWARD (AND BACKWARDS) WITH THE SHARPSHOOTERS**
**From 905 Sig Tp**

One of the advantages of HF is its long range as the Squadron found in July on the mobile communication exercise Kentish Hop II. The Squadron CP holed up at Chickerell camp despatching 884 Sig Tp to Salisbury Plain, 890 Sig Tp to the Brecons (who says we never go abroad?) and 905 Sig Tp to Thetford.

Excellent weather and an order to Troop Leaders to devise their own training so long as they communicated with the Squadron CP made for a thoroughly enjoyable exercise.

In Thetford, 905 Tp rushed hither and thither with **LCpl Mark Precious** TAOR det deploying and establishing its site as fast as **Lt Huw Jones** and **SSgt Mark Penny** could recce new ones.

The Squadron's recruit team led by **2Lt Adrian Rabot** provided a live and aggressive enemy although the major danger was probably **LCpl Paul Read**'s stew with its mix of sausages, goulash, apple pudding and pilchards. Rumours of his impending transfer to the Paras have so far proved unfounded.

**TALES FROM SEASIDE TROOP**
**From 884 Sig Tp**

1989 proved an eventful year for the Troop. We held our Annual Bounty Dinner in April where a good time was had by all. Congratulations go to **LCpls McHenry, Vincent** and **Sig Costa** who all received trophies for their achievements during the year. In April 1989, **Lt Simon Malik** our Troop Commander captained the Squadron squash team to victory in the London District Competition.

The Troop took part in the Parham steam rally in June last year, providing a static display of communication equipment and apart from the recruiting carried out, Troop members had the opportunity to look around the wonderfully restored vehicles.

In August we entered an eight man team in the RMP Chichester march and completed the 40km in 5 hours and 45 mins. The girls' team completed the 25km route in a very respectable time. Well done to all those that took part.

Annual camp saw us at RAF St Mawgan in Cornwall and Taunton in Somerset. **Lt Gail Malik** and her St Mawgan det managed not only to look over a Nimrod and a USAF B52 bomber, but were able to communicate with the B52 as it flew home over 'the pond'. Our success in the Regimental Patrol Competition in week two of camp was followed up more recently by **LCpl Feather** being awarded the Lucy Trophy for the best performance by a male soldier/JNCO in the Squadron. He, together with the Squadron WRAC winner of the Moore Trophy **Cpl Alice Moulton,** was presented with his trophy at the Annual Dinner of the Kent Yeomanry Association held at St Martin's Plain Camp in October.

**WO2 Brian Eason** our PSI is enduring great hardship sailing across the Atlantic on the Corps yacht as part of Ex Atlantic Adventure. **Sgt Les Watts** from 890 Sig Tp was also involved and **Lt Simon** and **Lt Gail Malik** joined the exercise in the New Year—for the Carribean leg!



Lt Gail Malik, Cpl Burch, Pte Watson, Pte Pannell and LCpl Picken at the RMP Chichester march



Lt Simon Malik and his all-conquering 884 Sig Tp Patrol Race team



Maj David Hewer with members of the Kent Yeomanry Association visiting their 1940 positions in France

**FINALE**

We say farewell from 'The KCLY Mess' to the following: **SSgt Pete Weedon, Sgts Janice Powell, Ray Wenham, Stuart Hammond** and **Gerry Cogger.** They have all given great service to the Mess and to their Squadrons. Thank you. We welcome as our new Sqn Tfc Offr **Capt Tom Hardie-Forsyth.** We hope that he will find his role challenging and his expertise in many fields besides communication, should come in useful.

Congratulations again to the Squadron football team which won the London District Cup and also completed an unbeaten tour of BAOR last spring. Hosted in Herford by 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt we were looked after splendidly. Thanks to all those involved and see you all in May.



2Lt Adrian Rabot and his all star Squadron football team in Herford

## NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn
## BFPO 18

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Major Peter Hryhoruk** |
| **2IC** | **Lt Jan Verwoerd (RNLA)** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Ray Bruce** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 Bob Marshall** |
| **Chief Clerk** | **Sgt P. O'Brien** |
| **Typist** | **Miss Sabine Bijnens** |

After a year of more than 10 NATO exercises the Squadron is now busy receiving new communications equipment. However, for some sporting stalwarts, the call to fame was just too much . . .

**JOC 24 HOURS SPORTS MARATHON**

It had been decided to hold a 24 hour Sports Marathon in Tongeren in November. This was to raise funds for the local charity 'Mensen Helpen Mensen'. The date was set for 16 November and teams from the NL, GE, BE and RAF elements of the Joint Operation Centre Maastricht as well as a team from the NATO Programming Centre at Glons agreed to participate in addition to our own band of 'lean mean fighting machines!' Our own 'select band of volunteers' (Sorry just journalistic license!) consisted of: **SSgt Tony Doherty, 1Sgt John 'Allo Allo' Dupont (BEA), Stuffz Werner Debus (GEA), Sgt Paul Hubble, LCpl Gi Knowles, Kpl Hans Lacroix (RNLA), Kpl Michel De Graaff (RNLA), Sig Jimmy Rimmer and Sig Andy Andrews (Manager).**

After weeks of frantic activity training and raising sponsorship the great day dawned. The 24 hours was to be split into periods, based around 11 sports. The first event, cross country, was started by **Heer Jorissen** the Mayor of Tongeren. After a rousing start which placed us in third position overall, pressure, and the minus 2 temperature, as well as freezing rain, began to tell on our brave band.

Following the tennis, target golf, mini football, volleyball, basketball, unihockey, badminton and indoor cricket our team had slipped to 6th place. Despite this and fortified by stirring support from its red eyed manager **Sig Andy Andrews**, spirits had remained high throughout a very long cold night and at 0830 hrs 17 November the final event was upon us.

This last event was to be a punishing 30 minute aerobic session led by **Mrs Chris Rogers** wife of our own **Sgt Brian Rogers**. Following a gentle warm up the team managed a rousing cheer and donned sunglasses as **Mrs Rogers** revealed her dayglow, fluroescent aerobic outfit. That lifted morale! Twenty eight back breaking minutes later, **Sig Jimmy Rimmer,Sgt Paul Hubble, LCpl Gi Knowles** and **Kpl Hans Lacroix** all gave of their best. The final whistle brought a mighty cheer from the onlookers and a sigh of relief from the participants.

This fine effort was followed by a presentation and drinks in the International Bar and the eventual presentation of a cheque to the value of BF 151,000 to the charity. Our hall of fame photo shows our intrepid band at the conclusion of the event—well done.



The Team
*Back row (left to right):* Kpl Hans Lacroix, SU Werner Debus, LCpl Knowles, Sgt1 Dupont and Kpl De Graaff
*Front row (left to right):* SSgt Tony Doherty, Sig Andy Andrews, Jimmy Rimmer and Sgt Shooter 1st Class Hubble

**NASRS ANNUAL SKI CAMP—EXERCISE WINTER RELIC**
**A resumé by Cpl D. W. Oliver**

The 1990 Squadron Ski Camp, otherwise known as Ex Winter Relic, took place in the South East of the FRG. To be more accurate in the vicinity of the town of Reit im Winkl.

Despite the folklore of the area, that suggests that there is always snow from November to April—without fail—out pan-European party arrived in the Exercise base location to scenes of green fields and rain-puddled roads. Once settled in to the sumptuous hotel surroundings, minds and conversation were soon concentrating on the forthcoming 10 days skiing, starting with five days of tuition from civilian instructors.

Miraculously there was some snow on North facing slopes, although not very challenging to the more experienced dare-devil skiers, (to quote IC, **Maj Peter Hryhoruk**!).

The ski lessons proved very enjoyable to all and quite strenuous enough for the newcomers to the sport.

The week's instruction culminated in a grand-slalom competition where placings were separated by hundredths of a second. That evening, certificates and prizes were given to the victorious at a traditional Bavarian evening held in the hotel. With traditional German hangovers the following morning, most people opted not to ski over the weekend period at all, but to absorb some of the autumnal Alpine scenery, before returning to the flatlands of Belgium and the Netherlands.

The lack of snow was a disappointment so we now look forward to next season.

**HELLOS AND GOODBYES**

We have said farewell to our Chief Clerk of the last four years, **Sgt Rick Warne** and his wife **Sara**. We wish him good luck on his promotion and posting to 249 Sig Sqn AMF(L). A hearty welcome to **Sgt Pete O'Brien** and his family from 14 Sig Regt. We hope you enjoy your tour.



At Ski Camp



## 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Sig Sqn) Colchester

**THE SKI TEAM**

The Squadron ski training started with Ex Nordic Panther, (a ski 'holiday' in Norway, if you'd listened to the rest of the Squadron!).

We left Colchester, bound for Norway, via Folkstone—Bolougne ferry, (sorry—can't spell Boulo—what's its name!), at some ungodly hour of the morning of the 28 November 1989.

The long drive to Gol, in Norway, saw us stop off in Munster, West Germany, where we spent the night and renewed 'old' acquaintances with the 204 Sig Sqn Ski Team, (the 'old' is not directed at **SSgt Brian Tanner**, not intentionally anyway!).

We then continued the journey, Northwards, first calling at 14 Sig Regt, who looked after us kindly then on through Germany, Denmark, Sweden and arriving in Gol 55 hours after leaving Colchester.

On the morning of 1 December, the 'experienced' skiers amongst us, set about regaining our 'ski legs,' while **Lt Holden** and **Pte Rick Denton** were being gently introduced to the delights of 'Nordic'/cross country skiing. **Lt Holden** decided that jumping onto sharp rocks on the knees was much more fun than learning to ski.

Our first injury occurred when **Sig 'Banzai' Brookes** decided to see if terminal velocity was possible on cross-country skis, the tracks suddenly vanished, along with **Sig Brookes'**, land speed record attempt.

Due to the lack of snow, the 'downhill technique' part of the training had to be done on the downhill slopes at Hemsedal. It wouldn't have been so bad, but with the slopes being quite icy, it looked more like 'Boot Hill' than down hill, with bodies lying everywhere, (The 19 Bde piste 'Body Packing Club'). We decided that **LCpl Copley** is an ardent Beach Boy's fan due to the number of 'Wipe Outs' he had. We also managed to 'fit in' a number of training runs, and because of the lack of snow, skate training on roller skis along the roads. This wasn't too bad provided you watched out for the 'average' Norwegian driver (the 'average' Norwegian drivers seem to be rally drivers).

Back on snow, **Lt Holden** continued to jump off his skis on to rocks, progressing on to a downhill run, with a flying leap, crashing on to the hardest rock in the vicinity right on the knee cap. He had become quite proficient at this, until he found a rock harder than his knees, at this point he retired.

After three arduous weeks of training, we packed up and left Norway, homeward bound, stopping at Celle on the way, from there we drove to Galtur, Austria. There, we had a few days well earned rest and recuperation, before starting ski training again on Ex Noel Panther! There then followed a further two and a half weeks hard training. Plenty of uphill skating and rapid downhill, (19 Inf Banzai Bde).

At this point of the training, it was suggested (by the boss, **Capt 'Q' Quinlan**) that **LCpl Steve Mayell**'s uncanny ability to stay on his feet at high speeds, was probably due to his size. It was also suggested at this stage, that **Cpl Dixie Dean** with his large sized feet would find it easy to control the bits of wood that poked out of the front and the back of the boots.

The 4 Div Championships/UKLF (Ex Spartan Hike for UKLF) began in earnest on 15 January 1990 with the start of the individual 10km sprint. Our entry, **Sig Brookes** having just recovered from his injury to his knee in Norway, gave a creditable performance.

The 4 × 10km relay the next day gave us a good start to the competition, finishing as first Minor Unit. However the 4 × 7.5km Biathalon saw us wishing we had had a lot more shooting practice before we left the UK, we finished down the field but second UKLF Minor Unit.

In the 15km race we again finished as second UKLF Minor Unit, although good performances from the team overall, wasn't quite as good as the ones put in by 'the King's Div Depot'. The final race, the 'Military Patrol Race' was the last chance to beat the King's Div Depot and possibly take the UKLF Trophy.

A creditable performance was given by all, and I believe that at this point a special mention should be given to **Sgt Paul Morgan** for the 'gritty' performance he gave as the only novice in the patrol race team. Well done **Paul**, in fact well done everyone.

Although the King's Div Depot did beat us in the military patrol race and secured the winning place for the UKLF Minor Units Trophy, to which we say congratulations to them, we did finish second UKLF Minor Unit. Better luck next time lads and 'Watchout King's Div'.

**OSCAR TROOP**

November saw the departure of the Squadron Nordic Ski Teams to Norway for their Training Camp. This involved three members of the Troop: **Capt Richard Quinlan, Sgt Paul Morgan** and **Cpl Dixie Dean**. All enjoyed their time away and some notes on their experiences appear elsewhere courtesy of **Cpl Dean**.

For the remainder of the Troop during December and January it was much of the usual run of things. The Troop welcomed the arrival of **Sig Machin** and **Melling** in early December which boosted the Troop in barracks to about 10! We said farewell to **Sig Larry Lumsden** on posting to 2 Inf Div Sig Regt at York. We also lost **Sig** (The Cat) **Farrer** who joins the White Helmets Motorcycle Display Team, he was highly placed on the selection course.

January was going to be a busy month from the outset with preparation for Ex Flying Falcon and Four Taste in February. On 26 January the Troops skiers returned with many quips asking who these bronze-tanned new boys were! Since then we have been busy putting the final touches to our exercise preparations. This included Ex Panthers Charge which is our Squadron warm up exercise in the local area. It is generally agreed that this was the best ever Panthers Charge and the thanks of the Troop go to the Second in Command for leaving us to our own devices and the Yeoman of Signals for a flexible 'pink'. The congratulations of the Troop Commander go to the Troop on such a professional performance and he looks forward to continued professionalism in the year's forthcoming exercises.

**NOVEMBER TROOP**

We have a long term commitment whereby our JNCO instructors visit local CCFs, November Troop is committed to the larger part of this work. The Troop welcomed **LCpl Simon Brown** who arrived just in time to join in the programme.

As soon as we returned from our block leave, we were called to assist 1 Sqn RCT as members of 'Civ Pop'. This left the Chiefs **Lt Holden, SSgt Parry** and **Sgt Mitchell** with no indians. A new record in the depletion of Troop personnel.

Once everybody had returned from that exercise, it was all hands to the pumps to prepare for the next one. Ex Panthers Charge was the warm up to Flying Falcon and was completed successfully. The Troop performed well.

**LCpl Hitchen** and **Sig Milliken** were involved in the provision of emergency generators during the night of the December storm.

Welcome to **Cpl Tom Murray** and **Sig David Parkinson** who have arrived to swell the ranks of the Troop. Finally congratulations to **SSgt Parry** on the presentation of his LS & GC medal and to **LCpl Lloyd** on this promotion.

**PAPA TROOP**

We welcome back to the Troop to **LCpl Sid Mayell** and **Sig Steve Brooks** who have been away for a few months fighting for the glory of the Squadron on the ski slopes of Austria and Norway, and **Sig Sugden** back from Bessbrook.

Meanwhile camp life carried on as normal with **Cpl Jon Weighill** and various crews setting up the Tac HQ for the visits of CinC UKLF **Gen Sir Charles Huxtable**, GOC Eastern District; **Maj Gen W. A. Evans** as well as the new Brigade Commander **Brig Farrar Hockley**.

We would like to thank **Yeoman Prince** for providing background activities such as Pacex, Ex Panthers Charge, and Ex Abundant Antenna in which **Cpls Fozzie Foster** and **Pel Tubb**, and **LCpls Steve Beeney** and **Steve Whitfield** showed the Squadron how to set up a rebroadcast station.

Finally we wish good luck to **LCpl Steph Milner** who has gone to November Tp.

**TECH WORKSHOPS**

Radio Section started the new year in style, **Sgt Andy Davie** leading from the front, **Cpl Steve Armstrong** on his EPC, **LCpl Craig Brankin** with a new car and **LCpl Steve Hazlewood** working in the Mess. It just goes to show the Army can find a job to suit everyone's ability.

Systems Section has a new member. Quite an achievement in the Corps these days so welcome to **LCpl Mark Coombs**, we hope you enjoy your tour in Colchester. The rest of the Section have been busy, **Sgt Ade Eaton** is taking over from **Sgt Calum Downie**. **Cpls Martin Silvey** and **'Oggy' Ogden** go from one first line inspection to another while **Cpl Mather** makes new friends and influences people on his EPC course.

The Foreman is in Blandford on his refresher course (or is it his T3?) so **Sgt Andy Davie** is standing in for him, just sign this **Andy**, there's a good lad. See you all in BAOR for Flying Falcon.

## 238 (London) Sig Sqn
## Chelsea Barracks

**BATTLE CAMP**

Battle Camp for last September was cancelled at the 11th hour, when the Squadron was called upon to perform Ceremonial duties at a Military Funeral.

Not long after that a rumour was put about that a Battle Camp for male members only would take place in January 1990. It is said that a Sergeant whose surname begins with 'M' and finishes with 'atthews' not only started the rumour but was actually responsible for it becoming a reality.

It is most unusual for the Squadron to hold separate male and female training exercises, but to the great joy of the DS, the Squadron Commander, **Maj P. R. Dick-Peter**, gave his nod of approval.

The DS were working all hours God sent, in booking areas, scrounging additional weapons and ammo, planning the exercise and dreaming up a unique scenario for the 'Chappies'. The all important recce took place on 3 January. If the training area wasn't boggy enough already, no one was to imagine that the exercise dates would clash with the storms that swept the nation during the week 22-26 January.

The advance party of **Sgt 'JB' Bragg** and **Cpls Heal** and **'Brummy' Seaton** deployed on Monday morning to set up a DS/Ex HQ in a field location. The heavens were kind enough to remain closed whilst the 12 × 12s went up, even though **'Hamburger' Heal** insisted on mis-lacing the tents. It wasn't very long before the Kero heaters were pushing out the therms and the HPP lamps had us almost as bright as Blackpool. Midnight came and the heavens gave way to heavy rain. In simple terms the location was quite a mess by 1030 hrs on Tuesday when the Bedford carrying the Troops slid down the track. With a little verbal encouragement the two Sections de-bussed and took up all round defensive positions whilst Section Commanders received orders prior to moving on down to their Harbour locations.

Soon after, the Squadron Commander arrived, and, accompanied by the SSM, went to see his men as they settled into their new home. It was here that he came across **Sig 'Mark' Crompton**, lying face down with a puddle, on his back.

With Section A being DS'd by **Sgt Geoff Baldry** and Section B by **Sgt Steve** 'Chuckles' **Matthews**, the Troops soon came to realise that the weather was the least of their problems. A little friendly persuasion, direction and advice helped to promote 'Team Work' which resulted in a spirited performance by all.

As mentioned earlier, the weather was far from kind. **Sgt 'JB' Bragg** was, to say the least, more impressed to see his enemy, **SSM 'Gus' Hales**, most professionally rolling out of his fire position prior to moving. It was only when the rolling was obviously involuntary and the SSM was then almost sliced in the fence line that **Sgt Bragg** realised the SSM had literally been taken by the gale force wind. With wind, rain, gales, **Hales** and **Bragg**, surely the Blue forces were outnumbered.

Despite the extra long journey back to London, weaving in and out of overturned lorries on most roads, everyone looked forward to a hot shower, followed by debrief, and curry in the Bruno Club.

**Sig 'Jason' Malcolm**'s comment said it all:

'Sir, I've never been so tired in all my life. I'll never again whinge about Battle Camp being so easy. Bring back the WRAC—please.'

A vote of thanks must be given of **Sgt Steve** 'Chuckles' **Matthews** for the rumour and for co-ordinating the input and ideas from his fellow DS **Capt M. Knobel, WO2 (SSM) Hales, SSgt 'Geoff' Baldry, Sgt 'JB' Bragg, Cpls 'Taff' Bryant, Heal** and **'Brummy' Seaton**.

**EARLS COURT TOY FAIR 1990**

A Toy Fair! What was 238 Sig Sqn doing at a Toy Fair? Well, it was all in aid of the National Children's Home.

When we finally arrived there after the excellent driving prowess of **LCpl** 'Has it really been that long' **Buffery**, we went off in search of the so called organisers. Following the lead of **SSM 'Gus' Hales**, who was entrusted with the map, we found our designated aisles. To start with our group thought that it was a free for all ie grab as many toys as you can in 90 minutes but alas, you actually had to get down on bended knee and ask for the toys. So, as you can imagine, the start was a bit slow.

After half an hour things really picked up and the trolleys were overflowing; mind you they were nearly empty as **Pte Nora Shelley** wanted to take them all home. With only 20 minutes to go we cut down to two trolleys and still succeeded in filling them up, but it had nothing to do with **Cpl John Lynch**'s encouraging words.

All in all it was a good collection as there were several teams entered and by the end we had no problems filling a 40ft lorry container. We rounded off the trip with a cup of tea in the Press centre and were thanked by stars such as Joey from Bread and Diane Keen (Nescafe ad). **Pte Sue Day** hasn't been the same since Joey Boswell put his arm around her.



*(Left to right):* Ptes Deb Tugwell and Claire Hallam, SSM 'Gus' Hales, Pte Nora Shelley, Diane Keen, LCpl Buffery, 'Joey Boswell', Pte Sue Day, Cpl John Lynch, Nerys Hughes, LCpl Jock Plunkett and Capt Max Knobel

**OSCAR TROOP**

1989 was busy for the Troop but we did manage a number of social events.

We say goodbye to some members of Oscar Tp. **Capt John Isherwood** has left us and the Army to join the Police Force as a civilian advisor. **Capt Isherwood**'s leadership and friendly nature will be missed. We also say goodbye to two stalwarts of the Troop, **LCpl Neil Penny** for civvy street after four years with the Squadron and **WCpl Nicky Humphries** who has left the exhaust fumes of London for the exhaust fumes of Hong Kong. All the best and good luck to them in the future.

The new arrivals are many but we mention the new Troop Commander, **Capt Martin** 'or was it Corky' **Corcoran** and the Yeoman **WO2 'Tommy' Baldwin**. The Troop welcomes them and all the new members and their families to London and hope they enjoy their time with us.

During this busy period some individuals have achieved creditable results in the sporting field. **Pte Price-Jones** won the District Squash Tournament and the Womens Doubles in the District Badminton Competition. **WCpl Laver** performed magnificiently in the District Table Tennis Championships narrowly being beaten in the Finals.

The PTI **(Cpl Karla Rayment)** has been very busy recently with two Inter-Troop competitions. Firstly the volleyball, won by O Troop and then the indoor football (not for the faint-hearted), won by M Troop. The girls have also been very successful, winning the recent District Basketball Competition (thanks for the support of 'Colin the Coach').

Finally the Squadron is on the move. Don't panic, we're not leaving Chelsea Barracks, just spreading out around the camp. Don't get too lost when next your visit us!



The LONDIST Basketball Winners
*Back row (left to right):* Ptes Julie Sharpe and Fiona Bitters, LCpls Sandra Samuel and Jill Wakerley
*Front row (left to right):* Pte Bridget Johnstone, Cpl Karla Rayment, SSgt Lisa Twigg and LCpl Lorraine Allan-Burns



## 239 Sig Sqn
## Colchester

On a hill top in North Lincolnshire sits the NATO (Forward Scatter Station) Stenigot. Recently it provided a story for the local paper when the son of the station's longest serving soldier, **Sgt Nick Keep**, joined the Royal Signals. **Robert Keep**, 16, fulfilled a long held ambition in joining up; he had considered other careers but the pull of Dad's Army was too strong. The proud parents were present at the Humberside Careers Office when **Robert** signed on in the presence of the local careers officer, **Lt Col Les Waumsley**. During a break in basic training **Robert** returned to the careers office with his parents to re-enact the signing on for the benefit of the press cameras. **Robert** has now completed his basic training and passed out on 9 December. By contrast old **Nick** has served for 22 years and reckons that his son has fitted in more military training in eight weeks than he has in his whole service! Wife and mother **Lynne Keep** told a local reporter that during the last 22 years she has felt as if she was in the Army!

Another member of the Stenigot crew in the news is **Sgt Chris Haigh** who, on 3 December was presented with his LS & GC Medal by **Group Capt M. K. Widdowson** CO of nearby RAF Coningsby, the station's 'parent' Unit. Also in attendance at the presentation was **Sgt Haigh**'s wife **Amanda** and **Maj George Carmichael** OC 239 Sig Sqn. **Sgt Haigh** and **Amanda** are now enjoying sunnier climes having taken up a posting to NCS Latina.



Like father, like son, Robert Keep (seated) signs on, watched by *(left to right)*: his mother Lynne, Lt Col Waumsley and Sgt Nick Keep

*Photo by courtesy of The Grimsby Evening Telegraph*



Set against the giant Meccano set are *(left to right):* Gp Capt M. K. Widdowson, Amanda Haigh, Sgt Chris Haigh and Maj George Carmichael

## 244 Sig Sqn (AS)
## RAF, Brize Norton

**RQMS DEPARTMENT**

Since our last contribution, the RQMS Dept has moved forward in the competitive and athletic world.

**Cpls Carl Mast** and **Mac Mackfall** have represented RAF Brize Norton at fishing in both Inter-Station and Strike Command level competitions. They are having a good season, often taking prizes for the most fish caught or the heaviest catch of the competition.

The RQMS, **WO2 Chris Charlton**, was one of the Squadron's drowned rats in this year's Lanyard Trophy held on the rain drenched expanse of Dartmoor. He is a little browned off that the bad conditions caused the competition to be called off as he only had that one last effort left in him.

**Sig Kev Hayes** has undergone the training to turn him into the department's Arctic Warrior and he is at present in Norway to see if it all works. He will, however, recover from the cold later in the year when Alpha Tp goes to Cyprus, Turkey and back to Norway in June to recover the earth spikes from the then thawed ground.

The department has lost one of its stalwarts in the form of **Cpl Mac Mackfall** shrugging off the green and going into civvy street. We wish him all the best and many successes in his new career.

**CHARLIE TROOP**
**EXERCISE TAC**

With Charlie Tp deploying to Denmark in November via the ferry bar, morale was high. Arriving at 2151 hrs Sunday night we barely made it to the Danish Camp bar, but with a friendly barman we had no trouble convincing him that all we had in mind was keeping the Army in the public eye.

Monday started with a rude awakening with the main body arriving by air. We deployed into the field for the exhilarating delights of Cordon Bleu compo, (morale was rocketing!).

With the first part of the exercise finished, personnel returned to camp for Phase II . . . Exercise R&R; this was a very harsh commitment. Nights were long, days were short.

### 244 Signal Squadron (Air Support)

# The Red Hand Gang

**7 April 1990** — **RAF Brize Norton**

# Reunion

**A NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY**

To all members past and present of 244 Signal Squadron (AS) who are currently serving or have retired to civvy street. A reunion will be held on Saturday 7 April at RAF Brize Norton.

Anybody wishing to attend and receive further information is requested to write to The Red Hand Gang Reunion 1990, 244 Signal Squadron (AS), RAF Brize Norton, Oxon OX8 3LX.

# 251 Sig Sqn
# Aldershot

**VISIT OF THE CINC UKLF, GENERAL SIR CHARLES HUXTABLE KCB, CBE, ADC**

The CinC UKLF visited 251 Sig Sqn at the end of last year as part of his visit to the Units of 2 Sig Bde.

The day started with a short trip to Tropo Tp near Dover. The CinC then flew to RAE Farnborough and visited elements of 251 Sig Sqn based in Aldershot. This included the Commcen, the Telephone Exchange and the Ops Room.

After a busy morning the General was able to relax over a curry lunch in the HQ 5 AB Bde Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Here he met the Officers and SNCOs of 5 AB Bde Sig Sqn in addition to those of 251 Sig Sqn, before departing for an equally hectic afternoon.

The photographs show highlights of the visit.



The CinC meets Sgt Gordon, Cpl Spavins and Sgt Sideras at Tropo Tp



The CinC is shown the Faxbox (currently on trial) by Pte Jackson while Brig Alexander, Col D. Hunt (Controller AFTS 2 Sig Bde), Maj R. G. Drake (OC) and WO1 J. Skelton (CDSO) keep their distance



Pte Richardon gives the CinC a lesson in the use of Merlin. Pte Howard is busy in the background

# 254 Sig Sqn (UNFICYP)
# BFPO 567

**HQ PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj J. G. Peck** |
| **2IC** | **Capt R. P. Giles** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 W. Henderson** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt C. Alexander** |
| **CC** | **Sgt A. B. Rose** |
| **Stores Acct** | **Sgt J. Williams** |

**RADIO TROOP NOTES**
**by Sig St Jean (1 Canadian Signal Regiment)**

We have successfully completed two Dash Competitions and survived the OC's surprise. The Canadian members and several British soldiers of the Troop enjoyed the Cancon Show which was held at Ledra Palace.

On Christmas Eve, we gathered at The Wire Inn to celebrate Christmas and to commiserate with those who are far from home. On Christmas morning we were all greeted by the Senior Staff of the Squadron and shared a cup of 'Moose Milk' and a cup of coffee with everyone's favourite Brandy 'Keo'. New Year's Eve was also a night which never seemed to end, there was the visit at The Wire Inn of a Canadian from Radio Troop, carrying a real pig's head.

During the month of January, we prepared for other inspections, either accommodation, vehicle or even weed inspections, the kind that grow in Jubilee Camp and only seem to appear at inspection time. It is quite interesting to work with those from other countries. Here, the Canadians and the British merge together to work as a Troop. Naturally, there is that keeness to prove that one is better than the other, but when involved in Squadron activities, we sink our pride and perform as a well-integrated team. Most important of all, the friends we make on these tours will never be forgotten and if we get our wish, we shall meet them in Canada.

In closing, I would like to say farewell to all members of Radio Tp who have left us in the last two months, and Good Luck to those who are beginning their tour with the best Troop in the Squadron.

**COMMCEN TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Tp** | **WO1 (YofS) Nick Hammett** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Lance Thornton-Granville** |
| **Day Cpl** | **Cpl Ginge Purves** |
| **A Shift Cpl** | **Cpl Jim Clancy** |
| **B Shift Cpl** | **Cpl Andy Fife** |
| **C Shift Cpl** | **Cpl Kenny Niblock** |

**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

A quick Hello to the following: **Cpl Niblock, LCpls Murray, Fullerton** and **Popowicz, Sig Aitken, Brewin, Burke, Hunt, Pipe-Wolferstan, Staveley-Wadham, Towers** and **Yarrow**.

Goodbye and Best Wishes to: **Cpl Acres, LCpls Parkes** and **Woods, Sig Berrill, Clements, Denison, Fairclough, Jones** 316, **Jones** 677, **Pollitt, Richards** and **Tracey**.

**TECH AND LINE TROOP**
**by Cpl Ken Jones (1 Canadian Signal Regiment)**

Hello again from the busiest people on the UNPA.

On top of normal work, a lot of things have happened since November. We have had two OC's Dash Competitions, the first being the OC's surprise which was a hard dash, consisting of eight man teams carrying a log across the assault course and jogging with it back to The Wire Inn. A very close finish, but alas, Tech and Line showing superior form, won the day.

The second dash was a typical 'British' March and Shoot. Six miles of pain and torture, but superior coaching and pleading by **Sgt Paul Jennings** proved too much for the other teams. Lo and behold, Tech and Line took the trophy again.

Well, sadly we have to say goodbye to a few Troop members. **Cpls B. J. Forbes-Wilson,** Myself (bye-bye), **Paul Collins** and **Sig Terry Hall**. Welcomes go out to: **Cpls 'Scouse' Creighton, Ade** (Minibus) **Toye, Stuart Phillips, Dryke Stewart** (1CSR), **LCpl 'Lucky' Luckhurst** and **Sig 'Dede' Watts.**

We have a lot to look forward to in the coming month: Skiing, BFT, CTF etc . . . Have fun guys.



# 259 Sig Sqn
# BFPO 53

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Lynn Relph** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Mick Fogg** |
| **QM** | **Maj Colin French** |
| **TOT** | **Capt Frank Running** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Tim Wallis** |
| **Chief Clerk** | **SSgt Neil March** |

**SERGEANT MAJORS CUP—MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION**

The British Forces Cyprus Military Skills Competition tests all Units annually, but 1989, due to the changeover of the Resident Battalion and some Units not being SA80 trained the event was cancelled.

It was therefore decided that 259 Sig Sqn would hold its own competition, and in future years use it as a run up to 'The Big One'. It was held on 12 December on a warm, sunny day at RAF Akrotiri and consisted of teams of seven from all Troops with Episkopi and Airfield Troops supplying two teams each.

After inspection the teams were transported to a 'secret' start point and then given a Recognition Test before setting off on a timed route march. This involved various other timed tests including first aid, a vehicle obstacle, NBC, weapon tests and the like.

With scores coming in throughout the day and a complicated Range Shoot as the last test it was always going to be close. Inter Troop rivalry was very strong and both Airfield and Episkopi thought they had the best team but HQ Tp thought otherwise. Mountain Tp's team was having 'fun' at low altitude as well.

It had been a long day especially by Cyprus standards by the time a result was declared.

**Maj Lynn Relph** presented Epi 2 Team Captain, **SSgt Tam Tulloch** with the trophy and a crate of liquid refreshment. They had beaten HQ team by only 630 points to 608 with only six points separating the next four teams.

**WO2 (SSM) Tim Wallis** thanked all those who had helped him organise the event and those who had taken part. Except for those on shift and duty, just about the whole Squadron was involved one way or another.



Airfield Tp Team B on the Vehicle Obstacle Section



SSgt Tam Tulloch receives the trophy from Maj Lynn Relph



Episkopi Tp's winning team:
*Back row L-R:* Cpl Rich Cartwright, Sig Daz Dales, Sgt Andy Hartley, Cpl Bev 'I just wanted to be in the picture' Beveridge and Sig Fraggle Sutton
*Front row L-R:* Cpl Brian Chinn, SSgt Tam Tulloch and Sig Fudge McPhee

**AIRFIELD TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Lt Tim Craven** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 Terry Waites** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Nick Phillips** |
| **Sgt UG** | **Sgt Ken John** |
| **Systems** | **Sgt Tim Nicholas** |
| **SNCO Techs** | **Sgt Ako Atkinson** |
| | **Sgt Tony Pinsent** |

**LAST YEAR THROUGH TO THIS**

Airfield Tp has had another busy year updating many of the old systems and replacing others on the large Cyprus airfield. In November we handed over to the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority the Officers Married Quarters residential telephone network, a mile-stone in the changing face of communications in Cyprus. The variety of different projects and the introduction of fibre optics and ADP systems at Akrotiri, make Airfield Tp an interesting posting.

**SPORT**

The Troop has managed to participate in many events including the Dhekelia Dash 15 mile relay race, the Happy Valley Hill Climb and closer to home a commendable third place in the Station Commanders Cross Country (even if the OC did run). **WO2 Terry Waites** completed his third Triathlon with much joy. **SSgt Nick Phillips** has joined the Squadron Cross Country Team, so watch out on Troop runs, lads.

Individuals of the Troop frequently represent teams at Minor Unit level, they are; football—**LCpls Martin Goodhand, Mark Campbell, Sig Trigger Rigby** at hockey—**Cpl Jock Stenhouse, LCpl Geordie Mattson,** at cross country—**LCpls Mark Campbell, Geordie Mattson, Sig Andy Maylett,** at rugby—(Army Squad) **WO2 Terry Waites, Sig Taff Lougher,** and finally water polo—**WO2 Terry Waites** and **LCpl Spiney Campbell.**

**BLUE PETER APPEAL**

In January the collection of aluminium cans for the Baby Life Appeal ended. The grading and packing was completed at Akrotiri on 16 January by Squadron wives. **SSgt Nick Phillips** was last seen sitting on a road roller heading back to the UK.

**FAREWELLS**

**Sgt Dave Bradford** and family, not too far away to Episkopi, thanks for your help on the bar, **Cpl Yogi Cauldwell** and **Jane** on promotion to 11 Sig Regt, **LCpl Taff Roberts** and **Yvonne** off to 7 Sig Regt (thanks for the LR), **Cpl Ernie Wise** and **Liza** on retirement and finally oh yes, **SSgt Fullwood,** farewell **Mr Crisp.** Not forgetting **Sgt Ako Atkinson, Julie** and **Vanessa** who are posted to Herford.

**ARRIVALS**

Welcome to **Sig Cooper, Turner, Share, Gascoigne, LCpl Jenkins** and his wife **Sally, Cpl Sy Hodgson** and **LCpl Mark Campbell** from Episkopi.

**SOCIAL**

At Christmas and New Year the social diary was as usual full. A very successful Troop party was held, and a great evening was had by all. A special thank you must go to **Sgt Ako Atkinson** and his team for the organisation. On Christmas Day the traditional Gun Fire was observed. **Lt Tim Craven, Sgt Tim Nicholas, WO2 Terry Waites** and **SSgt Nick Phillips** pounced on the singlies in the block to announce Gunfire! **Sig Wringe** a new boy in this parish demonstrated his understanding of such. This was followed shortly afterwards by a dip in the Med. It was freezing!



Members of Airfield Tp Christmas Day Swimming Team: Skye Roberts, Sgt Dave Bradford, Sig Taff Ingleson, Mrs Yvonne Roberts, Cpl Jock Stenhouse, WO2 Terry Waites, Sgt Ako Akinson, LCpl Taff Roberts, Vanessa Atkinson, Lt Tim Craven and Kirsty Craven


## The Officers' Association

The Officers' Association provides services which are available to ex-officers and their widows and dependants.

### Services Include:-

*Employment*—an efficient Employment Department to assist ex-officers of all ages and ranks to find suitable employment, both those just leaving the Services and those who have lost their civilian jobs. Many hundreds of ex-officers are found jobs every year over a wide salary range.

*Financial Help*—assistance is given in a number of ways such as: cash grants to those in financial distress, continuing allowances to those with very small incomes, help towards Homes fees to those who through age or infirmity can no longer run their own homes and can find no suitable home within their means.

The Association has offices in London and Dublin and the Scottish Branch has offices in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

All enquiries should be made to the General Secretary, The Officers' Association, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1 5JY. (Tel: 01 930 0125).


## 262 Sig Sqn
## BFPO 58

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Capt Nick Naylor** |
| **AO** | **Lt Susie Byrne** |
| **OC Maint** | **WO1 (FofS) Peter Martin** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Dave Thomas** |
| **OC Comms** | **WO2 (YofS) Chris Rogan** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Dave Edgecombe** |
| **Chief Clerk** | **Sgt Trevor Glover** |

**HELLOS, GOODBYES AND CONGRATULATIONS**

The usual turnover of personalities, but with quite a few 'old hands' heading for pastures new. Firstly hello and welcome to **Lt Susie Byrne, WO2 (YofS) Chris Rogan** and family, **Sgts Annette Williams, Don Anderson, Sig Paul Marsden** and **Alan Hayhurst**. Goodbye and good luck to **Lt Jane Heywood, WO2 (YofS) Bill** and **Phyllis Jackson, Sgt Stu** and **Annette Thomson, Sgt Tony** and **Sue Mann, Cpl Taff** and **Suzanne Shaw** and **LCpl Gary Kirk**. Congratulations on their recent promotions to **SSgt Keith Talbot, Sgts Don Anderson** and **Tony Sparks**.

**SQUADRON SNIPPETS**

**Lt Jane Heywood** has been so busy packing that even she has been found regularly in her office in recent weeks. Although she did manage to sell that 'highly desirable, one careful and five not so careful owners', Austin Allegro or as Comms Tp called it the 'All Aggro'. New car in BAOR?

Training has begun in earnest for the Cyprus Walkdown in December. The OC **Capt Nick Naylor** is already in serious training and can be seen regularly running up to 15 miles with **Mrs Jennie Thomas**. Meanwhile **SSM Dave Thomas** is baby-sitting at home, wise man!

**NEWTS RFU**
**by Sgt John Garhard**

With the start of the Rugby season behind us, the experimental Squadron team has blossomed into what could be described as 'A team that puts great bearing on the third half'.

Although the Squadron has a limited number of people available it has provided two very creditable performances recently against 2 Sqn, 9 Sig Regt and 62 Sqn RE.

In both games the scores reflected the passion and fervour with which the team committed itself. Now with 11 players on the Garrison team list we are looking forward to our mid-season tour to Episkopi! The latest results are (third half) 2 Sqn, 9 Sig Regt 0 Newts 1 and 62 Sqn RE 0 Newts 1.

**DHEKELIA DASH**

On a hot Saturday morning on 4 November teams of 15 runners from all over the island met at the Coach Park in Dhekelia for this years Dhekelia Dash.

The Squadron team consisted of: **WO2 (SSM) Thomas, SSgt Talbot, Sgts Scott, Senior, Grant, Dixon, Cpls Garbett, Stebbing, LCpls Cheney, Lamb, Appleton, Kerr, McInnes, Sig Hewitt** and **Jones**.

The Unit also provided mobile and static comms. Mobile comms were provided by personal motorbikes controlled by **Cpl Dummer**. Static comms were controlled by YofS and on (or is it on/off?) the PA system was **Sig Whitworth**.

The Unit came in forth place which was an excellent effort. We now look forward to next year's Dash!



Cpl Garbett



# — News from Troops —

## RSIT
## BFPO 44

**OC Lt Col Dai Brown MBE**
**FofS WO2 (FofS) Dave Taylor**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Team** | **Sgt Andy Baldwin** |
| | **Sgt Mark Egan** |
| | **Sgt Dave Gill** |
| | **Sgt Steve Hayward** |
| | **Sgt Bob Lee** |
| | **Sgt Ian McNaughton** |
| | **Sgt Trev Taylor** |
| | **Sgt Pete Wallace** |
| **Clerk** | **Mrs Ruth Maffia** |

After receiving so many mentions from other Units: 'Here we see **LCpl Snooks** preparing for the onslaught of RSIT.' 'Those rather nice men from RSIT . . . coffee and Grolsch stains etc, etc.' we decided a few of our own thoughts may be in order.

15 December saw the 1989 inspection programme come to an end with the competition of 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt. This came as a welcome break to some members of the team who had been away every week since August!

The very nature of the job we do can sometimes make us a little less than flavour of the month although the many lighter moments we encounter go a long way towards making it bearable. A few choice examples are: 'The installation wasn't particularly clean but it did have an air of rustic charm . . .' 'It was working this morning—honest.' 'Feed element requires dead spider removing from coax input.'

The origin of these and many more heart-lifting comments are obviously not for printing, however Units can apply on MOD Form DM100 . . .

The Christmas break soon disappeared and at the time of writing our loved ones are beginning to ask is it not about time we got on the road again—and they say absence makes the heart grow fonder.

## 608 Sig Tp (SSIT)
## BFPO 40

**TROOP HEADQUARTERS**

A lot has happened since the last *Wire* notes from Troop Headquarters.

**Maj Tony Morgan** has settled into the job of Troop Commander, which as in by-gone months seems to consist mainly of trying to persuade Manning and Records to give him some Troops to command.

At middle management level **SSgt Geoff** (D-H) **Douglas-Hiley** is preparing for the transfer to civilian life after (?) years service and is busy telling the Troop in full detail the horrors of poll tax, mortgage rate increases and the like.

Our two SNCO's at JHQ **Sgts Nig Kirkby** and **Pete Garman** are still doing unbelievable things in providing comms for the logistic services. **Sgt Kirkby**, along with **WO1 (RQMS) Vic Shillingford**, the other Corps soldier serving in Viersen, continue to provide strong support in the RAOC Viersen Hockey team.

**TROOP HAPPENINGS**

Now on to the workers. It's been a bit of a romantic period for our two stores accountants, **Cpl John Hogan** and **LCpl Chris Hood. Cpl Hogan** has at long last decided to tie the knot with **LCpl Sue Baker** of ICP BAOR, and is at the moment bemoaning the loss of his dual income life-style, on posting to 8 Bde in Northern Ireland, in the rank of Sergeant. **LCpl Chris Hood** is at present spending a great deal of time with **LCpl Kath Killmurry** of Ord Svcs Viersen, besides demonstrating his silky football skills in the annual JRC/Sergeants' Mess football match.

The main event in the Power/MT Section is that we now have one again, with the arrival of **Sig Gary** (Mike Tyson) **Dutton. Sig Dutton** has arrived from 8 Sig Regt after trade training and has had a somewhat bumpy arrival, with **Sgt D-H** suggesting that we remove all the Troop doors to stop **Sig Dutton** walking into them.

The Troop civilians continue to hold the fort until the arrival of the promised military personnel, with **Miss Zia Broadley** providing the glamour as she continues to organise the Troop, by making sure that we all arrive in the right place at the right time.

Our Troop civilian Tele Mech **Mr Steve Senior**, ex 21 Sig Regt, is as usual making great efforts to maintain the CSO's Pool cable stock. He is assisted by **Mr Martin Edwards** our Troop Storeman, who is at present planning a career as an RAOC Officer, after passing his RCB. On the stores side **Mr 'Adjt' Choudhri** continues to plod away in the demands cell with his usual diligence.

**VISIT OF THE SOINC**

On Monday 20 November, **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cooke** visited the Troop to meet the personnel and to be briefed on the Troop's various roles. On arrival he was met by the camp RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Wreyford RAOC**, and after calling on **Lt Col Mobley RAOC**, Commanding Officer Ordnance Services Viersen he proceeded to Troop HQ, where he was met by the OC **Maj Tony Morgan** and the OC RSIT, **Lt Col D. Brown MBE.**

**Maj Gen Cooke**'s first port of call within the Troop was the Tp Comd's office where he received a briefing on the Troop roles by **Maj Morgan, Lt Col Brown** and **SSgt Douglas-Hiley**. After this, the SOinC met the civilian and military personnel at their places of work. After a briefing on their roles by **SSgt Douglas-Hiley**, he discussed their various tasks with them.

The SOinC then met all Troop members and RSIT again in the Allen Rooms. Over coffee and in a completely informal atmosphere he spoke to every member in turn and listened to their work and their welfare concerns. The SOinC then made his farewells. It was a memorable visit for all Troop members.



Sig Gary Dutton informs the SOinC that he has yet to find the Field Marshal's baton in his kit bag after arriving in his first working unit that morning

# Association News

## CALLING ALL BRANCHES

**Your association has 57 Branches and eight affiliated Branches throughout the United Kingdom. We like to hear your news. Please keep in touch via your magazine. If activities are limited, an annual news letter would be appreciated.**

## ABERDEEN BRANCH

On Tuesday 30 January Aberdeen and District Branch held their monthly social evening, at Prince Charles Barracks.

This was a very special evening as three of our oldest members were presented with their Honour Badges. The presentation was made by **Lt Col** (Retd) **James H. Moonie**.

The photograph shows 83 year old **Mr Douglas Sinclair** (front right) of Southport, Brechen receiving his Honour Membership from **Lt Col James Moonie**. Looking on are the other recipients, 83 year old **Mr George Lovie** (left), of Walfield Place, Aberdeen, and **Mr Arthur Smith**, Hopetoun Court, Bucksburn.

**Mr Sinclair** has been with the Royal Signals since 1924, and **Mr Lovie** since 1925, and **Mr Smith** since 1939. But not forgetting that the most important reason for this presentation was that along with **Col Moonie**, they are all founder members of the Aberdeen and District Branch which was formed in 1946. The Honour Badges are the first to be presented in the Branch.

**Col Moonie** (75) was then presented with a Bronze Jimmy from the Branch in appreciation for all the dedication, love, and friendship he has given to us over the years. He has been actively involved in the Branch since 1946. He retired as Branch Chairman in 1989, but can always be called on for any advice or help in the administration of the Branch.



The honoured members

*Photo by courtesy of 'The Press and Journal' Aberdeen*

## ALDERSHOT BRANCH

In December we held our Christmas Luncheon Party at the Royal Aldershot Officers Club. This is the second year in which we have held this event and it was a great success. We were delighted to see so many friends whom we meet all too rarely during the year, not the least **Janice** and **Gordon Pickard**, who have worked so hard for the Branch in the past, the **Terry Rawlings** family on whom we still depend for much of our paper work although most are now down in Hampshire, and **Maj** and **Mrs Douglas Gardner**, now living in Winchester. **Douglas** officiated in this Branch for many years and is still a member, but it was inevitable that the Winchester Branch should discover how valuable he is! **Mrs Toby Ient** has long been an Honorary Member of the Branch and this is one of the occasions when we look forward to the pleasure of her company. We were delighted to have **Maj Gen** and **Mrs Alastair Anderson** with us on this preliminary to the festive season.

## EAST LONDON BRANCH

Our Branch held its annual dinner and dance at the Royal British Legion hall in Ilford on 10 March 1990. The function was well attended and members and guests sat down to a five course meal which was enjoyed by everyone.

Our guest-of-honour was **Maj P. A. Burton. Capt C. W. Dyball** welcomed our guests and offered **Maj J. Dyers**'s, our President, apoligies for unavoidable absence. **Maj Burton** responded and amused us all by likening an after-dinner speech to a bull; a horn on either side and bags of bull in the middle. After dinner there was dancing to the 'Bow Tie' disco band.

The Chairman thanked members and guests for their support in contributing to an enjoyable evening. He also thanked the bar staff, **Maj Greenwood** and **Frances** for organising the cloakroom arrangements.

The evening concluded with our Standard Bearer, **Fred Backhouse** lowering the Branch Standard and with the playing of the National Anthem.

Our next function will be a Buffet Dance in November this year.

## GUERNSEY BRANCH

The Branch was represented at the Remembrance Day Service, held at the war memorial in St Peter Port, when a wreath was laid by Chairman **John Rudkin** on behalf of all Branch members.

The Christmas dinner this year was held at La Favorita Hotel, with a most heartening attendance of 69 members and guests. Following the meal of traditional Christmas fare, social secretary **Alf Laine** organised a raffle and members enjoyed an excellent Christmas cake, baked and presented by member **Edna Chester**. The loyal toast was proposed by Vice-Chairman **Mike Brock**. Following that a silk scarf, beautifully painted by **Betty Salazar**, was auctioned for Association Funds. The function ended with a recital of traditional Christmas carols.

## READING BRANCH

The Branch held its 19th Annual Dinner at Brock Barracks, Reading, on 28 October 1989, and over 60 members and guests attended. **Maj Gen W. T. Macfarlane CB** presided and the Guests of Honour were **Maj Gen G. R. Oehlers CB** and **Maj R. Wilkinson**, OC 94 Sig Sqn (V).

It was a particular pleasure to see our senior members, **Bill Lowe**, at the Dinner. **Bill** joined the Corps in 1927 and was appointed RSM in 1943.



Photograph shows Lt Col A. P. Verey TD (CO 71 Sig Regt (V)) and Maj R. Wilkinson, both gloriously attired in the recently resuscitated Berkshire Yeomanry mess kit





The photograph shows *(left to right):* Maj Gen Oehlers, Mrs Oehlers, Maj Gen Macfarlane, Maj Wilkinson, Mrs Macfarlane and Branch Chairman Alan Foot

## SHEFFIELD BRANCH

Another year has gone by, so swiftly, but looking back it has been a successful one, new members joining, enjoyable social functions, but also our share of sadness. We have lost two of our staunch supporters, **Mrs Winnie Taylor** and **Mrs Carol Lindley**.

We had a very enjoyable Christmas Social on 15 December. Our chief guests were our good friends **Capt Dave Shakespeare** and **Mrs Shakespeare** and **RSM Phil Budden** and **Mrs Budden**. Musical entertainment provided by **SSM Joe Hodgson** and friend. Let **Joe** loose with a set of drums and the whole mess rocks; thanks **Joe** your efforts were much appreciated.

Arrangements are in hand for the Annual Dinner which will be held later than usual this year as the Regiment requires all the April dates. The next big event is the Annual General Meeting in March.

The wife of our worthy secretary **Frank Stockdale** has once again had a bit of bad luck. She fell whilst on her way to help out at the Heart Foundation Shop, broke her knee cap and is now hobbling around in a plaster cast. Cheer up **Margaret** we are all supporting you.

Congratulations to **SSM Joe Hodgson** on his MBE awarded in the New Year Honours List. We will have a 'wet' on it at the next meeting in February!

As we move into the '90's we look forward to progress in Branch membership and activities.

## WEST LONDON BRANCH

**Mr John Billet** came up trumps in organising another wonderful evening for a party of more than 30 members of the Branch at the Television Centre. There always seems something new to see. The News Room never loses its fascination as we stand there and think 'This is where it all happens'. We visited foreign news rooms, graphics, the wardrobe department, vast empty studios which spring to life at four in the morning in readiness for the day to come, and watched programmes live and recordings in the making. The evening was crowned by an excellent buffet supper at which we were joined by **Mr Ian McGaskill** when he had finished dishing out the bad weather for the next day.

We have to thank our Ladies Section whose Christmas buffet excelled all previous festive debaucheries. Where would our Branch be without them?

## HONG KONG SIGNAL COMPANY

The Hong Kong Sig Coy Branch was closed down on 6 February. The sum of £242.83, representing the balance of the Branch funds, has been given to the Museum Project Office to assist in the Appeal. All members send their warmest thanks to **Bill Bevan** for his management of the account over the years.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Does anyone know what happened to **LCpl Jock Daley**, DI Catterick 1935 who went to Sandhurst and was last heard of as a Second Lieutenant in the Indian Army as transport officer Landikotal Bde in 1939? A close friend was **Sgt Jones** DI Catterick 1935 and Landikotal Bde Sig Section 1939.

## WERE YOU THERE?

These photographs were taken in 1945 and later in Holland and Germany.

This was the first 'Gin Palace' into Rouen. Turnhout, St Omer, Antwerp, Berger-op-Zoom, Roosendaal and Arnhem during the war and first into the Hague and Rotterdam afterwards. You can see the Maple leaf on the mudguard and one of the lace curtains at the side window. The Dutch flag was made by a little girl at Burneveld.

Anyone knowing the present, or the last known whereabouts of any of them, please get in touch with the Editor.



LCpl Ronald Hill beside the canal Konigigen Emmakade, The Hague

*L to R:* Cliff Taylor, Ronald Hill, George Sweetapple, Charlie Lignum, radio crew of Gin Palace S3—WD Z4859543



Ronald Hill outside Headquarters in Munchen—Gladbach

# IN THE PRESENCE OF HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL GCVO GLOUCESTERSHIRE v ROYAL SIGNALS RUGBY MATCH

**Report by Capt F. J. Connor (Sec Corps RUFC)**

The squad assembled at Blandford for the match against Gloucestershire in aid of the Spinal Injuries Association. The game was played at the Bristol Memorial Ground in the presence of our Colonel-in-Chief.

The start was slower than expected. The Corps lost its first scrummage—a sign of things to come—but matched the opposition in all other areas. **LCpl Greg Harwood** missed two penalties inside the first 10 minutes before the Gloucestershire forwards scored the first of four pushover tries. The conversion was missed but no other Gloucestershire kicks failed during the afternoon. The Corps rallied well and in fact scored soon afterwards, but **Cpl Gary Cassidy**'s efforts were ruled out for a foot in touch. A converted try by Gloucestershire was followed by an excellent run by **Sgt Paul Collins** ending just short of the opposition line. In open play the Corps forwards were the equal of Gloucestershire's and a superb series of forward drives resulted in **Sgt Phil Price** crashing over for a try. **LCpl Greg Harwood** missed the conversion and half time followed with the Corps trailing 10—4.

Gloucestershire began the second half strongly scoring 18 unanswered points. The strength of the Gloucestershire front five forwards being the main difference between the teams. **LCpl Greg Harwood** and **Sgt Eric Atkins** were replaced by **Sgts Ian McNelly** and **'H' Glean** respectively over a 10 minute period. **Sgt Glean** had barely set foot on the pitch when **Cpl Mark Anderson** put him through near half way. **Sgt Glean** broke the defensive tackle and ran in unopposed for a well deserved try. **LCpl Kevin Bowling** converted. Gloucestershire then began to demonate and scored a further two converted tries without reply. **LCpl Steve Bartliff** who had been playing for the Army against the Navy showed his ability with a blistering run taking him past his opposite number and several other covering tackles before he was brought to ground. Gloucestershire rounded off the match with a final converted try making the final score Gloucestershire 46 Royal Signals 10.

The match was attended by several hundred spectators including a large Corps contingent. At the after-match reception all the players were presented to our Colonel-in-Chief who talked to all of them. It was a very enjoyable occasion and will be long remembered by all the team.



Maj David Jones introduces Cpl Mark Anderson to HRH The Princess Royal. Sgt Phil Price (wearing headband) and Cpl Nigel Roberts look on



Maj David Jones receives support from Sgts Phil Price and Nigel Roberts (No 1). Sgt Paul Collins, Lt Mike Burke and Capt Ian Whitehall move in to challenge for the loose ball. Cpl Mark Anderson (No 2) admires his throw in



*Back row (standing) left to right:* Sgts 'H' Glean, Bobby Snow, Phil Price, Paul Collins, Cpl 'Tank' Sherman, SSgt Martin Fielding, Capt Ian Whitehall, Lt Mike Burke, Cpl Nigel Roberts, LCpl Steve Bartliff, Capt Joe Cooper, Sgt Eric Atkins, Lt Tony Burgin and Sgt Ian McNelly
*Front row (kneeling) left to right:* LCpl Greg Harwood, Sgt Dean Richardson, LCpl Neil Sorley, Maj David Jones, LCpl Kevin Bowling, Cpls Gary Cassidy and Mark Anderson



# BADMINTON

**INTER-CORPS BADMINTON**
**by the Secretary Maj S. Hargreaves**

The Corps team (mainly old men!) formed up at Worthy Down early on Friday 2 February to take part in the annual Inter-Corps Badminton Tournament. Only seven, including ourselves, entered this year so it was decided to play in two leagues with the top two in each league to play a cross-over match to decide the composition of the final.

The Corps was drawn in the league of four and faced the RAOC, RAMC and the RE (last year's winner and the favourites).

We started well and beat the RAOC by seven games to two and the RAMC by six games to three. That was our high and then came our low when we could only manage to come second to the Engineers by nine games to love! This despite all the hard work and enthusiasm of the team.

The other league consisted of RAPC, ACC and REME with REME as the favourites. This they confirmed by winning their games 9—0 and 8—1.

In the cross over semi-finals it was the Engineers v ACC and ourselves against the REME.

Once again we were beaten, this time by eight games to one with the RE defeating the ACC by nine games to nil.

As precicted the final was between the Engineers and REME with the Engineers scraping through by five games to four.

Two hard fought days of badminton saw the Corps and ACC in third place equal; a good result with a combined age of 165 years of our first two pairs!

The following represented the Corps: **Majs Stan Hargreaves, Peter McLoughlin, SSgts Steve Croot, Taff Williams, Sgt Jim Moore, LCpls Jason Hinson** and **Peter Zambuni**.

**CORPS TOURNAMENT**

The Corps Tournament, scheduled for October 1989, had to be cancelled once again for lack of support; no, not lack of support, no support!

When I took over as Secretary in 1988 a tournament had not be held for three years. A relatively keen player myself I had high hopes of re-vitalising this excellent game in the Corps but it was not to be. However, I am confident that there are players out there who, with a little encouragement, would enter for a tournament be they young and enthusiastic, just optimistic, or even 'old and bold'. Which ever category you place yourself in please come forward and make a team.

Although I will not be organising a tournament this year please contact me at 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn until July if you are interested in helping the Corps to reach the top in Badminton.

# GOLF

**R SIGNALS CORPS GOLF 1990**

The RSGS fixture list for 1990 has been completed and the following matches arranged:-

| Date | Opponents | Venue |
|---|---|---|
| | **Matches** | |
| Wednesday 2 May | Staff College | To be arranged (pm only) |
| Wednesday 9 May | RAPC | Tyrrells Wood |
| Wednesday 23 May | RE | Hankley Common |
| Thursday 31 May | HMS *Mercury* | Isle of Purbeck |
| Friday 8 June | RAF Sports Day | Catterick |
| Wednesday 27 June | RMAS (1400) | Aldershot (pm only) |
| Monday 9 July | RCT | Blackmoor |
| Tuesday 31 July | RA | Berkshire |
| Thursday 16 August | REME | Blackmoor |
| Friday 7 September | RAOC | Fulford |
| Friday 21 September | Ironsides | Westhill |
| Friday 26 October | RAMC/RADC | Farnham |
| | **Meetings** | |
| 19-20 April | Corps Spring Meeting | Tracy Park |
| 7-9 May | AGA Championships | Royal Porthcawl |
| 10-11 May | Inter Corps Championships | Royal Porthcawl |
| 14-18 May | AOGS Meeting | Royal St Georges |
| 5- 6 September | Corps Autumn Meeting | Catterick |

Would all Corps Golfers who have not yet received a copy of the fixture list please inform the Hon Sec, **Maj S. G. Falla**, School of Signals.

# SQUASH



*Back row Left to Right:* Sgt Marc Findon, Lt Don Holmes and Capt Bob Morley
*Front row Left to Right:* Capt Mick Fogg, LCpl Ady Batty and WO1 Nick Hammett

**INTER CORPS SQUASH CYPRUS**

Six teams entered the Inter Corps/Cap Badge Squash Championships 1990 which were held in Episkopi Garrison over the period 25-27 January.

After the preliminary divisional matches the 17/21 Lancers and APTC were eliminated, leaving the semi-final line up as follows: R Signals v Coldstream Guards and RAOC v RA.

In the first semi-final Royal Signals, holders and favourites for the title, defeated the Guards 4—1. The RAOC won the other semi-final 5—0.

The final between undoubtedly the strongest two teams, R Signals and RAOC, was won in a convincing manner by R Signals 5—0. The final score line however, did not reflect how closely fought all the games were.

The winning Corps' team consisted of: **Capt Bob Morley** 9 Sig Regt, **Capt Mick Fogg** 259 Sig Sqn, **Lt Don Holmes** 9 Sig Regt, **WO1 Nick Hammett** 254 Sig Sqn (UNFICYP), **Sgt Marc Findon** 259 Sig Sqn and **LCpl Ady Batty** 9 Sig Regt.

# WINDSURFING

Mention should be made of two noteworthy events which occurred in 1989. Firstly it is particularly pleasing to report that the Corps has regained the BAOR Inter-Corps Championship Trophy. The event was sailed at the Dummersee on 14 October with six Corps sailors competing. The eventual outcome at the end of the meeting after races sailed in winds ranging from strength 2-5 was:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1st | Royal Signals | 51 points |
| 2nd | REME | 58¾ |
| 3rd | RE | 108¼ |
| 4th | RCT | 118 |
| 5th | RAOC | 180 |
| 6th | AAC | 190 |

An excellent result which accurately reflects the overall position that the Corps now holds in this sport.

Secondly the first Corps Colours ever awarded for Windsurfing have been earned by:-

**Capt Bill White** — 249 Sig Sqn
**WO1** (now Mr) **Steve Bailes** — ex School of Signals
**Cpl Sammy Anderson** — 233 Sig Sqn

Well done to all three.

**1990 SEASON**

The programme for 1990 is now confirmed as follows:-

| *Dates* | *Event* | *Venue* |
|---|---|---|
| 7-8 Apr | Icebreaker | Roermond |
| 9-10 Apr | Corps BAOR | Dummersee |
| 2-6 May | Corps | Browndown |
| 20-22 Jun | Army BAOR | Dummersee |
| 30 Jun-1 Jul | Army | Browndown |
| 16-18 Jul | BFG | Dummersee |
| 28-29 Jul | Combined Services | Browndown or Netley (TBC) |
| 5-9 Sep | Corps UK | Browndown (TBC) |
| 17-18 Sep | Inter Corps BAOR | Dummersee |
| 1-2 Oct | Inter Service BAOR | Dummersee |

Full details of these events will be circulated nearer the day. However if you require earlier information either contact your Unit rep or theatre secretary as follows:-

BAOR — **Capt Phil Daisey** Korbecke Mil 393
UK — **Capt Dave Gilchrist** Tidworth Mil 2403

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| **New** Pennant, embroidered Corps badge with gold trimming | 27.50 |
| Postcard Set | 2.00 |

| Prints: | Unsigned | Signed |
|---|---|---|
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| Smith George Cross | 10.00 | 16.00 |
| Palace Guard | 10.00 | 16.00 |
| Imphal Road | 10.00 | 16.00 |
| Dhofar Incident | 10.00 | 16.00 |
| Catterick Parade 1987 | 10.00 | 16.00 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Statuette, Royal Signals Officer in full dress | 52.80 |
| **New** Statuette, Royal Signals Soldier with SA 80 Rifle | 52.80 |
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| Stickers, Corps badge on Corps colours, good quality — Large | 0.45 |
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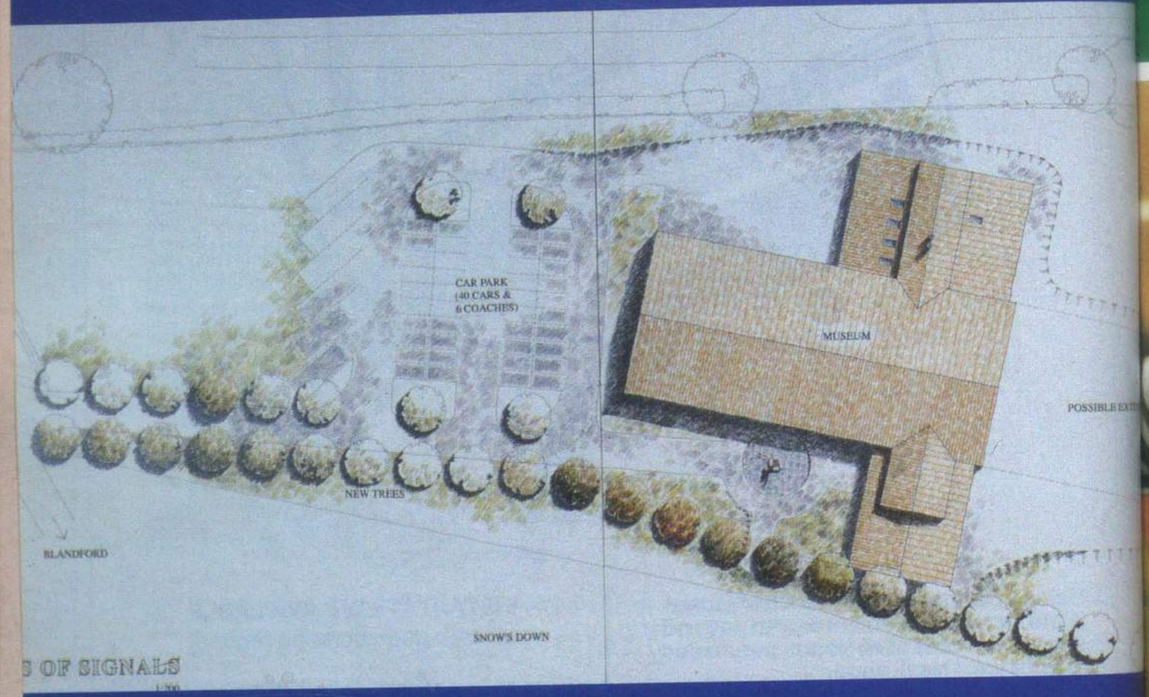


An Artist's Impression of the New Museum Building

THE
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The Royal Signals Magazine
June 1990



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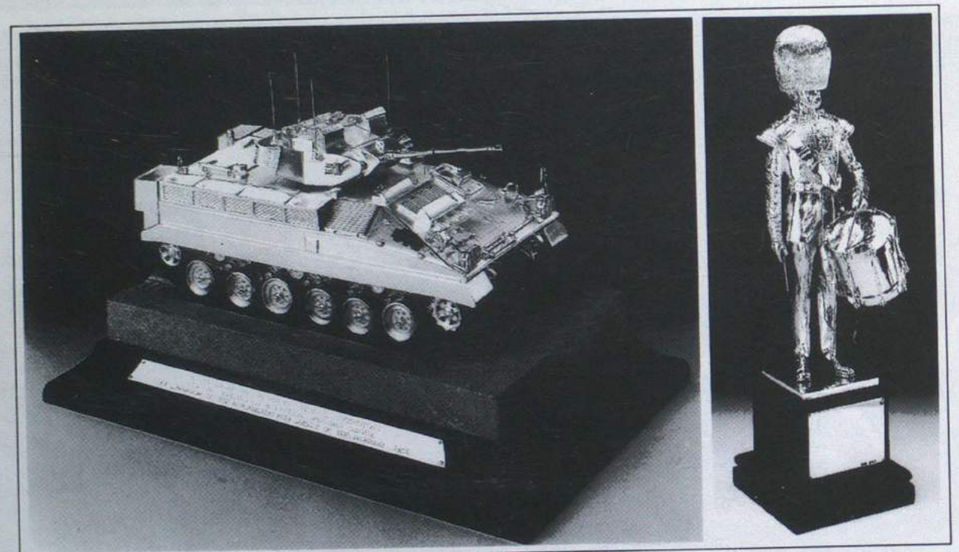



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# The Wire

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**Editor Lt Col K. E. P. Andrews MBE**
**Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs**

**The Wire is a member of the Association of Service Newspapers**

## THE MASTER OF SIGNALS

**Major General J. M. W. Badcock CB, MBE, DL relinquishes his appointment as Master of Signals on 8 November 1990. His successor is to be Major General A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE. Further details and confirmation of the appointment will be published in the London Gazette in due course.**

## NORTHERN IRELAND AWARDS

We warmly congratulate those named below, whose awards and mentions were announced during May, for service in Northern Ireland.

*MBE*
**Maj A. Russell**

*MENTION IN DESPATCHES*
**Maj A. A. Ewell**
**WO2 D. S. Andrews**
**WO2 W. P. Stockdale**
**Mr (ex LCpl) C. J. Aspinall**

## EDITORIAL

In this month of June 1990 the Corps celebrates its seventieth birthday. To mark the occasion we have produced a supplement which reprints items from the first issue of *The Wire*. That issue appeared with a dateline of 26 February 1920. It cost six old pence (2½p these days)—quite a sum in those days when a week's pay for many soldiers was only about seven shillings (35p). The first editor was **Sapper G. E. Palin** and *The Wire* was subtitled 'The Camp Journal of the Signal Service Training Centre'. The first editorial is reproduced in the supplement together with other extracts from the first year's issues and a series of photographs covering the last seventy years.

When first produced *The Wire* set out to amuse and inform—there were regular features on sport and a Monthly Arithmetical Competition—of a high standard—with a first prize of 7/6d (37½p) and a second prize of 2/6d/(12½p). Jimmies were awarded for achievements in sport and withdrawn when the holder was warned more than once for foul play!

The Journal also published local bus and train timetables and in the August 1920 issue the formation of an Association for the Corps of Signals, based on the Signals Branch of the Royal Engineers Old Comrades Association, was announced. The notes in that issue suggested that the first branch would be formed in Exeter 'if not beaten by Aldershot' with other branches being formed in Bedford, Newcastle, Colchester and Glasgow; this report is also reprinted in the supplement.

The October 1920 issue recorded that a benefit performance of 'San Fairy Ann' in aid of *The Wire* at the Gaiety Theatre Crowborough was a 'real roaring show' thanks to the efforts of the company under **Lieutenants R. T. O. Cary** and **R. H. Hole**.

The editorial in the December 1920 issue recorded that *The Wire* was first instituted in February 1920 as a Signal Training Centre magazine. It was hoped that it would shortly become a Corps magazine and that all profits would be placed to the credit of a Corps of Signals Benevolent Fund.

So, these were some of the matters which were in the forefront of our predecessors' minds seventy years ago. It is a great privilege to be the editor in this anniversary year and I hope that retired members of the Corps will find something in the anniversary supplement to interest them and that the younger serving members of the Corps may find something to inspire them and give them cause to be proud of belonging to the Corps.

The Cover Picture
The front cover shows the Corps Rugby team in action against the Royal Artillery; a game which we won by 60 points to nil. With the ball is LCpl Sorley. Left is SSgt Collins and right Capt I. Whitehall (see report on Page 308).

# THE SIGNAL OFFICER IN CHIEF'S ADDRESS TO BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES MEETING OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION 7 April 1990

**Given by Brig T. H. Wheawell ADC Deputy Signal Officer in Chief**

### INTRODUCTION

May I say how grateful I am to have the opportunity to describe recent Corps activities

### OPERATIONS

Operations in Northern Ireland. Officers and soldiers of the Corps, male and female carry out a wide range of tasks in the Province. The demands placed upon them exercise their military and technical capabilities to the full. The risks involved remain high but I am particularly pleased to confirm that we have suffered no casualties since the death of **SSgt Froggett** last September. What is also encouraging is that there have been no recent attacks on married quarters in Northern Ireland. Unhappily this has not been true in Great Britain and BAOR, although members of the Corps have not been directly involved.

Namibia. You will recall from the media the considerable support given by the Corps to the multi-national United Nations Transitional Advisory Group (UNTAG) in Namibia. The UK contingent from 30 Sig Regt, in providing the force communication for UNTAG, played a major role in ensuring that the move to free and fair elections took place both on time and with the minimum of difficulty. You may have seen the independence celebrations last month which formally ended our commitment to UNTAG and everyone involved has now returned home.

Our soldiers became involved in all aspects of UNTAG. Their contribution was highly regarded both nationally and internationally and the Contingent was complimented on its high morale and resolute action when faced with the varied and difficult tasks it had to perform. CGS visited the Contingent and commented: 'The British Contingent is highly regarded throughout UNTAG. The initiative and resolute action taken by BRITCON in conjunction with the Canadian and Australian contingents in April 1989 saved the Mission from failure before UNTAG was properly established.' He went on:

'. . . Communications have worked well and the Force Commander (an Indian General) spoke highly of the service provided by them. Many of the UN "professionals" were lavish in their praise of our work compared with previous less successful UN communication efforts. The men were praised for their turn-out, bearing and dedication.'

We were particularly pleased when the work of **Lt Col Donaldson** CO 30 Sig Regt and **Capt Owen WRAC/R Signals** of the same Regiment was formally recognised with the award of the OBE and MBE respectively in this years New Year Honours List.

### ORDER OF BATTLE

The Order of Battle of the Corps now reflects the formation of a new Signal Regiment, 15 Sig Regt, in Northern Ireland. The Regiment was formed on 1 February 1990 by grouping together 225 and 233 Sig Sqns under a new Regimental Headquarters. Some of you may recall that the title was last used in Aden from 1965 to 1968. Its emblem is an Egyptian Cat which some of you may remember.

You may have read that we were to relocate part of Queen's Gurkha Signals from Hong Kong to the United Kingdom. We have now been authorised to form 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn within 30 Sig Regt in Blandford, to be operational by 1 July 1990. The Squadron will assume the role of providing trunk communications for the United Kingdom Mobile Force (UKMF) in addition to other tasks. This will help with our current manning difficulties and it is to manning that I now turn.

### MANNING

Many of you will have read of the difficulties the Army and in particular our Corps is facing with both soldier and officer manning. To these difficulties must now be added the changes in Eastern Europe which has meant a marked fall off in general in the number of those expressing an interest in a service career. Our current soldier deficit is now 1,270 or 11½% of the Corps. As we have a commitment to maintain certain operational units at full strength the main shortage falls on BAOR where some units are as much as 21% undermanned.

The main problem, recruiting, is proving to be extremely difficult as the numbers of school leavers reduce; but we are noticing a significant increase in adult soldiers recruited this year compared with last which offers a glimmer of hope for the immediate future. Retention of our trained soldiers however, remains our highest priority. We have been making great efforts in this regard, in particular to increase job satisfaction and we are seeing some progress in stemming the flow of those wishing to leave. Retention remains an Army wide problem and much work is in hand to alleviate this difficult situation not just with the Regulars but also in the Territorial Army. In summary the good news is that both retention and recruiting have improved during the last six months; but as the overall outflow continues to exceed gains we have no room for any slackening in our efforts to beat the manning problem.

One notable area of success is on the employment of women in Royal Signals. We shall be increasing the number of women employed in the Corps both in recognition of the major contributions their skills can make and to help alleviate a manning problem which the demographic trends indicate could get worse in the next few years. We now have agreement to employ some 1,000 extra women in the Corps in the next three to four years.

In addition to the 400 WRAC currently employed, we hope to have the first 300 WRAC in post by 1 April next year. The womens' careers will be jointly managed with those of their male counterparts and they will be badged to the Corps progressively over the next three years. No doubt the Association will wish to consider how to respond to the changes in the size and composition of the Corps, to examine how each individual member can help direct suitable young men and women into the Corps and how together we might attract them into the Association before they leave. These are difficult but important matters.

### EQUIPMENT

We have had a relatively quiet period recently for the introduction of new equipment but you may be interested to note the recent launch of the Skynet 4A satellite in January this year, which joined 4B over the mid Atlantic. This major increase in capacity and redundancy will be further enhanced with the addition of 4C to be positioned over the Indian Ocean this Summer using Arianne as a launch vehicle. If all three remain in operation we will have additional diversity and extensive coverage of our major areas of interest.

A significant development in this field was achieved when the Royal Signals Research Establishment (RSRE) recently demonstrated the linking of Ptarmigan in BAOR over Skynet to the MOD in London.

### REGIMENTAL MATTERS

You will be interested to hear that the Corps with the valued help of the Association has purchased an Adventure Training Centre in Whernside, Dent, Cumbria. I can confirm that this new and exciting venture is a great success in that the Centre is now fully booked for the immediate future. It has generated a considerable amount of interest both from inside the Corps and outside with schools and industry.

You will recall the tragic deaths of **Cpls Wood** and **Howes** witnessed by us all on television. A memorial has been erected in Catterick Garrison, paid for from the proceeds of the Sun Newspaper appeal. The memorial in the form of a carved stone sun dial has now been erected and was officially dedicated on 5 April.

### SPORT

Turning now to sport. You hopefully will have seen that **Cpl Callender** of 2 Inf Div Sig Regt at York and **WO Akabusi** (a former member of the Corps) both won gold medals in the recent Commonwealth Games in Auckland in the 4 × 100m sprint relay and 400m hurdles respectively. We wish them well in their efforts to gain selection for Barcelona.

The Corps has recently presented on loan to the Army Football Association a trophy, the Mercury Cup, to be awarded to the winners of the annual soccer match between the Royal Navy and the Army. I am happy to confirm that the Army are the first holders having won 3—0 and that **Sgt Brown** of the Corps, the Army Team Captain, received the trophy. Incidentally that was his 147th and last match for the Army. Two other members of the Corps represented the Army in that match. We also have two members in both the Army Rugby and Hockey Teams this year.



### SIGNIFICANT CHANGE

I will end this brief report with a few words on another significant change which has recently taken place. You will all have recognised the way in which communications and what is generally called Information Technology have come together; word processing, computers communicating with each other, facsimile, electronic mail and the electronic office. On the battlefield the same has been happening and you will all be aware of the introduction in recent years of the new Ptarmigan area system and Wavell a computer based command and control system. There is also a convergence of tactical and office systems.

In recognition of all this and after a long and successful debate the Signal Officer in Chief (Army) was given the additional responsibility of Director General Command, Control and Information Systems (Army) (DGCIS(A)) with responsibility for the sponsorship of CIS matters including both communication and non-operational computer requirements. This new appointment recognises the technological convergence of communication and information systems both of which disciplines deeply involve the Corps in its day to day work. This all presents the Corps with exciting challenges as we approach the 21st Century. He therefore now has two titles but as far as Corps matters are concerned he is still SOinC(A) and I remain Deputy SOinC(A).

### CONCLUSION

The Association will wish to know that despite the continuing manning problems, the Corps is in good heart. It continues to be served by high quality soldiers and on behalf of them I thank the Association for all the support it gives, in a number of ways, to your Serving Corps.

## — From our "In" Tray —

# DEDICATION OF THE MEMORIAL TO CORPORAL D. R. HOWES AND CORPORAL D. T. WOOD—5 APRIL 1990

On the afternoon of 19 March 1988 **Cpls David Howes** and **Derek Wood** were on duty in an unmarked civilian car in the vicinity of the Miltown Cemetery, Belfast when they became involved with an IRA funeral procession. IRA supporters dragged them from their car and murdered them in cold blood. These events were seen as they happened due to the presence of television news cameras covering the funeral. This callous and brutal act shocked the population and resulted in a large and spontaneous response in letters and money to support the families and to provide a memorial to the two soldiers.

On 5 April 1990 a memorial sundial to **Cpls David Howes** and **Derek Wood** was unveiled in Newbigging Park in Catterick Garrison. The sundial was presented to the Corps by the Sun Newspaper, paid for by donations from its readers. A photograph of the memorial appears on the back outside cover.

Later this year it is planned that the Corps War Memorial to all members of the Royal Corps of Signals who have died in the service of their Nation will be unveiled. Plans are well advanced now and it is hoped that the War Memorial, which is to be sited at the edge of 11 Sig Regt's parade ground in Helles Barracks, will be ready in time for it to be dedicated at the Royal Signals Association Reunion in June.

Sunshine welcomed us to the start of a typical English Spring day in Yorkshire. The 'Sundial' Memorial day had arrived. The families faced the day with mixed emotions and feelings, sadness but great pride in **David** and **Derek**.

We were escorted to the Memorial Service held in Catterick Garrison Memorial Church by a young liaison officer, who helped smooth our path through a very emotional day. The combination of young soldiers so smartly uniformed, the beautiful music played by the Military band, resplendent in their dress uniform, the appropriately selected hymns and readings, and the address, which showed a depth of understanding of our pain at the loss of **David** made our tears flow again, a very moving tribute which honoured **David** and **Derek**.

A short walk through the grounds brought us to the Sundial site, being situated at one of the crossroads within the Garrison, but surrounded by green fields and trees.

The Master of Signals then unveiled the Sundial, donated through contributions from The Sun newspaper and its readers, in memory of our two lads. Around the circumference of the Sundial are the Remembrance words we know well:-

'At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them'.

On the face of the Sundial is a plaque which commemorates **David** and **Derek**'s courage and example.

The Master of Signals and the Chaplain dedicated the memorial with these words:-

Master: *'I unveil this Memorial in proud and glorious memory of Cpl David Howes and Cpl Derek Wood who laid down their lives in the service of their Country and The Royal Corps of Signals'.*

Chaplain: *'O Almighty God, whose son Jesus Christ showed us how great is the price of freedom by giving his life to deliver us from evil, Bless, we pray thee, this Memorial to those who died in the cause of freedom. We pray that it may not only be a reminder of their sacrifice, but also an inspiration of peace and love, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen'.*

The fathers then laid posies of flowers on the sundial. A welcome break for coffee and an informal chat with soldiers who had served with **David** and **Derek** followed. A trip through the beautiful Yorkshire countryside then took us across to Cumbria, to visit the Adventure Training Centre, where a 'hut' is being converted in **David** and **Derek**'s memory, to accommodate families or groups associated with Royal Signals for outdoor activity holidays. The work will be completed this year, and the building will be known as 'The Howes/Wood Hut'. The beautiful, peaceful countryside in which it is situated, gives one a feeling of calmness, and wonder at the beauty of nature, and a sure knowledge of the love of God in creating such beauty. It is a wonderful, living memorial to our two young soldiers.

A sumptuous buffet lunch followed with a chance to relax and talk with officers and friends. The families were then presented with a photographic memento of the day, which included the Sundial Memorial, the antique silver sport trophies established for Hockey in memory of **David**, and Rugby in memory of **Derek**, and a beautiful replica of the insignia of the Royal Corps of Signals—as on the top of the memorial stone in the church grounds at Westoning. The Corporal Howes Memorial Cup for Hockey will be played for annually by the Apprentices College which **David** attended, and this year **Bob** (father) and I will have the honour of presenting the trophy.

The card we placed with the flowers on the Sundial expressed the following message, and I would like to complete the story of our day with these words. They were the words used by the Lord Bishop of St Albans, the **Rt Rev John Taylor** at our own Memorial Service here in Westoning, and reflect so well our own inner feelings. To anyone who has lost a dear one, think on these words, they help:-

'Life is eternal, and love is immortal
And death is only an horizon, and horizon is
Nothing but the limit of our sight.'

Thanks to The Royal Corps of Signals for giving us a day filled with compassion, caring and good will. We are proud of **Derek** and **David** and the Royal Signals.

**Barbara**
**(David's** mother)

# THE BAND OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

1989 has been an exceptionally busy year for the Corps Band. In the UK alone it has visited places as far apart as Alderney, one of the smallest of the Channel Islands, Northern Ireland and Inverness. It has performed at various functions which included dinner nights, passing out parades at Catterick, Royal Signals Association weekends at Blandford, York and Catterick, and many Retreat Ceremonies.

The Band's touring season started unusually early last year with some hectic preparation for a tour of Hong Kong at the end of January. Normally, the months of January to March are an intensive period of rehearsal for the summer season of concerts and marching displays. The annual tour of BAOR in October included a four day visit to Berlin, only a few days before the wall was breached! Without any doubt the highlight of the overseas tours was the visit to the North Eastern region of Italy. One of the most spectacular venues during this tour was a concert performed in St Mark's Square, Venice, a memorable occasion. However, these tours are never holidays and are always packed with concerts and functions.

Other tours are occasionally undertaken and the Band has visited most European countries. In 1990 we hope to represent great Britain with the Princess Royal at a British Trade Exhibition in Tokyo, Japan.

In addition to Corps commitments overseas it has performed at concerts in many towns and cities in UK and at other events such as the international football matches at Wembley, Rugby at Twickenham, the Lord Mayor's Show in London, as well as weddings and receptions.

The Band has continued to develop and progress throughout 1989. Its Bandmasters and Directors of Music, over the years, have each taken advantage of the versatility of the Band and the tastes of the day. Today's Band is no exception; it prides itself on being modern and progressive, yet retaining all the highest standards and traditions. From 1990 it intends to produce a touring 'Roadshow' for special occasions. Born out of market research, this progressive venture will have a very wide range of music and a variety of ensembles, emphasising its versatility. It will include a jazz and pop group; a big swing Band to include the ever popular music of Glen Miller in its repertoire; light pops orchestra, featuring the Band's string players; fanfares, baroque trumpeters and the traditional full concert Band. The show will be making use of the Band's many fine soloists and utilising as its only guest, the superbly professional Pipe Major from the Army Apprentices' College in Harrogate, **Pipe Major Tam Cornwall, Royal Scots**.

### THE ROYAL SIGNALS ROADSHOW

From the heralding beat of the Bass Drum to the resounding Finale of an enthusiastically sung National Anthem, audience participation was assured in Salisbury City Hall, on Friday 16 March. The Staff Band of the Royal Corps of Signals was, under the command of its Director of Music, **Capt David Wall**, presenting the Royal Signals Roadshow, as its contribution to the celebration of the Corps' 70th Anniversary.

Well turned out and courteous members of the School of Signals Regiment assisted the Band as ushers and programme sellers. The backstage and 'Front of House' work was carried out by members of the Band, several of whom then also found time and energy to perform on stage.

With the possible exception of one or two curtain catastrophes the whole production ran on smooth, professional lines and the entire team is to be congratulated.

Accustomed as its public is to its musical excellence, it was an added enjoyment to watch the slick stage transitions, the auditorium displays and, not least, the quick change artistry between the ensembles.

The programme was constructed to highlight, in turn, all the talents of the Staff Band, from the acknowledged primary ceremonial role to a virtuosi display of drumming, followed by a fine demonstration that, if defence cuts do their worst, the Fanfare Trumpeters will never be silenced whilst there are hose pipes and tin cans.

The Corps Staff Band has some forty musicians and such is their diversity of talent that from their massed ranks also come; the Orchestra, led by the Band Sergeant Major **WO1 Victor Lenthall**; the 'Big Band', under the leadership of Assistant Band Sergeant Major **WO2 John Manning**, and 'Mercury', the Jazz and Dance Band Section, led by **Cpl Phil Doyle**.

Drum Major **WO2 Colin Harriman** is out front with the Brass, and also here, there and everywhere.

With such a wealth of musicianship, it is unfair not to mention every soloist. However, the audience, composed of past and present members of the Corps, members of the Royal British Legion, families and friends, consistently showed its appreciation and enjoyment. Perhaps one individual can take a corporate bow? Pipe Major **Tam Cornwell**, Staff Instructor of the Royal Signals Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, who gave an inimitable performance as the lone piper.

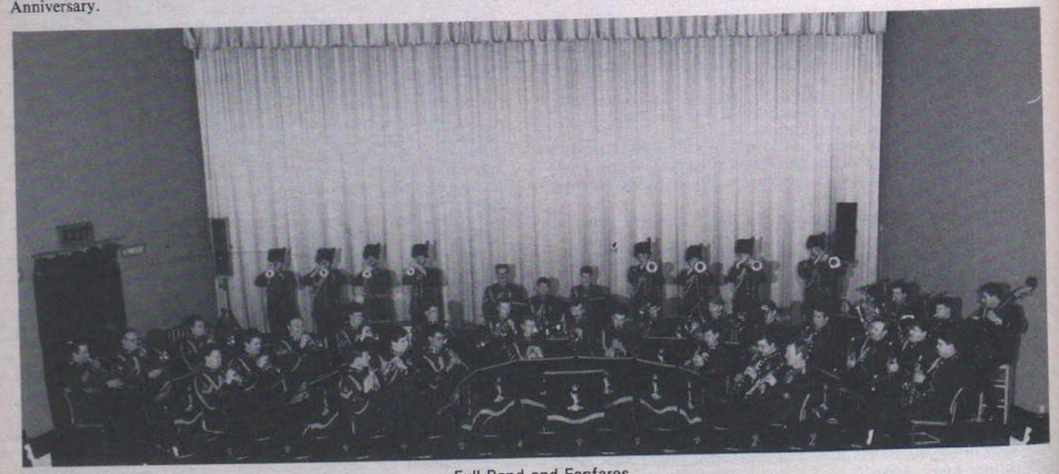
This concert was under the overall direction of **Capt Wall** and producer **Mr Cy Payne**.

Not satisfied with its efforts on the Friday night, Saturday evening saw the 18 musicians of the Big Band, conducted and compèred by **John Manning**, attracting a full house, standing room only and some latecomers turned away, at the Corn Exchange, Blandford.

This event, organised by the Blandford Music Week, Fund Raising Committee, was by popular public demand.

The Big Band Sound, with the added appeal of vocalist, **LCpl Colin Wolfendale**, allowed the insatiable audience to indulge in nostalgia for the classical sounds of the era of jazz and swing and the days when they really could dance to the music.

Of paramount importance though the Band's commitments are to the ceremonial activities of the Corps, and the exigencies of the Service, it is also important to keep a good, acceptable public face. In their excellent entertainment of the general public, the Staff Band of the Royal Corps of Signals does just that.



Full Band and Fanfares



# 31st SIGNAL REGIMENT SOLDIER IS LONDON'S BEST VOLUNTEER



Cpl Paul Burton of HQ Sqn 31 Sig Regt (V) winner of the Burberry Trophy and London Volunteer Soldier of the year 1990, is pictured with his girlfriend LCpl Meg Garven also of 31 Sig Regt (V)



Sgt Malcolm Vriens of 41 Sig Sqn (V) on the occasion of his award of the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for Meritorious Service. With him in the picture is Lt Col L. G. French, CO 31 Sig Regt (V)

# D WING ROYAL SIGNALS MANNING AND RECORD OFFICE TAKES TO THE SKIES

During the summer of 1989 three members of D Wing decided that it would be a good idea to raise some money for Charity by undertaking a sponsored parachute jump. At this point the help of **Lt Col Phil Spooner** commanding the RSDT and **Capt Malcolm Coupar** OC Blue Helmets was enlisted to get this adventure under way.

Friday 6 October 1989 saw **Miss Lucy McIntosh, Miss Melissa Craven** and **Miss Elaine Easton** set off from Glasgow for Catterick where 8 Sig Regt looked after them for the weekend.

On the Saturday they reported to the Northern Parachute Centre, Topcliffe to undergo their rigorous training before being allowed to jump. It was during this training that **Elaine** decided it was not her scene and left **Lucy** and **Melissa** to fly the Scottish flag over North Yorkshire. The weather was unkind and it was not until the Sunday afternoon that the pair got airborne. Both were in the same party and it is reported that **Lucy** having seen the 'assistance' given to **Melissa** before her, went out of the door with no problems. Having landed safely it was deemed to be a great success.

Sincere thanks go to all who helped to organise, advise, train and also to those who donated money. Cancer Research has benefitted by £400.00 and the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund by £83.50.

Well done girls.



Melissa *(left)* and Lucy all geared up for their fund raising jump

# 1 ARMOURED DIVISION HQ AND SIGNAL REGIMENT REGIMENTAL CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

The Regimental Cross Country Team has continued to build on its early season success. The team won the Divisional Championships and then competed for the BAOR Cross Country Championships. Over a very tough course the team put in a good result and won the event. From the team **Sgts Bill Bailey, Jim Brebner, Mark Lassater, Cpl Andy Kennedy** and **LCpl 'Nes' Nesbitt** were selected to represent the BAOR Cross Country Team in the meeting with RAF(G) and French Forces Germany.

Having qualified for the Army Cross Country Championships the team returned to the UK in early February to defend its title of Army Champions. In appalling weather conditions at Tweeseldown the team beat off all opposition to win the Major Units Championship for the third year in succession.

Already the team is looking forward to next year's season with high expectations. Recently the team has said goodbye to **Sgt Dave Gill** and wife **Liz** and also to **LCpl Mark Vile** and wife **Sam**. Good luck to you both in civvy street.



# BRITISH ARMY EXPEDITION BASE SARDINIA—BFPO 54

The base is prepared for the 1990 onslaught particularly the World Cup!

The base briefs, equips and transports two groups of eight men from BAOR and UKLF every week, to do some arduous and challenging Adventurous Training in Sardinia and since March, Corsica as well. The base holds equipment for sea canoeing, caving, climbing, trekking, diving and wind surfing. It is manned entirely by soldiers from Royal Signals units in BAOR, most of them on a one month attachment, with eight soldiers manning the base at any one time.

**LCpl Taulbut** proudly completed his month's attachment by handing over the 'new' Sardinia field workshop to **LCpl Bob Billingham**. The workshop was officially opened by **Lt P. A. Smith** the day **LCpl Taulbut** returned to Germany.

If you're thinking about coming down here for the World Cup, forget it, the stadium's not finished yet.



*Back row (left to right):* SSgt Bradshaw, Sig 'Blodwin' Jones, Pte Murphey and Sig 'Morph' Williams
*Front row (left to right):* LCpls Taulbut, Bob Billingham, Lt Smith, 'Deci' the dog, Pte 'Woodcock' Wilkinson and Sig Millington. LCpl Sloman took the photograph



# 16 SIGNAL REGIMENT SPORTING SUCCESSES

**BASKETBALL**

The Regimental Basketball team has had a season to remember. Some sceptics in the basketball world did not rate the team as strong as that which won the Army Cup in 1988, but **SSgt Fred Tedby** thought otherwise and under his experienced leadership the team went on to prove him right.

The campaign started with total domination of the RCZ qualifying stage with notable performances coming from **Sgts Jim Peat, 'Bagsy' Bain** and **LCpl Mark Reeves** in the Pool stage and onto the BAOR final. 39 Heavy Regt RA put up a spirited performance, but the coach **SSgt Fred Tedby** and the captain **SSgt Chalky White** produced outstanding games and put the cup back on the road to Krefeld.

The final hurdle was the Army Final in Aldershot against 39 Engr Regt, who were bound to be formidable opponents having dominated the UKLF stages of the competition. The School of Signals kindly offered to host the team for a week prior to the Finals in order to fine tune skills and fitness. Two fine wins in warm up games against local teams put the team into a determined frame of mind and provided the motivation to show the non believers what they were made of.

After a shaky start in the Final, the team began to control all phases of the game. With a 15 point lead and only three minutes to go, it looked for all the world that the Cup was in the bag. 39 Engr Regt had different ideas. They changed their game plan, and with outside shooting, they began to claw their way back. Only three points were in it when time was called. It was a superb all round team performance; the Warrior Shield presented to the man of the match went to **LCpl Mark Reeves**.

Final score 16 Sig Regt 61 39 Engr Regt 58.

The Squad—**WO1 Garth Pickersgill, SSgts Fred Tedby, Trev Smith, Chalky White, Sgts Bagsy Bain, Jim Peat, Tiny Phillips, Steve Rowe, Cpl Charlie Hanson, LCpls Mark Reeves, Bob Whipp and Cass Cassell.**

**CANOEING**

Four members of the Regiment were presented with their 1988/89 Army Canoeing Colours when Comd 4 Sig Gp **Col Peter Chaddock** visited the Regiment early in the New Year, they were **SSgt (FofS) Dobson, Cpl Dobson, LCpl Broders** and **Haig**.

**SHOOTING**

Congratulations to **SSgt Helen Telford** who shot particularly well during the Army (Womens) Rifle Association training week at Guildford, and who was the top scorer for the Army in the Inter-Services competition. She also won the Mason Trophy for the highest Combined Civil Service/Inter-Service score and the ARA pennant for the highest aggregate score in the training matches against the Surrey Ladies, ACC depot and JIB Ouston. She is also the Inter Services (Womens) Small Bore Champion for 1990.



LCpl Broders receiving his Army Canoeing Colours from Comd 4 Sig Gp, Col P. E. A. Chaddock. SSgt (FofS) Dobson looks on



SSgt Helen Telford with her trophies

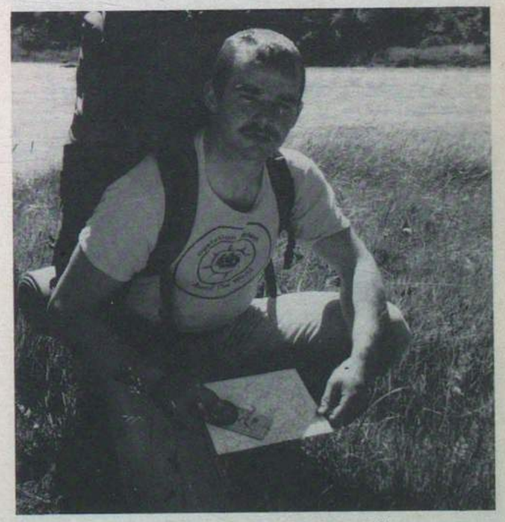
# WITH OPERATION RALEIGH IN THE LAND BEYOND

**Cpl Norman Ritchie** (School of Signals) took part in the Operation Raleigh Trapananda expedition in Chile. Located in Torres Del Pain National Park he was responsible for communications between the three groups in the park. If you are interested in taking part in these expeditions please contact 'Operation Raleigh' The Power House, Alpha Place, London SW3 5SZ. Tel: 071-351 7541.

**Cpl Garry Ingledew** went to a remote area of Chilean Patagonia and completed a long canoe journey through one of the region's river systems and later took part in a community project.



Cpl Garry Ingledew with Operation Raleigh



Cpl Norman Ritchie in Southern Chile

## OUT AND ABOUT WITH R.O.A.R.S

**From: WO2 (YofS) B. J. Hayward**

During the past five months I have had the honour of being a guest operator with the Royal Oman Amateur Radio Society which is located in a fine building based between Seeb and Muscat. The equipment in the club is very modern, an Icom 781 topping the list with its' built in monitor screen and a 500 Watt linear amplifier.

Until very recently licences for expats were not being issued. In January reciprocation for holders of a full licence was re-introduced to coincide with the 17th anniversary of the formation of ROARS. My application duly lodged with the Society is in the pipeline and very soon inshaallah al Hamdulillah I should be issued with my callsign A45Z?

This has not kept me from assisting with various functions which have included the field weekend for the anniversary at Athaiba beach near Seeb airport, a few days on the Island of Mahout 560kms south of Muscat and a weekend at the village of Rustaq amongst the mountains of the north. All of these very enjoyable expeditions have given me a great opportunity to see the fantastic countryside and meet lots of interesting people plus an opportunity to work the world on radio.

We went on to greater things with an expedition to Kuria Muria an island 50 miles off the coast of Salalah. The island used to be an RAF base; nowadays it is occupied by a few fishermen and government employees. The group was on the island during 17-24 May and called the world from what is a very rare location in Amateur radio circles.

The photograph shows the group which occupied Mahout Island during a very wet and windy weekend but, with the overwhelming hospitality of the Bedu fishermen and their families, it was a great time.



Royal Oman Radio Society expedition to Mahout Island—February 1990

## KANCHANABURI WAR CEMETERY

**WO2 (ORQMS) J. Boyd** of 16 Sig Regt has sent an excellent photograph of the grave of **LCpl C. T. Noble (423)** who died on 5 February 1944 and is buried in the cemetery. A relative of **LCpl Noble** may wish to have the photograph which is available from the Editor's office.



## CIVILIAN QUALIFICATIONS FOR IN-SERVICE TRAINING

For the first time all soldiers are to have the opportunity to obtain a recognised and transferable civilian qualification for the skills they acquire in military service.

City and Guilds, in conjunction with the National Council for Vocational Qualifications (NCVQ) and the Ministry of Defence, today announced a scheme for the award of certificates as part of a national government-sponsored initiative to ensure that skills obtained in the workplace are standardised and assessed in the same way as other qualifications.

The Adjutant General, **Gen Sir Robert Pascoe**, who has overall responsibility for training and education in the Army, today said: 'I welcome this new City and Guilds award enormously. At long last the professional skills obtained by soldiers, both men and women, Regular and Territorial, are to be recognised by a major national civilian qualification scheme. In a practical way it will benefit soldiers while they serve and when they leave the service. Their newly acquired qualifications will provide employers with a reliable and independent means of assessing the soldiers' achievements, experience and true ability. This is a major step forward in raising the level of understanding of the value of military service.'

The scheme will provide a link between the training of a soldier and the skill areas in civilian employments. At the conclusion of a regular soldier's military career, whether after the minimum three years or full 22 years, he or she will be able to produce nationally-recognised vocational qualifications relevant to civilian employment. The same benefit applies to the Territorial Army soldier.

Criteria for assessment have been agreed after extensive consultations with City and Guilds as the awarding body, and NCVQ. Initially, the basic standard, designated as a national Vocational Qualification Level 1, Foundation Skills (Army), will relate to achievements attainable by soldiers in the first 15-18 months of regular service, or in three or four years of Territorial Army service. To obtain this qualification, the soldier must meet a prescribed standard in eight mandatory skill areas, such as health and safety, the conduct of security duties, the ability to assimilate and convey information, and first aid. Further Level 1 skills to become available for inclusion will cover more specialised skills such as driving, radio communications, and the use and maintenance of mechanical equipment.

Later, more levels will be agreed reflecting the range of management and training skills which soldiers are expected to achieve. In all cases, however, the skill area and the assessment standards are negotiated with the qualification awarding body and do not relate to purely fighting skills.

The scheme is to be closely aligned with a parallel qualification scheme in Scotland offered by the Scottish Vocational Education Council.


### *JOIN THE WINNERS!*

In the Tech 536 exams held in December, all entrants from this College passed both exams and are now well on their way to becoming qualified Technical Authors.

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**Telephone 061-437 4235.**

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## – Movements –

### OFFICERS

MAY 1990

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| Lt Col I. J. Hamilton | School of Signals |
| Maj R. J. Good | SHAPE |
| Maj A. Lynn | 608 Sig Tp |
| Maj T. P. Mountford | 34 Sig Regt (V) |
| Capt P. R. Baron | HQ 1 (BR) Corps |
| Capt F. M. Dempster | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Capt A. C. Doane | 15 Sig Regt |
| Capt R. J. Duffy | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Capt S. D. Farrow | HS Lang Trg |
| Capt K. W. Hall | HQ NORTHAG Staff |
| Capt R. Harris | AA Coll Harrogate |
| Capt D. Hornby | 11 Sig Regt |
| Capt M. Kennedy | 259 Sig Sqn |
| Capt G. J. McNeill | 31 Sig Regt (V) |
| Capt R. J. Quinlan | School of Signals |
| Capt S. R. Renfrey | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Capt T. C. Wadey | School of Signals |
| Capt B. G. Watson | 16 Sig Regt |
| Capt R. D. Wright | HQ BF Cyprus |
| Lt R. G. G. Bewsher | 9 Sig Regt |
| Lt S. M. Payne | 30 Sig Regt |

### WOs and SNCOs

APRIL 1990

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| WO1 P. W. Haywood | QG Sig Regt |
| AWO1 (YofS) R. G. Allan | 633 Sig Tp |
| WO2 (FofS) N. E. Baugh | Comms and Sy Gp (UK) |
| WO2 (FofS) S. G. Bibby | 28 Sig Regt |
| WO2 J. Clark | 13 Sig Regt |
| WO2 D. Hales | 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| SSgt D. J. Edgecombe | 8 Sig Regt |
| SSgt D. H. Gilbert | 14 Sig Regt |
| SSgt G. R. Greaves | Berlin HQ and Sig Regt |
| SSgt S. Greaves | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| SSgt (FofS) N. J. Griffiths | 15 Sig Regt |
| SSgt R. Hill | 35 Sig Regt (V) |
| SSgt N. McCreedy | 13 Sig Regt |
| SSgt I. M. Stewart | HQ 2 Sig Bde |
| SSgt D. J. Tennick | 608 Sig Tp |
| SSgt R. C. Thomas | 16 Sig Regt |
| SSgt A. Turner | 16 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt A. Tempest | 7 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt G. E. Thomas | HQ 1 (BR) |
| Sgt C. E. Arnold | School of Signals |
| Sgt P. M. Arnold | NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn |
| Sgt P. D. Ashworth | 9 Sig Regt |
| Sgt W. L. Calvert | QG Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. P. Caygill | 32 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt F. J. Clarkson | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt N. M. Collins | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt L. W. Colquhoun | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt K. Dodd | School of Signals |
| Sgt N. Finnegan | AA Coll Harrogate |
| Sgt P. A. Fluck | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. W. Fowkes | HQ AFNORTH |
| Sgt P. R. Fox | ACIO Chatham |
| Sgt G. R. Grey | JSSU |
| Sgt C. J. Griffiths | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt D. A. Griffiths | Berlin HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. W. Hagger | 39 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt R. Hailstones | 15 Sig Regt |
| Sgt C. H. Jacobs | 3 RGJ |
| Sgt W. Johnson | 11 Sig Regt |
| Sgt F. W. Jones | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt W. B. Jones | QG Sig Regt |
| Sgt D. Livesey | 22 Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. J. Mellett | 3 CTT (Colchester) |
| Sgt G. Moore | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt C. C. McKenna | 11 Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. D. Newell | AA Coll Harrogate |
| Sgt S. P. Norris | British Contingent UNFICYP |
| Sgt N. D. Parry | 15 Sig Regt |
| Sgt I. Power | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt D. M. Ratcliffe | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt B. E. Reid | 249 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt C. J. Rumney | 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Sgt K. Storey | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. S. Thompson | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. Thurman | JATE |
| Sgt K. M. Turley | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt N. P. Vagg | 14 Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. D. Williams | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| ASgt S. A. Dickson | 11 Sig Regt |
| ASgt N. Hawkins | 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| ASgt G. Hodgson | 11 Sig Regt |
| ASgt A. T. Kelly | 14 Sig Regt |
| ASgt C. H. Martin | 249 Sig Sqn |
| ASgt L. North | 11 Sig Regt Depot Tp |
| ASgt M. G. O'Doherty | 9 Sig Regt |
| ASgt R. Tredwell | AA Coll Harrogate |
| ASgt D. A. Wilson | 14 Sig Regt |

MAY 1990

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| WO1 (FofS) M. McDonald | RSA and Larkhill Garrison |
| AWO1 (YofS) B. E. Lawrence | HQ Trg Gp R Signals and Catterick Garrison |
| AWO1 (YofS) D. MacTaggart | British Contingent UNFICYP |
| WO2 (YofS) C. P. Aitken | School of Signals |
| WO2 (YofS) D. Coleman | Battle Gp Tac Trainer (North) |
| WO2 (YofS) C. A. E. Copestake | School of Signals |
| WO2 (YofS) C. Heeles | 16 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (YofS) K. A. Townsend | 21 Sig Regt |
| AWO2 (YofS) M. W. Dawson | 7 Sig Regt |
| AWO2 (YofS) G. O. Yeomans | 210 Sig Sqn |
| SSgt D. M. Forteath | 632 Sig Tp |
| SSgt P. F. Flintham | 238 Sig Sqn |
| SSgt (FofS) R. A. Isbell | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| SSgt P. J. Knight | FSS Buchan Tail |
| SSgt I. P. Matthews | School of Signals |
| SSgt C. B. Strefford | BATUS |
| SSgt M. L. Strefford | 14 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt W. Chestnut | 13 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt E. F. Clee | 14 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt R. W. Corner | 14 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt P. Gillespie | 14 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt J. Gower | 9 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt C. D. Horner | Comms and Sy Gp (UK) |
| ASSgt A. G. W. Howarth | 225 Sig Sqn |
| ASSgt M. Jones | 13 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt M. Keech | 225 Sig Sqn |
| ASSgt B. W. Mazey | 21 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt C. M. Moye | 13 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt A. Worley | 13 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt S. York | 225 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt A. T. Barnett | 238 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt J. Barr | School of Signals |
| Sgt A. Brown | ACIO Dundee |
| Sgt M. K. Brown | ACIO Leicester |
| Sgt P. J. Cornes | 14 Sig Regt |
| Sgt I. Davies | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt T. A. Disney | 9 Sig Regt |
| Sgt R. G. Edge | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt D. J. Feakes | 28 Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. E. J. Gill | 22 Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. P. Goodwin | JCUFI |
| Sgt M. Goor | HQ AFCENT |
| Sgt J. M. Gorman | SHAPE Sig Gp |
| Sgt C. J. Jones | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt L. E. Martin | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt K. Murray | 2 CTT (Bassingbourn) |
| Sgt W. McCreath | 15 Sig Regt |
| Sgt T. A. Nicholas | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. J. Piper | 259 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt I. Ramsdale | JCUFI |
| Sgt K. J. Rhodes | 14 Sig Regt |
| Sgt B. Rogers | 28 Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. J. Taylor | 259 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt D. M. Traynor | 47 Fd Regt |
| Sgt J. R. Walton | 33 Sig Regt (V) |
| ASgt M. K. B. Bernstein | 633 Sig Tp |
| ASgt P. Bracey | 13 Sig Regt |
| ASgt G. Collins | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| ASgt R. A. Robertson | 13 Sig Regt |
| ASgt A. Simpson | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |

## ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during March 1990:-

| | |
|---|---|
| In memory of Col M. Seys-Phillips | £500.00 |
| P. Jones—SSAFA Wales | £100.00 |
| Mereworth Parish Council | £25.00 |
| 754 and 818 Troops (54 Sig Sqn and 36 Sig Regt) | £25.00 |
| In memory of M. G. Sanderson | £20.00 |
| Gladman and Walrond | £20.00 |
| Mr O. O'Leary | £10.00 |
| Miscellaneous | £12.91 |
| | £712.91 |

The following donations were gratefully received during April 1990:-

| | |
|---|---|
| In memory of Sig J. D. Foley | £241.08 |
| RSA Brighton | £60.00 |
| R. and M. Hinge | £50.00 |
| RSA Bedford | £25.00 |
| Capt B. Smith | £16.50 |
| In memory of Col B. Daubeney | £10.00 |
| I. Harvey | £4.00 |
| | £406.58 |

# NOTICES

## DEATHS

**Boileau—Col T. Boileau OBE**—served 1924-1953—died 7 April 1990.
**Bradbury—P. Bradbury**—served 1939-1946—died 11 April 1990.
**Carnell—Maj D. J. Carnell**—served 1944-1977—died 27 April 1990.
**Complin—Lt Col B. Complin**—served 1949-1979—died 22 April 1990.
**Daubeny—Lt Col W. G. Daubeny**—served 1928-1956—died 29 March 1990.
**Gill—Col C. J. Gill**—died 8 April 1990.
**Hill—Lt J. B. A. Hill**—served 1946-1948—died 26 September 1989.

## OBITUARIES

**Whitcombe—B. Whitcombe.** It is with regret that we report the death of **Bryn Whitcombe** which occurred on 4 March 1990. A member of Cardiff Branch he was a regular attendee of the Catterick Reunion. **Bryn** will be sadly missed by his many friends.

## THE CORPS FAMILY

We ask all readers, Branch Secretaries and former colleagues to please notify Regimental Headquarters of any deaths that may occur in order that appropriate follow-up action is taken. In many instances we remain unaware of these occurrences and have to rely on daily newspapers and other sources.

It is our wish to pay tribute to service in the Corps in the Death/Obituary column of *The Wire* and to maintain a link with the family. Please assist where you can.

## CORPS DATES

Please make a note in your diary of the following Corps events which will take place in 1990:-

| | |
|---|---|
| 16 June | Corps Officers Lunch—Blandford |
| 23/24 June | Catterick RSA Reunion |
| 18 December | Corps Carol Service in London affiliated Church |

Further details will be published nearer to each event.

### CORPS LUNCHEON

The luncheon will be held at the Headquarter Mess, Royal Signals, Blandford Camp on Saturday 16 June 1990 at 1200 hrs for 1300 hrs. Dress: Lounge suit.

The cost is £10 which includes pre-luncheon drinks and wines at table.

All Royal Signals Officers, serving or retired, their wives and grown up children are eligible to attend. WRAC Officers who are serving, or who have served with Royal Signals, their husbands and grown up children are also eligible to attend. The widows of Regular Officers are also eligible to attend and those wishing to do so will be guests of the Corps. As far as possible invitations are sent directly to widows, but any reader who is aware of a widow not having received an invitation is asked to notify the Regimental Secretary of her name and address. **Cheques to be made payable to Royal Signals Corps Fund.**

### CORPS DINNER IN SCOTLAND

An inaugural Corps Dinner will take place in Glasgow at the Western Club on Friday 28 September 1990 at 1900 hrs for 1930 hrs. A 'pay bar' will be open before and after Dinner.

Dress: Highland Evening Wear or Dinner Jacket. All Royal Signals Officers, regular or volunteer, serving or retired are eligible to attend. WRAC Officers who are or have served with Royal Signals are also eligible to attend.

The cost of the Dinner is £16.50 including wine at table for all those who contribute to Corps funds, regrettably the cost for those not contributing will be £33.00! Cheques should be made payable to Royal Signals Corps Funds.

Application for tickets should be made to: Corps Dinner Scotland Secretary, Royal Signals Manning and Record Office, Kentigern House, 65 Brown Street, Glasgow G2 8EX.

Places at Dinner are limited so applications will be dealt with on a first come first served basis. Early application is therefore recommended and applications will not be considered after 8 August 1990. Tickets and administrative instructions will be sent out in the second half of August.

Persons wishing to obtain overnight accommodation in Glasgow may obtain details from: The Greater Glasgow Tourist Board, 35-39 Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2ER. (Tel: 041-204 4400).

## HM THE QUEEN'S GARDEN PARTY AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Our **Colonel-in-Chief HRH The Princess Royal GCVO** may attend the Garden Party on Thursday 19 July 1990.

Any members of the Corps who receive invitations to attend on this date are asked to notify the Regimental Secretary at RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD in order that they may be included in the Corps organised party and presented to the Colonel-in-Chief.

## FOR SALE

The following items which have never been worn: Officers' Mess Dress, No. 1 Dress Hat, Spurs (Peg and Sleeve), Brown shoes and 'Victor' Beret.

The following items which have been worn occasionally: Service Dress, SD Hat, George Boots (Boxed) and Ammo Boots. Height: 6ft; Chest: 40/42in; Inside Leg: 31½in; Hat Size: 7⅛in and Shoe Size: 9 medium—10 medium (dependent upon item).

All reasonable offers considered.

Please write to: **Mr C. Thompson**, 35 Pickards Way, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE13 1SD. Tel: (0945) 475085.

## WORLD WAR I SONGS

**Cassette Recording and Songsheet**

Some 25 World War I songs have been recorded by the Tavistock Repertory Company in a base camp canteen setting, each song introduced by **Richard Baker**. They are available from the Box Office Tavistock Repertory Company (Cassettes), The Tower Theatre, Canonbury, London N1 at £6.25 for cassette and songsheet plus 45p p&p (£1 p&p overseas). Cheques should be made payable to 'The Tavistock Repertory Company'.

## PERSONAL

**WO2 (RQMS) Colin Thompson** ('The Hump') has recently left the Corps after 17½ years service. He will be pleased if friends will keep in touch with him. His address is: 35 Pickards Way, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE13 1SD. Tel: (0945) 64766.

Ex **WO1 Brian Fisher** will be visiting UK in October from his home in Australia after an absence of 18 years. He and his wife will be here for three weeks and would very much like to meet up with old friends who still remember them. **Mr Fisher** joined the Boys Company in February 1947 and was with 31 Sig Regt (V) before leaving the Army. Please write to him at 281 Wright Road, Valley View, South Australia 5093 to arrange a reunion.

**Maj David Elson** and **Joanna** who left the army at the end of April are now living in Aboyne, Aberdeenshire. They have become the proprietors of Praesmohr House, a private residential home for the elderly. We wish them every success and happiness in their new and worthwhile venture.



# REUNIONS

**145 (MAIWAND) COMMANDO BATTERY RA (1962-1977)**

To commemorate the 110th Anniversary of the Battle of Maiwand an all ranks reunion is to take place on Friday 27 July 1990 in Plymouth. All those who served in the Battery and who would like to attend please contact **Tom Browne** at 52 Widewell Road, Roborough, Plymouth PL6 7DW.

**HORA HENA, EKALA AND KANDY**

This year's Reunion will take place at the Belmont Hotel, Leicester on Friday 26 October 1990. It is hoped that as many as possible who served in Hora Hena, Ekala and Kandy will be able to attend this year.

Last year 63 people including wives enjoyed a buffet supper and dancing. It is hoped that even more will be there this year. Further details from **Mr Harry Moore**, 1 Blue Granite Park, The Green, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire LE12 7AG. Tel: (0533) 375423. He will be delighted to hear from anyone who served at one, or all, of these locations during 1944 to 1950.

**SHELLFIRE CORNER REUNION**

A reunion of those who served in the Dover area between 1940 and 1945 is being organised by **Ken Flint**—ex Corps—of 77 Lydia Road, Deal, Kent CT14 9JY. The reunion is to be held on 27 June 1990. Anyone interested is asked to contact **Ken Flint** giving your name (or maiden name if appropriate), former unit or ship and present address.

**MORECAMBE REUNION**
*for those who served*
**FRIDAY 10 AUGUST 1990**
**Dome Theatre, Morecambe**
**(Annual Service Charity Presentation)**
**COMBINED SERVICES FESTIVAL**
**Monday 6-Saturday 11 August**

**KOHIMA 1990**

The Anniversary of the Battle of Kohima, 1944, will be commemorated by 2 Infantry Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment at Imphal Barracks, York on the weekend 28/29 July 1990. Veterans from 2 Infantry Division and past members of 2 Infantry Division Signal Regiment who have not yet received details of the weekend are warmly invited to contact: The Adjutant, 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt, Imphal Barracks, Fulford Road, York YO1 4HD or Telephone York Civil (0904) 659811 Ext 2248.

**25 REGIMENT RA—FIFTH REUNION**

The fifth Reunion of 25 Regiment RA (1947-1984) is to take place on Sunday 1 July 1990 at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill. This is the Sunday after Artillery Day.

Details for those not on the mailing list can be had from: **Len Haddow**, Oak Trees, 11 Chapel Lane, Hempstead, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3TD. Tel: (0634) 388156.

**5 AIRBORNE BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON**

**NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY**

To all members past and present of Airborne Signals who are currently serving or have retired to civvy street. The 50th Anniversary of Airborne Forces will be celebrated over the weekend of 6/7 July 1990 at Aldershot.

Anybody wishing to attend and receive further information is requested to write to the Admin Officer, 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Arnhem Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2AU.

To all Officers past and present of Airborne Signals. The annual reunion dinner will be held at Aldershot on Friday 21 September 1990. If any Officer has not yet received details on the event and would like to attend, please contact the Admin Officer, 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Arnhem Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2AU or telephone (0252) 349547.

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY DUNKIRK 1940-1990

The 50th Anniversary of the Dunkirk Evacuaton is to be commemorated by The Dunkirk Veterans Association and The Association of Dunkirk Little Ships. The major event is the return of the veterans who were there to Dunkirk and La Panne. It is a pilgrimage.

The 50th Anniversary of the Dunkirk Evacuation is being marked by The Royal Naval Association and Royal British Legion in the setting up of The Dunkirk 50th Anniversary Memorial Appeal for a special fund to be administered by the RBL Benevolent Department.

With the full backing of The Dunkirk Veterans Association and The Association of Dunkirk Little Ships, the funds generated will go towards the much needed 6th RBL Legion Residential Home. This is to be called The Dunkirk Memorial Home.

Priority at the Home will be given to those veterans of the Second World War who survived the Dunkirk Evacuation. In 1940, some 340,000 men were brought home by the combined efforts of the services and civilians. Many thousand Dunkirk veterans are still alive, although the youngest is now 68 years old. More and more now need the help and caring provided by The Royal British Legion's Benevolent Services.

The Royal British Legion invite your support in this Appeal.

## ROYAL SIGNALS DIARY 1991 NOW AVAILABLE AT MUSEUM SHOP BLANDFORD CAMP

The 1991 Corps Diary is now available for sale. It is of a similar pattern to last year. The outer Cover (6in × 3½in) is in Blue Elkatex with two Gilt corner Mounts and a matching ribbon Marker. The Diary is 'a Fortnight to View' and includes a Forward Planner, Memoranda and Telephone index, European Holidays 1991, Three Year Calendar, Main Ferry Crossing Routes, Vintage Wine Chart, Intercity Routes and much more. The cost of the Diary is £2.20 including postage and packing. Bulk orders are welcome and will receive 10% Discount, (minimum order of 50 for Discount).

Order now by writing to, or telephoning:

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM SHOP
BLANDFORD CAMP
DORSET DT11 8RH

Tel: Civil 0258 452581 Ext 2248
Blandford Mil Ext 2248

You will receive our normal swift efficient service.

CHEQUES MADE PAYABLE TO:

ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS FUND

# LETTERS

**From: Mr Thomas J. Bates**
Dear Sir,

May I presume on your kindness for some help in tracing a 'missing person'? She is one of us, ie a Signals Lady, in that in Calcutta in 1943 or 1944 she married a Lieutenant-Colonel of Signals. I cannot now remember the Colonel's name but the lady was the sister of my closest school friend, **Kenneth Horsan-Reader**. I believe her name was **Joyce** but I am not sure of that.

**Kenneth 'Horsie' Reader** served in the 3/5th Royal Gurkha Rifles while I served with 17 Indian Divisional Signals in Burma and Assam. We never met again after leaving school (St Joseph's College, North Point, Darjeeling, India). For a long time I couldn't find out anything about him although I tried. Then, a few years ago I learnt the shocking news that he had been killed by terrorists in Malaya in about 1950.

I would like to get in touch with **'Horsie's'** sister because I am writing a book about our school and war days in India and Burma and she may be able to help me. Perhaps a signaller will recognise the name and give me a lead I can follow up.

Yours faithfully
**T. J. Bates**

120 Hillcrest Road
Berkeley
California 94705
USA

**From: Maj M. G. Vokes TD**
Dear Sir,

The article in the April 1990 edition of *The Wire* regarding the ACF/CCF National Network certainly brought back many happy memories of a mispent youth over 30 years ago!

Certainly the competitions were an excellent way to learn about frequencies and aerials to be used at different times of the day and night. Rushing into the radio room each lunchtime and switching on the 12/107 to 'Lima Uniform' was no problem (except when the rain had come through the roof into the 12, or getting a belt off the live points below the on/off switch of the 107), particularly as someone else always seemed to be on air first.

One early lesson learnt by me was that HF over any sort of longer distance did not work too well on ground wave, no matter how far into the sky a vertical aerial pointed; after about 23 hours of a 24 hour competition in a tent in an exposed part of the New Forest, a small length of horizontal copper wire produced a final hour of rather better contacts . . .

I was particularly interested to read about Jack Hargreaves and the honour that he has received. Jack took over the net from 56A shortly before I left school. In my early days in the TA, carrying out Annual Camp at Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, I remember commanding a Commhead site on Flamborough Head in a disused radar station near Bempton, where Jack lived. It gave me great pleasure to make his acquaintance, having banged on his front door. I was of course made most welcome.

One of the most enjoyable sides to the National Net was going to courses and camps run by the Regular Army and meeting some of the operators from other schools, such as at the School of Signals, then at Catterick, where I met amongst many others, Bob Titterington, who has had a long distinquished Royal Signals TA career.

Mention was made that the National Net is particularly valuable to cadets considering Royal Signals as a career or as an avenue to obtaining an Amateurs licence; however, several of us, such as Bob and myself have taken this different direction and joined the Territorials. No doubt there are many other readers like ourselves, still serving 30 years on? It would be interesting to read of the experiences of any other former National Net operators from the late fifties.

Yours faithfully
**Mike Vokes**

(Ex Callsign 46)
Current Unit: All Arms Watchkeepers and
Liaison Officers Pool, CVHQ RA

## THE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION
## PATRON
## HM THE QUEEN

The Officers' Association provides services which are available to ex-Officers of the Royal Navy (including Royal Marines), the Army and the Royal Air Force, and their widows and dependants, including those who held commissions in the Women's Services. Although a separate organisation, with its own Royal Charter, Council and Committees, The Association also bears the title of 'The Officers' Benevolent Department of the Royal British Legion'. This reflects the financial arrangements that were established in 1921, when the Legion was formed, under which the Association was allocated a proportion of the Poppy Appeal and other donations as recognition of the fact that it discharges that part of the Legion's functions which has to do with Officers.

Services include:

**Employment**—an efficient Employment Department to assist ex-Officers of all ages and ranks to find suitable employment, both those just leaving the Services and those who have lost their civilian jobs. Many hundreds of ex-officers are found jobs every year over a wide salary range.

**Financial Help**—assistance is given in a number of ways such as: cash grants to those in financial distress, continuing allowances to those with very small incomes, help towards Homes fees to those who through age or infirmity can no longer run their own homes and can find no suitable home within their means.

**Homes Advice**—advice on Homes for the elderly.

**A Country Home**—running 'Huntly' a delightful country home at Bishopsteignton, South Devon, which affords comfort and security for lonely ex-Officers at or over the age of 65, both male and female, who do not need special nursing care. Selection is made with due regard to need and service record. Personal contributions are assessed according to individual's means.

**Bungalows**—running a 12-bungalow estate at Leavesden, Herts, for disabled ex-Officers and their families.

The Association has offices in London and Dublin and the Scottish Branch has offices in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

All enquiries should be made to the General Secretary, The Officers' Association, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1 5JY. (Tel: 071-930 0125).

## INNS OF COURT AND CITY YEOMANRY HSF SQUADRON

Despite the fact that you might have been out of the Army for several months or even years we can now offer you the chance to rejoin on a part time basis with an expecially low commitment more commensurate of family and business life. The Inns of Court and City Yeomanry Home Service Force Squadron (The Devil's Own) based in London is recruiting ex regular soldiers to commit themselves for a maximum of five weekends a year (plus the occasional training evening).

We offer varied and interesting training, a chance to maintain your military skills, a chance to make some new and good friends, the offer of a place in a former Regiment whose formation goes back over 400 years.

We are based at Lincoln's Inn (just off Fleet Street) and if you are fit and aged between 20 and 50 and have a good sense of humour then you would be most welcome.

We work hard and play hard and needless to say our exercises are often demanding, always fun and spirits are always high. Why waste your expertise when it is needed in the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry?

Please telephone **Capt Mully** on 01-405 8112 during the week or come and meet us on our training night—the third Monday each month between 1930-2130 hrs.

I look forward to meeting you.

## CHEQUES

Cheques forwarded to RHQ should be marked 'for the attention of the Chief Accountant'. They should not be loosely enclosed with *Wire* notes or photographs.



# ROYAL SIGNALS INSTITUTION AWARDS

***The Princess Mary Medal*** shall be regarded as a rare honour to be awarded to mark an achievement, contribution or service of the highest order which is considered manifestly to have enhanced the performance, reputation or status of Royal Signals.

***The Master of Signals Award*** is given to mark the formal recognition by the Corps of special contributions or services by individuals or corporate bodies to the Corps, or, exceptionally to any part of it, where such recognition cannot properly be accommodated within the terms of award for the Princess Mary or Institution Silver Medals.

The very nature of this award precludes any formal direction or criteria on which it shall be made. Nonetheless, the Master of Signals Award shall be considered a rare and prestigious award and due account of this must be taken in the consideration of a nomination by the originator and in the processing of the nomination.

***The Institution Silver Medal*** shall be regarded as a rare award to mark the attainment of an outstanding professional achievement in the Corps. An exceptional performance on the following courses may also qualify:-

(a) The Royal Signals Officer's Telecommunications Engineering Management Course.
(b) The Foreman of Signals Course.
(c) The Yeoman of Signals Course.

***The Awards.*** The form of the Master of Signals Award on each occasion will be recommended by the Selection Committee. The other awards are silver medals.

***Nominations*** are to be submitted through the Royal Signals chain of command to the Deputy Signal Officer in Chief for the serving Corps, or through the Royal Signals Association to the Chairman for the retired Corps, using the format below, and then to Regimental Headquarters by mid August for consideration by the Awards Committee and the information of the Council of the Royal Signals Institution at its October meeting. The final selection for awards will be decided by the Corps Selection Committee comprising the Master of Signals, the Signal Officer in Chief, the Representative Colonel Commandant and co-opted members as required.

***Presentation.*** A full citation is to be prepared and the presentation made at a suitable Corps function for the Princess Mary Medal and the Master's Award. The Institution Medal is to be presented at an appropriate occasion, to be decided by the Senior Royal Signals Officer in the theatre or command. These awards confer Honorary Membership of the Institution upon the recipients.

***Records.*** The Secretary of the Institution maintains the record of recipients' names and PB11 or Royal Signals M and RO will arrange the annotation of personal records.

**Nomination for the Princess Mary Medal***
**Nomination for the Master of Signals Award***
**Nomination for the Institution Silver Medal***

1. Rank and Name .....
2. Event/Course .....
3. Citation .....
.....
4. Comments
   a. Commander Communications/Association Branches* .....
   b. DSOinC/Chairman of the Royal Signals Association* .....
5. Institution Awards Committee Recommendation .....
.....
6. Selection Committee Decision .....

*Delete where inapplicable

# REPORT FROM ULSTER

## 15 Sig Regt
## BFPO 801

**COMMS OPS**

At 010001Z February 1990 a Province Communications Operations Centre (Comms Ops) announced its arrival with a Province wide radio check on Cougarnet. Together with six other Syscons, Comms Ops has taken on the day to day management of all communications and ADP systems and the co-ordination and tasking of some 20 forward repair and rigging teams. This task being made all the easier by the introduction of a new communications management information system called Commis.

The importation of local knowledge from other province units came in the form of **WO1 (YofS) Bill Tosh** as the Assistant Ops Offr from 3 Inf Bde Sig Sqn, **Cpl Jeff Hope** from 39 Inf Bde Sig Sqn, **LCpl Taff Bowen** from 8 Inf Bde Sig Sqn and our Pot YofS **Cpl John Heaton** from 3 Inf Bde Sig Sqn who arrived with a return ticket to the Caribbean for three weeks sailing.

Newcomers to the Province, **Sgt Jim Lynch** from 1 Inf Bde, **Sgt Mark Brunning** from 7 Sig Regt (via BATUS) and **Sgt Nigel Dixon** from 26 Fd Regt RA, have all now done their NIRTT courses and are leading their shifts in Comms Ops.

The final member of the team is the Ops Offr, **Maj Bob Holt** who arrived last October and meanwhile has completed an infantry NIRTT course. So far he has resisted the temptation to re-title Comms Ops as SEP and the Syscons to OSCs.

**SKY TV**

**Miss Marilyn Mailley** who lives in Birmingham decided to raise some money for the welfare of Corps Soldiers serving in Northern Ireland following the untimely deaths of **Cpls Howes** and **Wood** in 1988. The Birmingham and District Branch of the Association also helped in her fund raising efforts. **Lt Col David Dobson**, CO of 35 Sig Regt (V) also kindly said that his Regiment would match their efforts on a 'pound for pound' basis.

In November Comd Comms, **Lt Col Stephen Siddall**, was invited to attend the Birmingham Association annual dinner and was presented with a cheque for £450. This money was used to purchase a Sky TV terminal for a remote site in Northern Ireland. **Miss Mailley** was not satisfied and persuaded Sky TV to provide another system, free of charge, and this has recently been installed at Divis Mountain.

All ranks in Northern Ireland would like to thank **Miss Mailley**, the Birmingham Branch of the Association, 35 Sig Regt(V) and Sky TV and for their generosity and good wishes.

**225 SIGNAL SQUADRON**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Hugh Bardell** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Ron Clay** |
| **AO** | **Capt Andrea Perks** |
| **Tech Adjt** | **Capt Dave Burden** |
| **USO** | **Capt Chris Bird** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Mick Orange** |
| **RQMS** | **WO2 Willie Ironside** |
| **CC** | **Sgt Howie Ripley** |

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations go to the OC, **Maj Hugh Bardell** on his marriage to **Capt Linda Bowers** QARANC. Congratulations go also to **SSgt Mick Hill** on his promotion to WO2 and to **Sgt Tosh Black, LCpls Tony Delaney** and **Brian Mason** on their promotion to Substantive rank.

**DEPARTURES**

We say farewell to **WO1 Bob Hodges** and family, **WO2 Dave McNulty** and family, **Sgt Clive Ward** and family, **Sgt Mick Jones, Cpl Cas Cassidy** and family, **Cpl Nev Fear, LCpls Oz Hewson, George Boyd** and **Sig Kit Carson**. Farewell also to **Cpl Chris Greaves** on his discharge from the Army.

**ARRIVALS**

We welcome **WO1 Bob Turner, WO2 (RQMS) Willie Ironside, WO2 (SSM) Mick Orange** and family, **Sgts Ian Elborn, Mary Few, Tosh Black, Taff Evans, Cpls Tony Delaney, Tracy Chadwick, Slug Isherwood, Cookie Cooke, Col Thain, Nick Cox, LCpls John Graham, Chris Atkinson, Sig Steve Murray** and **Taff Berrill**.

**SPORT**

Well done to the Squadron Volleyball Team which won the NI Minor Units Championships in February. The team of **Capt Ron Clay, WO1 Bob Hodges, WO2 Mick Hill, SSgt Bill Brockie, Sgts Jock Morton, Clive Ward, Troy Phillips, Tosh Black, LCpls Andy Glennie** and **Chad Chadwick** were narrowly beaten in the Semi Finals of the Zone B Championships in the UK. The Winter Shield is being fiercely contested by the Troops and the Squadron hopes to make a clean sweep in the coming season.

**QUIZ NIGHT**

Congratulations to our Quiz team on winning the Regiment's Quiz Competition.

**233 SIGNAL SQUADRON**

The Squadron was dined out in style on 31 January before its assimilation into 15 Sig Regt.

**INDIA TROOP**

Since the reformation of the 15 Sig Regt there have been some changes within India Tp; the two Ops bubble will now be known as Sys Cons.

**Capt D. Vardy** is having problems with his car alarm. It seems a new idea—when the alarm is set, it drains the car battery so any potential thief would have to push the car away.

We say farewell to **WO1 Dez Jepson** and wife who have left for sunny Aldershot, where **Dez** has gained a couple of pips on his shoulder; all the best.

We also have said goodbye to **Sgt Ian McAlroy** who has gone to Belize to acquire a sun tan and **Sgt Phil Howard** is leaving us for civvy street.

**VICTOR SECTION**

The highlight of the last two months has been the acquisition of a microwave, which has been regarded by some as an asset and others as 'just something else to clean'.

We say goodbye to **Sig Gez Mangan**. We all send you our regards and hope you get better very soon, and remember, when you are able you can join the YofS at 3 ADSR. We also say farewell to **LCpl Rick Stacey** who has left us for civvy street.

We would like to welcome **Cpl Pat Patrick** and family from 2 Inf Div, **Sig Dave Potter** and **LCpl White** who join us from the Commcen.

**WHISKY SECTION**

We would like to welcome **WO2 Tony Byrne** who has taken over from **WO2 (YofS) Bob Smith** as Section IC. **YofS Smith** is now carrying out duties of Troop 2IC.

Also welcome to **Cpls Crabtree, Croxford, Harris, Middlemiss, Sig Kennedy, Hogg** and **Law**. We hope you all have a good tour.

Farewells go to **Cpl Pereham, Pte Shirreff,** who are off to Germany together with newlyweds **LCpl Divis Armstrong** and **Caroline** (nee **Jeffrey**). Also good luck to **LCpl Gooding** and **Sig Jones** who are off to civvy street.

**COMMCEN TROOP—C SHIFT**

Over recent months C shift has said 'hello' and 'goodbye' to the following.

New arrivals are: **LCpls S. I. D. Siddans** (from India Tp), **A. N. F. Jeffries** (from 9 Sig Regt) and **Sig A. D. F. Y. Crabtree** (from 22 Sig Regt).

Those who have left: **Cpl K. E. V. Gardiner, Sig Dave Potter** (to India Tp) and **Sgt Julie Heaton**.

**Cpl Hev McNair** and **Pte Kate Scargill** were in the team which represented the Squadron in the Inter-Unit Badminton Championships held in Aldershot in February.

**Pte Karen Cooper** was promoted to LCpl at the end of March—well done **Karen**.



## 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## BFPO 809

**LETTER FROM ARMAGH**

We owe debt of gratitude to all those people who were involved in the rebirth of the Squadron. A special word of thanks to **Maj Ian Strong**, who was the first Sqn Comd on reformation.

**SHQ PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Andrew Johnstone** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Duncan McAllister** |
| **AO** | **Capt John Wilson RTR** |
| **RSM** | **WO1 (RSM) Bill Heelan BEM** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (YofS) Bill Jackson** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 (FofS) Bob Walton BEM** |
| **CC** | **SSgt (ORSQMS) Neil Bartlett** |
| **Trg Sgt** | **Sgt Stew Johnston** |

**NEWS FROM SHQ**
**by Cpl Bryan Smith**

'Where is everybody?' the OC asked, 'Well Sir, the 2IC is away in Cyprus diving, the AO is on leave, the RSM is playing hockey, the Chief Clerk is playing squash, **Sig McClenaghan** is playing basketball, **Elizabeth** has retired cold, and I'm working'.—My future was assured! At this point, **Sgt Johnston** burst through the door, darted under the civil labour desk and established his own position; life is never dull in SHQ.

**A REFORMATION LAMENT**

*It's rumoured that the PM said—though this could of course be wrong,*
*Thinks for two Brigades the border zone in Ulster is too long,*
*'So sort it our, and jolly quick', she ordered MOD,*
*Who saved the day with this Brigade, the mighty Fighting Three.*
*Now; since 1857, both in peacetime and in war,*
*Three Brigade has always had a great 'Esprit de Corps',*
*The Officers and Soldiers proved themselves, time after time.*
*At Medjez—Tunis—Anzio—Rome and on the Gothic line.*
*Troop cuts! disbanded 62, all pleas for life forlorn.*
*Expansion! Bulford 71, The Third Brigade reformed.*
*Posted! Ulster 72, first Knickerworks then Portadown.*
*Troop cuts! again in 81, disband and leave the town.*
*We have proven beyond doubt the reformation route was right,*
*The Charter, orders, forming, actioned almost overnight.*
*The pages of our history book begin to fill once more,*
*But I just cannot help wondering; How long will it be for!*

**COMMS TROOP**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Tp** | **2Lt Simon Gregory** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Pete McElwee** |
| **Radio Sgt** | **Sgt Chris Hobday** |
| **Commcen Sgt** | **Sgt Alan Gill** |

Now we have established our routine Comms Tp is a 'going concern'.

Syscon knows what kit and equipment it holds by schedules and much praise must go to **LCpl John Chivers** for the long hours and dedication he has put into rearranging the radio stores, a job well done.

The Commcen continues to lose manpower.

Our Radio Section has recently been on various sight seeing tours of some of the most beautiful countryside the Province has to offer namely Castlederg and Strabane.

So many old hats have moved on and so many new faces have arrived recently it's impossible to mention them all but **Lts Davy Mix** and **Gavin Grant** are both posted to 2 Inf Div, **Cpl John Heaton** moves to 15 Sig Regt and we say goodbye to **LCpls Fertile, Bailey, Haynes** and **Sig Colin Pas**. A special word of thanks goes to **Sgt Paddy McKittrick** who did so much to establish the Squadron.

Finally; who's a lucky girl? **LCpl Danni Richmond**. Why? Because she is the only female in the Troop—get back lads.

**EXERCISE SNOW LION**
**by Cpl P. M. Ruddock**

It came as quite a surprise to **Cpl Ruddock, Sig Nicholls** and **Dvr Stockton** of 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn 'Ski Team' to find themselves en route to Aviemore considering the 11th hour planning. Also included in the team was a member of the local UDR Battalion, **LCpl 'Jimmy' Donnan**, who entered as an individual.

After a five and a half hour drive from Stranraer, we arrived at Cameron Barracks at 0400 hrs. Here we encountered our first problem, there was nobody there to hand over our accommodation to us!

We had our first race, a Giant Slalom seeding race during pouring rain and strong winds. Duty as gate keepers was pretty uncomfortable so we tried digging a snow hole for shelter, not easy in 6in of snow.

The rest of the week consisted of a mixture of slalom and GS races. Our results from the seeding race were an indication of our performance throughout the week. **Sig Nicholls** decided that trick skiing was the thing, whilst **Dvr Stockton** found he could improve his time by skiing around the gates. Nevertheless it was a thoroughly enjoyable time for those involved. Perhaps future teams may bring back some prizes.



Army Ski Championships—Cpl Ruddock leave the start gate

**EXERCISE RYANS DAUGHTER IV**

Early in January it was decided to form a Squadron Diving Club in Drumadd Barracks. Events moved apace and within four weeks, seven slightly dazed individuals entered the classroom for their Novice Diver Theory test prior to departure on Ex Ryans Daughter IV. Our destination—Dhekelia in Cyprus—led by **Capt Duncan McAllister**, we stumbled on to an aircraft.

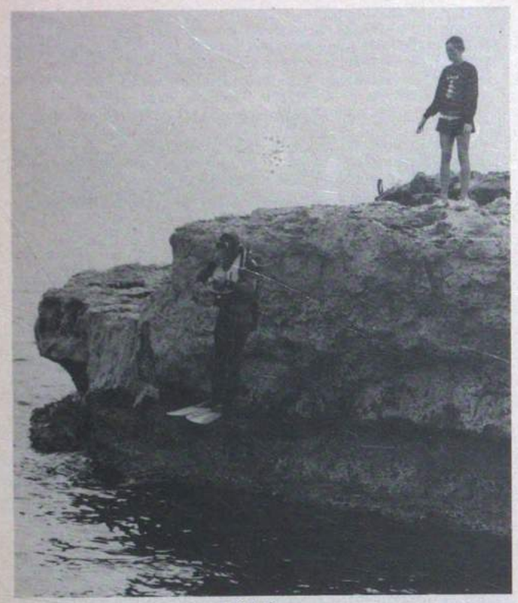
On arrival in Cyprus the party made its way to Pergamos Camp where **Sig Campbell** and **LCpl Dave Warburton** took over the boat. The rest of us collected the kit and by mid afternoon the first divers had been kitted up and diving commenced.

'The surf was up' owing to three weeks of storms and our two instructors were entertained as novices on their first dives lost snorkels and fins with monotonous regularity! This we were told was character-building stuff! That night stories abounded of nil-vis dives and 'long black things with chodding great heads' most supplied by **LCpl 'Gel' Brown**.

Next morning our experienced band of divers went further afield under the guidance of **Capt McAllister**. It was a long day with all divers completing two dives and seeing some marine life for the first time.



Cpl Hanlon



LCpl Grey

The next few days provided intensive and varied diving involving cave, wreck, deep and night dives. Six days later we ventured to the other end of the island with Cydive in Paphos. Two very well known dives in the area were completed, the 'Valley' and the 'Vera K' and as we hired an extra large cylinder, even **LCpl May** managed to stay down for the duration of the dives.

The highlight of the expedition came on the final day when we managed to secure a dive on a hard boat out of Larnaca on to the wreck of the *Zenobia*. The wreck is a ferry with the vehicles and stores on board still intact. She lies in 20m of water with the sea bed at 40m. Access to her is strictly controlled by Cypriot police and customs due to her cargo. Visibility was perfect, there was no current and the wreck could be seen clearly from the surface. Her size was daunting and it was an eerie feeling to be swimming along the deck between the lorries. It would have been exciting to explore inside the vessel but our lack of experience precluded this. However, here's hoping for more fun next year. By the way, did I mention the shoal of forty Barracuda off the stern of the wreck?

**SPOTLIGHT IN THE QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT**

The first quarter of the year has seen changes that have transformed the Department.

A new QM and RQMS and many new faces have been accompanied by a face lift in our working environment.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**T. FROST (Saddlers)**
SOUTH PARADE, BAWTRY
DONCASTER, SOUTH YORKSHIRE


Gone is the air raid shelter-like appearance of our building and in its place gleaming new surroundings that are a pleasure to work in and all achieved by a self help refurbishment programme. The management team (and their newly acquired titles):

| | |
|---|---|
| **QM** | **Maj Wally Lockwood** |
| **RQMS** | **WO2 (RQMS) Gus Hales** |
| **SQMS Barracks** | **SSgt George West RPC** |
| **SQMS Technical** | **Sgt Bill Johnson** |
| **Services Controller** | **Sgt Nathan McMahon REME** |
| **Barracks Supervisor** | **Cpl Gerry Hands RPC** |
| **Technical Supervisor** | **Cpl Alan Robson** |
| **Services Supervisor** | **Cpl Robert Friar RAOC** |
| **Stores Controller** | **Mr John Mulligan** |

**PROJECT PRISTINE PROVIDER**

Project Pristine Providers was a self help refurbishment of our bomb site. What followed was three months of do it yourself renovation and reorganisation, most of which have been carried out during what is commonly referred to as silent hours.

Despite the heartache and stress we are now the proud inhabitants of a Department which has few equals in the world of Quartermaster's Departments.

We have adopted the motto Providre Serviamus which means 'We Serve to Provide' and what is more our task master is making us prove it.

**THE TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT**

Past members will remember **Eddy Edwards** who is now proudly sporting a large white stripe. **LCpl Shaggy Bridges** is still with us and is now held in respect since he prophesied what our life style would become in 1990.

**LCpl 'Smitty' Smith RAOC** is beavering away and shortly expecting to become a Specialist Storeman, and **Cpl Alan Robson** is well settled into his role of Technical Stores Supervisor.

The department goes from strength to strength and the reorganisation and refurbishment has resulted in the production of a new accounts office.

**Sgt Bill Johnson** is just about to leave us for the sunny climes of Catterick. We wish him well for the future and tell those who are about to become his underlings they are lucky to be getting such a good boss.

**THE GENERAL DEPARTMENT**

The change of life style has involved long hours of painting, polishing, picture hanging and stores and office moves have been accompanied by finding the materials with which to do it all.

Nevertheless the end result has justified all the hard work. We now boast the best building both inside and out in the unit.

**LCpl Geordie Payne RPC** has now left us and we shall sadly miss his enthusiasm and sense of fun. His replacement is **LCpl 'Esh' Eshelby** who has quickly settled in.

**Cpl Gerry Hands** is knee deep in 2109 actions and looking as if he is enjoying every minute of it, **LCpl Dave Warburton** enthusiastic as always, is enjoying a new lease of life in the armoury. **SSgt George West**—our boss—is now controlling major works services amongst other tasks and buildings are sprouting up all over the camp.

**SERVICE DEPARTMENT**

Within the departmental reorganisation we are that aspect of the QM Dept that is neither General nor Technical yet encompasses both. Our staff is ably managed by **Sgt Nathan McMahon** who keeps the department on course.

**LCpl John Moreno** with his immaculate eye for detail controls the administration and **Mr John Mulligan** runs the stores. We congratulate **John** on his recent promotion. Very well deserved! We also employ **Cpl Robert Friar** with his many 'contacts', **Sgt S. Swain** and **Webster** look after the Mess and **Carol** is undoubtedly the best cleaner around, not to mention **Patrick Campbell** who divides his time between being our industrial representative and RSM's right hand man.

All of us have been very much a part of the QM's building programme and the new look that has resulted. All the same we are a happy band of pristine providers trying desperately to live up to our Providre Serviamus motto.

**FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES**

We bid fond farewell to **WO2 (RQMS) Pete Moulding, Sgt Bill Johnson, LCpl Geordie Payne** and warmly welcome **WO2 (RQMS) Gus Hales, Cpl Alan Robson** and **LCpl 'Esh' Eshelby** and of course **Maj Wally Lockwood.**



# 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
# BFPO 807

**THE VIEW FROM SHQ**

It is fairly obscured, actually, because in an effort to display flexibility and to confuse others, we've moved: the author of this article is now housed deep in the bowels of Ebrington Barracks (and has to share his office with the Yeoman and Foreman!), whilst the OC, **Maj David** 'The professional Scotsman' **McDowall**,, is sitting pretty in an office larger than the Brigadier's.

We're now possessors of a smart, swanky new Syscon, occupied proudly by **Cpl Shean Dewar** and his boys.

Those readers familiar with this unit and its many and diverse characters will recognise that a familiar and well-loved name is missing from those who inhabit the Ops/Plans Cell; yes, it's true, sadly our beloved Foreman of Signals of the last three years is no longer with us. **WO2 (FofS) 'Noddy' Baugh** has left for pastures new. He will be missed by all.

Just when we thought we could take it easy, everyone was happy, all the phones were working, the Brigade watchkeepers were listening to the Province Incident Net and the Foreman was leaving and we could all relax, along came the winter of early '90—the placid calm of the Northwest frontier was rudely shattered as Shackleton Barracks Ballykelly descended to periscope depth and 6 UDR Battalion HQ in Omagh decided that a roof was something it just didn't need. Naturally, the Squadron reacted with lightning speed; power was supplied, lines were laid, phones were connected and kettles boiled. This kept us busy for a week or so particularly **Cpl Brian Green**, our sole remaining powerman and was followed immediately by a couple of 'rush/immediate/must happen yesterday' bids for new Ops rooms. Life, meanwhile, goes on: enormously long periods of intense activity punctuated by short bursts of even more intense activity—this is the Ops Officer signing off for another issue; I'm away to complete the Unit Travel Budget Forecast for 91/92, the civilian labour overtime allowances and the imprest check—roll on May and the arrival of a new AO!



LCpl Andy Monger and Capt Jake Thackray at work whilst Cpl Shean Dewar gets on with it (in the background)

**'SICK AS A PARROT, BRIAN'**
**FOOTBALL TOUR 1990**

Well, 90 minutes is a long time in professional football, it's a game of two halves, and at the end of the day it's all about getting out of Province and sticking the ball in the back of the net—the following report comes to you from our men on the terraces with a rattle, a hangover and a stack of 1771s: **Sgt Gerry Garnett** and **Cpl Paul Walker**.

The team line up: **Sgts Gerry Garnett, Chris Jarvis, Pip Porter, Cpls Paul Walker, Marty Briody, Terry Stidwell, LCpls Steve Walker, Tony Elliot, Scouse Myers, Dave Radford, Taff Jones, Andy James** and **Sig Lee**.

With the greatest secrecy, the team was taken to a high altitude training camp (in Southport) to prepare for what was expected to be their toughest challenge yet: a 'grudge' series of games against two of the most professional teams in the Northwest of England—Westgate United and the Norweb Social Club (Liverpool and Everton having wisely declined our challenge on the grounds that we'd surely give them a good kicking).

Following a serious bout of coaching and practice, the team moved to Morecambe for the first game, where it was noted that perhaps our efforts in winning the hearts and minds of the local population reduced our zest for the game itself; we were down 0—3 in the first 20 minutes. All was not lost, however, and when the brilliant **Walker** brothers managed to tie up the back, our forwards were then free to knock in a few from up front—with 10 minutes to go the scores were tied at 3—3. Disaster struck, however, just before the final whistle, with a late goal from the opposition. We retired, defeated but not demoralised, with **Cpl Terry Stidwell** nominated as 'man of the match'.

Lesser teams would have withdrawn after such a defeat to lick their wounds, but not us, oh no, we were out there, enjoying the sights and sounds of Morecambe till the early hours (ideal practice this; gets rid of any hang ups about playing football and allows the team to concentrate on the more important aspects of the tour).

We played well against Norweb Social Club, at least we think so; to be honest we can't remember the game that much. We were definitely 2—1 up with 20 minutes on the clock, now that I do remember. Then **Cpl Walker** played the Captain's role: within a few minutes he'd managed to give the ball away to their centre forward and brought down another of their players in the box—result: 2—3 (and an expensive afternoon for the Club Captain).

All in all, a very enjoyable tour with some excellent football played (by the opposition). We thank them for their hospitality, and also the following, without whom we'd never have been able to get away: **Cpl Paul Walker** for arranging the tour, **Sig Danny Cockram** for sorting out the travel, **LCpl Tony Elliot** for jacking up the accommodation, the OC, **Maj David McDowall**, for pushing us to go, and finally all those who didn't go but stagged on for us whilst we were away.

**ROVER GROUP**
**BORN TO PATROL (AND WHINGE)**

| | |
|---|---|
| **NCO IC** | **Cpl Sammy Ahmed** |
| **Shift A** | **Shift B** |
| **LCpl Jim Reeves** | **Cpl Taff Mallaney** |
| **LCpl Mick Stout** | **LCpl Tom Lloyd** |
| **Pte 'Mac' Cormick** | **Pte 'Geordie' Coggins** |
| **Pte Stuart Lane** | **Pte 'Taff' Rabey** |
| **Pte 'Drys' Drysdale** | **Pte 'Stace' Stacey** |
| **Pte 'Hutch' Hutchinson** | **Sig Ian Duncan** |
| **Sig 'Tubbsy' Tubbs** | **Sig Mark Frayling** |

So, being an armoured taxi service is OK, but to be honest we could do that standing on our heads in Germany. To give us that bit more excitement in our otherwise drab, humdrum existence, we offered to lead the resident battalion in the fight against terrorism—unfortunately, we've proved so adept at this that most of the time they slope off to the NAAFI and jif us for just about anything that's going;



Pte Taff Rabey winning hearts and minds

as a result, we're usually the tiredest teddy bears in the Squadron, and don't often get the chance of loads of features and photos in *The Wire*. Our normal patch is anywhere on the Waterside, the eastern half of the city, containing the following areas: Kilfennan, Lisnagelvin, Drumahoe, Altnagelvin and our own favourite, the tourist paradise of the Gobnascale. We've had our share of success, the odd find and so on, but our life, like the rest of the boys who patrol the city, is normally routine, with a large emphasis being placed upon our ability to stay fresh and prepared for action. We practise both our close protection drills as well as normal patrolling abilities, and we're never known to whinge ('Not much'—2IC).

We've just said farewell to our leader for the past 18 months, **Cpl Kev Hilton**, who's gone to Germany. His replacement, **Cpl Sammy Ahmed**, joins us after a lengthly sojourn in Rheindahlen, stagging on Comd BAOR's gate. Otherwise, there's been the odd change down amongst the workers; **LCpl Andy Lee** and **Sig Simon Malin** to civvy street and **LCpl 'Geordie' Finlay**, who's packed his pipe and slippers for a life of ease in Lisburn. Our new arrivals are welcomed: **LCpls Jim Reeves, Tom Lloyd** and **Dave Palmer**. Some of us have managed to get away from it all for a while recently; **Sig 'Tubbsy' Tubbs** went on holiday but found the pull of the Province too great and scuttled on back to be with his two best buddies, **Ptes 'Hutch' Hutchinson** and **'Drys' Drysdale**. Others have done their best to avoid stagging on by engineering the most unlikely of RTAs; first to go (leading the rest as usual) were **LCpl 'Geordie' Finlay, Sig Simon Malin** and **Pte 'Drys' Drysdale**, whilst close behind followed **Ptes Stuart Lane** and **'Curly' Lumb** (arms storeman). Otherwise, stags come and go, winter's over for another week and life goes on.




Pte 'Geordie' Coggins, master of the thousand yard stare, on patrol



The Squadron provides a vehicle check point


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(Radio/Radar)
Technicians
Oman



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# 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
# BFPO 801

**SHQ PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Steve Johns** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Stuart Hodges** |
| **AO** | **Capt Peter Anthony Queens** |
| **RSM** | **WO1 (RSM) John Mackay** |
| **RQMS** | **WO2 Bob Rack** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 Brian Colvin** |
| **MTWO** | **WO2 Ron Philps RCT** |
| **Chief Clerk** | **SSgt Clyde Atherley** |

**WELCOMES**

A belated welcome to our new 2IC **Capt Stuart Hodges** who arrived in December.

It has been a time for checking, verifying and signing forms and the dreaded Pampas Print. **Cpl Rab Rennie** has done his job well, as usual, whilst **LCpl Russ Denny** (no relation!) our movements supremo continues to impress on everyone that 14 days and not one day's notice is required for flights. In between work, SHQ's sporting prowess has included the OC **Maj Johns**, playing in the Squadron Football Team which won the NI Minor Units Championships, also the Chief Clerk, **SSgt Clyde Atherley** won the Northern Ireland Individual Squash Championships.

**COMMS TROOP**

Here's a round up of all the local news.

Commcen/Syscon has been trying out a new shift cycle which consists of five days, five nights and five days of Guards, QRF and training days. It seems to be about as popular as the Poll Tax. 'A' shift has discovered a new member in the form of **Cpl 'Biddy' Baxter** who was thought to be lost to football, Cougar briefs, hockey and guards. **LCpl 'Gadget'** (it's in my bag somewhere) **Smith** is eagerly awaiting his posting before the QM puts him on the furniture inventory. **Sig Aidey Clarke** has done a round robin of all the shifts before finally returning to 'A' shift. Would this have something to do with his PVR three days after arrival in the Unit. **LCpl Geordie Mordue** is sticking firmly to his diet of toasties, pizzas and burgers.

**LCpl Phil Hewish** is a new addition to Syscon and is learning the ropes under the 'supervision' of **Cpl Gordon McKenzie** who seems to spend most of his time travelling to Scotland to watch Rangers—or is it Celtic?

Radio Section and Rover Group both claim to be working hard. Radio Section's forte seems to be shooting. **LCpl George Johnston** and **Sig Charlie Forsyth** with a bit of help from the OC, **Lt Matt Fensom** won the Squadron pistol shooting competition. **Sig 'Geordie' Aspery** and **Smudge Smith** aspire to getting into the Squadron Shooting Team.

We welcome to the Troop **Cpls Simon Fell, Geordie Payne, Sig Charlie Forsyth** and **Pte Marty Maloney**.

Farewells and best wishes go to **LCpl Daz Jones, Cpls Jeff Hope, Taff Chappel, LCpl Paul Storey** and **Cpl Al Payne** and family who have packed the sun tan oil and are off to 259 Sig Sqn.

Finally congratulations to **LCpl Wayne Barlett** and **Samantha** on the birth of their daughter **Jessica**. Who said Catterick doesn't produce results?

**TM TROOP**

The intercom system installed at the Maze Prison is now near completion. The TE techs (sorry—Tele tech (Sys)) have been despatched to 15 Sig Regt and the project is now in the hands of the tele mechs. The august team is **Sig 'Stig' Richards, Sig 'Jammo' Hartley** and **Sig Dave Gough**.

The Riggers have been experimenting with antenna systems for 35 'Brian'. **Cpl Vince McNaught** and **LCpl Mick May** started early Monday morning with a VHF omni directional boomed out 14m, they went through three elements, twelve elements, four stacks, SA460s and coat hangers. They finally finished at dark o'clock Thursday with them taking turns at the top of the mast relaying messages with a megaphone. Coverage problems?—they love 'em!

Meanwhile **LCpl 'Big John' Roberts** was deployed from his bed to rig an antenna. He managed to leave his bed in Lisburn but that wasn't all. He left the antenna, clamps, cable and his rigging belt in Lisburn as well! Well done Rigger of the Month!



WO2 (FofS) Russ Moren thoroughly enjoying work in the Tech workshops

The Radio techs have been under great stress with a massive workload. Talkthrough faults, tea making, ops room installations, more tea, heli-tele fits, tea, bluffing, blagging and a final cuppa before knock-off—phew!

The Troop Shooting Team—**Cpl Gaz Clapham, LCpl John Roberts** and **Sig Jammo Hartley** finished a commendable second in the Squadron Shooting Competition. However this is not their only shooting success. **Cpl Clapham** managed to shoot the Hi-ace into a snow plough, **Cpl Roberts** has shot cupid's arrow into the hearts of a couple of NAAFI girls and **Sig Hartley** shoots to NAAFI break at 1000 hrs daily.

**EXERCISE WHITE POWDER 90**

Ex Participants: **Lt Matt Fensom, Capt Andy Thorley REME, SSgt Arthur 'Purple Flash' Askey RMP, Cpls Gaz Clapham, Rab Graham, LCpls 'Gadget' Smith, Russ Denny, Andy Dutton, Eddie Reynolds, Andrea Onassis WRAC, Sig 'Stotty' Stott, 'Smudge' Smith, Ptes 'Delbert' Rees RPC** and **Miranda Crockford WRAC**.

Ex White Powder was a seven-day skiing exercise held in Aviemore from 24 February-3 March 1990. The time of departure from Lisburn was set at 0600 hrs—not too bad you may think. The fact that it was the morning after a Comms Tp party didn't exactly help matters. **LCpl Eddie Reynolds** (Mr Timex) ensured we all had time to sit around, gather our thoughts and nurse our heads. After a day's travelling by road and ferry we arrived in Aviemore . . . no snow! 'Oh', thought the group (a fine mixture taken from the Squadron, Brigade Headquarters and the local RMP Unit!). 'Never mind, we'll keep occupied!' The Boss soon brought us down to earth by suggesting hill walking—there was a lot of praying done that night.

Monday morning arrived—bright and breezy with snow everywhere much to the relief of **Sig 'Stotty' Stott** who was dreading a 'gentle' stroll in the Cairngorms. For the majority it didnt take long to get the 'ski legs' back again. We were split into groups according to experience and although some good mates were split up **Pte Delbert Rees** was in his element.



The gang—oh happy days!

It soon became clear that the Bosses' group were the real posers with **SSgt Askey** and **LCpl 'Gadget' Smith** (sightly lacking in style) hurtling past at mach 3.

By the middle of the week everyone's technique had improved although **LCpl Eddie Reynolds** was heard screaming at other skiers to 'get out the way!' even on the last day. It was **Capt Andy Thorley** who was the cool, calm, collected speed merchant that was to be expected of a Staff Officer. However, **Lt Matt Fensom** was indeed the poser of the week with his constant questioning 'Don't I cut a dash on the slopes in this gear, hey?'.

**LCpl Russ 'Penfold' Denny** was constantly mistaken for the children's group until he showed his love for speed and daring by getting frost on his glasses which were underneath his goggles—impressive stuff.

A touch of glamour on the slopes was provided by **Pte Miranda Crockford** and **LCpl Andrea** 'Christina' **Onassis** who insisted on crashing into telegraph poles and other stationary objects.

Alas, Friday came too soon and after an excellent week of skiing a local musician made our final night one to remember. He played 'Wild Thing' and managed to get **Cpl Gaz Clapham** and **LCpl Eddie Reynolds** up on stage to sing. Not a pleasant experience.

**ARMY CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION**
**QUARTER FINAL**
**THE TEAM**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Maj Steve Johns** | **LCpl Andy Dutton** |
| **YofS Brian Colvin** | **LCpl Mick May** |
| **Cpl Biddy Baxter** | **LCpl Marv Marvel** |
| **Cpl Paul Elwood** | **LCpl Paul Storey** |
| **Cpl Frank Nevens** | **LCpl Baz Brazier** |
| **Cpl Mick Payne** | **Sig Stotty Stott** |

On 30 January the Squadron Football Team went to Scotland to battle out the quarter finals against the Scottish Div Depot.

At 0930 hrs on the 30th we squeezed ourselves into the minibus ready to catch the 1130 hrs sailing from Larne to Stranraer. However, this was not to be. The ferry had broken down so we were all stood down until 1330 hrs. At 1500 hrs we finally boarded the ferry to await the 1530 hrs sailing. Alas this also was not to be as we were delayed by a further hour. After instructions from the OC Sqn, **Maj Steve Johns**, to disperse around the boat, so as not to look 'squaddiefied', we took three adjoining tables at the bar!

On arrival at Stranraer, **Maj Johns** discovered the transport had not awaited arrival, so, with map in hand and cigarette lighter for illumination, we travelled on to Penicuik. Throughout the journey we had to keep reassuring **LCpl Andy Dutton** that we *were* heading in the right direction as he kept on seeing the mileage signs for Dumfries decreasing instead of increasing.

At 0600 hrs we were lucky enough to be treated to an early morning call from the guard room by our hosts Scottish Div Depot.

The kick off was at 1130 hrs and by half time we were 4—0 down. After a few choice words from the OC and **Cpl Biddy Baxter** a goal was finally scored by **WO2 Brian Colvin**, from a well placed free kick. The final score was 5—1 to the Scottish Div Depot.

After Scottish pie and chips washed down with a beer we made our journey to Stranraer to catch the 1900 hrs ferry to Larne. Needless to say it did not leave until 2100 hrs. We eventually arrived back in the unit in the early hours of the morning.

**VISIT OF OIC M&RO**

On 7 March the Squadron had a visit from **Col Mike Louden** Officer in Charge, Royal Signals Manning and Record Office. After an informative presentation by him and dealing with a barrage of questions **Col Louden** joined the Officers and SNCOs for refreshments.



Col Louden, OIC M&RO, signs the Squadron visitor's book


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# – News from Headquarters –

## Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

**SCOTT SQUADRON**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Gus Boag** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Iain Brownlee** |
| **OC Rct Tp** | **Lt Andrew Duncan** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Tony Spray** |
| **A Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Jim Harris** |
| **B Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Chalkie Atkins** |
| **C Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Paul Collins** |
| **Rct Tp Sgts** | **Sgt Chippy Wood** |
| | **Sgt Danny O'Brien** |
| **SQMS** | **Sgt Mick Thorne** |
| **Clerk** | **Marge Griffiths** |

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to **WO2 (SSM) Tony Spray** on notification of his promotion to WO1 appointment as RSM of 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in June. Also to **Sgt Paul Collins** on notification of his promotion to SSgt and to **Lt Andy Duncan** on passing his flying grading course for the Army Air Corps pilots course at Middle Wallop.

**89C RECRUIT TROOP SMOKER**

After nearly 12 weeks of sheer hell (otherwise known as Basic Recruit Training) the recruits of intake 89C unwound for an evening at a Troop Smoker. The evening began with a meal at Pinnochios in Harrogate, where a total of 66 pizzas, 66 portions of garlic bread and the odd drink to wash it all down was consumed. Thanks from everyone to **Sgt Jim Harris** for organising it all and ensuring that everyone received the correct order. Afterwards everyone 'rolled' out into the bus and back to the YMCA for their chance to perform a few sketches on stage at the expense of the permanent staff. A good time was had by all!

**INTAKE 90A**

Intake 90A had their Recruit Pass-Off Parade on 30 March. Fortunately the wind and the rain held off to produce a fine spectacle for all the assembled relatives. The intake started its Basic Recruit training in Scott Squadron, but later some were transferred to Penney Sqn. Best Recruits of the intake were **Recruit Wilten** from Scott Sqn and **Recruit Greenwood** from Penney Sqn.



Recruit Tp 89C unwind at Troop Smoker

**RAWSON SQUADRON**
**WELCOME AND FAREWELLS**

The Squadron has recently seen a number of changes amongst the Permanent Staff with the arrival of **Sgt Waugh** and **Janet** from Celle. In return the Squadron has sent to Celle and says farewell to **Capt** 'Where's my uniform' **Finneran.** Also farewell to **Sgt** 'BFT' **Dooley** and **Lorraine** who are leaving the Army to settle in Bolton.

**QUIZ NIGHT**

The Squadron held a Quiz Night to test to the full the mental agility, knowledge and speed of mind of all the lads! Needless to say the scoring was high! Master of Ceremonies **Capt** '007' **Finneran** assisted by **Sgt Flooks** and **Linda**, our Squadron Clerk, tried to hold the competition together but the ability of the winning team, the Footballers, demolished all opposition and won the day by three points.

**GAMES NIGHT**

The infamous termly AT NCOs v PS Games Night was cleverly organised by **Sgt** 'I've copied Crystal Maze' **Fitzpatrick** with



OC Scott Sqn, Maj Gus Boag *(centre front)* with the Scott and Penney Sqn recruits of intake 90A

assistance from **Sgt** 'Les Dawson' **Roe**. As usual the AT NCOs put up a valiant struggle against overwhelming odds, even cheating to gain points, but alas the formidable strength of the Permanent Staff won the day, even though the team has hindered by **Capt** 'Dracula' **Radford**'s suicidal efforts on the pool table.

**SPORT**

A special mention must go to four individuals in the Squadron who have excelled in their particular sports. Congratulations to **ATCpl Parr** who has been selected for the Corps Rugby team and captains the Army Colts. Secondly, **AT Williams** who won the Combined Services Individual trophy at Archery and **AT Massey** who captained the winning College team at the UKLF Alpine Skiing Championships. Finally well done to **AT Todd** who played squash at District Championships level and took a winners medal.



Successful Sportsmen *L to R* AT Williams (Archery), AT Todd (Squash), AT Massey (Skiing) and AT Cpl Parr

**BRADLEY SQUADRON**
**NORDIC SKIING**

The Nordic Ski Team, which had been in training since well before Christmas under the guidance of **SSgt John Guy** and **LCpl Ron Clinton**, returned from Scotland as the Junior Army Nordic Ski Team Champions—a title which the Squadron has held since 1988. **JLLCpl Carter** came away from the event as the Junior Nordic Champion, whilst **JLLCpl Andy Powell** and **JL Greenwell** won the 10km and 5km Nordic events respectively.

**INTER SQUADRON ORIENTEERING**

On Saturday 17 March the College held the Inter Squadron Orienteering Competition. Bradley Sqn were never hot favourites to win, pitting their wits and stamina against the Apprentices. How wrong everyone was. The team of 14 hand-picked by **Mr Archie Miles** and **Sgt Sam Shaw** certainly looked the part in their matching Squadron running vests as they stood in the starting box at the foot of Ilkley Moor bracing themselves against the Yorkshire wind. The event was a 60 minute score event with the team scoring the most points running out as winners. Once all the calculations had been made Bradley Sqn emerged as the surprise runaway winners.

**EXERCISE KEY GRIP**

Whitespear Tp recently took part in Ex Key Grip which was a five day exercise based at Scarborough Training Camp designed to teach and practice Troops in Home Defence situations. It gave **CSM Dave Morcom** (Scots Guards) an ideal opportunity to throw members of the permanent staff against brick walls and fling them to the ground in a demonstration of how not to conduct a VCP, a sight much enjoyed by the Junior Leaders.

The Troop actually deployed into the field on a Thursday morning after **Lt John Fraser** and **Sgt Willey McPhee** had both failed to get their hands on the exercise pink. After several events during the next 24 hours, sometimes in blizzard conditions, the Troops held up well even after a final tab out of the location to the transport home.

**EXERCISE COLD TURKEY**

Rapier Tp deployed on to Ex Cold Turkey, a leadership exercise based on a survival scenario upon the Yorkshire Moors. On arrival in location the first task was to build a hide from natural foliage which had to be large enough to house four men—and be waterproof! Of course, the permanent staff had to go one further and build what can only be described as a palace. Indeed, it was so large that **JLLCpl McCulley** wondered 'if the landrover was kept inside'.

Overnight there followed a navigation exercise which culminated in a run to the river the next morning for a refreshing dip, a river crossing and eventually Day 2 Lunch: rabbit, complete with fur jacket. **JL Horn** didn't like rabbit so he delighted us all with his recipe for stir-fry worms—keep taking the pills.

**RUGBY**

The College team has had a disappointing time failing to win a single match so far this year. Despite the results there were notable performances from Out Half **Morgan**, Winger **Barr**, Scrum Half **Morgan**, and Forwards **Cartwright** and **Parr**.

The big match of the season was against West Australia Youth. West Australia were in England for a six week tour. Physically they are a large side with an interesting back alignment and some good players, particularly on the wing. The College played the first half with the wind in their backs and kept in contention until half time (9—14 to the visitors). After the interval the strong running and superb backing up of the Australians was too much for the College and the final score was, rather as expected, 9—44. Nevertheless, the College played well above themselves against a well drilled and physically very competent team from Australia.

**ORIENTEERING—1 YEAR ON**

It is a long time since the College Orienteering teams were last mentioned in despatches and much has happened in between times.

Farewell is said to the following members who have put in many hours of work to keep the team on the road over the last year: **Lt Col Aitken, Capt Jane Liptrot, WO2 Norman Jones, SSgt Mick Lumgair** and **Cpl Bill Agnew**. Greetings to **Maj Heritage, Lt Upton** (OiC), **Sgt Pete Ridlington** and **Sgt Mark Finch**.

The College Junior team continues to do well and has even managed to win a few medals and trophies. At the Royal Signals Championships in Wareham Forest the team won the Junior Trophy with notable performances from **ATLCpl Wright-McCarthy**, who became the Junior Individual Champion, **ATLCpl Alderson**, and **ATs Haffenden** and **Davies**.

The team also took part in the Army Night Championships held at Long Valley in Aldershot. Although they did not do particularly well, everyone had an enjoyable time.

In the Junior Army Championships held at Guildford the team almost missed the start. After setting forth boldly the evening before the event in a lovely green 94,000 miles and one careful owner 4 ton green Bedford TK at a speed of mach 2, as it became dark it suddenly became apparent that the bus was designed for tactical movement: the lights would not work. After 25 miles on sidelights Toddington Service Station loomed up and it looked like an overnight stay in the car park. However, luckily the Army knows 'a very nice man' and so after some roadside assistance the team was soon on its way again.

To the event, at 0800 hrs after a quick rub down with the Compass Sport and a hearty breakfast the team set off for the event location. Excellent runs by **AT Heaton** and **AT Davies** along with good steady



Night Orienteers—relieved to have found the final kite a gaggle of orienteers, AT Heaton, ATCpl Williams and just in by a nose AT Haffenden



team performances from the rest ensured that the College came second in the Open event.

The PS team is generally doing well in the District League sitting at the moment at the top of the table in the Minor Units Section, but there is no room for complacency as Depot King's Division are chasing our heels.

In the Area 5 Championships held at Wass Forest the college was unable to retain the Minor Unit Trophy due to the absence of a number of key team members. However, the team did manage to qualify for the Army/UKLF Championships.

**EXERCISE MERCURY SPLASH**

Ex Mercury Four took on a new title during early March when the river Ure, well known as one of the UK's fastest rising and falling rivers, performed well above expectation. As the picture shows Bishop Monkton and Ripon Parks training areas became inland seas with dramatic effect.



Sgt McMahon shows the way

**PENNEY SQUADRON**
**FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES**

The Squadron bids a fond farewell to **Brigit** and **Maj Richard Strawbridge**—the CSM is still trying to outgrow your moustache! Also goodbye to **Karen** and **Sgt Steve** 'Chamois' **Leather** who leave the College for Civvy Street after 12 years in the Army. We welcome **Maj Eric Heritage** to the College as the new OC Penney Sqn.

**SENIOR DRILL COMPETITION**

As the dreaded day approached, it was the end of a term and the beginning of the trials and tribulations of yet another drill competition. The queue outside the MRS gradually lengthened with the influx of hopeful drill squad deserters. Unsurprisingly **ATs Holmes** and **Partoon** headed the queue and were successful in obtaining sick chits.

In the meantime, back at the Squadron **Sgt 'Tel' Oakes** was grabbing all the lads who were not so lucky and **AT Cpl Elderbrant** (now SSM—it's all due to the Black Hole) was detailed to be Squad Commander. The competition included something none of the participating lads (apart from **AT Weaver** the Marine, of course) had encountered before—rifle drill. As the lads stood wondering how to hold the rifle, **Sgt Oakes** knew he had his work cut out, but after several practice sessions which even encroached upon the lunchtime viewing of Neighbours (miracles never cease) everything started coming together.

On the morning of the competition prior to the inspection several last minute touches were made. To improve his words of command **ATCpl Elderbrant** gladly accepted the CSM's advice. The Squad then formed up for the inspection proper, which was followed by a drill sequence performed in perfect unison—well almost perfect. Not only did the Squadron win the drill competition but **ATCpl Elderbrant** was also awarded 'Best Senior Squad Commander'.

**COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE TROOP**

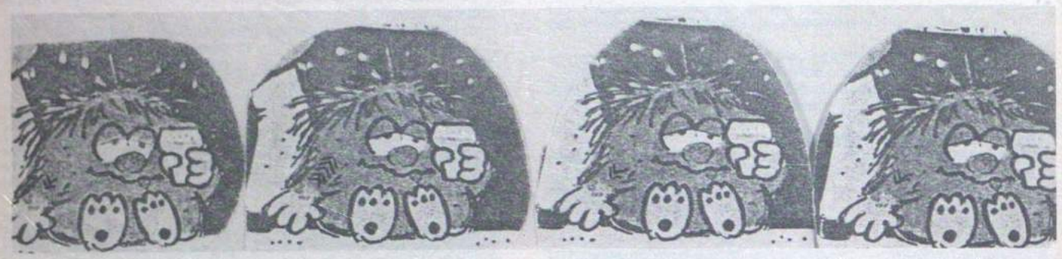


The Yeoman (WO2 Bill Ruthven) produced a new Op Order for Ex Mercury Four

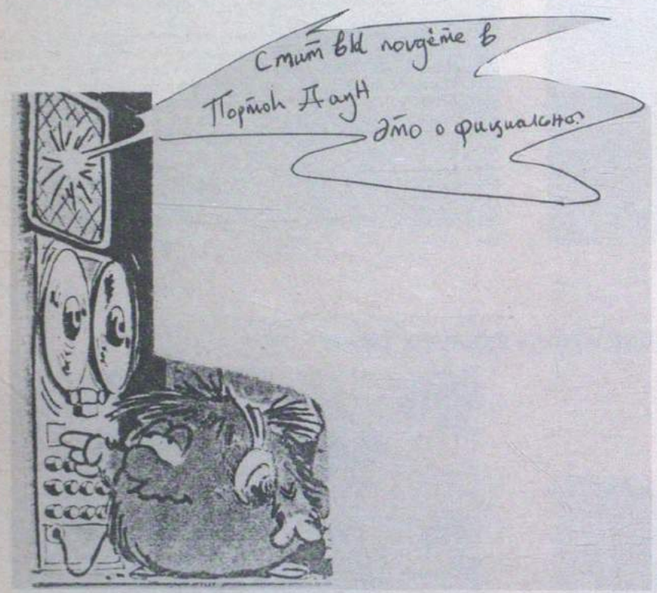



As is normal this document was read by Cpl 'KB' Smith

So impressed with the Yeoman's efficiency was he that he immediately volunteered for a posting to Porton Down—'I'll drink to that' said the Troop



*(Left to right):* Cpl Breen | Cpl Morton | Cpl Old | Cpl Donaldson




Cpl Gardner (OIC Amateur Radio Hobby) was unconvinced and tuned to Radio Moscow for confirmation

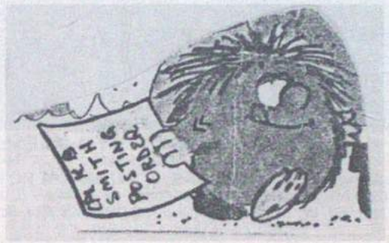



But is was true and Cpl 'KB' had the letter to prove it

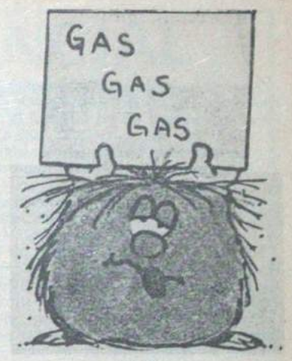




'Look at him' said Sgt Lovett




And took his posting order and left




said 'KB'



'I'll drink to that' said the OC


# ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM
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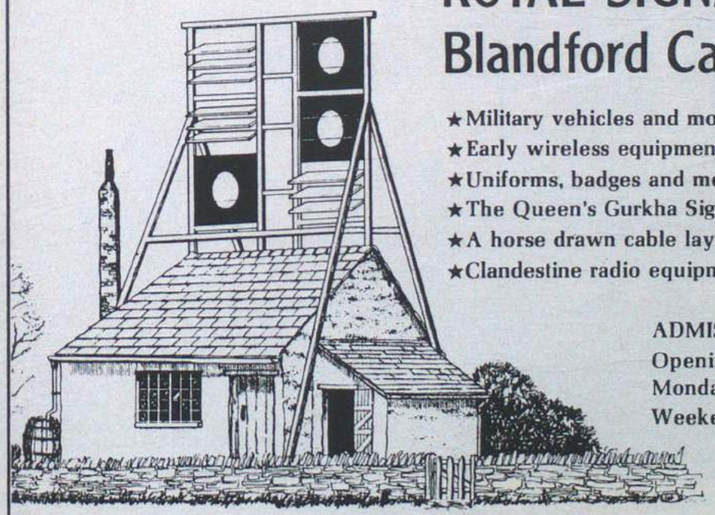

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# HQ BAOR
# BFPO 140

A number of the staff personalities have changed, are about to change or will do so in the near future. Of particular note is the retirement of **Maj (Retd) Bill Parkes** who for the last 10 years has occupied the desk of RO3 (MS/Org/Trg). He took up the appointment after 37 years service in the Corps. The good wishes of the Branch go to **Bill** and **Dorothy** and we wish them a long and happy retirement in Yorkshire.

Welcome to **Lt Col (Retd) John Haydon** who assumes the role of RO3 (MS/Trg) after three months retirement from his previous post in the Branch as SO2 Comms (Eqpt). Look out Bruggen golf course!

New(ish) arrivals to the Branch are **Miss Lisa Bailes** and **Mrs Bea Haycock, Master Carl Paterson** born on 11 December 1989 and **Miss Holly Edlin** born on 17 December 1989. Both **Sgt Paterson** and **Cpl Edlin** deny that they missed their wives during Flying Falcon 89.

Congratulations to **LCpl Perry** on her recent promotion, **Sgt Paterson** on his recent selection for promotion and **LCpl Peach** on keeping his tape against all the odds.

**JOINT COMMAND, CONTROL, COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS BOARD (GERMANY) JCISB(G)**

On 31 March the Joint Command, Control, Communication and Information Systems Board (Germany) assumed all the previous responsibilities of the Joint Signal Board (Germany), together with responsibility for all aspects of Joint Information Systems.

The Joint Signal Board (Germany) had originally been established by the Commanders in Chief in 1954 to absorb certain responsibilities of the Communications Division of the British High Commission in Germany.

The final meeting of the Joint Signal Board (Germany) was held at the Controllerate of the Defence Communications Network at Corsham on the 7 March 1990. The meeting was preceded by a DCN briefing on 7 March and a HQ 2 Sig Bde briefing on 6 March.

The photograph shows members of the Joint Signal Board (Germany) and their hosts at the DCN.

Maj J. M. Hincks (Retd) the Secretary of the JCISB(G), is in the process of writing a short history of the Joint Signal Board (Germany) and its antecedents. At the moment he has researched back to 1954. He would be very interested to hear from anybody who has memories of how Joint communication problems were resolved in the immediate post war period during the days of Military Government before it was superceded by the Allied High Commission in 1949(?), and in the period from 1949 to 1954, when the Radio Division of the Allied High Commission was in existence.



Joint Signal Board (German) Visit to Controllerate Defence Communications Network

*Front Row seated (L to R):* Gp Capt K. J. McPhee (CEE HQ RAFG), Gp Capt C. R. Bates (CDCN), Maj Gen P. R. Davies (Chairman JSB(G)), Comd W. J. Burling (Dep CDCN) and Col P. E. A. Chaddock (Comd 4 Sig Gp)



The photograph, taken in between snow, hail and rain storms, on 2 March 1990 shows the entire staff of Comms Branch, HQ BAOR less Lt Col A. E. Abbott

*Front Row:* Maj W. H. H. Parkes (Retd), Lt Cols R. H. Gurr, C. J. Walters, Maj Gen P. R. Davies, Lt Cols C. I. Spencer, D. Brown and Maj M. S. Wallis

*Middle Row:* Maj J. A. Macfarlane, Maj W. E. Brewin, Mr S. D. Evans, WO1 (SC) N. S. Round, Mrs M. M. Johnson, Maj J. D. Rayment and Maj R. C. T. Cuthbert

*Back Row:* Sgt D. Paterson, SSgt M. Knight, LCpl B. C. Peach, Cpl D. B. Edlin, WLCpl A. J. Perry and SSgt (ORSQMS) R. J. Stone



# Fortress HQ
# Gibraltar

**PERSONALITIES**

**SO3 Comms/PInfo Detachment**

**Capt Stephen Croft**
**Sgt John Laverick**
**Cpl Rob Hood**
**Sig Mark Benson**

**THE ROLE**

Welcome to Gibraltar, home to Fortress HQ Royal Signals Detachment, previously known as 577 RLD. The name changed approximately two years ago but not its role.

The detachment together with the Signal Platoon of the Resident Battalion (3 RGJ) provide the communications for ceremonial duties on the Rock. It also has a mini commcen using the Naval System OPCON which looks after the HQ and other minor units. The detachment is also the only Corps Unit left to incorporate the Signals Despatch Service (SDS) more commonly known as 'Man on Motorbike'.

**COMINGS/GOINGS**

The detachment has recenly gone through a major change about with three leaving and three arriving to take their places. We have said goodbye to **Sgt 'Marty' Hoy** his wife **Jan** and daughter **Sarah**. He goes to 656 Sig Tp Lippstadt on promotion, congratulations and good luck. Next it's goodbye to **Sig Paul Tremayne**, his wife **Gina** and son **Jason. Paul** leaves the Corps to join the Gibraltar Regiment. And cheerio to **Sig Neil Randall. Neil** actually left in December last for 233 Sig Sqn.

Their replacements are a merry trio, firstly the new detachment Sergeant who is **Sgt John Laverick**. His wife **Christine** and children **Ashley** and **Terry** join us from Berlin Sig Regt. We also welcome **Cpl Rob Hood**, his wife **Jill** and son **Nicholas** who arrived last November from 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn NI. And finally its hello and welcome to **Sig Mark Benson**, his wife **Maxine** from 238 Sig Sqn. We hope that everyone has a good tour.

**NO SMOKING CAMPAIGN**

The detachment got involved in the recent No Smoking Day on 14 March. We were asked by **Mrs Dunn** (Head of SSAFA) to come up with a slogan for a 'No Smoking Campaign' poster. This proved not to be difficult a task for **Sgt Laverick**. At the time of writing we have not been told by SSAFA whether his efforts have merited a prize. However two stars were chosen to appear on the poster from a cast of thousands, namely **Cpl Mark Rider RCT** the healthy looking one and **Sig Mark Benson** the not so healthy looking one. We thank **Petty Officer Chris North** for the photos.




Who says it's always sunny in Gibraltar?
*From Left to Right:* Cpl Rob Hood, Sig Mark Benson, Sgt John Laverick and Capt Stephen Croft


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| 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 |

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**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 41 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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# School of Signals
# Blandford Camp
# Dorset

**RHQ PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **CO** | **Lt Col R. E. S. Drew** |
| **2IC/OC HQ Sqn** | **Maj R. A. H. Hoghton** |
| **Adjt** | **Capt D. J. Brown** |
| **PMR** | **Maj D. R. Case RAPC** |
| **RSM** | **WO1 (RSM) D. A. Hogben** |
| **ORQMS** | **WO2 A. M. Campbell** |

**CROSS COUNTRY**

Another successful season for the School of Signals Cross Country team. Some of the more notable highlights were, second in the South West District league, second in the Southern Area Championships and tenth position in the Army Championships by a team decimated with injuries (ahh!). Individual performances that spring to mind are **LCpl Steve Lambert** (now a Prison Officer in Durham) fifth place in the South West District league. **Capt Nick Bateson** seventh and **Capt Phil Brown** eleventh, of the old and bold **SSgt Danny Chorlton** was third Vet in the league.

The Commanding Officer **Lt Col R. E. S. Drew** in a moment of madness has decided to enter the London Marathon, and was lucky (unlucky) enough to be accepted, he can be seen daily trudging around the BFT circuit counting off the miles.

**HQ SQN PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj R. A. H. Hoghton** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 P. Underwood** |

**DEATH**

It is with profound regret that we have to inform the Corps of the death of **LCpl Ian Robinson** (HQ Sqn Clerk). His sudden and tragic death was a terrible loss to his parents and the Corps.

**BARC BLANDFORD**

The School Regiment was responsible for the Back-up Annual Reporting Centre in Dorset and the surrounding areas during the month of February. All in all some 200+ recruits reported and were processed through the system. The School Regiment is grateful to the agencies for their support which enabled the event to run smoothly and efficiently.

**MT TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **MTO** | **Capt J. W. Hornby** |
| **MT Sgt** | **Sgt J. Cheeseman (WRAC)** |

**GOC SW DIST COMMENDATION**

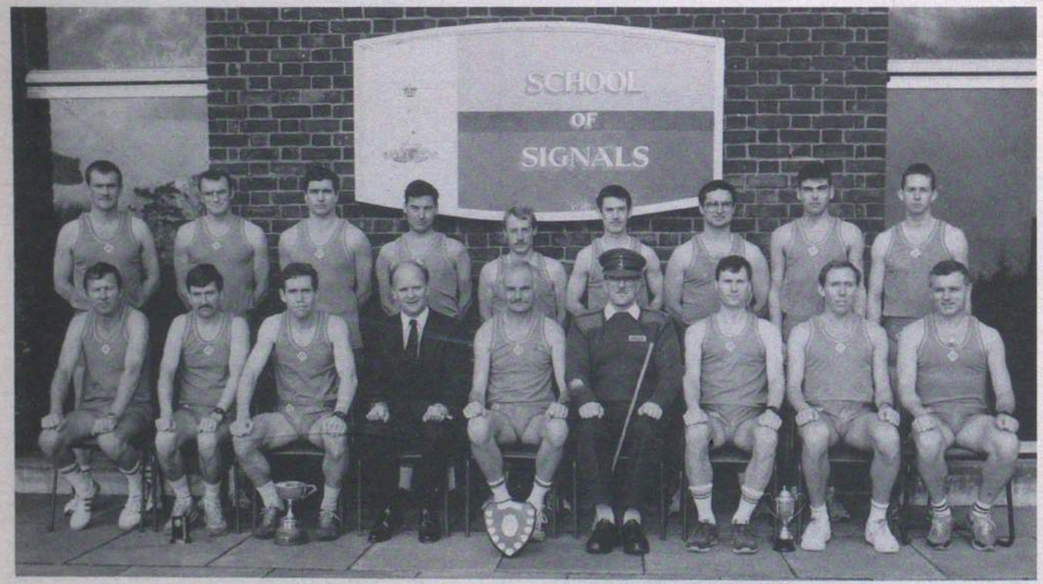
At about 2130 hrs on 19 November 1989, **Sig Robert Anthony** was travelling on duty towards Salisbury station. As he approached the dual carriageway, some five miles short of Salisbury, he came across a scene which was clearly a major traffic accident. A head-on collision had occurred between a Cavalier carrying four Bryanston School children and another vehicle with only a driver.

On approaching the Cavalier, **Robert** saw a girl lying in the road, crying for help. She had severe head wounds and was complaining of back pains. He immediately attended the girl, calmed her down and verified that there were no obvious bones broken. After helping another girl out of the car, he established that the drivers of both cars were dead and could not be helped.

Having done what he could for the injured, **Robert**, with help, set up a traffic control to ease the congestion of traffic that had built up. Shortly afterwards, the ambulance and police arrived on the scene and took control.

This brief resumé above cannot realistically portray the full horror facing this young soldier. His immediate and effective reaction to the incident bears witness, not only to his training, but also to his courage and initiative. He undoubtedly provided vital comfort to the injured and may well have saved lives. His follow-up visit to find out how the pupils were faring is evidence of his continuing interest in their welfare. Glowing letters have been received from the Headmaster, and injured pupils and their parents, all praising his courage and concern.

**Sig Robert Anthony**'s actions at the scene of the accident were in the best tradition of the Service and Corps. The award was made on 16 March 1990 in recognition of his courage and initiative.




*Back Row (L to R):* SSgt Dave Carr, LCpl Steve Davies, Sgt Tony Lobb, SSgt John Self RAOC, Cpls Ian Jenkinson, John Docherty, LCpls Fred Taylor, Andy Thompson and Cpl Carl Thompson

*Front Row (L to R):* WO1 Dougie Rackham, SSgt Danny Chorlton, Capt Nick Bateson, Lt Col R. E. S. Drew, WO2 John Smith, WO1 (RSM) Dave Hogden, Capt Phil Brown, Sgts Brian Wilkins and Steve Ible



**QM (GEN) DEPARTMENT PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **QM (Gen)** | **Lt Col F. D. Rogers** |
| **RQMS** | **WO2 E. Tia BEM** |
| **SSgt's** | **SSgt T. Dooley** |
| | **SSgt D. Forsyth** |
| | **SSgt J. Doak** |
| **Sgt** | **Sgt J. Hodgson** |
| **Cpl** | **Cpl T. Irving** |

It is with sense of dread that we have to say a fond farewell to **Lt Col Frank Rogers** and **SSgt Dave Forsyth**, both leaving on retirement from the service. Our best wishes for the future go with them and their families.

**THE QM GEN RESETTLEMENT GOLD CUP**

There were five runners lined up for this prestigious event with an eager show of early betting.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| No. 1 Faultless Frank | 10-1 fav | (Rogers) |
| No. 2 Darrowby Dave | 12-1 | (Forsyth) |
| No. 3 Thomasardonic | 25-1 | (Dooley) |
| No. 4 Joe C. Wales | 33-1 | (Hodgson) |
| No. 5 Tai Bem | 50-1 | (Eric) |

(No. 5 a late entry—not on the cards)

It was Faultless Frank from the tapes taking the first of 20 briefings and landing three lengths ahead of Darrowby Dave, closely followed by the other four. The fourth briefing gave us an outright leader when Darrowby jumped into a very short head position giving Faultless the run of his life. Joe C. was beginning to tire and Thomasardonic looked too laid back. A sudden challenge at the 'Staff Shortage' hurdle almost changed the line up but Thomasardonic was pushed aside by Darrowby and almost pulled up. This misunderstanding all but gave Faultless the race but the injection of RSPCA sponsored training seemed to lift Darrowby and he finished first by a brass neck. Second Faultless who finished in June, Thomasardonic, Tai Bem, and Joe C. left sitting on the fifth fence.

**QM (TECH) PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **QM** | **Capt Les Budworth** |
| **RQMS** | **WO2 Elgan Davies** |
| **SQMS ACCTS** | **SSgt Kit Celtel** |
| **SQMS LP** | **SSgt Billy Allen** |
| **Cpl** | **SSgt Kev Wilkinson** |
| **AO** | **Mrs Jean Peck** |
| **Q1** | **CSgt Bill Turner Ex Royal Marines** |

As ever the QM(T)'s department is kept extremely busy. Over the past six months we've had PRE's, Ord Anc inspection, DAMA inspection and now we are in the middle of the biannual stock taking board coupled up with yet another PRE.

The department has had a few changes of staff since the DAMA inspection—the majority being civilians. **Mrs Jan Major** to ACC, Harrogate, **Mr Vic Wells** to Flight Refuelling, Wimborne and shortly **Mr John Holley** on his promotion to SDGD.

Over the next few months we will be saying farewells to the QM on his retirement, **SSgt Celtel** on posting to Bulford and **Cpl Kev Wilkinson** (our arms storeman) on posting to RAF Brize Norton and congratulations on his promotion to Sgt.

Last year the department changed its name to WH Smith as we were responsible for the shipping of some 3,000 copies of 'The Vital Link'. We still have the odd hundred or two copies left so if you missed the advertising of the book last year, and wish to purchase one, write to us now and we will be glad to sell you a copy or two or three or four or more.

**TM TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC TM Tp** | **Maj E. Holland** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt S. Hawey** |

TM Tp known as a haven for the sick lame and lazy as opposed to maintaining tels equipment has had its quota of providing fatigue parties. **SSgt Chris Horsfall** our Art Tels is seen in the workshop in between his courses.

**Sgt Kevin Walton** came out with his annual BFT excuse. **Arnie Howell** ERV specialist providing it doesn't interfere with college work. **Steve Hodgson** I'll not be in today I'm going to hospital. **Tommy** the athlete **Tucker**. Corporal's Mess Treasurer **Phil Cooper** 'I'm just going to the PRI, I'm just going to the . . .'. **Soapy Souter** 'I've done more guard commanders than you'.

New arrivals hot from the RSSSC (Intake Tests) **Taff Cummings** and **Kev Dicks**. **Joe Docherty** our Battery shop caretaker 'has anyone seen a grey haired civvy carrying a battery'. **Ned Kelly** boosting the coffee fund in his private workshop. And our one and only **Sig Paddy Clarke**.

Finally our TOT **Maj Holland** on SOS inventory who has to maintain some sort of order out of such a motley crew.

**1 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Sqn** | **Maj S. G. Falla** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 J. M. Smith** |

**SYSTEMS EXERCISE TROOP**
**EXERCISE MOORLAND MESSENGER DARTMOOR**
**by SSgt R. A. Cooper**

On a cold and overcast Monday in March 24 members of Systems Exercise Tp were dropped off northwest of Princetown at the start of Ex Moorland Messenger.

The exercise was designed to test navigation skills and leadership qualities and, with a little help from the atrocious weather, it did just that. Despite all the pre-exercise training including navigation, orienteering, survival equipment and first aid with an emphasis on cold weather injuries, nothing could have prepared us for the thick mist and constant drizzle which we encountered. For the first three days visibility was rarely better than 50m and often down to less than 30m! A real test of navigation skills and sense of humour!

At the end of the first day, the walkers arrived at the admin area below Gutter Tor, and despite the thick mist all groups made it without too many wandering off course.

Day two was an Inter-Section Competition, navigating round a series of checkpoints and answering a quiz at each one, on the subjects of NBC, First Aid, General Knowledge and Military Trivia. Points were also awarded for sections getting to the checkpoints on time and **Cpls Paul Downie, Taff Chiplin, LCpls Mark Gray, Geordie Garbutt** and **Sig Blakey** actually arrived at checkpoint Bravo over an hour before the DS Controller **Sgt Gary Johnston** who should have been there to check them in. He arrived after a further hour with **Cpls Bruce Pearce, Jim Barber, LCpls Paul Carling, Chris Malcolm** and **Billy Patton** in tow having found them taking bearings on 'sheep' over 2km away! Or was it that they found him? Although Section 3—**Cpls Mark Teague, Smudge Smith, LCpls Neil Hayden, Lenny Lyon** and **Pete Wigmore** were spot on in their navigation even in the appalling conditions but they proved to be duffers when it came to the quizzes and so the outright winners of the competition were **Cpl John Greenwood, LCpl Eddie Yates, Sig John Bolton, Jack Hawkins** and **J. D. Hogg**. **Cpl Bruce Pearce** tried to claim extra points for his Section after he had assisted in the delivery of a lamb, but this bonus was declared void after the lamb celebrated its entry into the world by 'christening' **LCpl Jock Reid**'s denims!

Meanwhile in the admin area the DS were being kept entertained by 'the odd couple' **Jock Reid** and **Jock Anderson** who never stopped arguing and **Sgt Brian Jenkinson** who specialised in the musical skill of playing the tilly lamps with his head. The final phase of the exercise was a 35km march on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning. This time **WO2 Dennis Rutter** and **Cpl Neil Brockett** managed to find the location which had eluded **Sgt Gary Johnston** on the previous day, and set up an RV there to check the groups through and attend to the weary and footsore. At 0100 hrs on the Thursday morning we were awakened by the All Arms Commando Course assaulting a Tor some 500m away from our bivvy site and so the day began. The final morning was bright and sunny as we walked into Princetown just in time for the pubs to open! Funny how you can forget just how much your feet hurt.

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**ROYAL SIGNALS LOAN SERVICE PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Comd SAF Signals** | **Aqeed (Col) Bob Wright** |
| **SO1 Tels** | **Muqaaddam (Lt Col) Ian Turner** |
| **1 Sig Regt** | **Wakeel 1 (WO1) (FofS) Jim Leggate** |
| | **Wakeel 2 (WO2) (YofS) Brian Hayward** |
| **2 Sig Regt** | **Wakeel 2 (WO2) (YofS) Chris Newby** |
| **YofS Trg Team** | **Naqeeb (Capt) Alan Doane** |
| | **Wakeel 1 (WO1) (YofS) Steve Watson** |
| | **Wakeel 2 (WO2) (YofS) Sid Coleman** |

This year started in earnest with Regimental run up exercises in January leading into a HQ SAF Signals exercise, Ex Saqr Tayyr, followed in February by a major SOLF (Sultanate of Oman Land Forces) FTX.

**EXERCISE SAQR TAYYAR**

Ex Saqr Tayyar was a Comd SAF Signals exercise giving the opportunity to the CO's of both 1 Sig Regt (1SR) and 2 Sig Regt (2SR) to train their Units in isolation. This isolation meaning without the usual restrictions imposed when serving communications to the staff of the various HQ's, or in the case of this particular exercise area—miles from anywhere.

The exercise area was on the northern desert plain of Afar, a very dusty and barren land of low undulating gravel hills between wide flat sandy Wadis. Surprisingly the area has its inhabitants of wandering Bedu, who with their Toyota pick ups and small herds of goats and camels are content in their native environment. The plain is approximately 300 km south of Muscat, which meant for 2SR, based in the south at Salalah, an 800km drive.

There is only one tarmac road from the north to the south of the country and this runs straight for most of its length over a very dry and dusty desert. It is a monotonous drive whilst in convoy, interjected only by the sudden excitement of a lone camel crossing the road and the warning signs, 'Beware Moving Dunes'.

The exercise was a 10 day adventure with both Northern Oman Bde Sig Sqn (NOBSS) and Southern Oman Bde Sig Sqn (SOBSS) providing the communication elements of their usual HQs.

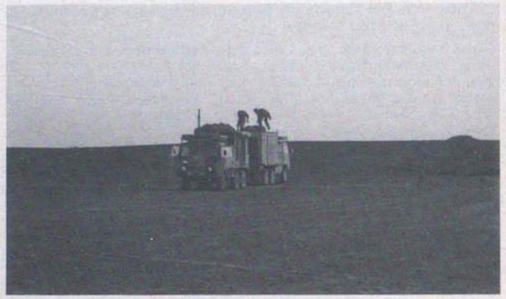
Communications, movement, camouflage and concealment were the main lessons to practice under tactical conditions. Of course as the range of the radio communications was increased the familiar predicament of tactically siting the Radio Relay detachments for optimum signal strength was one of the main controversies. The camouflage nets used in Oman are of a sand/grey stone colour and do blend in well with the surrounds, but as illustrated by the photographs—'Now you see it—Now you still do', there is always—that mast. However Radio Relay Tp was to benefit most as it was the first chance for many of the crews to operate their detachments and equipments outside barracks.

The exercise was never dull but during those quiet periods after moves and when the communications were re-established there were moments to enjoy the solitude of the desert. At these times the naturalist in **YofS Brian Hayward** emerged as he managed to coax a scorpion and later on a blue headed Agama to pose for photographs. The scorpion (Leiurus quinquestriatus) which he befriended, although not aggressive, can give an extremely painful sting which has unpleasant effects on the nervous system leading to nausea and shock.

The exercise was declared an interesting success—we wait in anticipation for its sequel. Before the two Regiments parted, 1SR north and 2 SR south they congregated in the field to enjoy an endex Hafla. Hafla is the arabic for party, where large trays of food are brought into the Majalis (sitting area). The Hafla gave the opportunity for all the Loan Service Personnel to meet—a delight for **YofS Chris Newby** who normally is on his own in Salalah.



At the end of Ex Saqr Tayyar
*Left to Right:* Wkl 2 YofS Chris Newby, Wkl 2 YofS Brian Hayward, Aqeed (Col) Bob Wright, Wkl 1 FofS Jim Leggate, Muqaaddam (Lt Col) Ian Turner



Now you see it . . .



Now you don't . . .

**RECREATION AND SPORT**

The hot weather of Oman does restrict the time of day when sports take place to the early evening. This is when the temperature begins to cool and there is just enough time before it gets dark.

Hockey is very popular and there are games every week as well as Inter-Unit and Inter-Services matches. Rugby is not popular in the services but there is a very active civilian club which plays frequently in Dubai. This year they will tour Kenya for 14 days. For the runners there is the Muscat Road Runners Club which provides the competition for jqggers and racers alike who prefer company whilst running. The Hash House Harriers are also very popular. The water sports, sailing, diving, windsurfing and snorkelling are well attended at the SAF Beach Club. Of course for the less energetic the sandy beach and cool sea provide a pleasant setting for relaxing in the sun.

These activities are not restricted to the north as **YofS Chris Newby** in the south at Salalah will tell you. He has taken up windsurfing which he has found very easy and in fact took to the open sea after only one lesson. As **YofS Chris Newby** disappeared over the horizon of the deep blue Arabian Sea those on the beach eventually got worried—no one missed him at first. A boat was launched and sped in the direction of the wide ocean in search of the YofS. Well on the way to Mombasa, Kenya, the lone windsurfer was spotted and his escape plan foiled. He was captured and returned sullenly to his servitude in Salalah. Next time **YofS Chris Newby** is going to learn how to turn and steer the windsurfing sail and promises to stay within easy reach of the beach.

**DHOFAR 30KM ROAD RACE**

The Dhofar 30km road race in southern Oman started in the mid-seventies as a charity run. Primarily to raise money for the assistance of those soldiers whom unfortunately were injured and suffered during the war. Money raised now goes towards the Joint Services Welfare Fund Oman.

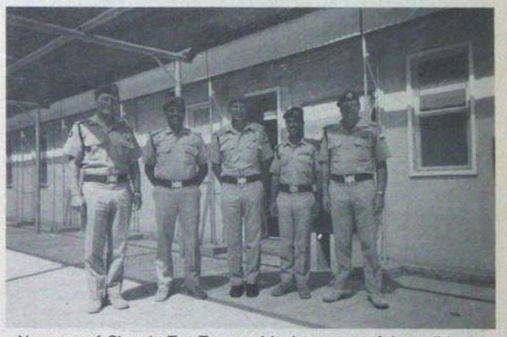
The race starts on the hills overlooking the Salalah plain, and follows the main Thumrait to Salalah road. The first 14kms are over undulating hills towards a 4km steep downhill section winding onto the desert plain. The last 12km are along this flat plain and this is where the race for home begins. This year the race took place on Friday 23 March starting at 0700 hrs. Eighty-two runners started and seventy-nine finished. The winning time was 1 hr 41 mins by Rqb/1 Awadh Shaaban Fajah of the Sultans Special Forces. Wkl 1 **(FofS) Jim Leggate** managed a modest 15th place in a time of 1 hr 59 mins.



Wkl 1 FofS Jim Leggate at the end of the Dhofar road race (30kms—1 hr 59 mins)

**YofS TRG TEAM—DEPARTURE**

The Yeoman of Signals Course which started on 13 May last year has finally reached a successful conclusion in March. SAF Signals now possesses two qualified Omani Yeoman of Signals. Of course this has meant saying farewell to the YofS Trg Team and we thank them for a job well done.



Yeoman of Signals Trg Team with the successful candidates
*Left to Right:* Wkl 1 YofS Steve Watson, Rqb/1 YofS Ali bin Shanain, Nqb Tfc Offr Allan Doane, Wkl 2 YofS Sullamen bin Mohammad, Wkl 2 YofS Sid Coleman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# News from Regiments

## Berlin Sig Regt
## BFPO 45

**1 SQUADRON**

Firstly farewell to **Maj Craig McColville** and **Mary. Maj McColville** leaves Berlin for Rhinedahlen via a short holiday in the Falklands. The Squadron wishes them both the best and thanks them for the support they have given to the Squadron during the past two years. Secondly we welcome **Maj Max Little** and his wife **Margaret** from RSRE Malvern. Also farewell and thanks to **Capt Martin Ramshaw** and **Kathy** soon to leave us for the tranquility of Blandford.

**FAREWELL BFT**

**Maj Craig McColville**'s parting gift to the Squadron was a BFT run in the Olympic Stadium. Such competitiveness and athleticism has not been seen since Jessie Owen annoyed a short person who sported a silly moustache. Twelve laps of the Olympic circuit, six as a squad and six individually, saw a mass of red and white shirted competitors participate in the first known BFT run in an Olympic Stadium. **LCpl 'Lefty' Wright** crossed the line first and then in turn watched in awe as soldier after soldier completed the BFT in the allocated time. It was a momentous occasion. So readers, the gauntlet has been thrown down by 1 Sqn Berlin HQ and Sig Regt, can you better the location of your next BFT?

**HANDOVER/TAKEOVER**

On 23 March the Handover/Takeover of 1 Sqn was completed and the final Squadron Parade under **Maj Craig McColville**'s command took place. **Maj Max Little** signed for the Squadron and addressed those on parade. **Maj McColville** was then whisked off on the 432. He was accompanied by a cake on his final trip around camp. The cake depicted a scene from **Maj McColville**'s favourite haunt in Berlin. The Squadron then adjourned to celebrate the occasion.

**EXERCISE RONDO 38**

Rondo is the name given to an exercise held in Berlin for Signal Troops from the British, American and French Sectors. It has been held biannually since 1971 and is hosted by each Sector in turn on behalf of Allied Staff Berlin. Ex Rondo 38 was held over the period 19-23 March 1990 and was run by 1 Sqn, Berlin HQ and Sig Regt.



And they are off



The signing over of the Squadron



1 Sqn Berlin HQ and Sig Regt

Twenty players from each Sector assembled in Ruhleben Fighting City (RFC) on Monday afternoon and were formed into three-person tripartite teams . . . 'person' because Rondo 38 included five female soldiers who participated on equal terms throughout the week. The objectives of Rondo are to train soldiers on Allied signal equipments, to develop interoperability between nations and, perhaps most importantly, to promote co-operation and friendship between soldiers from the three nations. All this is achieved by running the exercise as a competition which is always keenly contested.

During Tuesday, instruction on different equipment and procedures was given to the players at a 'round-robin' series of stands. Later in the day, the players were taken to the driver training area in the Grünewald for some 'hands-on' familiarisation with British vehicles. The players were loaded on to different vehicles: Landrovers, Bedfords, MANs, UNIMOG ambulance, AFV 432 Command Post vehicle, Fox and AFV 432 I LI and a forklift from 62 Tpt and Mov Con Sqn RCT. The Rondo players had a great time but there were some nail biting moments for the directing staff!

Sport was organised each night and included an international waterpolo tournament, volleyball and football.



The competitive part of the exercise ran throughout Wednesday and Thursday. Ten teams deployed each day on a mobile exercise throughout West Berlin. Given 30 widely spread locations, they had to navigate to each in turn and establish communication back to Exercise Control in RFC. They were then told to answer a question relevant to that location. As well as practising communication skills, the aim of the exercise was to familiarise players with the geography of each Sector.

Meanwhile, in RFC, the other 10 teams were involved in a static exercise which tested the training they had been given earlier in the week. Teams moved tactically in an urban combat environment between stands that included the tactical siting of an antenna, line-laying, the use of different national radios on the same net, interfacing national switchboards and the use of generators. At the end of the afternoon, the teams moved to the range for a falling plate competition with weapons changed around within the team . . . the British fired the M16, the French the SLR and the Americans the FAMAS; each with varying degrees of success.

The final part was an urban assault course which was run on Friday morning. The course was a tough one, laid over, through and under the buildings of RFC and the players had to complete it as a team, with a heavy penalty for anyone dropping out.

The hard work completed, the teams were taken back to Stadium Barracks for the presentation of prizes. The ceremony was held in the Kuppelsaal which was the 1936 Olympics boxing arena. Commander Berlin Infantry Brigade, **Brig Richard Oliver**, presented tankards to the first three teams. The winning team was composed of **LCpl Cook, SPC Creager Huffmann** and **Trs Metayer**. Lunch followed, held this time in the Junior Ranks Restaurant. Rondo traditionally ends with Allied singing and Rondo 38 rocked the rafters.

The camaraderie of Rondo and the many friendships formed during the week provide the greatest reward from the exercise. The players dispersed after lunch in a hail of warm farewells and many will meet again in October for Rondo 39 which will be run by the American Sector.



The winning team



Whose turn is it to make the tea?



Sig 'Russ' Marston showing his expertise on the Jaguar radio

**VISIT OF SIGNAL OFFICER IN CHIEF**

**Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook**, the SOinC rounded off a hectic week of visits of Royal Signals in BAOR with a trip to Berlin.

At lunchtime the SOinC presented **SSgt (FofS) Kassim** with his LS & GC Medal.

Continuing the programme on Monday evening, a select band of Regimental Officers, under the watchful eye of the RSM, took the SOinC(A) to witness the removal of the first parts of the wall between the Reichstag and Brandenburger Tor. The General's comment? 'Well done for organising the timing—the other Signal Regiments couldn't hope to compete with that!' Later that night the General was able to confirm that OC 1 Sqn **Maj C. C. McColville** was, indeed, the champion Currywurst eater of West Berlin.

On Tuesday, the General continued his trip with a visit to 3 Sqn, 13 Sig Regt and the Major of our twinned-Borough of Wilmersdorf, **Herr Horst Dohm**. Lunch in Dorset House Mess was hosted by the Royal Signals Officers and guests included GOC (British Sector), **Minister Barton** and **Herr Dohm**. The General left the Grosse Stadt after lunch for the relative peace and quiet of the Ministry of Defence!



SOinC meets WO1 (RSM) R. C. Young and the CO, Lt Col M. J. P. Collins on arrival

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SPORTS

CROSS COUNTRY

The Berlin Cross Country Relays were held on 21 March at RAF Gatow, and the Regiment entered two teams. In a very close contest, the first team was narrowly beaten by Ord/EME who scored 80.49. Berlin HQ and Sig Regt 'A' came second with a score of 82.21 and third was 38 Field Sqn RE with 82.54. Berlin HQ and Sig Regt 'B' came sixth with a score of 87.15.

The individual times for 'A' team were **SSgt (YofS) Steve Rose** with 20.14, **LCpl 'Lefty' Wright** with 20.20, **WO2 Pete Owen** (RAOC) with 20.45 and **Cpl Paul Deaville** with 21.03 'B' team put up a good fight with their individual times, **LCpl Rick Cummins** scoring 21.03, **Cpl Dave Butter** (1 Corps) on 21.59, **Cpl Pete Levett** on 22.01 and **Sgt Dave Iverson** with 22.12.

In the Royal Signals Cross Country Championships, we entered seven competitors. **SSgt (YofS) Steve Rose** ran well to come in 38th place, with **LCpl 'Lefty' Wright** finishing 44th and **LCpl Rick Cummins** in 69th place. **Sig Billy Matthews** came in 81st place, with **Sgt 'Dizzy' Dave Iverson** not far behind in 83rd place. **LCpl 'Cookie' Cook** finished in 93rd place with **Cpl Dave Hindley** in 108th place. Well done to everybody involved in a hard fought competition.

BRIGADE TROOP

HELLO AND GOODBYE

Hello and welcome to **Lt Bill Adsett** who arrived from 2 Div to take over command of Brigade Tp, and to **SSgt George Greaves** joining Brigade Tp from 38 Sig Regt (V).

Goodbye to **SSgt Tony Reynolds** who is off to join 32 Sig Regt (V), and to **LCpl Chris Davis** leaving to join 3 Armd Div, to **LCpl John Collins** off to 3 Bde and to **Cpl Titus Reene** who is going to 244 Sig Sqn. Farewell and congratulations on promotion to **Sgt Geordie Laverick** posted to 22 AD Regt RLD. Also goodbye and congratulations on promotion to **Capt Lawrence McCourt** who leaves Brigade Tp to become 2IC 1 Sqn.

Congratulations to **LCpl Cameron** and **Mrs Cameron** who became the proud parents of baby **Amy** in December and to **LCpl Yafai** and his wife whose son **Christopher** was born in November.

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# 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt BFPO 32

1 SQUADRON

We would like to welcome **Sig 'Boxer' Heads** and hope that he will enjoy his tour with us. We say goodbye to **Cpl 'Bamba' Downs** who is off to 8 Sig Regt and **Cpl Jenkins** to 39 Inf Bde. We would like to wish them luck on their new postings.

EAGLE TROOP

We welcome **Sig Kaye** and **Kirkpatrick** who arrived and then went straight off on exercise, and **Sig 'Gb' Greatbatch** back after his B3.

We were on exercise when the first of the gales struck. **LCpl Kelly** was dodging falling trees on Ex Spitzen Dolch and **Sig 'Rob' Ingram** was reported to be holding onto his mast, to prevent it from being blown over.

Ex Flying Falcon started with the OC of OSC 132 asking 'what have you done to my comms?' after being crashed out; **Sgt 'Rocky' Warhurst** declaring that we never have had problems with our PCU Goulds—we then blew 3/6.

During one of the storms our radio relay site looked like a felled forest with **Sig Steve Bowman** unable to stand up. Then came the snow and with it the end of comms.

There is still some confusion in Node command about what and what not to depower.

FAREWELL

We wish all the best to **Sgt 'Snowy' Weir** and his wife **Elizabeth** posted to 31 Sig Regt (V).

HAWK TROOP

It was all change at the top earlier in the year when the OC Troop **Lt Simon Hutchinson** was posted to 201 Sig Sqn and our 'Staffy' **SSgt Dave Bradshaw** deserted to Sardinia. While in the sun he was selected for promotion to WO2, our congratulations go to him. **SSgt Neil Ardern** was posted into the Troop from Golf Tp, we would like to welcome him and his wife **Anne** to the Troop.

**Cpl 'Skeer' Ali** and his wife **Penny** left for civvy street, **LCpl Mick Reeder** to the School of Signals and **LCpl 'Stumpy' Maher** to 602 Sig Tp. Our best wishes and thanks go with them all.

**Sgt Dave Watson** and his wife **Elaine, LCpl 'Joe 90' Robinson** and **Sig Cy Cartwright** are our newcomers—welcome to the Troop and we hope you all enjoy your stay with us.

KESTREL TROOP

When we asked **SSgt (YofS) Martin Fielding** why he liked life in 071 so much he replied it was all to do with **LCpl 'Scouse' Jones** chips and his poached eggs. So when we heard we weren't getting **'Scouse'** for Flying Falcon but **LCpl 'Hutch' Hutchinson** instead we assumed no OSC—but we turned out to be quite wrong. The exercise went quite well except for the problems caused by high winds when **Cpl 'Sammy' Johnstone**'s masts went for a walk down the hill, but not to be left out **Sig 'Mouse' Richards** and **'Deano' Aslett**'s masts followed suit. We gained two promotions on the exercise; the CO promoted **LCpl Braisdell** to Cpl, and when the OC Squadron eventually found **Sig Ray McLeod** on his Central he was promoted to LCpl. Node Command has its personalities as well as **SSgt Geoff** 'have you checked your delta f' **Dawson** and **Capt Martin Girard**.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

The Troop welcomes: **Sig Deano Aslett, Mark Corrigan** and his wife, **LCpl Steve Taylor** and his wife, **LCpls Andy Stafford, Rob Fieldhouse** and **Oliver**.

And we say farewell to: **LCpl Pete Jones** to 12 Bde, **LCpl Adam Gordon** to Belize and **Cpl Neil Braisdell** to 7 Sig Regt.

We would like to welcome **Maj Scott Ewing** and his wife **Nicky** to the Squadron and wish all the best to **Maj Paul Taylor** and his wife **Angeline** posted to UK.

2 SQUADRON

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Rover Tp says hello to **Sgt Doug Tait** who arrived during Flying Falcon to take over as Troop Sergeant. Meanwhile we have lost **LCpl Ollie Oliver** who has gone to 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt. **LCpl Dave Taylor** has also left but he is now making tracks for civilian life; good luck to you all.

PROMOTIONS

The Squadron has not been left out of the promotions; **SSgt (YofS) Benson** has been selected for promotion to WO2; **Cpl Ken Marsh** and **'Mo' Morris** have both been promoted and **LCpl Gibbs** is awaiting a vacancy for Cpl. **LCpl Radcliffe** has also done well.

ACTIVITIES

Ex Flying Falcon has kept us busy. It went quite well with a mid-exercise break to practise some FIBUA work and firing on the range.

After the exercise some went on leave. Those who remained went off to the ranges to select a March and Shoot team, and after a couple of days shooting we entered the Page Trophy competition and won it. Congratulations to the team who were: **2Lt Parsons, Cpls 'DP' Davidson-Page, Mark Tivey, LCpls Paul Nesbitt, 'Paddy' McClean, 'Tommo' Thompson, Sig Paul Goddard** and **'Skully' Wright**.

The team would like to thank the team Captain, **SSgt Tucker** whose support and encouragement contributed to the team's victory.

3 SQUADRON

SHQ

The Squadron has recently had a change of OC's; **Maj Scott Ewing** has moved on after only a year to take command of 1 Sqn. Farewell to him and many thanks to **Nicky** for her work in the wives club. We welcome **Maj Paul Towers** and his wife **Sue** who have arrived from the Province.

Congratulations to **SSgt (YofS) George Greig** on being selected for promotion to WO2.

LIMA TROOP

The early 90's found the Troop on Ex Highland Malt. This was only a short exercise but the new OC **Maj Paul Towers** showed us that Rear HQ could and would be moved quickly and frequently. This was most apparent on Ex Morning Glory where we moved three times in 24 hours! Amongst the lessons that were learnt, **LCpl David Friend** found out that if you try and move a rover without decamming the chances are you'll bog it in.

Not everyone was keen to go on the three weeks of Ex Flying Falcon/Hurst Park. **LCpl David Friend** and his boy **Sig Stevenson** managed to break down 2 miles out of camp and refused to join us for four days. **Cpl Chris Gleadwo** earned himself the name of Death Touch, as everyone who came near his vehicle injured themselves. **LCpl 'Yorkie' Lawton** and **Sig 'Howie' Howard** our line crew received cuts and bruises around the vehicle and **Sig 'Smurf' Smurthwaite** was sent to hospital and later back to camp. The last incident happened in a location chosen specifically for its wind channelling properties. With a Hurricane blowing, eight people were almost crushed trying to take down the mast before it got them.

A special thanks to **Capt Nevil Thompson** the Recce Officer and **LCpl Tim Cox** his driver, for finding such wonderful locations especially the one where it rained inside!

Congratulations to **Cpl Paul Cooper** and his wife **Martina** on the birth of their first son. Also congratulations to **LCpl 'Jacko' Jackson** and his wife **Maxine** on the birth of their son **Anthony**.

Farewell to **LCpl Ian Watson** who has chosen to work for HMP after 13 years service to the Corps and **LCpl 'Seht' Stead** also in a posting to Civ Div. Good luck to **Sgt 'Bri' Whyte** and his wife **Carolyn** who are off to NI and **Sig 'Brads' Bradley** who is posted to 30 Sig Regt. Welcome to **LCpl Tim Ryan** from 602 Sig Tp and **Sig Paul Hattle** and **'Dickie' Bird** fresh from the factory.

OSCAR TROOP

A great deal of change is taking place at the moment. For this reason we deployed on Ex Flying Falcon not sure whether we were going to come back as Alternate, Step Up or Hard Tac HQ or even which Squadron we would be in! The final decision is still to be made but it looks as if we will become part of 2 Sqn.

Wind was our greatest problem on the exercise. This had nothing to do with Compo but the result of force 10 gales in some wind blown locations. **Cpl Greg Terry** and the rest of Diamond 1 crews faced a losing battle when the 18/24 went airborne and proceeded to wrap itself into a mass of tangled tent poles.

We felt the exercise went well for us and **SSgt (YofS) George Greig** managed to stretch Div Comms assets to cover a Corps sized area. A new post has been established, it is the Div Portaloo Manager. The post has been filled by **SSgt Peter Griffin**.

On return to Caithness Barracks we discovered our new Troop Radio Sergeant, **Sgt Steve Ferris** had arrived and was eagerly awaiting our return. We welcome him and his wife **Belinda**.

Congratulations to **SSgt Peter Griffin** and **Sgt Paul Marshall** on their impending promotions, WO2 and SSgt. Best wishes in your next jobs.

## 201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 30

A new series of exercises is underway with hardly any time for the new Squadron Comd **Maj Andy Forster** to get his feet under the table.

With a new Brigade Commander we started out at the Brigade and Battle Group trainer at Sennelager warming up both comms and staff procedures. Then we set off to Soltau and Luneburg Training Area on Ex Highland Stag which was a constructive albeit a damp exercise.

With barely time to recover the Squadron was off again on Ex Morning Glory—with **Lt Mike Rogers** at the helm. **Sgt 'Frankie' Campbell** displayed his air defence capabilities by successfully grounding a Lynx helicopter with his four-ton truck! On our return we were preparing to go out yet again on the Flying Falcon/Stag's Head/Hurst Park exercises which produced some memorable moments. The SSM **WO2 'Flipper' Whateley** was entrusted with route recce and together with **Cpl Mark Rouse** managed some imaginative and scenic mystery tours which took in the odd five ton bridge!

Many thanks to **Sgt Baker** and his team for their excellent food throughout the exercise.

A week later the Squadron hosted the RSAAM but, unfortunately, due to the heavy exercise commitments which prevented any serious preparation, the Squadron team under **Lt Simon Hutchinson**, come a gallant fifth. There was individual success however in the shape of **LCpl 'Nick' Basford** and **Sig 'Woody' Greenwood** who won the LMG shoot.

The exercise was not yet over and the Stag Sqn deployed to the familiar stamping ground of SLTA on Ex Prairie Stag a pre-Batus testex for 1 Scots Guards.

**SPORT**

Despite our congested programme for this quarter the Squadron has still managed to participate with some success on the sporting front.

The soccer team has had one of its most successful seasons to date reaching the quarter finals in both the Commanders Cup and the 1 Armd Div Cup, narrowly losing in both matches. They are still chasing honours in the 7/22 Bde League and with a little luck could win it.

The hockey team however has managed to string together some impressive performances and is challenging for the title in the 7/22 Bde League.

With just one race to go in the 7/22 Bde Cross Country League the Squadron team has retained the title it won last year. A special mention to **SSgt Pat Barclay** and his postal detachment who have been 'ever-present' throughout the season and without whom we could not have won.

The rugby team without the time to train together effectively suffered a couple of heavy defeats before enjoying a stunning victory over Hamburg Rugby Club. With a lot of enthusiasm being generated especially by the new faces recently posted in, the club is looking for greater success.

In boxing **Sig Jason Raybould**, along with his trainer **Cpl 'Spike' Furbes**, competed in Berlin in the BAOR Individual Boxing Championships. Although short of 'ring fitness' he distinguished himself admirably before losing in the semi-finals on a close points decision to a more experienced fighter.

**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

Finally a few hellos and farewells within the Squadron. We say hello to **LCpl Brewis, Sig Daly, Ptes Endericks** and **Collumb**, we hope your tour here is enjoyable.

We say goodbye to **Sig Turnbull, Chalk** and **Pte Corbett** who have served lengthy tours here.

Congratulations go to **LCpl 'Les' Dawson** and his wife **Angela** on the arrival of their baby daughter.



## 207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 37

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Mike Dyer** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Dave Hudson** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Wally Drain** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 Willy Riding** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt Graham Blondel** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Paul Alexander** |
| **CC** | **Sgt Tommy Mahoney** |
| **Pay** | **Sgt John Killoran RAPC** |
| **Trg** | **Sgt Bob Smith RPC** |
| **OC A Tp** | **Lt Rab Mulholland** |
| **SSgt A Tp** | **SSgt Geoff Hawkins** |
| **OC B Tp** | **Lt Ian Walton** |
| **SSgt B Tp** | **SSgt John Coles** |
| **OC LAD** | **SSgt Pete Cullingworth REME** |
| **2IC LAD** | **Sgt Bill Surman REME** |
| **Famto/Fatso** | **Sgt Colin Brothwell RAOC** |

**REGIMENTAL MARCH AND SHOOT COMPETITION**

Team: **Lt 'Rab' Mulholland, WO2 (SSM) Drain, SSgt Coles, Sgt MacKenzie, Cpl Potter, LCpls Donavan, Westerman, Legg, Sig O'Brien, Peers, Kelly, Jones** and **Gordon**.

On Tuesday 14 March the team set off to take part in the Divisional March and Shoot Competition. The first real test was the march, just over 4km in 22 mins with all teams missing the time, but we were only just out. Although worn out at the end of it we managed a good shoot.

After dinner came the Roupell Cup, the SLR shoot, which to our amazement involved a sprint. With a few rubber legs in tow we finished third. The SSM and **Sgt Mac** qualified for the Roberts Cup the next day; they both did well but not well enough to win. The teams for the Falling Plate did not get through to the first rounds, but the SMG and pistol had yet to come. We did quite well in that with **Sig Peers** coming second and **Lt Mulholland** getting the highest score for an Officer in the SMG.

We finished up third in the march and shoot and second overall in the shooting competition so we gained a few trophies. Congratulations to HQ Sqn for a fine win; but we will beat you next year!

**ALPHA TROOP**

We kicked off with Ex Spitzer Dolch, an Anglo-German exercise with the 2nd German Panzer Bde. During Ex Flying Falcon we all went back to school for four days and also became like film stars, with children eagerly collecting our autographs and filming our departure.

This Troop's claim to fame is that we think we have BAOR's first mobile cake shop run from the back of Radio Relay by the three stooges **Sig Moffat**, newly promoted **LCpl 'Daz' Pallet** and finally the Troop **SSgt Hawkins**. We also have the first panzer with a swimming pool run by **Sig Slade** and **Kelly**.

We are sorry to say goodbye but we wish all the best to **Cpl Potter** and his family who depart for sunny 244 Sig Sqn. Hello and welcome to **Sig Slade** from across the corridor from Bravo Tp and to **LCpl Westerman** back from the Falklands.

**BRAVO TROOP**

The year started with a Sqn Plug Up and Ex Highland Malt, back to camp for a weekend and then out again on Ex Spitzer Dolch, an Anglo-German exercise, more commonly called Spit the Dog by the Squadron because it was easier to pronounce. Then straight out on Ex Morning Glory. We actually managed a week in camp before departing for Ex Flying Falcon, Haydock Rat and Hurst Park, all one after the other.

The weather played havoc during these exercises some members of the Troop were sure someone somewhere was watching and waiting for us to move because whenever we did the heavens opened up. The wind also played a part in the proceedings and made life very difficult with members of the Troop trying to hold the complex down so we did not lose it.

We finally returned to camp for the tels inspections, PRE's and 857's and trying to fit in leave and courses; will it never end?

The Troop would like to say farewell again to **LCpl 'Al' Kirsop** who after many attempts has finally made it to Northern Ireland.

The Troop congratulates **Sig 'Stu' Ireland** and **WPte Sharon McLean** on their wedding in Soltau on 10 March and wish them all the best for the future; we all enjoyed the day and being with your parents.





Sig Stu Ireland and WPte Sharon McLean on the occasion of their marriage at Soltau on 10 March 1990

**SPORT**

The Squadron football team has had a very successful season and has been beaten only once—by 29 (yes we are a minor unit) Sig Regt in the BAOR Minor Unit Semi-Final. An excellent season for **SSgt Hawkins**, the team manager. The basketball team under **Lt Mulholland** and **Sgt Chris Meehan** have become 1 Div Minor Unit Champions. **Sgt Bill Surman** continues to do well in the 7/22 Bde Cross Country League.

**STOP PRESS**

Congratulations to **LCpl 'Dougie'** and **Tracy O'Neil** on the arrival of **Callum**, their first child, born on Monday 19 March 1990. Well done **Tracy**.

*Keep your unit notes*
**SHORT!**



## 212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 36

**OSCAR TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp CC** | **Lt Burke** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Bray** |
| **Tp/MT Rep/Storeman** | **Cpl Morgan** |

The Troop has been involved in some gripping activities. Firstly we went on exercise. Then we went on exercise. Then we took part in . . . an exercise, and then we rounded it all off nicely by going on . . . an exercise. The highlight of these being Ex Flying Falcon.

Deploying early gave Commhead Oscar the excuse to throw a 'Barby' the first evening out. This proved to be a great success, and as **SSgt Ray Bray** cooked the grub the Troops entertained themselves by throwing sticks, leaves and coal on to the fire. With the 'Jollies' over, the Troop got down to doing what it does best, communicating.

Joking aside, the Troop succeeded in producing the goods on the exercises and retained its reputation as reliable communicators. Well done lads. On the social side, a number of excursions are planned not the least of which is a trip to Hamburg. A brewery visit and a canoeing expedition are also on the cards.

We welcome to the Troop **LCpl Pete Jones** our new radio relay operator from the Regiment. Best wishes and good fortune in your marriage.



SSgt Ray Bray and Cpl Craig Morgan about to throw another Shrimp on the Barbecue

**PAPA TROOP**

The Troop has a number of new faces with **Sig Stan Holt** and **Ker Farley** straight from training. Also **Sig 'Spats' Brodie** who has transferred to the Corps from the Black Watch. The floor of the Troop office is still reverberating from his drill.

Leaving us are **LCpl 'Giff' Giffin** and his wife **Karen**. They are going to 19 Inf Bde and we wish them all the very best. **LCpl Birch** and his wife **Ann** are leaving us and the Army. He is joining the Police Force and the Troop wishes them well in their new life.

Finally disaster struck on exercise when **Cpl Walters** injured his arm but he is now recovering at home.

**HOCKEY**

At long last the hockey team has something to put in the Trophy cabinet. After a reasonably quiet season, through which the squad has rarely come together, the team members that took part in the Inter-Brigade Signal Squadron Hockey Competition are to be congratulated on achieving a fine second place.

It is particularly satisfying to see that team stalwarts **Sgt Paul Wickham, Cpl Craig Morgan** and **LCpl Bev Beveridge**, finally have something to show for all the efforts.

The team welcomes newcomers **Maj Tim Inshaw** and **SSgt (FofS) Dighton**, and bids farewell to **Sgt Paul 'Slasher' Wickham**. We look forward to continued success in the coming season.

**CYCLING**

The first round of the BAOR Cycling League took place on Wednesday 7 March at Soest. Around 40 riders turned up for a 10

mile time trial. **YofS 'Bob' Pemberton** of the Squadron was part of the organising team and it was good to see the sport start with a strong event which was well supported. An Osnabruck Garrison team was entered and the results were as follows: **Capt Terry Brooks RAOC**—DNF (punctured at 3 miles); **Lt Rob Meinertzhagen**—15th 29 mins 11 secs and **Sig Phil Stroudley**—24th 31 mins 31 secs.

**NEW ARRIVALS**

Congratulations to the following on the additions to their families: **Sgt Dave** and **Marie Woolley** on the arrival of **Jamie Anne**; **Maj Tim Inshaw** and **Sally Inshaw** on the arrival of their third son **Jamie**.

**EXERCISE FLYING FALCON**

This year Ex Flying Falcon took place in late February. Everyone knows that it always snows on this particular exercise and this year was no exception. However what was different was the way the weather took over on the 'prepare to move' format.

This was as follows: one hour to move—Light drizzle; half an hour to move—Moderate rain; Move now—Amazonian Downpour and Arctic Blizzard and a few Golf Ball Hail Stones for good measure.

Fortunately nobody won the Armoured Sledging Competition though the snow and rain made driving conditions very difficult at times. The search is now on to find who is the Rain/Snow God in the Squadron.

Still on the weather, the high winds luckily caused very little damage though a few vehicles had urban camouflage material which decided to go airbourne.

All this was quite a challenge to our latest armoured attachment, the 432 (Typewriter). This new variant was used halfway through the exercise in yet another shuffle of the Brigade HQ format.



WO2 (SSM) Gaffney's Landrover and the only hole in the location

Our Battle Group Liaison vehicle codenamed 'Anneka' **(SSgt Paul Wilson** and **Cpl Blue Nicholson)** was fully used during the exercise sorting out communications problems at the Battle Groups. At times they seemed to be in continuous use but they never did find the treasure.

Meanwhile away from Brigade HQ out on the Rebro's **LCpl 'Dutch' Thompson** and **Sig Kev Wells** were clearly on a mission. They thought that the time had come to head off back to UK. All in all it was a good exercise for the Squadron and at the end even the staff were happy.


# Don't be disappointed!

**Matter for publication *must* reach the editor six weeks before the publication date, ie by 15 June for the August issue,**
**15 August for the October issue and**
**15 October for the December issue.**
**These are the latest dates and copy arriving earlier will be helpful.**




## 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
## York

**ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONS**

The Regimental Orienteering Team won the Army Group 5 (North of England and Scotland) Orienteering Championships held at Wass Forest in North Yorkshire on 31 March. The Regiment, which is the Corps UK Champion major unit, also won the event in 1989. This success was achieved despite losing two of our 'star' runners, **Cpl Steve Sharp** (placed third in the Army Individual Championships 1989) posted to 264 Sig Sqn and **Capt Jonathan Perks** posted to RMAS. Welcome newcomers this season are **2Lt Grant Hume, WO2 (SSM) Cory, SSgt Steve Carr** and **LCpl 'Charlie' Brown.**

**WO2 (SSM) Paul Smith** is now looking for a place in the team and making lots of noises about his coaching ability in the face of some recent impressive results from **Sig 'Hoppy' Hopkins, LCpls John Clark** and **Trev Dale.**



*Front row (left to right):* LCpl C. R. Brown, SSgt C. M. McCue, WO2 (SSM) L. P. Smith and SSgt S. Carr
*Back row (left to right):* Lt Col J. H. Griffin, Maj P. Richards, 2Lt G. Hume, WO2 (SSM) R. C. Cory

**NORTHAG AIRMOBILE DIVISION**

2Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt has been tasked to support the trial of the NORTHAG Airmobile Division. Planning has already started and the trial will culminate on Ex Certain Shield in September 1991. It will include our 24 Airmob Bde (supported by 210 Sig Sqn), 27 German Luftlande Brigade and a Belgian Para/Commando Battalion. As the Division is tasked to deploy and operate anywhere in the NORTHAG area the answer to the communication problem seems to be to use Ptarmigan through a satellite and deploy a British Satellite Access Node (SATAN) to each Brigade. Coincidentally, the Regiment has been co-operating closely with the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment (RSRE) in developing such a system during the last year and a number of successful trials have taken place including a demonstration during Ex Flying Falcon in February of a link from a Bde HQ in the field to the Joint Operations Centre in the MOD, London, over a Skynet satellite. Despite a planning 'frenzy' in RHQ little can happen at Troop level until after Ex Summer Sales in August, but during Ex Key Panther/Flying Falcon in BAOR in February the opportunity was taken to do some basic training and familiarisation with Puma and Chinook helicopters.

**EXERCISE POLAR PALACE**

Ex Polar Palace was a 49 Inf Bde Sig Tp long-range HF communication exercise located at Crystal Palace Football Team's training ground at Mitcham, Surrey. Two dets left York at 0930 hrs on 26 March. Also on the detachments were **Lt Scott Youngson, LCpls Steve Pope, 'Jock' Sorley** and myself **LCpl Phil Hennessy.**

Comms were established and the detachment went off to find out what life is like in Mitcham. Next morning comms were established again and then started the real purpose of the exercise—to meet all the Crystal Palace players, get their autographs and get some photographs taken by our Regimental photographer **LCpl Pope.**

After some star spotting (Stevie Coppel, Ian Wright, Mark Dennis) **Lt Scott Youngson** made me memorise all the team's names—I did not even know what Division they were in before the exercise!

We went to watch them train—easy! After more photographs we returned home. A good time was had by all. They liked us, we liked them and **LCpl Sorely** has even been promised a trial. We have been invited back for pre-season training which we all look forward to.



Crystal Palace striker Ian Wright with *(left to right):* LCpl Sorley, Capt Complin, LCpl Hennessy and Lt Youngson



LCpl Hennessy showing Palace defender Andy Thorn how to use the radio

**THE FULFORD STRIDERS**
**by Cpl Barclay**

What's this? Two clerks have been seen running? Well, the rumours are true, **Cpl John Barclay** and **Sig Andy Walsh** have joined forces with the RSM, **WO1 Gerry Hegarty** and other fleet-of-foot members of the Regiment. They have formed a road running club called the Fulford Striders. The team is in serious training for its debut at the Wigginton 10km road race.

**SERGEANTS' MESS LADIES NIGHT**

The Sergeants' Mess recently laid on a thoroughly enjoyable evening for the ladies. One of the highlights of the evening was **WO1 (RSM) Gerry Hegarty** announcing the news that **WO1 (YofS) Mike Drake** has been selected for commissioning. **Mike** and his wife, **Annabel**, were presented with appropriate gifts. The Sergeants' Mess hope the green wellies and headscarf come in useful in the future.

**EXERCISE KEY PANTHER/FLYING FALCON**

While Regiments in BAOR worry about 'track mileage' we in 2 Div worry about 'Ferry money' for our moves from York to Germany. Due to 'financial constraints' our deployment to Ex Flying Falcon this year was achieved only by means of a 'fleet' of four LSL. Due to the atrocious weather and maritime mishaps, previously reported, all did not go according to plan and at one point elements of the Regiment were spread from York to Verden and all points between. Luckily, our HF deployment net was working well and control was maintained from our staging point and Echelon location at Münster during the five days it took until the Regiment was safely deployed in its initial field locations. Despite comments later on in our notes from 2 Sqn, the various events were not planned by RHQ, although the CO did admit that he would have been pressed to devise a 'pink' that had 2 Sqn crossing the North Sea via three different LSL!

Ex Key Panther was a Regimental exercise in the Verden area and was used as a comms 'workup' and a chance to put the Troops of the Regiment through a number of 'stands' including airmobility (with the help of 210 Sig Sqn) and other diverse activities such as FIBUA and building an MGB with Sapper supervision. After Ex Key Panther, Ex Flying Falcon took us almost to Bremerhaven and with Oscar Tp setting up a Div HQ in a warehouse on the dockside at Papenbury there were optimistic rumours that we would be embarking directly and going home the short way. However, this was not to be and we were once again in the hands of the dreaded 'movers' at Zeebrugge with 2 Sqn's credulity stretched once again to the limit on a fine sunny day by being told that the LSL was late due to 'weather'. However, it transpired that this particular 'weather' had happened days earlier when the LSL was off Norway and after only one night in the Belgian Marines gym the Squadron was soon embarked and on 22 February were, once again, within sight of York Minster.

**2 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC 2 Sqn** | **Maj Tony Rock** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Dave Hornsby** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Paul Smith** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Chic McCue** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt Rus Baldwin** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt Terry Burbidge** |
| **OC Papa Tp** | **2Lt Grant Hume** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Pete Jackson** |
| **OC Oscar Tp** | **Lt Gavin Grant** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Gary Dodd** |
| **OC Radio Tp** | **Lt Andy Walker** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Taff Crosby** |

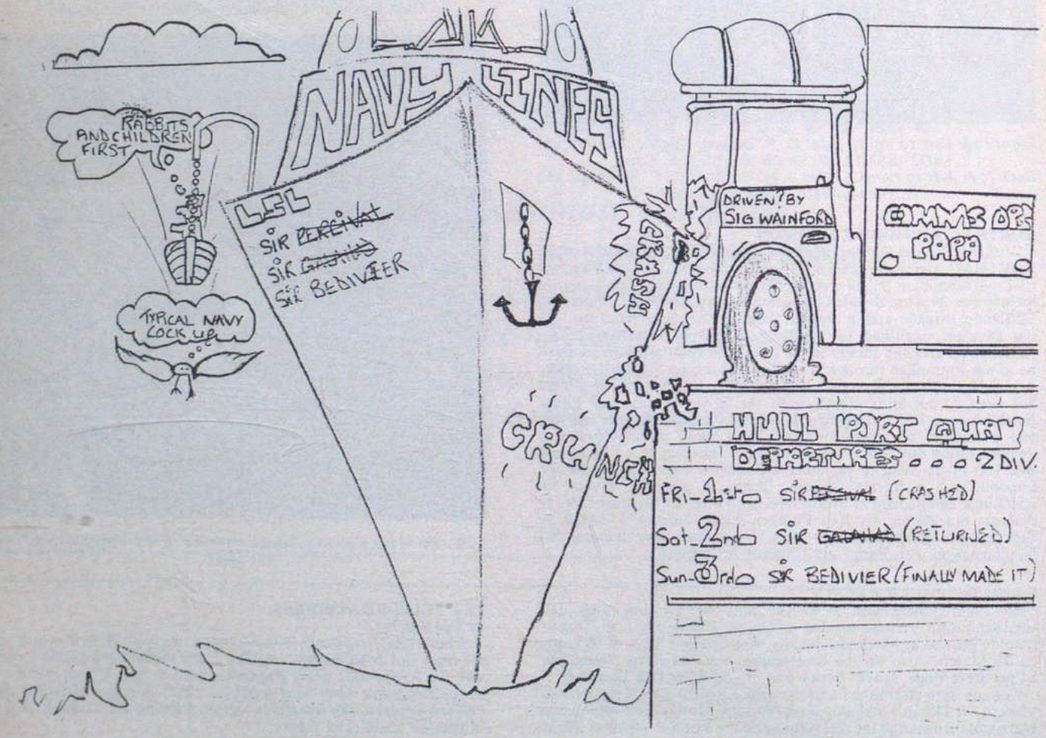
Congratulations to the following on their promotion: **SSgt Pete Jackson** to WO2 (SSM) and off to Harrogate; **Sgt Bob Clair** to SSgt (not posted anywhere); **Cpl Wally Walsh** to Sgt and off to 27 Fd Regt RA at Thirsk; **Cpl Al Mitchell** from 1 Sqn to Sgt; **Sgt Brian Clark** to SSgt and off to the TA in Liverpool; **LCpl Norrie Crook** to Cpl. Congratulations also to **Cpl Beswick** and his wife **Jackie** on the birth of their son.

**HELLOS AND GOODBYES**

During the past couple of months the Squadron has had many personnel posted out but not quite so many posted in! So to all those who have moved on thanks for all your hard work. To all new arrivals—welcome. We hope your tour will be a happy and successful one.

**INTER SQUADRON ORIENTEERING COMPETITION**

As part of the CO's Cup Competition the Inter Squadron Orienteering Competition was held on Wednesday 21 March in Langdale Forest near Scarborough. The weather was good, the terrain hilly and fast and at 1100 hrs runners set off at one minute intervals to do battle. There followed a couple of tense hours competition with the four Squadrons of the Regiment all producing some good results but at the end of the day 2 Sqn successfully carried off the Trophy in a mere 1 hr 37 mins.






The stars of the 2 Sqn team were **Lt Andy Walker**, who was beaten into second place on the 'A' course by a mere 20 seconds. (More effort next time Sir!) **LCpl Charlie Brown**, who came third on the 'A' course and, the find of the season, **2Lt Grant Hume** who came second on the 'B' course. He has been immediately signed up by the 2IC for the Regimental Orienteering Team! Well done to all the competitors who took part on the day for all their hard work in helping 2 Sqn to a well deserved victory.

**EXERCISE KEY PANTHER/FLYING FISH 90—OR—ALL AT SEA WITH TERRY!**

Once again Ex Flying Falcon was upon us, needless to say 2 Div was ready. In fact we were so ready we lined up 20 hours before the ships were to sail!

The 'management' in true style came upon the idea of splitting up the Regiment and deploying us in four LSLs with 2 Sqn on *Sir Percival*. This turned out to be lucky, or perhaps unlucky, depending on how keen you were to go on exercise. Not long after sailing it was discovered that the *Sir Percival* had been holed and was taking in water! The Captain decided to return to Hull.

On arrival at Hull the ship had difficulty in docking and we had to wait in the estuary until Saturday morning. Saturday afternoon saw the Squadron transferred to *Sir Galahad*. Having applied Turbo power (and ignoring the Force 10 Gale warning) we arrived in Zeebrugge on Sunday morning. This was not to be the end of the story; once landed it was found we would have to wait until later that day to actually move out to our first location. So what better way to keep happy but to put them to bed on yet another LSL, this time it was *Sir Bedivere*. It was while we were on this ship that it was pointed out to us that we had been on more LSLs in 72 hours than any of the RFA personnel had during their 15 years service! Later that day we did, however, deploy on the real exercise.

The Squadron would like to thank 'The Management' for a well deserved 'cruise' and thank you to the crews of *Sir Percival, Sir Galahad* and *Sir Bedivere* for looking after us so well.



By air, land and sea . . . 2 Sqn load an LSL—again!

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

**SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Mike Cost** |
| **2IC** | **Capt James Morley-Kirk** |
| **AO/OC Sp Tp** | **Lt Tom Ponton** |
| **OC Comms Tp** | **Lt Stephen Williamson** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Mal Hopper** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 Dougie MacTaggart** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt Russ Lifton** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Jim Monkman** |
| **ORSQMS** | **SSgt Glen Brook** |

**WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS**

Welcome to the following personnel who have arrived to swell our ranks: **LCpls Asquith, Baddeley, Blanchard, Catlett, Green, Sig Chivers** and **Smart**. Along with the welcomes we must also bid farewell to **Sgt Beverley** (no one gets Belize and then Cyprus), **Sgt Bri Hayles, Cpls Terry Cole, John Hynes** and **Sig 'OB' O'Brien**. We might actually lose our Yeoman; he's had three farewells already and is still here!

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Our congratulations go to **SSgt Glen Brook, Sig Carl Radley** and **Mark Knowles** on being selected for promotion. Congratulations go to **Cpl 'Doc' Docherty** and his wife **Val** on the birth of their daughter **Lyndsey**.

**EXERCISE KEY PANTHER/FLYING FALCON**

The end of January saw the Squadron deploy to Germany for Ex Flying Falcon. After three days of travelling across a very stormy Channel, we deployed into our exercise locations for the start of Ex Key Panther, a 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt exercise. The Squadron practised movement of both HQs, communications and military training.

The first four days went well with plenty of flying for the airmobile HQs, night landing point training and more than enough fault finding at Main (is it true that **LCpl Cardwell** went a complete shift without losing comms?). The last two days of Ex Key Panther was a military training exercise. Both HQs moved around several stands participating in bridge building, internal security, carrying out a rolling replen and believe it or not a CFT—the question is 'did anyone from 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt take part? During this period we provided an airmobile stand which was tasked to fly the Comm Heads from 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt under the instruction of **Capt Morley-Kirk** and **Sgt Wicking**, four tonners, generators and all.

Week 2 started bringing the Squadron together into one location. This gave **YofS MacTaggart** a chance to start his new enterprise 'Douggie's Guided Tours'—don't bother applying for a job with 'Wish You Were Here'!



Sig Gary Burke provides ground-to-air communications at the inbound LS during Ex Flying Falcon



210 Sig Sqn 'Moving Now!'

The next few days saw us being moved from area to area in support of each of the Divisions. This not only gave us more flying practice, it also gave the opportunity for members of other units in the Corps to come along and see how a unit operates in the airmobile role.

Towards the end of the week there were rumours (mainly from the Admin Offr **Lt Tom Ponton**) that the Main HQ known as Kestrel was to be renamed Ostrich because it never seemed to fly. This all changed on the last day when Main flew to join up with the airmobile HQ. The HQ provided a display simulating the NORTHAG Airmobile Division HQ.

The rest of the Squadron moved back to Krefeld for a short period of R & R before returning to the UK on everybody's favourite ocean going liner, the LSL *Sir Galahad*.

Overall, during the two weeks the Squadron managed 23 underslung and 17 internal loads by Chinook and 3 underslung loads by Puma. We are also only the second unit to fly a motorcycle/sidecar combination under a Lynx. Our thanks to RAF Gutersloh SH, 4 AAC Detmold and 9AAC for supporting us so well.

**EXERCISE (MESS THE BOYS ABOUT) GRYPHONS LIFT**

Echelon left Catterick one bright and sunny Monday morning to start everyone wondering—what surprises has the Brigade got in store for us?

We arrived at our first location and it seemed as if the winds were finally going to let up, well they didn't! Many a soldier was saved from being blown away by getting tangled up in his urban cam whilst it was fluttering about in the breeze. **LCpl Charlie Eastwood** spent an interesting two days playing 'Catch the Cam' and hang gliding with the Cookhouse cam.

Brigade's intention was to see how far they could push the lads with a 200 km move every night. If we did this in reality we would be in Poland after Week 1. At first we thought 'no problem', we could always sleep during the day. This was until we found out what other surprises lay in wait for us. 'Oh no, not them again!' was the cry as we formed sections during the daylight hours and set up military training stands.

First aid was the treatment of casualties in a trench which was due to be bombarded by mortars in two minutes. When **Sgt Ray Cowburn** was asked what he would do, he replied 'Leave them and dive for cover or send a Signalman out'. The NBC Stand was a short recce patrol. **Cfn Geordie Rieling**, quite knowledgeable with NBC, seemed the logical choice to go in front of the chemical recce group. Our instructor held up the detector paper and asked what colour it was and what agent was present. **Cfn Geordie Rieling** replied 'Ah divint na I'm colour blind'. On the last stand we actually beat the infantry at their own game. The Green Howards were defending a house and the Section, under the guidance of **Cpl Chippy Pomfret**, made easy work of taking the house. 2IC please note the FIBUA training did come in handy after all!

**INTER SQUADRON SEVEN-A-SIDE RUGBY**
**by Sgt Ray Cowburn (Driver/Manager/Coach)**

The Squadron Team was made up of the following players: **Sgt Archie Fulton**—Prop (Team Captain), **Cpl Chippy Pomfret**—Scrum Half, **LCpl Geordie Green**—Hooker, **LCpl Dave Catlett**—Prop, **LCpl Ezzy Ezard**—Wing, **LCpl Mark Harland**—Wing, **Sig Hughies Hughes**—Prop, **Sig Carl Radley**—Wing and **Sig Mark Knowles**—Wing.

As can be seen from the team list we had five forwards and four backs and we were ready for anything. What will surprise a few of the readers is that three of the nine had never touched a rugby ball before. This includes our scrum half, **Cpl 'Chippy' Pomfret**, who put in a tremendous performance throughout.

In the first match we played 1 Sqn A Team who went on to win the trophy. The team took a while to find their feet but put up a spirited display especially in the first half, with only a four point deficit at the whistle. During the first half some bone crunching tackling was put in by both teams, and one try saving tackle ended with **LCpl Mark Harland** needing medical attention for a gash over his eye. **Sgt Archie Fulton** came on as substitute at half time; this probably had no bearing on the game or the fact that we conceded a further 16 points. The final result was 1 Sqn A 20—210 Sig Sqn 0.

Due to the fact that we got a bye in the First Round of the Plate Competition our next match was to be the Final of the Plate. This was not due to kick off for some time so giving our novices some time to settle down and get to know what a rugby ball looks like.

The time eventually arrived and our team came on to the field for its first ever final. The lads were in good heart and a little more sure of what was expected of them. The coaching and team talk which had taken place in the interlude paid dividends very quickly. After a drive by our forwards, and to cap some very fine backing up, **LCpl 'Geordie' Green**, who had dislocated his thumb in the pre-match warm ups, went over for our first try of the day. The try was then converted by **Cpl 'Chippy' Pomfret** to give us a lead of six points over our rivals, 1 Sqn B. The team went on to score a further four tries and **Cpl 'Chippy' Pomfret** converted three of them to ensure a resounding victory 28—0.

A very worthwhile day and a good foundation for our promising youngsters to build upon. We are looking forward to the District Sevens and hopefully to fielding a full 15 for next season.

**UKLF ALPINE SKIING CHAMPIONSHIPS**
**by LCpl Toyah Wilcox**

Day 1—Monday—Seeding Race.

Not much snow, windy—not unusual for Scotland. The course was a Giant Slalom with 25 gates and not too arduous. After a day of fun, snow and falls I finished up in 8th place and **LCpl 'Scouse' Cardwell** in 78th.

Day 2—Tuesday—Juniors/Novices Day.

The weather was very much the same as yesterday but the snow had started to disappear as was **LCpl Cardwell**'s day! After two runs he achieved a very creditable time of 1.57.64 which gave him third place in the Novice's Race. Well done and hope to see him in the team next year.

Day 3—Wednesday—Slalom.

By now the snow was in short supply and the Giant Slalom which was programmed ended up as a shortened Slalom course. Everyone had Giant Slalom skis and no pads and just to make it worse it rained. I had a start number of nine and by the time I had finished the course I was absolutely drenched. But, I managed to finish tenth.

Day 4—Thursday—Special Slalom.

Things got a little out of hand today as we ended up skiing Friday's race (Giant Slalom) on Thursday. Things couldn't get worse could they? No chance I told myself and then I skied through a gate the wrong way—exit from the race.

Day 5—Friday—Grand Slalom.

Today is really Thursday as we headed out for the Special Slalom. After a really good first run I thought all my troubles of yesterday were behind me. Then came the second run, I hit the second gate and only just managed to stay on the course, then I ducked out at the tenth gate and didn't finish the course.

Day 6—Saturday—A Nothing Day.

Today was a complete wash out, nothing happened until the Prize Giving Ceremony. Harrogate did well but watch out, we're after some of the silver next year.

**FOOTBALL NEWS**
**by Cpl Rab Arthur**

Due to some very good football and great performances the Squadron has dropped only one point all season. Hopefully, we can continue to show this form and win the league and gain promotion to the First Division.

We are now looking forward to next season and trying to find some new talent. Do any of our readers want an interesting posting and the chance to play some good football? Then get your posting preferences in—Catterick isn't as bad as it's made out to be—by a long chalk.

Finally our congratulations go to **LCpl Scouse Hartley** who has been selected to play for the Corps and is playing in their next match against the APTC. Well done and good luck.



# 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
# BFPO 15

**1 SQUADRON**

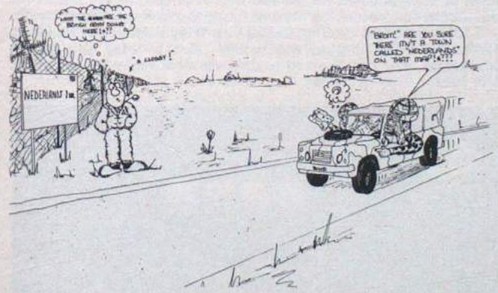
| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Rick Barfoot** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Jerry Bradshaw** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Alf Ramsey** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 (FofS) Mick Poland** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt (YofS) Mick Purves** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) Chas Ward** |
| **OC K Tp** | **2Lt Clive Cook** |
| **SSgt K Tp** | **SSgt Bud Abbott** |
| **OC C Tp** | **2Lt Mark Adams** |
| **SSgt C Tp** | **SSgt Charlie Dubique** |
| **OC P Tp** | **2Lt Damian Quinn** |
| **SSgt P Tp** | **SSgt Kenny Sykes** |

**EXERCISE FLYING FALCON**

On the morning of 10 February, the parade square hummed with the sound of 1 Sqn's vehicles warming up. They set off with all the normal Startex gusto but on arrival in the north the Relays discovered there was something very important missing from the scenario . . . the hills! This proved to be no real problem and the shots eventually fell into place, rather like a few trees later in the exercise. After a few days the Squadron moved so far to the North that seaside paddling trips were suggested. Kiwi Tp settled in just in time for a 'Fast-Ball' order to move (not from OSC this time) when the farmer's wife returned and decided that she did not like a Trunk Node in her back yard! With help from the (henpecked) farmer the Troop quickly moved to another desirable residence which became home for the end of Flying Falcon and the start of Four Taste. This move sparked off the 'Chronicles of 064', a publication whose fame was to spread quickly and which detailed the many sagas endured by Kiwi Tp on exercise. The four editions produced are now collectors items (copies available on request). Will **SSgt Bud Abbott** put on his editor's hat again?

For the latter part of Ex Four Taste OSC 134 and its merry band of Nodes moved back South again; Kiwi Tp settled back in its first location, much to everyone's delight. Panther Tp moved into the perfect location (after weeks of living in woods and farms that stank of silage). Hot running water, a nice dry roof for the Node Home and, to top it all, **Sgt Mick Watkins** had found an 80ft 'Meccano' tower for the relays. A few days later this proved invaluable as storm force winds battered the system.

Everyone worked hard and the comms were kept in, gaining the praise and thanks of the CO. The highlight of this phase of the exercise was the visit of **Maj Gen J. J. Mackenzie OBE** to the Squadron in the field, who brought with him news of promotion to the now: **Cpls Pete Blagg, Kev Innes, 'Bonnie' Langford, 'Waggy' Wagstaff, LCpls 'Skel' Skerritt** and **LCpl Steve Collis**.




LCpl Compton's adventures on Ex Flying Falcon with Cheetah Tp
(Drawing by LCpl McBride)

**CHANGE OF COMMAND**

The end of Flying Falcon marked the end of an era for 1 Sqn as **Maj Gordon Rafferty** handed over command to **Maj Rick Barfoot** from 3 Sqn. **Maj Rafferty** was dined out by the Squadron's Officers and SNCOs on 1 March and was given the 'This is Your Life' treatment (another **Bud Abbott** brainstorm) much to everyone's amusement. The highlight of the 'wind-up' was the surprise appearance of **Maj Rafferty**'s mother. One of the few and rare occasions when the OC was left speechless. **Maj Rafferty** leaves 1 Sqn for the delights of Staff College and we all wish him good luck for the future.

**SPORT**

1 Sqn has managed to fit in a few activities on top of exercise preparations. Kiwi Tp came second to the Div HQ team in the Regiment's Cross Country Competition, fielding a team of 10 from a choice of 10. The Squadron came first overall after good supporting performances from the other Squadron teams. Also, before Flying Falcon, the Inter Squadron Novice Boxing Competition was held where the Squadron came second despite many hard fought bouts in the finals and heats. **LCpl 'Jonah' Jones, Sig Adam Teale** and **'Gordon' Banks** made it to the finals. The rest of the team were **Cpl Mark Shrives, LCpl Alex Hurst, Sig Nick Greenwood, Gaz Fryer, Rick Gay** and **'Wilf' Wilday**.

More recently, the Squadron almost cleaned up in the Regimental Hockey Competition, with the B Team winning and the A Team in third place.

**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

In addition to the OC leaving the Staff College there have been several other departures. **Cpl Dave Watson** and **Elaine** have left for 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, he on promotion to Sgt. **Cpl Mal Harriden** and **Ellisher** have gone to 30 Sig Regt and, **Sig Rick Gay** has left for 242 Sig Sqn.

Recent arrivals to the Squadron are **Cpl 'Robbo' Robinson, LCpl Gaz Shilton** and **Sig Benson, Collinson** and **Hepple**. Welcome to you all.

Finally a special mention to **SSM Alf Ramsey** who we welcome back after a remarkable recovery from his heart by-pass surgery in January.

**2 SQUADRON**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Capt Dave Smith** |
| **OC A1** | **Lt Tony Picknell** |
| **OC A2** | **Lt Paul Vingoe** |
| **OC A3** | **Lt James Giscombe** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 'Wally' Calow** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Mick Barron** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt 'Geordie' Holt** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 'Smiley' Edmonds** RA Signals |
| **Trg SNCO** | **Sgt Dave 'Airborne' Catchpole** |

**SHQ TROOP**

We bade a fond adieu to **Maj Mike Dent** and **Sheila**, who have moved to HQ 2 Sig Bde. From the whole Squadron a wholehearted thank you for all the hard work you've both put in. For a short period the 2IC **Capt Dave Smith** will command while we await the arrival of a new Sqn Comd. We also bid farewell to **Sgt Kev** 'Shakey' **Enfield**, who kept our admin so well organised, and his wife **Jan** who have moved to 28 Sig Regt. On the welcome front we say hello to **Sgt Dave** 'Airborne' **Catchpole** and **Jane** and **SSgt (YofS) 'Geordie' Holt** and **Gail**, both of them having moved across from 3 Sqn on the recent Regimental reorganisation. Hellos are also extended to the new tech in the Squadron, **LCpl** 'Finbar' **Saunders**, fresh from the sausage factory. The last move is a goodbye to **LCpl Bob** 'FB' **Thirsk**, whose posting to 36 Sig Regt (V) in London was cancelled, changed to HQ Sqn and then to 8 Sig Regt. All the best **Bob**.

**A1 TROOP**

The Troop was inundated by new arrivals. **Cpl 'Chappie' Chapman** from A2 Tp, **Sig Neil Llewellyn** from A3 Tp, **Sig 'Simo' Simpson** from A2 Tp, **Sig Jason Webb** from A2 Tp, **Sig Paul Wildish** from 200 Sig Sqn and **LCpl 'Geordie' Pearson** and his wife **Gillian** from 211 Sig Sqn. The Troop says farewell and good luck to **Cpl Ian Roy** off to sunny Belize, **Cpl 'Paddy' McLaughlin** to 21 Sig Regt, **LCpl Rob Read** to A2 Tp and to **Sig Neil Faulkner** to A2 Tp.

Our 'congrats' go to the Tp Comd, **Lt Tony Picknell** for having a good intro to panzers and the Troop. Lastly the Arty Ops crew **Cpl 'Chaz' Fox** and **Sig Callow** who have been selected to do at least two exercise seasons on that det.

**A2 TROOP**

January saw the end of an era—A2 Tp moved to 2 Sqn, put seven vehicles into 'out of use' and the role of the Troop changed to that of a Forward Headquarters. A lot of soldiers moved to other Troops, so we say farewell and thanks to **Sgts Dave Catchpole** and **Steve Martin** amongst others.

**A3 TROOP**

The Troop welcomes **2Lt James Giscoombe** who joined just in time for his first exercise. Welcome also to **Sig Ally Hayes** who arrived from A2 Tp. Farewell and welcome back to **LCpl John Imrie**, who left the Army and enjoyed civvy street for a short four weeks before re-joining; is this a record?

**EXERCISE FLYING FALCON**
**SHQ**

Yes, that time of year . . . it's February, so it must be Flying Falcon. The Troop is now responsible for technical, power and admin support to both Main and Forward HQs. Our congratulations go to **SSgt 'Limpet' Nicholls** for managing to keep the admin in order at forward, although can we see some training for the ACC on the 405 telephone! Our best wishes go to **LCpl Kennedy**, who we understand may make an appearance in Formula 1 Landrover racing. The power det occasionally managed to get more than five hours sleep so it couldn't have been too bad an exercise. With strong winds and billowing cam, the SSM had his work cut out keeping everything ship shape. Overall an exercise that kept everyone busy and proved that not all 'schnell imbiss' are equally good.

**'A1 TROOP ON BLACK MONDAY'**

The order to move came at 0600 hrs on 26 February a peaceful morning. A few plugs, cables and penthouses were dropped early. The move went well with only one panzer left behind. **Cpl Graham Steel** and his crewman **Sig 'Chippie' Chipperfield** had a minor track problem—180 links! We moved. We arrived and set up well despite ever increasing wind and rain. At 1030 hrs, it happened. Even the portaloos, although fully laden, acted defensively and threw themselves to the ground with colourful results! Even the old chestnut 'get outside and check the urban cam, it's billowing' was forgotten. Yes, we'd been hit by a big 'un!'

Comms were a problem all day and by 2030 hrs, Zulu, Bravo or local we got our wish—a move and a balance of HQs. After a successful move there were signs that Endex was close; the G3 Ops twins, **Cpl 'Scouse' Barker** and **Sig 'Col' Barker**, brought out the Maxwell House.

**A2 TROOP**

There was stiff competition for the Golden Blanket award on Falcon 90. **LCpl Norman Webber** battled it out with **Sig Harrison**, but the winner, by a feather, was **Sig Bazza Hearne** (who needs his beauty sleep). **Sig Dickinson** managed very well, once he remembered what a panzer was! Fortunately there were only a couple of injuries during the exercise: **Sig Stimson** got a manicure from the Comd's hatch and **Sig Tedstone** has struck up a friendship with the local Chiropodist. Even **Cpl Burrows** enjoyed the exercise, despite his unpaid job as Ops Complex Sgt! **Sgt Steve Talbot** was moved to A1 during the exercise—their barbed wire was apparently 'not up to scratch'.

**A3 TROOP**

The Troop provided the usual high standard of CNR for the division despite all the usual assortment of harmless and often amusing mistakes. **Cpl Andy Harriot** finally managed to catch flu after several days of intensive trying. **Sig Ian Fawcett** decided that speed limits didn't apply to him; **Cpl Jeff Smythe** decided to pay the fine. Absent was **Cpl Martin** 'when I was in . . .' **Darlington** who was showing off his six month Belize suntan whilst we were on exercise. **LCpl Gibb** did his much appreciated job on rebro resupply.

Our overworked and underpaid Troop **SSgt Kev Nicholls** found himself not only cabbying around at all hours to re-supply the remote and distant RRBs, but also found he was i/c of the tuck shop for Forward Headquarters.

**STOP PRESS**

Sadly a camera was not at hand at Charlie cluster when **Sig Gray** decided to take a closer look at the equipment. As a result his head stuck between the IBRU and the DMU. **LCpl Rickie Taylor** was on hand to help him in this situation. Banging **Sig Gray**'s head off a metal box only resulted in his loud screams. The scars are beginning to disappear . . .

**3 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Capt B. F. Williams** |
| **OC N** | **2Lt I. C. Gray** |
| **OC TM** | **WO1 FofS Witts** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Sommerville** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt Minton** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Woodger** |
| **SSgt Tech** | **SSgt Allison** |

**TEARS AND CHEERS**

3 Sqn would like to welcome **Sig Barker** who joins N Troop from 8 Sig Regt. Hello to **LCpl Keight** who joins us from Regimental MT, and **LCpl Rutter** who joined TM Troop from 8 Sig Regt. A recent reorganisation has resulted in A2 Tp moving to 2 Sqn, and TM Tp to 3 Sqn. Farewell A2 Tp, and a warm welcome to TM Tp.

**LCpl Mick North** has left for 249 Sig Sqn, **Cpl 'Jock' Henderson** joins his T1 Course at Catterick, **LCpl 'Maddie' Maddison** left for 8 Bde, **Cpl Jim Wilson** left for 44 Sqn RCT at Sandhurst and **Cpl Chippy Davies** has now moved to 19 Inf Bde Sign Sqn. Good luck to you all in your new postings.

**EXERCISE FLYING FALCON**

These notes must be dedicated to those brave pioneers of the freefall display team, without whom Ex Flying Falcon 90 would have been much less fun. The display team consisted of:

**LCpl Tom Fife** with his critically acclaimed back flip from the power wagon into a Force 8 Gale—good style, points awarded but he received a broken wrist.

**Sig Chris Brigdale** with his double salco from the bottom step of a wagon (without the aid of a parachute), impressed onlookers, but he had to retire from the exercise at a very early stage.

**Sig Danny Castano** practised for next year's Acapulco cliff diving championships off his Radio Relay Wagon.

**LCpl Mark Roley** collapsed during training whilst practising his death defying leap from a kerbstone (typical trog!).

Last but not least, we must thank 35 Engr Regt at Hameln, for the loan of 'the Maestro'—**Sig Cheyney**, the infamous tree slayer of NW Germany, who easily outstripped all opposition for the coveted position of daredevil of the year with his display of nocturnal ditch diving. Unfortunately, he was disqualified for taking his generator with him.



These brave men, who typify the 'do or die' spirit of the Squadron, must be congratulated for the fun they provided for the rest of the Squadron, and we look forward to future displays with bated breath.

The Division said goodbye to **Maj Gen Willy Rous** before Ex Flying Falcon, and the position was swiftly filled by **Maj Gen Jeremy Mackenzie**, who endeavoured to discover what really did happen at Div Rear.



'Happy Faces at Div Rear'



# 200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
# BFPO 41

The dust has finally started to settle on the first quarter of the year. The ski team has slowly been reintroduced to uniform. Ex Flying Falcon has been and gone, **Brig John Lewin** has taken over as the Brigade Commander, BBGT is a distant memory and our first overseas expedition has just returned from Morocco.

**EXERCISE FLYING FALCON—NEAR THE BEACH?**
**B TROOP VIEW**

At 1000 hrs on Saturday 11 February the panzer packets moved down to the rail head, along with a few sore heads to deploy on Ex Flying Falcon 90. We arrived at Diepholz at around 1800 hrs and it began to pour down accompanied by a force 10 gale. We set up in our first location with the elements against us, which, compared with the other winds we encountered later in the exercise, seemed like a breeze.

The Flying Falcon phase seemed to fly by, probably due to the fact that we had plenty of moves, but we did have a few problems getting locations. One of the locations we recce'd a day before seemed a 100% certain—until we arrived there, and were turned away by a WRAC Officer, much to everybody's surprise. We later found out it was one of **Lt Charnock**'s old flames, who obviously, was seeking her revenge, and so, two packets of panzers went on a tour round North Germany until we found a new location.

**EXERCISE FLYING FALCON**
**SEEN THOUGH THE EYES OF THE ADMIN STAFF**

The exercise started well with the SQMS vehicle as convoy leader going the wrong way through Herford. This was achieved by **Sig 'Bud' Mountfield** reading the route card without his glasses.

When we finally reached our first location, having driven round in circles for some time, life settled down to normal routine.

Once the exercise got underway, the Admin staff saw to it that the comforts of the Panzer Queens were seen to. This included having a nice dry place to eat, the food supplied by **Cpl Dave Gill, LCpls Mark Tansley** and **Steve Compton**. Other attractions in the admin area included 200 Sig Sqn's answer to Coronation Street's The Cabin run by **Sgts Tony Perryman, Jim Latimer** and **Cpl Paul Rutter. Cpl Paul Rutter** searched for shops that sold sweets to satisfy the Regiment's 'sweet tooth'.

Finally we mention two of the admin staff. Firstly our leader **SSgt Mike Ara** who kept the whole team smiling. Secondly **LCpl Daz Cowley** our hard working Mr Power, who could produce light from any wall in any location.

A word of thanks also to the Wives Club Committee who ran a very well supported 'Headless Families Lunch'.

**NOTES FROM ALTERNATE HQ**
**by LCpl Ben Casey**

Firstly we say farewell to **Cpl Brooks**, on his way to Berlin. We wish him good luck for the future.

Ex Flying Falcon proved to have its good times with entertainment provided by **LCpl Beardall** demonstrating his abseiling technique from the Radio Relay mast to the ground (ouch). Meanwhile **Sig Cassar** continued to improve his driving skills by driving into the back of another panzer. **LCpl 'Tiny' Purnell** and **Cpl Browning** didn't make it to the second week.

Anyway, now that we're all back at sunny Detmold, life is more relaxed with nice early morning PT sessions and thoughts of battle camps.

**ALL CHANGE IN TECH WORKSHOP**

Greetings from all the hard working techs here in 20 Armd Bde, or at least from those of us who are left. It seems as it all the techs are packing up and leaving at once.

At the head of the list of our farewells is **SSgt (FofS) Taff Griffiths** who is leaving us for his third tour in Ulster accompanied by his wife **Kim**, he is joining the newly formed 15 Sig Regt. **Taff** will be missed by all those he is leaving behind, not just for his technical knowledge but for his insatiable appetite for 'hands on' work (will anyone ever manage to tie him to a desk?). He will also be missed for his friendship and encouragement shown to all of the techs working under him. Joining him in Ireland will be **Cpl Neil Trengove** one of the TE techs, who until recently was to be found manning the SAS/MC at Main HQ. The other loss is **Cpl Martin Jeanes** off on his Class 1 course in Catterick with his wife **Sarah**. Good luck to **Martin** on his T1 and to all of you in the future.

Where you might ask are all the welcomes for the above replacements. Good question. We do, however, welcome **LCpl Mike King** who arrived earlier in the year to replace **Cpl Growler Woodhouse** who is now in Belize.

**200 SIGNAL SQUADRON LAD REME**
**by Cpl Sharp**

Starting from the top, with his finger firmly on the pulse is **Staff Chris Price**. Then **Sgt Ken Wood** who commands the 434. Then there's me, **Cpl Steve Sharp** and **LCpl 'Taff' Lewis**. Closely followed by **Cfn Archie** 'three years is enough for anyone' **Mackinnon**, soon to be posted to Windsor, lucky devil. Oh and a recent arrival from up the road at 4 Armd Wksps, is **Cfn 'H' Hornsby**.

We welcomed **Cfn Brian, Garth** and **Morgan** from 3 RHA who joined us for Flying Falcon.

The exercise took place in North Germany and we were made very welcome. 434 also managed to get its photo in the local press with a picture of the 434's nickname 'Hagar' scrawled across the page. Fame at last!

Getting into adventurous things, the LAD team went to Nesselwang for summer adventurous training . . . in November, which was a nice break from the normal graft. A lot more adventurous training was planned for this year and **Sgt Ken Wood** snapped up a chance to go to Morocco for a month.

Going on from there we have said farewell to **Cpl Tony** (who was the Electrician) **Maw**. We all wish him luck on his 'Tiffy' course. Goodbye also to **Cfn Nick Perriman** who has gone to seek his fortune in 4 Armd Wksps.

**THE FIRST INTER ARMOURED BRIGADE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT**

The tournament took place on 8 March at Hobart Barracks, with all but one of the Squadron's attending. Due to the busy life of Bde Sig Sqns it took two attempts to gather the cream of the Corps for a day's hockey. The competition was organised by **Sgt Mak Singh RAOC** who runs the URS for 200 Sig Sqn. It was played as a single league and the games were 7 minutes each way. At the end of the day each team had played some 84 minutes of hockey at a very fast pace.

Despite the fact some of the teams were fielding their footballers, drivers, rugby players, you name it they were there, it was quite a good standard of hockey. It certainly achieved its aim of getting people together to enjoy a day away from the routine.

Although we asked the SQMS to demand some sunshine it was, as always dues out. We did however experience some wind which blew away the VIP tent early on in the day and we left it down until about an hour before the arrival of the visiting dignitary. At the end of the day Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps, **Brig M. G. Taylor MBE** kindly presented medals (and would you believe it the sun came out) to the runners-up 212 Sig Sqn and of course the winners 204 Sig Sqn with the Festival Shield. **Brig Taylor** congratulated all those involved for the keen competitive spirit shown throughout the event and congratulated **Sgt Mak Singh** for organising such a valuable and enjoyable event.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all players and umpires for making it a successful day and hope that you continue to support this annual event which it is hoped 204 will organise next year.



*Top Row L to R:* LCpl Toby Fernbank, FofS Taff Griffiths, Cpl Martin Jeanes, SSgt Bill Smith, LCpl Tony Lee RCT and Sgt Mak Singh (RAOC attached)
*Front Row L to R:* Sig (now LCpl) Taff Thomas, Lt Bret Appleby, LCpls Bear Cairns, Paul Ashford and Sgt Chris Crickmore RAPC



Hockey Presentation
Comd Comms presents 204 Sig Sqn with the winners shield watched by Lt Col Raper and SSM Bolt

**ADVENTURES IN CYPRUS**
**by LCpl Ben Casey**

Walking down the corridor in SHQ, minding my own business, I was stopped by the 2IC, **Capt** (The Bush) **Renfrey**, and asked if I'd like to go to Cyprus for a little holiday. Collecting my wits, I accepted gladly. I packed by gladrags and off I went. On arrival at 254 Sig Sqn, **Maj Peck** welcomed me with 'I bet you never thought you'd see me down here', which I did not, but it was nice to meet him again.

Well after settling in, I moved in to the Joint Operation Centre, for a couple of months, which was really good as it gave me the chance to work with the other contingents there, and I had a good time with the multi-national groups, and there did not seem to be much of a language problem.

During my six months there we had an Ex Aphrodites Amble which is a nice stroll around Cyprus although there are quite a lot of hills and you do finish up with very sore feet. I must say I would have preferred to have missed the exercise, but all the same the boat ride at the end was good and thank you for that.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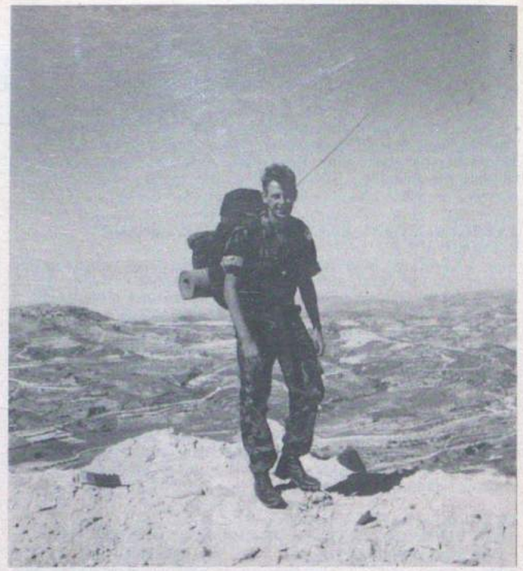


Ben Casey in Cyprus

I would also like to thank all the lads, SNCOs and Officers, who have made my stay in Cyprus such good fun.

**HELLOS AND CONGRATS**

The Squadron welcomes **Sgt Terry O'Neill** and **Cpl 'JC' Craven** who have both rejoined the Army from Civdiv because they missed the thrilling life-style. And congratulations to **Sig 'Jub' Duplock** and **Alison** on their marriage in March.

Finally congratulations to **LCpls Ben Casey, Taff Thomas** and **Das Cowley** on their promotions.

**PRESENTATION OF LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS**

On Thursday 8 March Officers and SNCOs gathered in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess for the presentation of LS & GC medals to three of its members.

The recipients were **SSgt (SQMS) Mick Ara, SSgt Steve Cleary** and **Cpl Dave Gill** (ACC attached). Following the presentation by Comd Comms 1 BR Corps, **Brig M. G. Taylor MBE** their wives **Teresa Ara, Sheena Cleary** and **Annette Gill** were presented with bouquets.

**Brig Taylor** in his congratulatory talk, thanked the recipient's wives for their loyal support. It is rumoured that his suggestion of them being presented with a medal has not yet met with the desired response by the G1 Staffs. The Commander then had lunch with the Officers and SNCOs prior to his departure to watch the Inter Armd Bde Sig Sqn Hockey Competition.



Brig Taylor presents SSgt Mick Ara with his LS & GC while SSgt Steve Cleary awaits his turn. Sgt Ken McGirr on left



## 211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 29

**ARRIVALS AND FAREWELLS**

The Squadron extends a warm welcome to **LCpls Horsman, Amirhom** and **Sig Beaver**. We also say farewell to the following: **Cpl Deamer, LCpls Goodall, Douglas, Pearson** and **Watson** and **Pte Bastow**.

**FOOTNOTE**

The Squadron office rarely manages to submit articles, mainly because we are typing other peoples'. This backbone of the Squadron consists of **Sgt Graham Pollard** (Chief Clerk), **LCpl Stephen Upsall** and **Sig Sean Miell**. Days are happily spent producing CEI's, SOP's, SDRO's, filing and answering enquiries on the Swedish leather industry. Sadly **Sig Miell** will be leaving us soon to join the Duke of Guildford's Civvies. We wish both him and his wife **Nikki** the best of luck.

**THE ALPINE TEAM**

**WO2 (SSM) (Skip) Fairfield, Cpl Pete Farmer, LCpl Swilly Mathews, Sig Jim Petrie** and **Sig Fergie Ferguson**.

The team departed for the Stubeital in Austria on 9 December. After 14 hours of uneventful driving we arrived to find that Neustift our host village was spread along a 20km valley. Eventually we discovered the Gasthaus which was to be our home.

The first week was an eventful one with **Cpl Pete Farmer** doing an impersonation of a well known rally driver and crashing his (very nice) car. **Sig Petrie** was a rear seat passenger and thought he would try an emergency exit through a side window. The end result was a nasty cut to the head—one down!

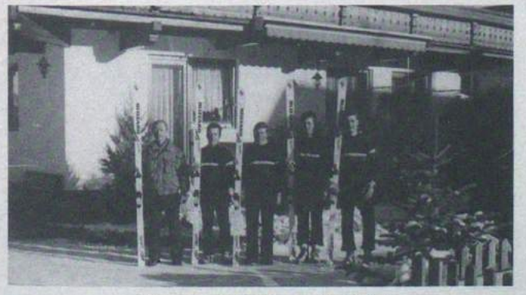
Two days later during race training **Sig Fergie Ferguson** took his finals in plastic surgery when trying to rearrange his ear with the back end of his ski. This was particularly skilful as he was travelling at 30mph at the time—two down!

Not to be outdone **LCpl 'Swilly' Mathews** gave us a new fashion in haircuts by introducing the 'Double Parting' look with the aid of a ski edge to the head—three down!

The next attempt to gain fame was by **WO2 'Skip' Fairfield**. Whilst innocently negotiating the main mogul field he was attacked from the back by a runaway 'grockle'. The grockle had undressed on the way down the moguls and, being a generous man, wanted to share his good fortune. The result was a slightly annoyed **Fairfield**—four down.

The next week was quiet by comparison with only the odd damaged back, black eye or shin sores breaking the monotony. The team trained extremely hard to the end of the year when three days break intervened whilst we 'ate and were merry'. The New Year phase was made more interesting when a mini ski meet was organised with the help of **Sgt Andy Brown** (22 Sig Regt). This proved to be a great success.

We moved to Galtur on 14 January for the Divisional meet. The good news was that we had sunshine and blue skies, the bad news was that we had little or no snow. After much hard work by the local people sufficient snow was pushed around to enable a racing piste of ice and rock to be formed.



Who put superglue on the skis?
*L to R:* WO2 (SSM) 'Skip' Mountfield, Sig Jim Petrie, LCpl 'Swilly' Mathews, Cpl Pete Farmer and Sig 'Fergie' Ferguson

A brave and determined effort was made by all teams on the meet and a sense of competition emerged. We gained some very respectable placings, although we narrowly missed the Alpine Minor Units trophy. We also gained first place in the Minor Units Team Slalom Competition. We'll be there next year.

**THE NORDIC TEAM IN AUSTRIA**

The team chosen to take part in the Divisional Ski Championships consisted of: **Capt Lawrence, SSgt Boyle, LCpl Kevin Byrne, Sig Keith Savage, Dave Hewitt** and **Cpl Mark Pryke**.

The team arrived in Galtur, Austria to be greeted with absolutely no snow. Conditions were not what we had expected, making it difficult to select to correct wax for the skis. The team has only seven days 'on Piste' preparation before the competition started. Taking the advice of 200 Sig Sqn we trained for distance.

The team competed in a total of four races. In the 10km race **Sig Savage** and **Hewitt** achieved 48 and 49 places respectively from a field of 76. The Biathlon had to be cancelled at the half way stage due to bad weather. No one was looking forward to the gruelling Patrol race but the success of a third place in the Minor Units Competition made it worthwhile.

Unfortunately the ski season was over all too soon and it was back to Minden, green kit and the words 'Stag On'.

**FOOTBALL**

As the football season hots up the small but enthusiastic team from the Squadron is preparing for an exciting climax. With games in hand due to exercise commitments the team is still in with a chance of promotion.

The team is led by player/manager **Sgt Terry Crane** and with players like **Sig Grimes** playing up front, and the safe hands of **Cpl Deamer** in goal, confidence is high.

The team would like to say farewell to **LCpl Geordie Pearson** who has been an inspiration to everyone involved in Squadron football in the last two seasons; good luck in the future.

The Squadron deployed on Ex Flying Falcon quickly losing that weekend feeling by the time the Int Det, **Cpl Hamish Milne**, and SAS 645 **Cpl 'Jabba' Sparling**, had both undergone packlifts before the first POL point. Eventually 645 'pitched tent' in the courtyard of a peaceful German farm—or so we thought. Sunday morning dawned like a bell-ringers' convention. Our Recce Officer **Capt Allistair Ross** had picked a village with more church bells than even Esmerelda could tolerate! No rest for the wicked, and so it proved during the rest of the exercise.

Comms Ops, as usual, proved to be the hub of the Brigade complex. With the number of people queuing outside the door one would have thought free beer was on offer. Yeoman of Signals **Colin Luckum** and **Cpl Bob Dillet** were always ready with an answer to an amazing variety of questions.

Flexibility now appears to be a synonym for being lost, at least when **2Lt Jonathan Gillespie** and **Sgt Terry Crane** are packet leaders. They were not the only people with word problems; **Sgt Kevin Baxter** freely interchanged left and right on his route cards.

Brigade headquarters is known, within the Squadron, as the circus, moving from town to town (no clues as to who the clowns are!). We even carry out own 'big Top' in the form of a huge tent surrounding a Bedford to form the cookhouse. The circus certainly had change of act this exercise when the cookhouse became an airborne display in the force 10 gales. **SQMS Wood** was the ringmaster on this occasion.

**QUESTIONS ARISING**

Did **Cpl Paul Sullivan** break his leg in two places deliberately to avoid going on exercise? Has **Sgt Andy Pookraj** dropped a Rolex watch into the hull of one of the panzers but forgotten which one it was?—it would certainly explain why he has lifted nearly every pack in the Squadron within the last two months. **FofS Mal Thomas** has been seen riding to work on a camel and often asks **Mrs Annette Baxter** and **Mrs Julie Bullen** for sheep's eyes on his bread roll at 'NAAFI Break'—could this have something to do with his forthcoming posting to Saudi Arabia? Is it true that next exercise **SSgt Barnard** (Barney) is going to go one better than his three barrack locations in succession and has actually earmarked several three star hotels?

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It was first filled by Richard Cox, who was appointed Agent to the first Regiment of Foot Guards (the Grenadiers as we now know them).

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# THE wire

**The Royal Signals Magazine**

# 70th Anniversary Supplement June 1990



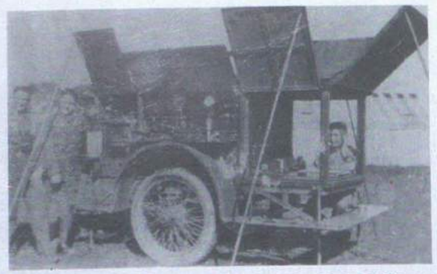
**Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal**
**Princess Mary**
**(Our first Colonel in Chief)**



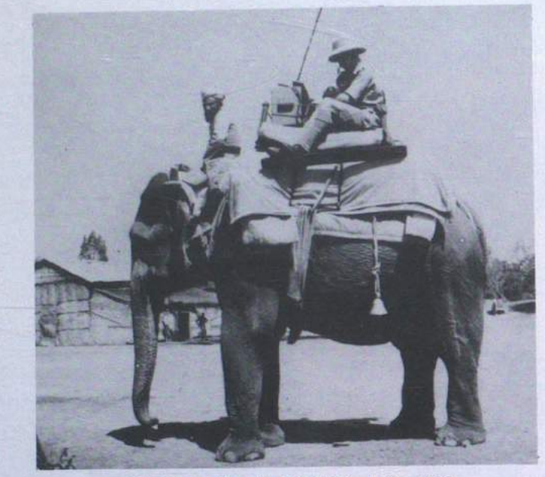
**Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal**
**(Our present Colonel in Chief)**



1926/7 Sig Simmonds and Cpl Smith—56 (London) Divisional Signals



1923 Divisional Signals Office trailer 2nd Divisional Signals Aldershot (after return from Turkey)



No 1 set—Hannibal Station?—India 1938



Display Team Royal Tournament Rehearsal—1933


# THE WIRE

*The Camp Journal of the Signal Service Training Centre*
*Maresfield Park, Sussex*

Vol. 1.—No. 1 FEBRUARY 26th, 1920 PRICE—SIXPENCE

*Editor:* **G. E. PALIN, Sapper R.E.**
*Financial Secretary:* **C.S.M. W. BUTLER, R.E.** *Adverts.:* **G. PHILLIPS, Sapper R.E.**

All Communications should be addressed to—
THE EDITOR, *The Wire*, Headquarters S.S.T.C., Maresfield Park, Sussex


## EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is with the greatest confidence that I launch this little Journal among you, in the hope of affording some slight amusement, and of creating a greater feeling of *esprit de corp* among the members of the Signal Service—the eyes, ears, and brains of the great little British Army. I fully realise the impediments that lie in my path, and that it is not going to be "roses all the way"—do I not know that soldiers are the most heartless critics in the world?—but I am relying upon you, the readers of this little Journal, to co-operate with me in making the project a success.

I would suggest that each Company in the Training Centre should appoint a representative to collect matter for publication—such as legitimate "grouses", suggestions, and matter of a humorous nature either in verse or prose.

Everything submitted for publication will receive the keenest consideration, and I rely upon you all to assist me in making THE WIRE a clean, healthy and interesting Journal. The size of the paper depends entirely upon the sales, and the number and quality of the literary contributions received. Sport, of course, will take a prominent place in its pages, and I should be glad if the various Company members of the Sports Committee will acquaint me of the various fixtures of Football and Hockey matches, and supply me with short reports of the different games. Matter for publication should be written on one side of the paper only, and forwarded under cover to the Editor, Sapper G. E. Palin, Headquarters S.S.T.C.



The Wire's first Editor Sapper G. E. Palin

# Editorial Notes.

It is felt that the majority of our readers are not fully cognisant of the ultimate objects of THE WIRE, and that a brief exposition of the desired end may be beneficial to the sale and status of the little magazine that has fought its way so successfully through untold trials and adversities.

THE WIRE was first instituted in February, 1920, as a Signal Training Centre magazine. It is hoped that it will very shortly become a Corps magazine, and that all profits made by the sale of it will be placed to the credit of a Corps of Signals Benevolent Fund.

I do not think I should have many dissentients when I say that such a fund is more than necessary, inasmuch that the welfare of a man, after he has left the Corps, is still, to a very large extent, the interest and care of the Corps Association.

Corps and Regimental Associations were formed to watch the interests of their members on return to civil life, and this is where the Benevolent Fund comes in. Cases of distress can receive attention with the existence of such a fund, and suffering can be alleviated in a practical way.

Sympathy is worthless unless backed by something that will assist the sufferer, and every man can help this cause by purchasing his magazine monthly and by keeping its interests at heart.

* * *

**Editorial December 1920**

## Officers and men Entitled to Wear "Jimmies" for Season 1919-1920.

The Regimental "Jimmy" is a figure of Mercury with winged head and feet complete, red, emblazoned on field white. Intimate acquaintanceship with this exalted gentleman, the God of Speed, is denoted by the fact that he is known throughout the Signal Service as "Jim." The figure of Mercury is the device adopted by the Signal Service as the Regimental emblem.

RUGBY FOOTBALL—Capt. W. R. C. Penny, M.C., R.E., Capt. R. Vyvyan, Lieut. D. R. Kelly, N.I.H., Lieut. C. A. Murray, Lieut. R. H. R. Steward, Lieut. C. G. Cochrane, Lieut. B. E. C. Dixon, Lieut. D. C. Methuen, Lieut. A. S. Johnstone, Lieut. N. C. D. Brownjohn, F.S.M., E. G. Bowker, Sergt. J. Shaw, Sergt. L. N. Lewis, Pioneer D. J. R. Rosenberg, Pioneer K. W. C. Rosenberg.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL—Lieut. H. E. Talbot, 6th D.G., Sergt. A. C. Shenton, Corpl. A. A. Barby, L/Cpl. W. H. Freeman, Sapper R. Turnbull, Sapper W. Sage, Sergt. F. Carter, Sapper J. Finlay, Sapper J. Gresham, Sapper J. Fairclough, Sapper J. Griffiths.

HOCKEY—Bt.-Major L. G. Phillips, M.C., Worcs Regt., Bt.-Major J. R. Pinsent, D.S.O., R.E., Capt. J. A. S. Tillard, O.B.E., M.C., R.E., Lieut. H. T. S. King, R. E., Lieut. E. G. W. Pearse, Lieut. T. A. R. Scott, Lieut. S. Stoddard, O.B.E., Sergt. C. W. Dawson, Corpl. W. Spillman, L/Corpl. J. Bendry, Driver C. H. Horscroft.

RUNNING—Lieut. R. H. Beattie, Lieut. H. W. Blankeney, R.S.M. W. A. Nichol, L/Corpl. E. Gradden, L/Corpl. P. J. Clarke, Sapper F. A. Jones, Sapper W. Kirwan, Sapper T. Garnham, Sapper W. Masters, and Sapper A. Ursall.

## Rules for Award of "Jimmies."

1—A "Jimmy" will not be awarded until an officer or man has played in five S.S.T.C. matches during the season. The actual playing in five matches does not in itself entitle a man to a "Jimmy" unless it has been awarded by the Captain.

2—"Jimmies" won in one season will not be worn the following season, except by the Captain and Vice-Captain, until they have again been won.

3—"Jimmies" will be awarded to members of a team by the Captain, after he has obtained the approval of his Sub-Cimmittee.

4—The main Recreation Committee are empowered to withdraw a "Jimmy" if they have occasion to warn the holder more than once of foul play, or any foul action committed whilst actually taking part in any game.

5—Whenever a "Jimmy" is awarded, the Sub-Committee will notify the main Committee for purposes of record.

**Sports Report June 1920**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# Royal Warrant.

## Corps of Signals.

GEORGE R.I.

WHEREAS WE deem it expedient to authorise the formation of a Corps to be entitled "Corps of Signals";

OUR WILL AND PLEASURE IS that the Corps of Signals shall be deemed to be a Corps for the purpose of the Army Act, and that the words "Corps of Signals" shall be inserted in Our Warrant of 7th July, 1916, defining the expression "Corps."

OUR FURTHER WILL AND PLEASURE IS that the rates of pay for officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Corps of Signals shall be as provided in the Schedule attached to this our Warrant.

Given at Our Court at St. James's, this 28th day of June, 1920, in the 11th year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

WINSTON S. CHURCHILL.

### SCHEDULE.

OFFICERS.

1. The rates of pay shall be those provided in Table I. of Army Order 324 of 1919.

2. In addition, signal pay shall be issuable at the rates and under the conditions shown below.

3. Rates—

| | Per day. |
|---|---|
| Colonel, employed on technical duties (This does not include any appointment the sole function of which is the administration of personnel). | 8s. |
| Lieutenant-Colonel | 7s. |
| Major | 5s. |
| Captain | 3s. |
| Lieutenant | 2s. |
| 2nd Lieutenant | 2s. |

4. Officers appointed, seconded, or attached for duty to the Corps of Signals after the date of this Warrant, to be eligible for signal pay must, except as laid down in paragraphs 5 and 6 below, have qualified in the examination for Associate Member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, and signal pay will be issuable on the production of a certificate from that Institution that the officer has qualified in their examination or holds qualifications that the Institution accept as exempting from the examination.

5. Officers who prior to their appointment, seconding, or attachment for duty to the Corps of Signals have qualified and drawn engineer pay or corps pay, under the conditions of Army Order 324 of 1919, in their own arms of the service will be eligible for signal pay without any further qualification.

6. *(a)* Engineer pay at the rates provided in Table V. of Army Order 324 of 1919 will be issuable to officers who were seconded or attached for duty to the Signal Service on 13th September, 1919, and who had up to that date drawn the old rates of engineer pay. Such officers, on being posted to the Corps of Signals, will be eligible to draw signal pay in the place of engineer pay without any further qualification.

*(b)* Officers who, having returned to their regiments prior to 13th September, 1919, after being seconded or attached for duty to the Signal Service for a period of not less than 2 years, are appointed or again seconded or attached for duty to the Corps of Signals will be eligible on joining the corps to draw signal pay without any further qualification.

7. Command pay will be admissible at the same rates and under the same conditions as apply to the Royal Engineers.

OTHER RANKS.

8. The rates of pay of warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men will be those provided in Army Order 325 of 1919, the Corps of Signals being added to the corps therein mentioned.

## Corps of Signals

1. With reference to Army Order 275 of 1920, the Corps of Signals will consist of such Signal units, Royal Engineers, as are now in existence, those of the additional personnel now serving with the Signal Service, Royal Engineers, who wish, and are accepted, for transfer, and such other Signal units as may hereafter be formed.

2. The establishment of the corps as regards officer, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men will be notified in due course.

3. The officers required for duty with the corps will consist of—

*(a)* Officers on the permanent establishment.

*(b)* Officers of other arms of the Service seconded to the Corps of Signals to complete the number required additional to the permanent establishment (see *Note.*)

4. Officers on the permanent establishment will mainly comprise the higher ranks and will be promoted to fill vacancies in the permanent establishment.

5. As regards 3 *(b)*, officers desirous of being seconded to the Corps of Signals must normally have 3 years' commissioned service before being seconded and will, if selected serve for a period of 4 years in the Corps of Signals. At the end of this period each officer will return to his own arm of the Service and will not normally be seconded for a second tour of duty with the Corps of Signals until after promotion to captain and/or 3 years' service with his own unit.

6. At the end of the second period of seconding to the Corps of Signals an officer may be given the choice, should a vacancy exist, of transferring permanently to the corps or returning to his own arm of the Service. Should, however, he wish to be transferred and is considered suitable, but no vacancy exist, his name will be placed on a list to be kept for this purpose, and selections may be made from this list as vacancies occur. A few officers who are desirous of being seconded to the Corps of Signals for a third tour of duty, after a further period of service with their own arm of the Service will, if selected, be permitted to do so.

A major of infantry or cavalry attached for duty to the corps shall return to his regiment 1 year before he is likely to be considered for promotion to lieutenant-colonel, in accordance with Article 58 of the Pay Warrant.

7. Seconded officers will receive promotion in their own corps and not in the Corps of Signals.

8. Officers on the permanent establishment and seconded officers will take seniority in the corps according to their substantive rank.

9. If an officer is promoted in his own arm of the Service during a tour of duty with the Corps of Signals he will normally return to duty with his arm, unless he is desirous of, and is selected for, transfer to the permanent establishment of the corps.

10. To complete the initial establishment of the corps, officers now serving in the Signal Service, Royal Engineers, may have the option of transferring to the Corps of Signals provided vacancies exist in the permanent establishment of the corps, and they are accepted for such transfer. Officers for whom no such vacancies exist, but who are wanted to complete the number required with the corps, may continue to be seconded from their own arms of the Service provided they have not already been seconded for more than 4 years. Those who have already been seconded for 4 years may be seconded for a further period not exceeding 2 years from the date of this Order.

11. The tenure of the rank of lieutenant-colonel in the Corps will be four years, for the purpose of Article 307 (3) of the Pay Warrant.

12. The Council of the Institution of Electrical Engineers has agreed to conduct examinations on the theory and practice of the electrical subjects forming part of the initial course for officers held at the Signal Training Centre, and to regard officers who qualify in these examinations as having qualified in the examinations for Associate Member of the Institution and to issue certificates accordingly.

13. To provide the numbers required on the formation of the corps, those warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men who are now serving with the Signal Service, Royal Engineers, and wish for transfer, will be transferred from the present corps to the Corps of Signals provided vacancies exist in the permanent establishment of the corps. Warrant officers and non-commissioned officers will be transferred in their present permament rank.

14. The ranks and appointments of the corps will be—

Warrant officer, Class I.—Sergeant-major.
Warrant officer, Class II.—Quartermaster-sergeant, company or squadron sergeant-major.
Company or squadron quartermaster-sergeant.
Sergeant.
Lance-sergeant.
Corporal.
Lance-corporal.
Signalman.

15. The promotion of warrant officers and non-commissioned officers will be carried out by the Officer i/c Records on a roster common to the whole corps.

16. Instructions as regards the formation of a Record Office will be issued later, but until such instructions are issued, the Officer i/c Royal Engineer Records will continue to keep the records of the corps as hitherto.

17. Messrs. Sir C. R. McGrigor, Bt., & Co. will be the Army Agents for officers of the corps. The accounts of other ranks will be kept by the Regimental Paymaster, Chatham.

(*Note.*—Throughout this Army Order "attached for duty" should be substituted for "seconded" in the case of officers above the rank of captain, and those belonging to arms of the Service from which officers cannot be seconded, *e.g.*, Royal Engineers.)

*By Command of the Army Council,*
H. J. CREEDY.

**The Royal Warrant and Schedule establishing the Corps**


# N.A.C.B

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and every man is a Shareholder.

In supporting your own Canteen you provide Funds for your Sports, Entertainments, and general cheeriness of life in Camp.

## ROLL UP!


**Before the Advent of NAAFI (Navy and Army Canteen Board)**



**The Corps' first Colonel Commandant Major General (Later Lieutenant General) Sir John S. Fowler—September 1923**



**Mt Everest expedition 1933. Communication provided by the Corps**



**1st Divisional Signals—Jerusalem Station 1936**



No 3 Set in 'Gin Palace' Palestine 1936



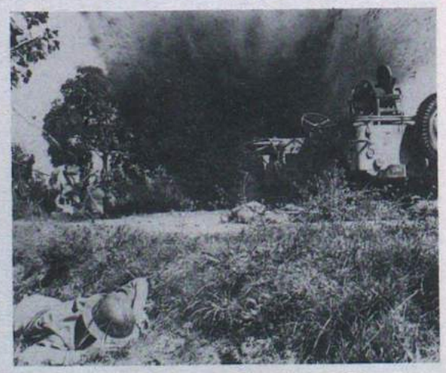
Mule borne No 1 set. NW Frontier of India 1936



Seige of Sollum January 1941



No 1 set in Austin 7 car 1936



Line party Anzio—September 1943

# Editorial Notes.

THE Magazine is going to press this month from temporary offices in Shoe Lane, Fleet Street, where the surroundings are a little more congenial than they are at Maresfield.

* * *

I am hoping that the various Company representatives will give a fillip to the Training Centre Notes for the future, because it is desired to make the Corps Magazine a bumper one.

* * *

The benefit performance of "San Fairy Ann" at the Gaiety Theatre, Crowborough, was a decided success. The theatre was packed, and the Gaiety Company surpassed themselves with a real, roaring show. New songs and dances were introduced for the occasion, and were keenly appreciated by the audience. Once again I tender my heartiest thanks to Lieut. R. T. O. Cary, Lieut. R. H. Hole, and all members of the Gaiety Company, for their indefatigable efforts on behalf of THE WIRE.

* * *

Sales are steadily increasing, but many more copies must be sold before we can hope to reduce the price. If 75 per cent. of the men in the Training Centre would each purchase a copy every month, the price of the Magazine could easily be brought down again to 4d., at which it was first sold. Annual subscribers are welcomed, in which case the copies will be sent direct and under cover.

Yours faithfully,
THE EDITOR,

**October 1920**

# R.E.O.C.A. Notes.

## Signals Branch.

### The New Association.

Last month I endeavoured to console those who despaired of the "Corps of Signals" ever coming into being, by an optimistic note which is now proved to have been justified. The Royal Warrant authorising the new arm of the Service is now published, and its contents well known to all interested.

Now, at last, we can proceed to realise the purpose for which we started the "Signals Branch" R.E.O.C.A., ie, a starting point from which, at the right moment, we should proceed to the formation of a much more comprehensive Association for the Corps of Signals.

The moment has now arrived, and, with the enthusiastic support and help of all those who have taken an interest in the Old Comrade movement, it is hoped to launch an Association for the Corps of Signals which shall be a tremendous success from its inception; an Association built on comradeship and mutual help, with branches in every centre where serving and ex-Signalmen do gather, and which will provide a medium for periodical re-unions of all ranks.

Employment for ex-the-Service must be specially catered for, and in addition to appeals to employers, every member must consider it his solemn duty to promptly bring to the notice of the Headquarter Secretary or his Branch Secretary any post which he knows to be vacant.

**August 1920**

# 1st Training Battalion Gossip.

### Where's the Band?

Throughout the summer this question has arisen from numerous members of the Camp, and it seems rather a pity that our Entertainments Committee have let the season slip by without arranging a few outdoor concerts by the S.T.C. Band for the benefit of the Centre in general.

Though the untiring efforts of the Bandmaster, Lieut. W. A. Kemp, R.E., our voluntary band has been kept together, but the only occasions on which it is heard to advantage are the Sunday church parades, which unfortunately are of so short a duration.

I believe it is the general practice of Battalions or Depots possessing their own band to give Sunday afternoon concerts to the troops of their unit, and if these could only be arranged on similar lines at Maresfield, with an occasional visit to Crowborough, they would be much appreciated by all.

The playing and smart turn-out of the S.T.C. Band at the recent Uckfield Carnival were much commented upon by the local inhabitants, and we look forward to them giving us a treat "at home" in the near future. What say our friends at Crowborough?

**November 1920**



ATS Signal School
Bournemouth June 1941
Cpls Dawson and Smith and Trainees

## A Short History of the Corps

The Royal Corps of Signals was formed on 28th June 1920, as the Corps of Signals; the title Royal Corps of Signals was conferred on the new Corps on 5th August 1920. Its ancestry in the field of military communications is long and illustrious, the direct forebears being the RE Telegraphs, the Army Signalling Service and the RE Signal Service.

Some form of signalling has been used by armies in the field since earliest times. The Greeks had the Torch Telegraph and the Water Telegraph. The Romans used coloured smoke signals. In the sixteenth century, England used a system of Beacons, to give warning of the approach of the Armada. In the eighteenth century semaphoric machines and an elementary form of mechanical telegraph were used. Nevertheless, until about 1860, signal despatch (mounted orderly) remained the primary means of communication.

The first major events were the invention of the morse code in 1835 and the first electric telegraph (the Single Needle Telegraph) in 1837. These changed the face of military communications, as surely as did the internal combustion engine and the aeroplane change methods of transport. Although it was some little time before the next two major events—the invention of the telephone in 1876 and successful wireless telegraphy in 1897—military communications were destined to go through a period of intense, and at times rapid, development. Up to 1854, all communications had been either by visual means or by orderly, mounted or on foot. In that year the electric telegraph was first used, in the Crimean War, both for communication back to London and within the base area. A new era had begun.

As far back as 1857, only two years after the Crimea, General Sir John Fox Burgoyne, who had been Chief Engineer to Lord Raglan in the Crimea, made the first formal suggestion for an army signal service to control all means of intercommunication. In 1867 the need was accepted by the War Office and in 1869-70 the Royal Engineers became responsible for telegraphy by electrical means. Although an effort was made at that time to combine the teaching and control of electrical and visual means of intercommunication under one direction, it was not successful and the other two major means of communication remained separated, visual signalling under the Army Signalling Service, and despatch carriers (orderlies) under regimental and staff control.

In the meantime, the RE Telegraphs and the Army Signalling Service were laying the foundations for today's more complex systems. The RE Telegraphs provided detachments for a number of operations and expeditions between 1868 and 1885.

Abyssinia (1868), the First Ashanti War (1873), the Zulu War (1879), the Egyptian War (1882), the Bechuanaland Expedition (1884-85), the Nile and Suakim Expedition (1884-85) and the Second Ashanti War (1896).

By this time the responsibility for provision of telephones (used in Egypt in 1882) had devolved upon the RE Telegraphs. Wireless was soon to come and herald yet another new era.

In 1899 to 1901, in South Africa, came the major test of the three pronged organisation. All three, the RE Telegraphs, the Army Signalling Service (visual signalling) and the despatch carriers (mounted orderlies) maintained and enhanced the high standards which already had been set for them. Automatic Telegraphy (the Wheatstone) was widely used and for the first time telephones were used for the control of guns (by General Sir George White in Ladysmith).

Although it was very slow in developing, wireless, as it was then called, now began to exert an influence and in 1907 the first Wireless Telegraph Companies RE were formed. In 1908 there follwed the birth of the RE Signal Service, which was now to become responsible for all forms of intercommunication. The RE Signal Service had been formed just in time for the First World War (1914-18). At the beginning of that war it was primarily a telegraph service, with limited telephone and signal despatch services. By the end it had expanded beyond expectation and was providing a comparatively lavish scale of communications based on a balanced system of telegraph, telephone and signal despatch services. In theatres outside France and Flanders great reliance has been justifiably placed on wireless. Without it the ranges involved could not have been spanned.

The record of signal units in the First World War was one of unremitting devotion to duty, ennobled by many acts of personal gallantry. At the end of the war the prestige of the Signal Service was very high and the Army now recognised the extent to which it depended upon efficient signal communications.

The first official agreement to form a separate Signal Corps came in 1918 before the end of the First World War, but various delays ensued and it was not until 28th June 1920, that the then Secretary of State for War, the Rt Hon Winston S. Churchill, signed a Royal Warrant giving the Sovereign's approval to the formation of the Corps of Signals. On the 5th August 1920, His Majesty King George V conferred on the new Corps the high honour of the title 'Royal'. The Royal Corps of Signals was accorded precedence next below the Corps of Royal Engineers. Thus was born Royal Signals which was to expand during the Second World War from a permanent regular strength of 541 officers and 9,837 other ranks in September 1939, to a total strength of 8,518 officers and 142,472 other ranks by the end of that war and was to suffer the loss of some 4,631 officers and other ranks died or killed in action.

In the Second World War and subsequently in Korea, Malaya, Kenya, Cyprus, Suez, Borneo, Aden, Palestine, Jordan, Kuwait the Falkland Islands and for over 20 years in Northern Ireland, wherever the British Army has been involved, so has Royal Signals been there to provide the communication so essential to the command and control of a modern army.

During and after the Second World War the increasing rapidity of the development of radio, the integration of the techniques of transmission by line, radio and radio relay, and the ever increasing demand for more communications over greater distances, including world wide coverage by satellite communications, have resulted in the introduction and production of many new families of equipments and many consequent unit re-organisations. The Royal Corps of Signals is also able to render aid in all forms of disaster from flood to earthquake and in civil wars. All calls are good training for us, since geography and nature affect us as much as does any enemy.



Beach Signal Section Sicily Landings



Radio operator with WS 22—Burma



Airborne Signals rear link (WS76/R109) Normandy 1944



Crossing the Irrawaddy—February 1945



Reading of Presidential Citation to Commander 27 Infantry Brigade (Brigadier B. A. Coad) and Brigade Signal Squadron—Korea



Gurkha Signals—Borneo 1964



1967 Sir Malcolm Campbell with his signal team before his last and fatal attempt on the World Water Speed Record



Operational in Northern Ireland



Falklands 1982—Satellite Terminal



WRAC in Communication Centre—Hong Kong 1988




The last Despatch Riders in the Corps. 238 (London) Sig Sqn LCpl Bull *(left)* and Sig Crompton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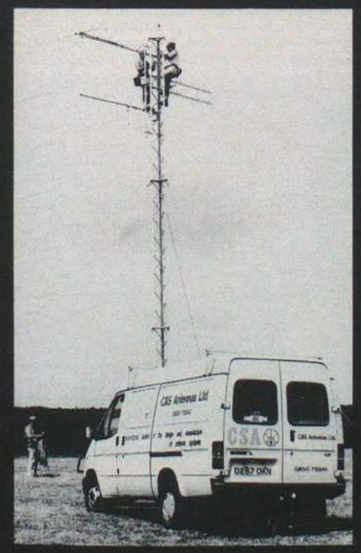
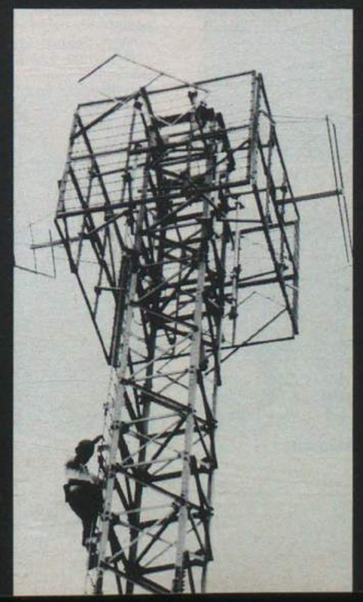






CSA Antenna Systems

# 7 Sig Regt
# BFPO 15

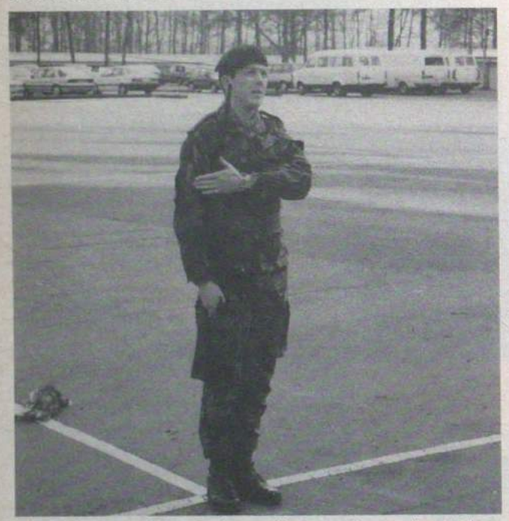
**FAREWELL ARU**

The Annual Report on Unit (ARU) for 7 Sig Regt was performed by Commander Comms BAOR **Maj Gen P. R. Davies** on 3 April 1990. He elected to oversee the ARU personally since it also afforded the opportunity to say farewell to the Regiment.

At 0700 hrs that morning each Officer was handed an envelope containing his or her task for the day, manpower was allocated and the Regiment dispersed to the four winds.

**SILENT DRILL**

The Adjutant, **Capt Tim Watts**, was first out of the hat with a nice, simple, non-energetic task. He was to take a group of soldiers and prepare a 10 minute drill demonstration without words of command. With his handpicked team of **RQMS** (Change Arms) **Fox** and Super Clerk **Dean** he set about using his undoubted air of authority to mould his squad into an outfit worthy of Pirbright. The team braved the winds and rain of a miserable day progressing quickly from normal drill to chaos as they attempted to hear and react to the furtive 'Psssts' from the Adjutant. However, by 1630 hrs, the Squad was honed to machine-like precision and even the 'Tiffy' had abandoned his earlier semaphore for a more orthodox salute. The finale was a 21 gun salute which unfortunately copped a passing fowl on its final approach to a prospective mate in the Tier Park. Luckily it narrowly missed Comd Comms in its death throes.



Adjt, Capt T. J. Watts having avoided standing on the chicken



March Past before shooting the chicken



PSSST It's the silent drill
Wo1 (RSM) A. T. Kidd, Lt Col R. M. J. Hussey and Maj Gen P. R. Davies

**'ON YER BIKE' (PART 1)**

**Capt Ross Graham**'s task was tailor made. He was to take a team of 10 (non-cyclists) by helicopter to Minden Nord Training Area and to return to camp by push-bike, the distance being approximately 50km. In marked contrast to the previous day, the weather was cold and wet and so, within about 10 minutes, were the cyclists. The route took them through Hille Elfte, over Minden Ridge at Bergkirchen and thence via Bad Oyenhausen to Herford. Despite a couple of near misses with cars and, one or two near hits between bicycles, all the cyclists made it back in one piece. All the same **Ross Graham**, does not see many of the brave riders making it to the Regimental cycle team.

**'ON YER BIKE' (PART 2)**

'You are to take 20 untrained soldiers and teach them to ride motor cycles'.

'But, I can't ride one'.

'Then you can learn as well'.



'They told me it was easy'—Cpl Stannage



Thus began the ARU task led by **Capt Dave Whimpenny**. The 20 places were snapped up by the highest bidders with SSM's using 10 Pack IOUs as collateral.

The guinea pigs assembled at Biesteberg and were given the instructions, 'Pull the left handle, push down the left pedal, twist the right grip and let go of the left handle'.

This brought some spectacular results and demolished a few bushes but all lived to ride again. By the time we ran out of serviceable bikes every one had at last mastered the art of motor cycling and some, including the CO, the art of falling off without breaking too much of importance.

In short it was an excellent day's fun and our thanks go to 1 Armd Tpt Regt for the loan of the motor cycles.

**SAFETY DRIVING COMPETITION**
**'TRAILER RACE'**

Two RAPC SNCOs were selected to lead teams A and B over this year's ARU Safety Driving Competition. Both teams paraded a mixture of youthful exuberance with 'old hand' experience. Team A lead by **Sgt Thompson** comprised **SSgts Jones** and **Martin, Sgts Fisher, McGregor** and **Eddowes** and **Cfn Stevens**. Team B were **SSgt Westrop, Sgts Egan, Monk** and **Newsome, Cpl Dixon** and **Cfn Copper** and were led by **SSgt Bench**.

The race itself was in the form of a time trial involving wheel changing, and obstacles and culminating in reverse parking a land rover and trailer into a garage and steering through bollards blindfolded with the aid of a co-driver.

With the rain closing in, Team A set the pace with a final time of 7.14 minutes with **SSgts Jones** and **Martin** putting in a good final sprint to close. The scene was set.

Team B's eventful reply began with Comd Comms showing concern over the number of wheel nuts used, followed by the collapse of the bridge at the first obstacle and an upheld appeal of 'dubious tactics' by Team A. For all their problems Team B knocked 14 seconds off Team A's time to run out winners.

**RESCUE PATROL**

As the Families Officer swallowed the last crumb from his breakfast plate he looked up in anticipation as the shadow of destiny, a member of the ARU team, wryly thrust a brown envelope into his trembling hands.

'Go forth with 20 of the RSMs good men and true', read the text, 'and rescue those who have fallen from the sky into enemy hands. Take with you the angelic RMO and two stretchers and do not pass Go until 1000 hrs'.

Inspired by the almost Biblical tone of the tasking we were conveyed to the start line by **LCpl Pryce** of the Chariot Tp. Our rescue force comprised **SSM Hilton** (just treat me like one of the Toms), **SSgt Turner** (I'm jungle trained), **Cpl Henry** (with a full bandolier of cookhouse death packs) and **Sig Crossley** (keen to offer the RMO assistance at every turn). We set off at rapid pace—stretchers aloft—to the rescue. Within sight of our objective, an enemy airborne patrol was heard and we dived for cover. As we hit the dirt we could see Comd Comms and **Lt Col R. Hussey** scouring the undergrowth muttering, 'Where the hell is Marsden'. We pushed on.

The tasks required at the scene of the carnage included clearance, all around defence and dealing with blood and guts. The latter were quickly dealt with by stretcher bearers ably marshalled by the RMO, **Capt Dunn**, again closely assisted by **Sig Crossley**. Finally came the hot brew and the long cold wait for the Woka Woka to take us home. Morale remained high regardless of the rain and cold and was helped by renditions of 'Always look on the bright side of life'. **Sig Purden** however was not to be swayed and he maintained that his morale continued to be lower than a snake's belly.

**CLOSE QUARTER BATTLE RANGE**

OC 5 Sqn—**Maj Steve Marshall**—was tasked with building and running a close quarter Battle Range specifically for air-rifles. The range was to be built in North camp and be operational by 1500 hrs. In the event, the range was ready by midday but Comd Comms declined to view it any earlier than planned.

At a little after 1500 hrs, followed by **WO2 (FofS) Gig Plumb** and **Sgt Dick Skelland, Spr Jim Sutherland** moved off down the range at the start of the demonstration. D10 cable was in abundance and hastily built targets popped up from everywhere whilst a bemused **Spr Sutherland** stumbled to and fro in his attempts to keep up with an equally bemused but enthusiastic range staff. After much banging of thunderflashes, great clouds of grenade smoke and wheezing from the combatants, the General declared a draw and went off to view the much less fraught silent drill competition.

**NBC STAND**

The task of **Capt Brian Greenwood** was to take a team of 10 men into a Gas Chamber to test respirators and eating and drinking drills. He then had to produce a theory testing stand for a military skill competition. Due to the fact that manpower was rapidly diminishing from the Main Square, the task of vehicle decontamination given to **Lt Neil Selby** was combined with the NBC stand.

The morning saw them conducting eating and drinking drills in the gas chamber to familiarise those who were new to the S10 respirator. This was followed by a 'three-pronged attack' in readiness for the afternoon's events; preparation of NBC Theory Test, preparation of Decontamination Area and provision of a Viewing Area for CDE Observers.

Dry training was conducted in the Training Wing on the Chemical Agent Monitor (CAM), decontamination techniques and a refreshment period on 'Survive to Fight' by **SSgt Tupling**. A very useful Troop level NBC Theory Test was devised and produced by **SSgt Clements**. Concurrent activity was underway to prepare the viewing area. **Lt Neil Selby's** Troop stores were rapidly depleted to produce the goods.

The General arrived to witness the Theory Test which coincidentally was taking place! He questioned a number of soldiers on its content. Moving from the theory test to the viewing platform, with both Union and Regimental flags flying, the General appeared to be suitably impressed with all the modern conveniences that are available to CDE Observers. Easy chairs with blankets and hot coffee on tap were complemented by several trays of salmon and cucumber sandwiches.

**ASSAULT COURSE COMPETITION**

The task was to arrange an assault course competition between four field squadrons. The plan was to train throughout the day and give a final demonstration to Comd Comms BAOR at 1500 hrs. Following a number of practise runs, plus instruction from **SSgt Hay**, on each obstacle, it appeared that the competition was between 4 Sqn, led by **SSgt Tones**, and 1 Sqn led by **SSgt Grandison**, with the latter having the edge. The final draw gave 4 Sqn the advantage of going last.

To heighten the interest, water was added to most obstacles prior to the final run, courtesy of **Sig Wright** and the fire hoses and it certainly took its toll. **Cpl Simpson** of 1 Sqn took the plunge, twice. As a result their final time was a disappointing 6 minutes and 12 seconds. This was well within reach of 4 Sqn. Unfortunately three of their team also fell at the rope swing and despite great efforts they came in with a time of 6 minutes and 29 seconds.

Thus it was a win for 1 Sqn, 3 Sqn came third by a narrow margin and the 5 Sqn team, cheerful to the end came fourth.

**GYMNASTICS DISPLAY**

An interesting challenge was set for this years ARU. A 10 minute gymnastics display with a random 20 soldiers. Five minutes into the practise we suffered our first casualty with **Sgt Beverley** pulling his neck muscles whilst attempting a backward roll. The first couple of hours training identified that not many of the lads had seen a vaulting box for several years and were a little apprehensive about the long astride vault. However, by mid-afternoon they were all clearing the box like born athletes and their self-confidence had improved immeasurably. By the time of the display a fairly taxing routine had been devised which was appreciated by all involved.

**HF RADIO EXERCISE**

**2Lt Graham Fletcher** was given the exciting task of establishing an insecure HF radio link from the Regiment to 19 Inf Bde Sig Sqn in Colchester using VRC321. The task was to be completed as soon as possible with drill traffic (cw and voice) being passed. At 1600 hrs Comd Comms wished to speak to his brother **Lt Col Davis**, the Colchester Garrison Adjutant.

With the aid of three enthusiastic operators from 3 Sqn we found out the frequencies and callsigns available for the cross channel link. After informing 19 Bde by signal, the net was established at 1110 hrs local and remained solid all day. (V + CW).

At 1600 hrs **Gen Davis** communicated with his brother and was very pleased with the clarity of the link. Overall this was a very interesting task one which we may use ourselves as a training exercise in the near future.

**SNAP VCP STAND**

The SNAP VCP task was not the most exciting of the tasks set so every effort was made to liven it up. There was a total of 12 men, led by **Maj David Sullivan**, to set up a VCP with one terrorist vehicle manned by three team members; **Cpl Paterson, Sig Smith** (in drag), and **Sig Poulson**. **Sig Smith** objected to being frisked by a man but seemed untroubled if they wore drag. A full range of weapons; SMGs, Pistols, bombs were found on the terrorists.

Our arms and explosives search team consisting of **LCpls Teevan** and **Pickle**, a friendly Border Terrier, found pieces of weapons and more bomb making equipment.

Though the task would be classed as one of the minor challenges of the day it was fun, windy and wet.

**MARCH AND SHOOT COMPETITION**

The day started well with what every good soldier who is about to march and shoot would want, a hearty breakfast. This was followed, in true military style, by organised panic. The result was a superbly organised task involving a route march of five miles and a shoot to hit competition involving the donning of NBC equipment amid copious smoke.

Three Regimental teams fought against the clock, each other and a possibly hostile directing staff. Comd Comms BAOR was much impressed with the vigour of the contesting teams, as well as the amount of smoke being used.

Eventual winners of the day were the team under the leadership of **Lt K. Evans** who made a clean sweep of the march and shoot. Second and third places went to **2Lt Shipley** and **2Lt Marsh** respectively.

**HELIBORNE ASSAULT**

'You are to form a heliborne attack force of 60 personnel'. So read the opening lines of the task, eclipsing all thoughts of breakfast and neatly solving the dilemma of whether or not to have another helping of bacon and eggs.

**Simon Paynes** sprang to the rescue and soon we had gathered a hand picked (well RSM picked . . .) force and split them into two small Platoons. **SSgt Bill Garn** was acting Sgt Maj and **Sgt Bugsy Jennings** came out of Reduced Maintenance to become OC 2 Platoon. The morning passed in a blurr: A quick aerial recce of the enemy position was done in a Gazelle whilst the force practised helicopter drills with the Chinook which Comms Branch HQ BAOR had produced somehow. The RAF crew viewed it all with a cynical eye and did their best to avoid the persistent drizzle ('If it isn't raining, it isn't training' is not a catchphrase that'll ever be adopted by the boys in blue . . .). Orders and final rehearsals followed, and at 1230 hrs we finally packed ourselves, sardine-like into the Chinook. Wedged in with webbing, radios and weapons, the flight to the HLS seemed to take forever, and those on the floor (the cheap seats as the RAF call them) experienced a symptom referred to by the MO as 'Numbum'.

Eventually, after a couple of dummy ground hovers to confuse the waiting defending enemy, the red light came on and we swooped down to disembark. The practised drill proved to be of immediate benefit and we quickly dispersed into our two groups—2 Platoon to their Fire Base location and 1 Platoon infiltrated through the woods to a start line from which to assault the enemy. Since this is being written by OC Attack force, it can be said that the enemy were totally surprised and subsequently overpowered after a brief exchange of blanks and pyro . . . **Gen Davies** saw it all and seemed happy making no subsequent reference to the cries of 'I saw you—you're dead!' just put a full mag into you!'

Final comment? A really good day of fun from which we all learned something, if only that you don't have a second helping of bacon and eggs on ARU day.



Debus!

**THE BRIDGE**

**Capt John Connolly**'s task was, with the aid of the ASM, two YofS and some heavy Sapper and REME experience, to construct a rope bridge over the 'ravine' in North Camp. The bridge was to be at least 10m long and 1m high. In the event we built a 20m long bridge which was 10m high at its centre. The walkway was constructed of Pierced Steel Planking strapped to two ropes tensioned by Turrif Winches. Side 'walls' were constructed of para cord and string.

A Scenario was set for the arrival of Comd Comms wherein he was presented with a pair of scissors on a ceremonial cushion and asked to declare the bridge open. The dedication read:-

'The Davies Bridge'

'To commemorate **Maj Gen P. R. Davies** who died on this spot while attempting to cross a rope bridge constructed on 7 Sig Regt ARU day 1990'.

In the event Comd Comms survived the crossing together with **Lt Col Walters** and the CO.

**COMD COMMS BAOR**
**FAREWELL TO 7 SIG REGT**

At the end of the day's activities, Comd Comms congratulated the Regiment on an excellent day and seemed genuinely impressed with the morale and standards of the men. He presented the prizes to the winners of the various competitions and then said a moving goodbye to the Regiment at the end of his last tour in BAOR.

**1 SQUADRON**

Although the management team remains intact, there have been a lot of changes recently in Squadron personnel. We wish **Sgts Paul Sweeney** and **Ron Haslam** the best of luck on their Foreman's course and say farewell to **Cpl Taff Roberts** (HQ 1 (BR) Corps), **Cpl Harry Harbord** (T1), **Sgt Keith Mardling** (28 Sig Regt), **Cpl John Pallister** (Civvy Street), **Cpl Dave Smith** (8 Sig Regt), **Sgt Dave Crooks** (1 Div) and finally, **Sgt Carl Povey** (HQ Sqn).

In their place we welcome **SSgt Mick Scull** (congratulations on the promotion), **Sgt Geordie Marshall, SSgt Doughty, Cpls Pete Chinnery, Neil Perham, Neil Braisdell, Ron Atkinson, Sgt Hayes, Cpls Hedley** and **Holland**. We wish you a happy tour in the Regiment.

**EXERCISE LONE RANGER**

Amidst a plethora of rumours, **Maj Mike Gilyeat** (OC), **Capt Ross Graham** (2IC), **Capt Ivan Hooper** (SO 3.5 DAMA), **SSgt (YofS) Simon 'RD' Lock** and **WO2 (SSM) Chuck Walker** deployed the Squadron to Haltern ranges for a two day shake-out. The idea was to get rid of the cobwebs and get back in to the habit of thinking tactically. The task was to deploy in slow time and then rapidly redeploy all five Trunk Nodes. Communications were limited to VHF and the emphasis was placed on defence of sites. Within 24 hours all but TN 025 had been found (at least by the OC who had the grids). **Lt Simon Payne** and **SSgt 'Tricky' Topling** had refused to communicate and, despite being correctly located and sited, remained undetected until first light.

A lean, mean enemy consisting of **YofS Lock, SSgt Scull, Sgt Geordie Marshall, SSgt (SQMS) Fisher, SSgt Angry Anderson** and **Sgt Carl Povey** were kept busy all night and took great pleasure in disturbing the peace at the various locations.

The exercise proved most successful especially in preparation for Flying Falcon and everyone benefited from it.

**EXERCISE FLYING FALCON 90**

In addition to thanking all 1 (BR) Corps OSCs for their co-operation and support during Flying Falcon, OSC 135 would like to present a couple of the lighter moments from a hard exercise.



TN 024 Looking 'ard
*L to R:* Cpl Stan Stansfield, Sig Gerry Adams, John Massey, LCpls Keith Parry, Derek Klappang and Cpl Steve Egerton





TN 025 Occupying the high ground
*L to R:* Cpl Sid Vickers, LCpl Scouse Randles, Cpl Shelley, SSgt Steve Tupling, Sgts Dave Haley and Buster Keeton



The Feeding of TN022
*L to R:* Sig Scouse Manley, LCpls Sean Fairfield, Kev Keenan, Cpl Scouse Burton and LCpl Dave Honeyman

**REGIMENTAL ROUND UP**
**CYCLING—ARMY SPRING CUP**

The Regimental Cycling Team competed in the Army Spring Cup, a 10 mile Time Trial which was hosted this year by the Army Apprentices' College Chepstow. The event was staged according to Road Time Trials Council regulations on the A403 on Saturday 3 March. For TT enthusiasts, the course was the U9 from the Avonmouth ICI works to the Severn Bridge roundabout and back in dry but very windy conditions.

The team comprised **Capt Ross Graham, WO2 (SSM) Pete Collinson, Cpls Pete Connelly** and **Peter Barber, LCpl Danny Fielding** and **Sig Rex Walsh**. The team had finished Flying Falcon only 48 hours earlier and had then taken 24 hours to get to the UK because of an accident which had occurred on the autobahn and a very sick minibus. In spite of this they won the event with **Connelly, Graham** and **Walsh** taking the honours and the trophy.

On the following day the organisers staged a 25 mile Time Trial on the A472, A449 and A40 starting and finishing near Usk. This is normally a very fast course but with an adverse wind of near gale force facing the riders on the return leg, times were a little slower than hoped for. The Regiment finished second to a great effort from the Royal Hampshires with **Connelly, Graham** and **Walsh** again securing the team placings.

Cycling in BAOR is a growth sport with a Wednesday afternoon league and regular events at weekends for both Time Trialists and Roadmen. If any of you feel the urge to take part in this exciting and demanding sport contact **Capt Ross Graham** on Herford Mil 3205 who will be delighted to forward details of the racing programme.

**ST DAVID'S DAY DINNER—A STORY IN PICTURES**



The Druid selects WO1 Brian Howe as a Leek Eater



The Druid is revealed as Lt Lee Smart as he selects WO2 (FofS) Steve Whitwood as Leak Eater 2

**AND FINALLY . . .**

At the St David's Day Dinner the officer's demonstrate how DAMA operate while out in the real world **Cpls Roy Hallam** and **Stan Stanage** suffer the consequences of missing vehicles and men.



'You make a little cut here and a little cut there . . .

# 8 Sig Regt
# Catterick Garrison

**EXERCISE WHITEOUT 90**
**by LCpl Brown**

Ex Whiteout 90 was the Regimental Skiing exercise held in the Cairngorms from 11-14 February. Over the two week period two groups making a total of 53 soldiers and servicewomen stayed in Rothiemurchus for a week each.

The snow and weather conditions were good during the first week with the unheard of happening-yes the sun shone for three days! The second group were more unfortunate. Storms and high winds limited the skiing available and half term English school holidays brought in the crowds.

On the first day everybody was tested on their personal standard and split into appropriate groups for the lessons.

Every day some skiing was recorded on video and played back in the evening as both a teaching aid and for entertainment. Ski Sunday could not compete with **Pte McLean** skilfully taking out the rest of her group in one fall.

By the end of the two weeks, **Cpl Ashley** and **Sig Croxton** had brought the skiers up to the basic standard required and many gained their JSDS Bronze award. A slalom race on the final day provided the opportunity to show off newly acquired skills. **LCpl Brown** has the potential to follow in Stenmark's ski tracks despite strong competition from **LCpl Coffill** and **Sig Byrnes. Cpl Parker**'s run (carrying skis) and his head dive over the finish line displayed an innovative streak for the future of ski racing.

The accommodation was more than adequate and **Cpl Tathem** provided food of an excellent standard. Aviemore provided the night life with transport being laid on after the evening lectures had finished.

Both courses enjoyed themselves to the full and hopefully all participants will have been introduced to a sport they will want to pursue.

**EXERCISE GREEN VENTURE**

After a brief discussion it was decided to organise a week's Adventurous Training for some members of the Squadron. Having made enquiries, the Whernside Adventure Training Centre was booked and the wheels were set in motion.



A pensive group of intrepid abseilers receiving instruction on Ex Green Venture from Sgt Cook

The first week allocated was 12-16 March. The weekend had been the usual March weather, high winds, blue skies and the odd shower of rain. Twenty-four students were wondering what was in store for them as they boarded the bus at 0730 hrs on the Monday morning. The instructions were 'behave yourselves but have an enjoyable week'.

After the tedious, twisty journey, the students arrived and were shown to their rooms. After the initial welcome briefing, they were split up into groups ready for the first day's activities. These were caving, rock climbing and abseiling. Each group was assigned an instructor and a rota of activities/fatigues and fire picquets. Once this was sorted out and kit issued, everyone went off to their allotted landrovers and the start of a week's 'fun'.

Most people enjoyed their first day but were quite glad to retire to bed. The rest of the week continued along the same lines as hill walking was introduced.

Some real characters emerged during the week. **Sig Moore** managed to perform some particularly unorthodox movements, and demonstrated his extraordinary swimming ability, as did **Pte Ferguson! Sig Rolls** experienced the 'disco leg' syndrome while only 2ft up a rock face and declared he could not go any further and jumped off!

**SSgt Williams** did a good line in falling over on several occasions, much to everyone's amusement. **Pte Dalling** was a star, starting the week extremely nervous but, after the first abseil, she was away and there was no stopping her. She became quite a little mountain goat, scrambling up the rock face and abseiling down again. All students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and although quite tired by the end of the week, everyone wants to go back again.

**3 SQUADRON**
**EXERCISE DELTA RUN**

As promised by **SSgt John Bell**, prior to taking up the job of SQMS 2/3 Sqns, the Troop Escape and Evasion Exercise began at 1700 hrs Monday 19 March with the Troop being informed they were prisoners-of-war and confined to the block. We should have guessed that something was amiss when Infantry officers in 'funny' berets started appearing regularly around the Troop Lines.

At 2359 hrs we were roused (rudely) out of our beds by **SSgt Bell, Sgt Steve Walker** and **Cpl Paul Harding. Capt Mark Finch** was hovering around the Troop Office. We were then lined up in the Troop corridor with our vest, long johns and boots. To our horror we were told to strip and a clean side and dirty side were put on our clothing.

**Sig McCance** and **Del Pinto** tried to conceal their cigarettes in various places but without success.

Once screened by **SSgt Bell** and Co, we were herded into the Troop Briefing Room where we were informed by **Capt Finch** that we were to be aided in our escape from the Delta Hilton by Special Forces (**SSgt Bell** and Co).

We were then bundled into a four ton truck (as there were no Chinooks available!) and driven 25 miles from camp, to our respective drop off points, where we were given our button compasses, sketch maps and first RV.

On Tuesday morning unbeknown to us, The 1st Battalion The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire and six North Yorkshire Police Dog Teams, courtesy of **SSgt Bell**, deployed at 1100 hrs. Mainly due to the efficiency of the dog teams, the first four man team was caught at 1140 hrs followed by a steady stream soon leaving only **Sig Stevenson, Stennett** and **King** at large, each from a different team.

The prisoners were tied and bagged upon capture and eventually taken to the POW cage, a 30m Range on Gandale Training Area. There they were held for six hours whilst being put through basic tactical questioning (interrogation).

**FAVOURITE QUOTES**

Interrogator (**Capt Goldsworthy** 1 PWO) to **Sig Pottage**: 'If you tell me your next RV, I will give you a cigarette.'

**Pottage** to Interrogator (after a one minute pause): 'Give me the cigarette first and I will draw you a sketch map of it.'

Interrogator to **Sig Stevenson**: 'How are you feeling?'

**Sig Stevenson** to Interrogator: 'How the **** would you feel with a bag on your head, dressed in rags and freezing. Have you ever tried it?'

Interrogator: 'Yes.'

**Stevenson**: 'I don't think you have matey!'

All prisoners were pleased to find out on the debrief, after telling their war stories, that everyone questioned had been taped. The Vetting Officer would no doubt be amused at some of the disclosures.

For those that were caught, after the six hour holding period they were taken to the emergency RV, manned by **Sgt Walker**, and fed back into the escape line.

**Sig Stevenson** managed to evade capture on his own, after his team-mates **Sig Evans** and **Welsh** ended up in hospital and **Sig Jock McCance** was captured. For three days and two nights he was without food as he didn't make any RVs. When caught he told the Hunter Force he was off to Johnny's Cafe!

**Sig Stennett** and **King** made it all the way to the last RV, with a little help from **Staff Bell** and his banger exercise car, as they were the only ones who had remained at large.

The exercise ended on Thursday at 1400 hrs with the prisoners being marched into camp by 1 PWO, to the NAAFI for a chicken curry and a beer as opposed to the promised hunt your own if you want to eat!

A special thanks to the Linemen who were employed by **SSM John Armstrong** and **SSgt Bell** to attack the 1 PWO Command Post, whilst they were visiting them. Try not to set fire to the moor the next time; Schermulies go up, not down.



**TECHNICIAN TRAIL**
**by WPtes Giles and Findley (and Sig Purves)**

On 31 March, 1 Sqn visited Edinburgh for the day. Organised by **SSM (WO2) Clive Young**, two coaches left for the outing at 0750 hrs. The sun was shining and it was an ideal day for the trip.

During the journey we stopped at Moffat, for lunch (complete with army packed lunch). We then began the remainder of the journey.

We arrived at 1230 hrs outside the Waverley shopping centre.

Everyone went their own way, some into the shopping centre, a few to the dinosaur exhibition that was on in the city that day.

The sound of the 1300 hrs gun being fired at the castle could be heard all over the city. This daily occurrence tells sailors in the Firth of Forth that it is 1300 hrs. At the same time as the gun, a sphere drops from a spire on top of Carlton Hill, again to announce the time of day. This is a centuries old tradition which has taken place to aid the boats in bad weather conditions. The town was very busy with a spring atmosphere attracting many tourists like ourselves. The odd buskers could be seen, one in full traditional dress playing the bagpipes gathering a crowd of tourists for photographs.

The day went well and 1800 hrs dragged us away to the coaches for the journey home.

With some passengers still awake, a stop was made at Berwick for quick refreshments and at 1120 hrs we arrived back at camp.

A good time was had by everyone and we are all looking forward to the next outing.

Many thanks to our SSM.

**SPORT**

8 Sig Regt hosted the NE District and Zone E Cross Country Championships on 26 January. The WRAC team won the event with all members finishing in the top 16 and four in the top 10. **Cpl Julie Holder** won overall covering the distance in 15.44. The mens' team came sixth.

The WRAC having won the district went to Aldershot for the Army Championships. The weather was very wet and the course soon became a quagmire. The team came a creditable seventh and **Cpl Holder** was fourth. Congratulations to all who ran.

The WRAC also won the Zone E Basketball Competition, qualifying for the Army finals 22-23 February in Aldershot where they finished a creditable fourth.

**WAVESKIING FOR WALES**

**Sig Daniel**, a trainee radio technician in 1 Sqn has been selected to represent Wales at the European Waveski Championships in the south west of France later this year.

Waveskiing is not a well known sport but it is increasing in popularity. It is very similar to surfing. **Sig Daniel** was introduced to it at the age of 13 in his home town of Porthcawl. Since then he has progressed rapidly and was selected to represent Wales in 1988 as a Junior. He finished third and Wales won the team event. Congratulations and good luck in the competition.

**DALESMAN SENIOR YOUTH CLUB**

On Saturday 24 February, 25 members of the Dalesman Senior Youth Club visited the Dolphin Centre, Darlington. The trip consisted of two hours swimming, followed by one hour private roller disco skating with the resident DJ.

The outing was organised by **WO2 Clive Young** of 1 Sqn, the senior Youth Club leader and ably assisted by his two regular helpers, **Sig Paul Froggot** and **Mike Dodge** from Papa Tp. The day was a huge success and apart from a few bruises after the skating, all went well (yes **Clive** can still skate, and no he wouldn't jump off the top diving board). A big thank you to **Mrs Shovlin** for organising the event and for paying for the transport by the Dalesman.

Future trips are being planned to Flamingo Land, Beamish Museum and other water recreational venues.

The Youth Club is made up mainly of service families' children and at present has 35 regular members. Boarding school children and visitors are always welcome and the numbers swell quite considerably over the holiday periods.

**CHARITY FOR THE MEDICAL CENTRE AT 8 SIG REGT**

**Col Ridlington** CO of 8 Sig Regt presented **Lt Col Symon** and the medical centre with a new Ambu Modular Resuscitation system. The equipment was purchased from funds raised in two charity events, topped up by a donation from the Regiment.

Last July the 'Sponsored Slim' raised £452.20. Seven civilian and seven military personnel spent four weeks on the 'Weetabix' high fibre diet to achieve this marvellous sum and lost on average 13 lb each too! **WO1 (YofS) Taylor, WO2 Pounder** and **SGM Helfrick** US Army followed this example by participating in the Cheviot 2000 Fun Run and raised £155.19 between them.



Congratulations and thank you to all those who put in the effort to raise the money for the equipment, which will no doubt benefit many.

**WILKINSON POIGNARD AWARD**

You may remember the article in the November 1989 issue about the BSAD Wheelchair marathon. The sponsorship money has all finally been collected and the Wilkinson Poignard (for the team that raised the most money in the event) was awarded to team No 31.

The team members have since left 8 Sig Regt. **LCpl Baldwin** and **Slinger** are at 30 Sig Regt and **LCpl Haworth** at 249 Sig Sqn. They raised £168.52 towards the total of £3,038.28. In their absence **SSgt Lewington** and **Sig Turner** who both competed received the Poignard on their behalf. Congratulations and thank you for your contribution to such a worthy cause.




Miss Swan presents the Poignard to SSgt Lewington and Sig Turner. Mr Ian Shurrock and Maj Rutherford look on

**RETIREMENTS**

Recently the Trade Training School has seen several retirements, amongst them **Mr John Moyle** and **Mr Denys Tetlow**.

**John Moyle** has served with the Crown since 1944. After RAF service (48-51) **John** then joined the civil service in 1951 and 13 years later arrived in Catterick to work with the then 8 Sig Regt in Loos Lines. He played an important part in the design and construction of the present trade training school when 8 and 24 Sig Regts amalgamated and moved to Vimy Barracks. **John** has worked in TTS since 1971 and on 12 March retired from his job as Technical Staff Officer.

**Denys Tetlow** joined the Royal Signals in 1946 and trained as a Radio mechanic. In 1951 he began his FofS course. He served in Africa, Hong Kong and in the UK and as an instructor taught **Lt Col Tom Stoddard**, now CI Ptarmigan Wing in 1958. **Denys** left the Corps



Mr Denys Tetlow with Miss Cheryl Ripon and Mrs Carole Thompson, both AOs in Planning Wing

in 1964 as a WO1 and immediately started work as an Instructional Officer at 8 Sig Regt. He has been responsible for several reviews of technician training and in 1987 moved to Quality Control wing on promotion to HIO. **Denys** now retires after 44 years devoted to the Corps.

Best wishes to both **John** and **Denys** for their future.

**PRIZE FOR OUTSTANDING STUDENT**



LCpl O'Shea *(front right)* now at 30 Sig Regt, with his course having received the picture for Outstanding Student

**THE 'OLD SOLDIERS' CHALLENGE**

The beauty of rummaging around markets and car boot sales is that you eventually do find something of interest! This postcard is my little gem of the month and the challenge to all you 'Old Catterick Warriors' out there is: Where am I standing? What am I looking at? and . . . What year?

All answers to **Maj A. S. Cheal**, HQ Sqn, 8 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire DL9 3PS—Who knows . . . I might even get the PRI **(Capt (Retd) George Hayes)** to cough up some sort of prize for 100% correct answers!




The 'Old Soldiers' Challenge

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# 9 Sig Regt
# BFPO 58

**1 SQUADRON CROSS COUNTRY TEAM**
**by Sgt Ian Preston**

The season started on 13 September last, with a relay race at Akrotiri, just to get us all warmed up and ready to go. The real races started the following week with a gruelling five miles up hill (The Caledonian Climb), a test for everyone and where we gained a very creditable third place. But it wasn't until the League Races started that we were able to show our true potential. With most races being run in the blistering heat coupled with a lot of individual training being put in we got our reward at the end of the season as we finished with four 1st team positions and three 2nd team positions out of eight races faltering on one race only. With the Cyprus Cross Country League tied up, it was time to move on to the Minor Units Championships and with **Cpls John Macnamara** and **Don Cooke** making up the team we worked our way to victory by winning 45 clear points. This brought the Cross Country Season to a close but not the road runs. One event, (The UN 10km) was unforgettable due to the rain and the wind which prevailed at the time, but this did not put off our dedicated team who soaking wet and freezing cold, picked up the second team prize. With two more wins and two more second positions we had taken our fair share of trophies throughout the season. A special mention goes to **LCpl Mick Clark** who returned to the cross country scene later on after his unfortunate collapse from heat exhaustion early in the season and to **LCpl Tony Codling** who made the most improvement over the season.

**BADMINTON**

This year the Army (Cyprus) Individual Badminton Championships were hosted by 9 Sig Regt over the weekend 3-4 March. The competition is also open to families.

The event again attracted a large number of competitors with 35 players battling it out on court. The big shock of the day was in the men's singles final where **LCpl Ady Batty** of 9 Sig Regt, was beaten by **LCpl Paul Breivogel**. However **LCpl Batty** sought revenge in the mens' doubles and with **WO2 (SSM) Pete Whitehouse** beat **LCpl Breivogel** and **SSgt Mudge**. The mens' plate was won by **Pte 'Digger' Chambers** of 9 Sig Regt.

In the Ladies competition the final result was no surprise **Sgt Linda Barker** from Episkopi Garrison, beating **Mrs Linda Whitehouse** of 9 Sig Regt. In the plate competition **Sgt Tracy Jezard** of 9 Sig Regt beat **Mrs Reid** and in the mixed doubles the combined might of **Sgt Jezard** and **LCpl Breivogel** overcame **Mrs Whitehouse** and **LCpl Batty**.

Despite such fine play the Inter Service Badminton was a different story. The competition was hosted by the Army at 9 Sig Regt on 31 March. The RAF team was quite spectacular. Both sides fought hard and played with skill ending with the RAF and WRAF teams beating the Army teams 8—3.



*Back row (left to right):* WO2 Pete Whitehouse, Sgt Brent Holmes, Maj Nicol (OC 1 Sqn), LCpl Mick Clark and Cpl Tony Barker
*Front row (left to right):* Sgts Andy Garrett, Ian Preston (Team Captain) and LCpl Tony Codling
*Absent:* Sgt Phil Cox and LCpl Dave Kerr




Army (Cyprus) Individual Badminton Championships Winners




Army (Cyprus) v RAF Inter-Service Badminton Teams

# 13 Sig Regt
# BFPO 42

**RHQ PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **CO** | **Lt Col A. M. Wallace** |
| **2IC** | **Maj G. R. Elliot MBE** |
| **Adjt** | **Capt J. S. Lugg** |
| **AAdjt** | **Lt J. Collis** |
| **RSM** | **WO1 (RSM) Dobson** |
| **Trg YofS** | **WO1 (YofS) McMahon** |
| **Chief Clerk** | **WO2 (ORQMS) Barbe** |

**ST MARGARET'S CHURCH**

A special Service, conducted by the **Rev Jim Cross,** senior Army Chaplain BAOR was held in St Margaret's Church on Sunday 21 January. **Mrs Cross** was present at the Service. At this Service the first stained glass window to be incorporated into the church was dedicated. The window shows the shields of Royal Signals, Intelligence Corps and WRAC. It is hoped that further windows can be added when funds have been collected to meet the costs.

At this Service we bade farewell to **Padre Bill Robson** and his wife **Mai**, shortly leaving for Rhinedahlen and welcomed **Padre Ian Thomas** and his wife **Margaret**. **Padre Thomas's** parish will also include Birgelen and its families. During the service a cheque for DM2600 was handed to Padre Cross for the Earl Haig Fund and for Save the Children Fund. This money had been raised by the sale of Poppies (DM1100) and through raffles, organised by **Mrs Avril Randall** which raised DM1500.

**Lt Col Alan Wallace** and the Officers of 13 Sig Regt entertained the Padres and their families at a curry lunch which was held in the Officers' Mess.



*(Left to right):* Padres Ian Thomas, Bill Rolison and Senior Chaplain Jim Cross

**ORIENTEERING**

Throughout the winter the Regimental Orienteers have regularly attended the meetings of the RCZ Orienteering League. Our success varies because, being a shift working Unit, not all the orienteers can attend every meeting. In our detached locations there are also keen orienteers. The members of 3 Sqn regularly run in the Berlin League while those of H Troop run in the 1 Div League.

At the end of March, the teams took part in the Zone finals. The Birgelen runners were the third major Unit at the RCZ Championships, while in the 1 Div Championships H Troop were the second minor Unit.

The stars of the Regimental Orienteering scene are the WRAC. At their BAOR Championships held in conjunction with the RCZ Championships they were the winning team with **Capt Carol O'Nians** of 227 Sig Sqn, (who also plays sport for 13 Sig Regt WRAC), was the leading individual runner with **Lt Juliet Collis** third individual.

**1 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj J. G. T. Doherty MBE** |
| **2IC** | **Capt C. G. Stubbings** |
| **Tfc Offr** | **Maj R. W. Mansfield MBE** |
| **OC A Tp** | **Lt A. Clark** |
| **OC B Tp** | **Lt I. Birleson** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Whitton** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Talbot** |

**KNUROO WINTER CHALLENGE**

The Knuroo Winter Challenge is a military skills competition organised by the Belgian Army and is contested annually by Airborne and Special Forces from Holland, Belgium, France and now, by teams from 13 Sig Regt.

The competition took the form of a patrol, in uniform, over 30km. The patrol is a map reading exercise with stands at varying stages. The stands tested some of the following disciplines; Recognition, Obstacle Crossing, River Crossing, Judging Distances, NBC, Shooting, Weapons (which included the MILAN simulator) and of course, Endurance.

1 Sqn, in meeting the challenge, put forward a team of hopefuls in the form of: **Sgt Dave Ruddock** (Team Captain/Res), **Cpl Andy Brown, LCpls Paul Bettany** and **Phil Robson**. After a shaky start—detonating the booby trap on the first obstacle course—the team gathered confidence and with it momentum, eventually finishing the course quickest on the day.

The Squadron came second to the Belgian Airborne Commando team and can look forward to narrowing the nine point deficit next year.



Ex Knuroo Winter Challenge
Cpl Brown, LCpls Bettany and Robson fighting the elements

**3 SQUADRON**
**MILITARY**

As a preamble to our main military exercise, between 6-9 November 1989, 3 Sqn personnel took to the Grunewald area of Berlin for a section level exercise called Baby Bear. The exercise was very successful, although **Cpl Andy Westlake** was surprised by a wild boar who wanted to play too! The main exercise, Grizzly Bear, was cancelled due to the demise of the Berlin Wall on 9 November . . . nontheless, morale remained buoyant . . .

**VISITS**

A veritable plethora of visitors have been received by the Squadron in recent months: the most notable **Maj Gen Sugden**, COS BAOR, **Brig Oliver**, Comd Berlin Bde, **Gen Inge**, CinC BAOR and **Maj Gen Cook**, SOinC.

**SPORT—ORIENTEERING**

A particularly satisfying year for the team which completed a grand slam by winning not only the Berlin Orienteering Championships and the League, but also the Berlin Relay Championships. Farewell and good luck on posting to **Cpl Phil Sandford** (who will be hard to replace as Squadron OIC Orienteering), **Sgt Pete Ridlington** and, on transfer, to **Cpl Chris Mahoney**.

**CROSS COUNTRY**

A good start to the season was secured by a convincing win in the Spandau Relays followed by a similar result in the Regimental Inter-Squadron Championships. As this goes to print we hold second place in the league—the final result will be decided by the last race.

**SQUASH**

After a number of years absence, two teams were entered for the Berlin Minor Units League: the first team is currently top and the second team eighth out of 15. Well done to **SSgt 'Yogi' Yeoman** who has been selected for the Army team in Berlin.

**HOCKEY**

The team is currently the holder of the Berlin League, runners-up in the Berlin KO Cup and holder of the BAOR Minor Units KO Cup—due to be contested.



# 14 Sig Regt (EW)
# BFPO 23

**14 SIGNAL REGIMENT**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Lt Col J. M. Shaw MBE** |
| **2IC** | **Maj Malcolm McKinlay** |
| **Adjt** | **Capt Dick Sparshatt** |
| **AAdjt** | **Lt Frances Forster** |
| **OC 1 Sqn** | **Maj Steve Turpin** |
| **OC 2 Sqn** | **Maj John Gale** |
| **OC 3 Sqn** | **Maj Bernie Hewitt** |
| **OC HQ Sqn** | **Capt Mike Kerr** |
| **RSM** | **WO1 Pete Aitken** |

**QUARTERMASTER (GEN) DEPARTMENT**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **QM** | **Maj Ted Banham** |
| **RQMS** | **WO2 Phil Rumsey** |
| **SQMS (A)** | **SSgt Steve Penn** |
| **Fams NCO** | **Cpl Alex Ranking** |
| **MFO/Rations** | **Mr Neil Saunders** |
| **Manual Work** | **Mr Dave Robinson** |
| **Clerk** | **Mrs Sharon Powell** |

**Notes by SSgt Steve Penn**

Once again it is time to put pen to paper and write a few lines about the ever popular QM(GEN) Department. First of all we say farewell to a very popular member of the Department, **WO2 (RQMS) Colin Thompson** who has left on posting to sunny Tidworth. All the best for the future **Colin** you and your family will be missed.

It is time now to say welcome to our newest member of the Department. **WO2 (RQMS) Phil Rumsey**, who has escaped the jaws of 2 Sqn, where he was SSM. He has thrown away his pace stick and been given a broom handle by the SQMS(A).

The following members of the Department, QM **Maj Ted Banham, SSgt SQMS(A) Steve Penn**, FAMS NCO **Cpl Alex Rankin** and **Mr Dave Robinson**, have been training hard during the past few weeks for the annual Celle Wasalauf, running over a distance of 15km.

On the day of the run, the weather was excellent and all four successfully completed the distance. Special congratulations to **Cpl Alex Rankin** who at the age of 40, and never having run this distance before, completed the run in a respectable time. We tried hard to convince the new RQMS to run with us, but to no avail. He said that due to a more pressing engagement (fishing—a likely story) he was unable to accept our invitation (maybe next year!).

**TM TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **TOT** | **Capt Cross** |
| **FofS** | **WO1 Martin** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Holland** |

We are presently a much smaller Troop as our 1st Line Techs have left us to join the Squadrons. With **Capt Paul Cross** at the Helm the rest of us are trying to enforce 2nd Line Tech Inspection on the Regiment. Despite the shortage a couple of members of the Troop have found time for Squadron boxing and we wish **Cpl Bob Pace** and **LCpl Arry Arundel** best of luck in the ring. **Cpl Tommy Woolfall** is preparing for his posting to Belize by trying to sell his MGB. **LCpl Humphries**, who returned recently from Ex Snow Queen is now off again on detachment to 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt; he's certainly seeing the world!

**HAILS, FAREWELLS AND CONGRATULATIONS**

Welcome to **Sgts Finlay, Spud Murphy, Cpl Andy Dick** and their families. Goodbye to **Sgt Gary Jackson** our FATSO Storeman, and his wife **Tracy, Sgt George Pendrich** and his wife **Brenda** on posting to NI, **Cpl Tommy Woolfall** on posting to Belize and to **Cpl Gaz Drury** on retirement.

Congratulations to **LCpl Paul Grimes** on his marriage to **Wendy** in May and also on his promotion.

**EXERCISE DECI DIRK**
**PERSONALITIES**
**2Lt Richard Spencer**
**SSgt Alan Jarwood**
**Cpl Woolly Woolfall**
**Cpl Andy Chubb**
**LCpl Murray Walker**
**LCpl Mark Wilson**
**Sig Higgy Higgins**
**Sig Des Finney**

We set off from RAF Widenrath to arrive in sunny 65° Sardinia. Where we were met by the villa staff and, after much ado, loaded our kit on to the pink and white landrover; but due to overcrowding at the villa, we went on to a campsite and to the rain!

While at the campsite, **Sig 'Higgy' Higgins** suffered a severe sprain to his ankle and had to return to Germany. (One down, seven to go). **LCpl Murray Walker** was the next casualty (two down, six to go).

Now for the trek. **Lt Richard Spencer** went off to the mountains for nine days. **Cpl Andy Chubb** (UEL) had the most up-to-date map of Sardinia (1953), so after being dropped in the middle of nowhere, we had to rely on our initiative to reach our destination. The area covered was uncharted as British expeditions have never ventured here before, nevertheless we were welcomed.

The terrain generally speaking was good going, but further up it became very craggy. The distance covered was just over 100km.

Later on in the trek, **LCpl Murray Walker** joined us, fully recovered and ready to go, which was more than could be said for us at that stage.

We completed the last leg two days early, coming through the main town of Macouber. The townspeople were amazed to see seven men, looking like refugees, walking down the High Street, looking for a hotel to rest weary feet.

We returned to RAF Wildenrath, very tired except for **Sig Des Finney**, who had somehow managed to get some sleep even whilst walking!

The expedition, it was generally agreed had been a thoroughly enjoyable experience and we would all love to go back. A lot of help from the PRI, and a number of other administrative departments, helped to make it so and a great deal of thanks is due to them for their organisation and assistance.

**1 SQUADRON**

We have only one addition to the Squadron hierarchy, namely **SSgt (FofS) Chris Tyson** from Blandford. We welcome him and **Cheryl** and the family.

The Squadron has been involved in almost all the Regiment's activities including Ex Flagpole and Flying Falcon. We also provided a stand at the EW Demo, which was a great success, so well done to everyone involved.

**J TROOP**

**Lt Richard Spencer** has been away working hard as OIC Hut down on Ex Snow Queen, **Sgt Stevie Ferris** has left and we did our bit at the EW Demo.

The Troop also lent a helping hand to the other two Troops on Ex Flagpole, providing both manpower and moral support—was it really that tough out there boys?

**W TROOP**

The major hurdle so far this year has been Ex Flagpole. This was a two week static exercise in the Dannenberg salient, being blown around by an over zealous wind which caused problems with masts and tents alike.

**Cpl Mick Dytham** had a lucky escape from a falling tree but was unhurt, he did not go out on another shovel recce for the rest of the exercise!

It happened to coincide with the 22 Armd Bde cross-country championships which 14 Sig Regt won. Contributing to this fine victory were **LCpls Rob Tubbs, Ted Whichelo** and **Mick Proud**.

On returning from exercise some members of the Troop went on Ex Snow Queen. **LCpls Jaz Clarke, Gray Paterson** and **Si Jones** and returned with more than their fair share of a suntan. They looked decidedly out of place in the middle of storm torn Celle. Also congratulations to **Sig Ben Redstone** who passed his Ski Instructors course.

**Cpl Rich** 'The Ruggedly' **Angove** has deserted us once again and is swanning around Nepal on an expedition; he used the dubious title as 'Unit bird watcher' to ensure his place on the trip . . . and **LCpl** 'Red Kev' **Jones** has somehow managed to get away on a month's driving expedition around Sardinia.

**Sig Buzz Burrows** had a splendid time standing in for the exchange operator, how did it go? 'Langeleben what do you want?' The duty was brightened by the MT supplying a rather 'Trabant' coloured minibus for the shift transport. 'A' shift put up with **LCpl Ted Whichelo**'s driving, 'I'm just getting used to the clutch' was his explanation.

A mountain bike trip from Montreux to Nice, is being planned for June. It sounds challenging.

We say hello to **Sgt Geordie Usher** and his wife **Marion**, who have joined us from UK.

As usual we seem to be saying farewell to more people than we welcome.

We lost **LCpls Gaz Eglin** and **Sammy Irving** on a four month detachment.

We also say farewell to **Cpl Pete Beale** who has moved to 13 Regt. **Cpl Sammy James** who has moved to HQ Sqn MT where he will be kept busy.

We also say a fond farewell to **LCpl Chris Skelton** and his wife **Shelley** who are retiring from the Army to reside somewhere in County Durham, Good Luck **Chris** and **Shelley**.

Finally a look forward to the athletic season, in which all Troop members are hoping to compete as a result of the new Regimental Fitness Programme.

**X TROOP**

Congratulations to **Sgt John Cambridge** and his wife **Sharon** on the birth of their son **Luke**. A belated congratulations to **LCpl Steve Williamson** on his marriage to **Andrea**.

We must unfortunately say farewell to **Cpls Cliff Corbey** and **Bones O'Connor, LCpls Vince Adams** and **Colin Hill**. We wish you all well.

We welcome **SSgt Phil Gordon** and **LCpl Roger Price**. We hope your stay is fun.

**Sgt Steve Ward** made it to an exercise, then promptly got blown off his bike during the gales and broke his collar bone. Unfortunately he can still manipulate a clip board with one hand so it's business as usual.

**22 ARMOURED BRIGADE CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

After losing the Brigade championships last year by 1 point to 1 RTR the Regimental cross country team led by **SSgt (YofS) Stu Little** went to Hildesheim looking for revenge. The race was going to be decided by the performance of the back markers, so before the start it was strongly emphasised that every point would count and although it was ten to run, eight to count, the last two men could still give points away to other teams.

**SSgt (YofS) Stu Little** won the race with **Cpl Ned Kelly** and **SSgt Jeff Backhouse** coming in third and fourth. Three runners in the first four with only seven more runners to come. Jubilation, our tenth man **Pte Mark Cross** (RAPC) was 35th. The team scores were added together resulting in 14 Sig Regt overall winners by 84 points over QOH and 1 RTR.

Other individual results were: **Lt Bob Forrest** 8th, **LCpl Rob Tubbs** 10th, **SSgt Tony Wall** 22nd, **SSgt Dave Butler** 25th, **LCpl Mick Proud** 27th and **LCpl Ted Whichelo** 32nd. Well done lads, victory, at last.

**2 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj John Gale** |
| **2IC/Regt LO** | **Capt Dave McCreath** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Pete Woodward** |
| **Trg WO** | **WO2 Andy Marshall** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt Pete Martin** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt Nigel Cullen** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Pat Gibney** |
| **MT SNCO** | **Sgt Geoff Backhouse** |

All change—well almost. The Squadron has seen considerable changes, including a change of ownership with the arrival of a new OC Sqn, **Maj John Gale** taking over the mantle from **Maj John Steed** who has gone to HQ BAOR. Our grateful thanks to to **Maj Steed** for everything he has done for us over the past two years. We wish him and his wife **Gill** the best of luck and success in the future.

The Squadron has also lost it's 2IC, **Capt Richard Lapslie**, his dog Rusty (the 2IC's 2IC) has remained with the Squadron and is now the SSM's 2IC. **Capt Lapslie** along with other members of the Regiment is attempting to climb one of the mountains in Nepal after trekking along the 'Andrex Trail', before going to the School of Signals. Good luck, and congratulations on his forthcoming wedding to **Megan** in August. Stepping into the 2IC's mantle is **Capt Dave McCreath**, who also has a dog that does a good impersonation of a 2IC.

The Squadron bids farewell to it's SSM, **WO2 Phil Rumsey BEM** who has moved over to the QM(G) department. Welcome to **WO2 (SSM) Pete Woodward** all the way from the QM(T) department. All the best to **Phil** and **Margaret**—don't forget where we are.

The Squadron has at long last been given a real clerk, **Mrs Jayne Abbott**, who not only types but understands our filing system. Thanks go to **LCpl Lenny Fairclough**, who although less easy on the eyes has nevertheless done a good job in the Squadron Office.

To see both the old OC and SSM on their way a farewell party was held in the Squadron Bar and a merry time was had by all. Imagine the OC saying farewell to the SSM, then the SSM saying farewell to the OC followed by **WP1 Tommy Hardingham** saying farewell to both from the Squadron. Thanks go to those who supplied the drinks for the evening. The following week the OC was dined out by the SNCOs.

**K TROOP**

**Tp Comd** **WO1 Tommy Hardingham**

The most notable feat by K Troop over the past few months has been the hotly contested Inter-Troop Seven-a-Side Rugby Competition. Led by **Sgt Ray Pickering** the team was triumphant in all four matches. It must be said that the SHQ team too did rather well having only seven to choose from in the first place.

Congratulations to **LCpl 'Sid' Barrass** on his recent well deserved promotion—it shows what happens when you are the star of the above mentioned rugby team!

**Y TROOP**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp Comd** | **Lt Rob Forrest** |
| **Tp 2IC** | **WO2 Mick Martin** |

We had been promised a quiet couple of months, but we all know what happened the last time we were told that.

Congratulations are in order to the Troop Comd, **Lt Rob Forrest** on his second pip, he now earns more than his driver! Congratulations also to **Cpl 'Nelson' Wright** and **LCpl Chinney Masters** on their well deserved promotions.

Fond farewells go to **Cpls 'Mozzy' Suddell, Laurie Coles, LCpl Pheonix, Chris McArdel, Neil McMillan** and **Cpl Andy Chubb** who is off to UK and to take over his first married quarter. Their farewell event was 'planned' as a quiz night in one of the local coffee shops. The quiz masters, organised by **Cpl 'Nessie' McCaughey** stand little chance of being employed by the Mastermind team; the questions were somewhat obscure!

**3 SQUADRON**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Sqn** | **Maj B. Hewitt** |
| **2IC Sqn** | **Capt A. M. White** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 M. Geer** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 K. J. Doyle** |
| **Trg SNCO** | **SSgt D. Griffiths** |
| **Z Tp Comd** | **WO2 R. Hamilton** |
| **R Tp Comd** | **Capt G. Neal** |
| **RCP Tp Comd** | **SSgt T. German** |
| **Def EW Tp Comd** | **Capt C. D. G. Storey** |

Ex Flying Falcon tasked Complex Section and a Radio detachment to supply communications for Excon. As usual on Flying Falcon the weather was temperamental, the complex had been warned of 200kmh winds in location. The winds I may add did not reach 200kmh in our part of the country but they did get up high enough to scare the occupants of the off-shift sleeping accommodation (an 18 × 24) into signing off from the Army and trying to join Howards Way as the main sail.

**CONGRATULATIONS, HELLOS AND GOODBYES**

Congratulations to **Sig Marte** and **Mrs Angela Burke** on the birth of their son **Mark**, to **LCpl Craig Scotson** on his engagement and to **Sig Eddie Timms** on having the fire extinguisher removed from the bonnet of his car.

Hello to **Sgt Scouse Wharton** from Zulu Tp, **Sig Jerry Blakeley** from 3 Armd Div and welcome back to **Sig Andy Blunn** after detachment to Cyprus.

Hello and welcome to **Maj Bernie** and **Mrs Liz Hewitt**, we all hope you have a good tour. **Sgt Gordon Norris** now in HQ Sqn! **SSgt Mick Layßourn** and **LCpl Bryan Allman** who has been initiated on Squadron exercise inspections—good start! **Sgt Lenny King** into Zulu Tp—just in time to keep the Zulu warriors under control!

**POSTINGS OUT**

**LCpl Ollie Campbell** what'll we do for stores now? Goodbye to **Cpl Kev Phillips**, to **Cpl Bill** and **Debbie Johnson, Cpl Lee** and **Julie Cooke** and **Sgt Keith Stewart** and **Karen** posted to AAC Harrogate. **Cpl Mick Batey** and **Kim** posted to 22 Sig Regt and congratulations on your promotion.

We also wish a fond farewell to **Maj Lance** and **Sarah Byrne**, off to Sutton Coldfield; **Capt Andy White** going on another long course at Blandford and **Capt Graham Neal** who is off to study Army writing.

Goodbye to **2Lt Chris Wood** off to a swan at BATUS but coming back later just for a spot of adventure training! **Cpl Carley** on promotion.



# 16 Sig Regt
# BFPO 35

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **CO** | **Lt Col C. R. Harper** |
| **2IC** | **Maj T. Bushell** |
| **Adjt** | **Capt A. P. Hudson** |
| **OC HQ Sqn** | **Maj R. Bates** |
| **OC 1 Sqn** | **Maj J. A. Harris** |
| **OC 2 Sqn** | **Maj M. R. Complin** |
| **OC 3 Sqn** | **Maj G. Whyman** |
| **OC 4 Sqn** | **Maj C. Palmer** |
| **RSM** | **WO1 (RSM) Maycock** |

At a time when the Regiment has five Squadron Commanders, all its 2IC's—less the AO at 1 Sqn—and a veritable confusion of subalterns, sporting successes have come pouring in. We have also had a lot of visits too.

**EXERCISE FLYING SEAGULL**

A very full February exercise programme saw the Regiment deploy on the highly mobile and thought provoking Ex Fast Buck and then move on swiftly to a redeployment for Ex Flying Seagull.

This proved to be an exercise full of tactical scenarios and free flights on the big things with doors on the back. Ex Flying Seagull will go down in the annals of Regimental history for a number of memorable incidents . . . for example, **Capt Ian Bucklow** then OC 3 Sqn, became Commander 16 Div and set about the enemy with a vengeance. The master plan for the battle was recored in 'chinagraphic' detail in numerous colours on a 1:50,000 map of Sauerland. Each location past, present and future of every Brigade was painstakingly entered upon this cartographic masterpiece, along with boundaries, 'goose eggs' and direction of advance. It is such a fine record of the events that it must, in time, become an exhibit in the new Corps museum.

After the exercise this map was lovingly untaped from the walls, ceiling and floor of the command vehicle and offered, at auction, to the Officers' Mess. The price was raised to a spectacular DM 40 by **WO1 (RSM) Butch Maycock** on a telephone bid, but as the hammer fell, it was found that the map had been misappropriated.

Some of the document was, however, recovered and small fragments may now be bought from the RSM at a reasonable price . . . all proceeds to the Corps Museum. You know it makes sense.

On the ground where the real fighting was done the Orange Forces massing on the border had bitten off more than they could chew. Both 16 and 21 Sig Regts combined their military might to repel all border-crossers. With so many Trunk Nodes milling around it was decided that no harm would come of whipping a couple out of the grand communications plan to work on the more military aspects of the exercise. So it was that at 21 Sig Regt a Trunk Node would find itself dug in to face the hordes of a 16 Sig Regt Trunk Node and vice versa. To give a graphic account of what occurred when the two Nodes met would destroy the good relations which were forged during this time and are better left to be told at the bar and the swinging lamp.

Like all good exercises its ending provides a social occasion. This proved to be both memorable and magnificent. The meal was superbly cooked and organised by **WO2 (SQMS) Roger Leyden** ACC and **WO2 (RQMS) Taff Jones**. The dinner was attended by Comd 4 Sig Gp, **Col Peter Chaddock** as guest of honour, and CO 21 Sig Regt, **Lt Col Phil Whitemore** aided and abetted by his 2IC, **Maj Andy Locke**. 4 Sig Gp's SO2 Everything, **Maj Miles Stockdale**, was spoon fed throughout the evening by 'General' **Bucklow**, and the Regimental 2IC, **Maj T. Bushell**, enthralled the diners with his after dinner recitations. The Sergeants Mess was represented by the RSM, **WO2 Barry Spiers, WO2 (SSM) Guy Richards** and **WO2 (SSM) Steve McKechnie** amongst others.



Ex Flying Seagull Dinner. *(left to right):* Maj Tim Bushell, Maj Andy Locke (21 Sig Regt), WO1 (RSM) Maycock and Capt Ian Bucklow Bucklow

**EXERCISE MIXED BLESSINGS**

Ex Mixed Blessings was the Regimental Battle Camp held at Haltern Training Area in March. The whole exercise was run as two, one week training periods with approximately 100 soldiers taking part at any one time. The small but dedicated party of DS, led by **WO2 Barry Spiers**, gave a sparkling demonstration of their professionalism by running the exercise for the full two weeks.

Those taking part were split into 10 man sections for the duration of their stay. Although each section was a composite of Regimental personnel, a majority of 2 Sqn (Sqn Comd **Maj Mike Complin**) attended week one and 3 Sqn (then Sqn Comd **Capt Ian Bucklow**) attended the second week, with the ladies of 1 and 4 Sqn making up the fighting element.

There was plenty of range work, and the week culminated in an arduous 48 hour exercise. The sections patrolled across the training area avoiding enemy encounters at all costs. Their battle craft was so successful that the enemy resorted to attacking the CO and **Lt Pete Doherty** (2IC 2 Sqn) of the DS three times. Across at 3 Sqn, an element of combat survival was brought to the fore by the vegetarians attempting to survive the exercise without eating the meat ration in the compo. First Aid practice is never wasted. SSM 3 Sqn **WO2 Guy Richards** also gave an exciting demonstration of new deception tactics by the ignition and deployment of a thunder flash cunningly hidden in his combat jacket pocket.

HQ Sqn (Sqn Comd **Maj Bob Bates**) spread itself over the two weeks with 40 personnel taking part. The fine fighting spirit of the HQ department was aptly demonstrated by **Sgt Christie** who, when asked what his section would do now that it had run out of ammunition, calmly answered 'fix bayonets'. DS and observers made a tactical withdrawal!

There were the usual crop of injuries but unfortunately the crutches had been left in Krefeld. **Sgt Llewellyn RAMC** brought up the rescue of 'two aspirins and light duties' and the battle continued.

**AROUND THE SQUADRONS**

**HEADQUARTER SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj R. Bates** |
| **2IC** | **Capt T. J. Friend** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Sharp** |

HQ Sqn has continued the unparalleled performances ranging from a Regimental Dinner in the field to providing horses real and otherwise for Comd Comms' farewell visit in March. Amongst the other events was the Safe and Skilled Driving competition organised by **WO2 (MTWO) Parsonage**. It was designed to test drivers in the following skills: vehicle handling and manoeuvrability, basic fault finding, BFG Matrix and UK Highway Code tests, road traffic accident procedures, first aid and petroleum product recognition.

Over 50 soldiers including WRAC took part in the competition. Some outstanding results were achieved and the final outcome was very close. The winners of the competition were as follows:

**WRAC**

Winner—**Pte Gilliband**
Runner Up—**Pte Hughes**




*(Left to right):* Cpl Goldie, LCpl Ainger, Mr Tony Moore of Mitsubishi Cars, LCpls Kelly and Neeve

**Soldiers**
Winner—**Sig Nichol**
Runner Up—**Sig Neeve**
Third—**Cpl Greenland**

**Team Winners**
Sierra Tp 'A'

The Master Driver RCZ **WO2 Graham Elsley** kindly agreed to assist as Chief Judge and ensure that the results were calculated quickly and efficiently. Finally we would like to thank **Mr Tony Moore** of Mitsubishi Motors who donated all the magnificent trophies for this competition.

**2 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj M. R. Complin** |
| **2IC** | **Lt P. J. Doherty MBE** |
| **OC J Tp** | **Lt J. E. Swindells** |
| **OC R Tp** | **Lt K. L. Osterburg** |
| **OC S Tp** | **2Lt M. J. Hanby** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) McKechnie** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (YofS) Dyer** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt (FofS) Dobson** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) Lauder** |

2 Sqn actually wrote off to the Guinness Book of Records to claim the record for the biggest game of musical chairs in the world. Kilo Tp was disbanded and men, women and equipment headed off in all directions to supplement not only the other three manpower hungry troops in Krefeld but also to further flung corners of the 16 Sig Regt empire. We are now pleased to report that several months on, the dust has settled. Tears have been dried and Kilo is but a pleasant memory on the historical horizon.

They do say that the best way to address the departure of a friend is to keep busy and it's certainly the formula the Squadron applied. Having exercised the re-vamped troops at Squadron and Regimental level the Squadron then enjoyed the usual early year Corps exercises with a couple of 4 Sig Gp testers thrown in for good measure. All these coupled with an early Battle Camp has left little time to reflect on absent friends.

**JULIET TROOP**

**Lt Julian Swindells** (late Kilo) took over from **Capt Alison Gordon**. Other comings and goings are far too many to mention. Lots of promotions to boast about, congratulations to **Sgts Moffat** and **Nuttal** on their move to the Sergeants' Mess and also to **LCpls Benson, Kerr** and **Betts** for getting their feet on the first rung of the ladder. Our erstwhile Troop SSgt, **Trev Smith** also picked for his WO2 would like it known, anywhere warm and exotic. Congratulations to **Cpl 'Scotty' Scott** and his wife on the birth of their son.

**ROMEO TROOP**

Not much from Romeo Tp this time mainly due to the fact that OC **Lt Karen Osterburg** and others are at the time traipsing around the Lone Star State of Texas (It's a hard life). Lots of *Wire* notes from them on their return. The group sent the SSM a postcard from, wait for it, the 'Sergeant Major's Academy Texas' the card said 'an impressive place with not a leaf to be seen anywhere'.

The Troop would like to welcome **Sgt Mick Licence** and wife **Angie** from 22 Sig Regt, **LCpl 'Scouse' Simcock** and wife **Julie** from 3 ADSR; **Sig Greg Gregory** from 206 Sig Sqn and **Sig Kev Savidge** from 8 Sig Regt. On the departures front **Sgt Steve Dickson** and his wife **Shirley** to 11 Sig Regt, **Pte Sharon Main** to 4 Sqn, **Pte Michelle Hobby** to 2 Div and **Sgt Dick Barton** to 30 Sig Regt.

**AND ANOTHER ARRIVAL**

To **Mark** and **Julie Simcock**, baby **Christopher**. Many congratulations.

**SIERRA TROOP**

Not to be outdone by Romeo Tp, OC **2Lt Mark Hanby** is busy planning his Kenya Expedition later this year. Not to be outdone by Juliet Tp, **SSgt Paul Staynings** was also selected for his WO2. Staff is off to somewhere not warm and exotic but East to 7 Sig Regt later this year. Staying on the promotion front congratulations to **LCpls Lane, White** and **Neeve**, and also to **Cpl Lappin**.

Departures include **Cpl Blackwell** and **Sig Fielding** both to civilian life, **LCpl McGowan** off to the sharp end with 8 Inf Bde.

New arrivals include **WCpl Cooper, Sig Croft, LCpls Alan, Corder** and **Sig O'Sullivan**.

**DEPARTURES**

A rare occasion for 2 Sqn was a get-together to say cheerio to four members. In absentia **Capt Alison Gordon**, and on the night **SSgt Griffiths** and **Sgt Polly Pollington** both across to 3 Sqn and **Sgt Steve Dickson** who leaves for 11 Sig Regt. With the difficulty in finding suitable venues we were grateful to the RSM for allowing us the use of the Warrant Officers' and SNCOs' Mess. The Sqn 2IC **Lt Pete Doherty** made the presentations and all the Squadron wish them the best for the future—good luck.

**4 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj C. Palmer** |
| **2IC** | **Capt V. Lang** |
| **OC Exch** | **2Lt K. M. Broomfield** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Edwards** |
| **YofS** | **WO1 (YofS) Wilson** |
| **FofS)** | **WO2 (FofS) Allen** |

It has been a busy three months for the Squadron, seeing many changes in personalities, the most noticeable being the handover of the Squadron Yeoman of Signals with **Yeoman Thomas** leaving the Squadron on commissioning and **Yeoman Wilson** stepping into his shoes. Prior to **Yeoman Thomas** leaving, the Squadron held an impressive farewell party for him. His popularity was evident as the whole Squadron attended including many from the outlying Commcens. We wish him well for the future and on his forthcoming posting to the Falklands. Although the Squadron was sorry to say farewell to him we were delighted to welcome **Yeoman Wilson** and particularly the latest addition to his family (a nine week old Spaniel puppy). This little lady has certainly brightened up the Yeoman's office and keeps everyone on their toes (if only to avoid standing on her).

With the winter now truly upon us many in the Squadron have been escaping to the 'white stuff' on Ex Snow Queen with the RCZ Hut in Wertach. Some seem to take to the snow like 'ducks to water' others looked more like 'ruptured ducks' wearing the instruments of torture on their feet called ski boots and waddling around doing impressions of Bambi with the 6ft planks strapped to their legs.

Despite the lack of snow the instructors managed to find enough for people to do plenty of skiing. Despite the bruises they all returned in very good spirits and all sporting excellent sun tans.

The Squadron sports teams continue to do exceptionally well winning the BAOR netball and then coming second in the UK finals. The Cross Country team combined with the Bielefeld Ladies team won the 4 Armd Div Cross Country League.

The Squadron also had several noticeable individual results. **Sgt McNamara** and **Cpl Randall** came first and second in the 3 Armd Div half marathon. **Cpl Townsend** has had an excellent badminton season playing as the top pair in the victorious Army team in the Inter services and being chosen for the Army team to play in UK.

**STOP PRESS**

The Regiment said farewell to Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen P. R. Davis** on 28 March. He was driven around the Regiment in an open carriage and saw displays from his past and future career put on by the Squadrons at Krefeld. The visit was rounded off by the General presenting 16 Sig Regt football team with the RCZ Major Units Champions' Trophy. The team beat neighbours 28 Sig Regt 1—0.

**If you are serving and have a standing order for THE WIRE please keep us well informed 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.**



# 21 Sig Regt
# BFPO 42



**REGIMENTAL AWARDS**

On 9 January **Lt Col P. Whitemore**, presented awards for 1989. There are three awards made to individuals of the Regiment each year: The Commanding Officers Award is made to a member of the Regiment who in the opinion of the CO has enhanced the good name of the Regiment. The Best Soldier of the Year Award which is awarded to a soldier of the rank of Corporal or below, who has made the most significant improvement in the year and displays considerable potential. The Best Sportsman of the Year Award which is given to a member who has contributed to the reputation of the Regiment in the field of sport.

The 1989 awards were to: CO's Award—**SSgt Mark Wright-Jones**, Best Soldier of the Year—**Cpl Bob Maxted** and Best Sportsman of the Year—**SSgt Neal Killen**.



CO, Lt Col P. Whitemore and the RSM, WO1 (RSM) Ashwell with the award recipients
*(Left to right):* Cpl Bob Maxted, SSgts Neal Killen and Mark Wright-Jones

**REGIMENTAL COLOURS**

With the Regiment gathered together the Commanding Officer took the opportunity to award Regimental Colours for the 1989 season to 39 members of the Regiment.

**SKI-BOBBING—XIV WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**2Lt Chris Chudleigh**, is currently serving on a Short Service Limited Commission (SSLC) with the King's Regiment based in Berlin. They deployed on an Op Banner tour so he was attached to 21 Sig Regt for the remainder of his service. Being in the right place at the right time is everything! He was given the opportunity to join a Ski-Bob course in Bavaria. This then, in his own words, is his progression from novice to world class in just two easy weeks!

'The story begins on a very sad note, because of the call to duty on my Skibob, I wouldn't be able to participate on the CO's Regimental exercise!, so filled with joy I set off. Like most readers I had little idea of what a skibob was and had volunteered to go to Bavaria to 'give it a go'. On my arrival at Wertach the training week was almost over and the Army team was moving to Seefeld in Austria to join with their civilian counterparts to form the British team to take part in the XIV World Championships. I was told that if I wanted to I could go along as well. Now, the answer to that burning question what's a Skibob—in the words of one of the other team members 'Bike minus wheels, plus skis, downhill, fast, wipeout!'

I had a particular aptitude for the 'downhill, fast, wipeout' part of this definition and can claim some of the best crashes and most damaged skibobs. So they put me in the team.

The Championships comprised three races, a Slalom, Giant Slalom and a Super Giant Slalom and by competing in all three you got a final position as well. The British couldn't hope to live for long with teams such as the Austrians, Poles and Czechs who were simply magnificent, carving turns with consummate ease whilst maintaining a frightening speed down the mountain. What we couldn't do was maintain the speed whilst fitting in all the turns; it was frustrating to see the top class skiers doing it so easily and well.

However, we weren't the worst by a long way, there were Brazilians, Chileans, Japanese, Egyptians and Chinese competitors. A member of the Egyptian team decided it was too high and too cold and that there was no way he would go down the mountain on one of these 'contraptions'. Out of the 61 men racing (there were 23 women and about 20 or so juniors as well) 5 of the British—yours truly included, did remarkably well to finish between 15th and 21st by virtue that we completed every race.

Two other highspots of the week, both funnily enough involved the British team. There was a problem at the start gate, everyone was shouting 'GO' and the racer wasn't moving, it was left to the team manager to push me out of the start and explain to the irritated German starter that the sounds of Bon Jovi were echoing inside my helmet and nothing else was going to penetrate, fortunately he saw the funny side!

The other occasion involved our late replacement, known as 'the tourer' because on the way down he visited every part of the mountain, and a racer who shall remain nameless. Off went the 'tourer' followed one minute later by No 79. When on the last quarter of the mountain the Austrian crowd below could see two British racers coming down one Super Giant Slalom course, they now had the proof that they had been looking for, the Brits really were crazy.

However, if they thought that was crazy I'll let you judge for yourselves as to the state of the Austrian racing teams sanity. As a demonstration after the racing was over they decided to take three Skibobs over an Olympic sized Ski Jump Moto-X style!



Recipients of Regimental Sports Colours

## RCZ BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS

Eight members and one supporter of the Regiment set off for Caernarvon Barracks in Dusseldorf for the RCZ Badminton Championships. Five teams from throughout the RCZ had entered and it was decided to play a round robin. After a hard, but enjoyable days badminton 21 Sig Regt came out winners of the event beating last year's winners, 16 Sig Regt, into second place. Man of the day was **SSgt Alec Hamilton** of 2 Sqn, but well done to all players: Singles—**Capt McNeill, SSgt Hamilton** and **LCpl Gallagher**; Res—**LCpl Ward**; Doubles—**Sgt Pollard, Sig Smith, WO2 Hill** and **Sgt Kendall**.




Comd RCZ, Brig Bullock with the successful Badminton team
*Back row (left to right):* SSgt Hamilton, LCpl Ward, Mrs Ward, Comd RCZ, Sgt Pollard and WO2 Hill
*Front row (left to right):* Sgt Kendall, LCpl Gallagher, Capt McNeill and Sig Smith

## RCZ BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS
## 28 SIGNAL REGIMENT V 21 SIGNAL REGIMENT

At the weigh-in tension began to rise but the team remained calm. All the team weighed in at 300g under their boxing weights and sailed through the medicals. Straight after the weigh in the team went to MacDonalds where **Charlie 'Boom Boom' Mathews** devoured four Big Mac's. The remainder of the day was spent doing essential personal admin and good old Egyptian PT.

The Championships started at 1930 hrs with **Sig Ian Campbell** at Bantam weight. He started the night off on the right foot by winning a hard fought, two round fight by a KO. The second bout of the night had **Sig O'Brien** trading blows and eventually losing by a majority points decision. Well done for a gallant effort. Light weight **Paul Walledge** produced the best and hardest fight of the night, his superior fitness paid off in the end by his ceaseless left right left combination scoring the most points and gaining the judges majority decision, **Cpl Nick Middleton** fought at light welter against a good strong opponent who covered up very cleverly. Unfortunately for **Nick** in the third round one of the Seconds forgot to put his gum shield back in causing **Nick** to suffer a split lip and the referee stopped the bout. The fight before the break was another hard fought one with **Sig Tim Wand** eventually using his reach on a small but durable opponent. **Tim** KO'd his opponent in the third round with a good solid uppercut. Straight after the break **Sig Wakeford** faced up to his opponent whom he dispatched with a perfectly timed straight right to the side of the head. **Cpl Alexei Sale** was the light heavy weight and was put under pressure by a bigger and far stronger opponent. **Cpl Sale** boxed very clever and kept piling up the points with lots of jabs and moving out of the way, at the end of three rounds **Cpl Sales** hard work paid off gaining him the unanimous points decision. **Charlie Mathews** was in the penultimate bout of the evening. **Charlie** was put down in the first round by a big clubbing right. This did the trick and switched **Charlie** onto proper boxing, he put a quick solid straight left right left combination on his opponents chin and followed up with a good right cross to put his opponent down and out in the opening seconds of round two. The final fight of the night at welter weight saw **Sig Stu Lindo** put in a good powerful and classy performance, knocking out his opponent with a three punch combination of right jab, right hook, big left cross in the opening seconds of the first round.



The CO with the successful Boxing Team

The final score was seven fights to two, a decisive win over 28 Sig Regt. All the boxers trained hard and performed excellently on the night and can be proud to be RCZ champions.

**Sig 'Sugar Ray' Lindo** and **LCpl 'Billy' Burton** travelled to Berlin to take part in the Novice Grade 3 Individual Championships. Both boxers put up a good performance but were beaten in the semi finals. **Lindo** has travelled to Aldershot to take part in the Army Individual Championships, we wish him luck. The Regiment is now looking forward to next season, any budding boxers in the Corps should put in their preference postings now!

## 1 SQUADRON
## EXERCISE IRON MAN

It was the last week of January and Ex Ice Breaker, the Regimental Exercise, was still a nasty taste in our mouths.

1 February dawned, and the Squadron paraded in sports kit carrying lightweights plus boots. 'What's happening?' was the murmur. The lads had been informed 'you'll be in three man teams and it's going to be hard'. Day 1 consisted of just four events. Each team going around each event throughout the day. Unfortunately the local swimming bath let us down with 'Endschuldigen bitte, no cummen you, baff is closed'.

Not to worry, in its place we'll pretend an SHF mast has blown down on the diginet link situated at the other end of the airfield. As per 21 Sig Regt's SOPs all the Rovers were off the road. I'm afraid its leg work lads.

One and a half miles later, with the assault course thrown in, the masts were erected in extremely fast times. Quite amusing to watch a team consisting of the OC Sqn **Maj Dick Good**, SQMS, **SSgt Thomas McCutcheon** (welcome to the Squadron Mac) and MT **Sgt King**.

Next event was a 6½ mile cycle race around the airfield on QM specials.

Event three was the BFT and to round the day off the good old APFA (annual Army Physical Fitness Assessment). Many thanks to **SSgt Al Poulson APTC** for punishing the lads over this event. Come 1630 hrs and the bodies were aching and ready to keel over into bed.



SSgt (FofS) Reg Whitehead watching the antics of Sig Kev Allen, Cpl 'Choppers' Chopping and LCpl Sammy Faulds as they attempt to construct the Channel Bridge!

## DAY 2

Day 2 started early, very early, to collect weapons and literally lift aching bodies on to waiting Bedfords en route for Arsbeck Ranges.

By 0750 hrs the Squadron was away on a CFT (best effort run, the quicker it was completed, the more points gained). Mention must be made of **LCpl Geordie Foulds** and **Sig Kev Allen** for extremely fast times of 24 mins and 25 mins respectively, the remainder of the day was spent at a further five stands, both mentally and physically demanding. Scam 12 mast erecting (difficult if you are not a radio relay operator), LMG firing conducted by the SSM, **WO2 Paul Smythe**. A different type of assault course with a Bedford wheel, watched by **SSgt Tim Cowan**.

The MT stand proved good fun. On the word go, one member tried, in vain, to pass a tick test, one reversed a landrover and trailer through bollards and the third started to do a Bedford wheel change. Special mention here to **Sig Max Maxwell** who was the only one to pass his tick test on the day.

A map reading stand backed up every word that the 2IC Regiment had said a few days earlier. More practice needed! **YofS SSgt 'Nic' Nicholson** and **FofS SSgt 'Cosmo' Whitehead** provided much fun with their 'Command task' comment of the day—'It wasn't like the ones we did at Sandhurst!'

All in all, although extremely tiring, and demanding, leadership and team spirit shone through. Congratulations to all teams winners and losers.

At the end of the exercise the co-ordinator **SSgt Phil Atkinson** went home very tired.

Best Overall Team: **Cpl Tony Martin, LCpls Eric Francis** and **Wilky Wilkinson**; Second Overall Team: **Cpl Gerry Chopping, LCpl Geordie Foulds** and **Sig Kev Allen**; Best Overall Troop Team: TN 040 plus **Cpl Stevie Francis**.

## 2 SQUADRON BATTLE CAMP

Early one morning just as the sun was rising 2 Sqn divided into 'well-balanced' sections and set off for the far reaches of 'RCZ Batus' (Arsbeck Training Area).

**WO2 (SSM) 'Skippy' Bradbury** set to task the six section Commanders. **Cpl Sappleton** immediately landed in the good books by commandeering the already erected 'demonstration tent'. Tent City soon took shape with **SSgt Hamilton** doing a grand job with 'Cushy Complex' (Admin area). With the Troops bedded in and a meal of 'brown stew' the training started.

'Where are we now?' was the question . . . er Arsbeck was the reply, 'smart answer' replied **Sgt Thomas**, the map reading was accomplished surprisingly well (next time we will use Arsbeck Trg area maps **Taff!**).

The BFT ended with an all Welsh photo finish with **Sig Manns** beating **Sgt Thomas** by a nose, credit must go to the rest of the Squadron who had to struggle hard chasing the two Welsh dragons.

Fireman Fred (**Sgt Andy Terry**) completed two BFT's in one day when the trip flare he was 'testing' went off, no damage done but he has kept the pin for posterity. Every morning we thought that **Sgt 'AY' Young**'s alarm clock was BLR as it kept going off extremely early.



Sig McMorran advancing aggressively during a section attack

The rest of the Battle Camp managed to accomplish the mandatory training. Special mention must go to **SSgt (YofS) McHugh** and **SSgt (FofS) Sheppard** who managed to fail 'Time Appreciations' by over-running the command tasks allotted time. It is now confirmed by **Cpl Sells** and his team that eight can balance on one section of line ladder.

Next came the night exercise which was organised by **Sgt 'AY' Young**. Special mention of **Cpl** 'newly promoted' **Robertson** who thought you only need eye pieces in your respirator if you wear glasses. At 0500 hrs he changed his mind when his section came under chemical attack (**Messrs Thomas** and **Young**). The exercise finished at 0600 hrs with everybody saying how much they had enjoyed it especially **Cpl Dixon** and **Sig Pilling**.

On the Thursday night came the smoker with each section plus DS and the bottle washers doing a sketch. There were some fine sketches with pride of place going to **Cpl Sells** section with their operating theatre sketch.

Early, next morning the final competition of the week started in the form of a patrol race over a course of 8 miles with four stands. The first stand, a fieldcraft stand, each section was met by **Sgt Oakley** who then briefed the Section Comd to set up an OP. Next came the first aid stand run by **Sgt Chapman. Sgt Chapman** convinced **Sig Williams** that artificial blood wipes off easily. Now **Sig Williams** is walking around like a beetroot onto to the third stand, everybody's favourite—NBC run by **Pete** 'Golden Blanket' **Madeloso**—luckily for the sections we had run out of CS as half the sections still had respirator eye pieces missing. Then finally after roughly two and a half hours on the road the sections arrived at the ranges met by **SSgt Barrington.** This stand was easily won by the marksman of Section Five led now by **LCpl Wagstaff**.

In the overall competition, it was a close run affair with section five just pipping section six on the final day. If section six hadn't been led by **Cpl Wright** they might just have won.

Wearily the Task Force set off on the long journey back to RAF Wildenrath, the aim was accomplished with the Squadron records being now hastily updated. Thanks must go to all those who took part and we eagerly await the next Battle Camp.

## 3 SQUADRON
## H TROOP RAF BRUGGEN
### PERSONALITIES

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp OC** | **Capt Len Carr** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Steve Dobson** |
| **Project Sgt** | **Sgt Steve Brealey** |
| **Maint Sgt** | **Sgt Seve Gerrish** |
| **SNCO I/C Techs** | **Sgt Bill Stadius** |
| **MT Cpl** | **Cpl Ian Harrison** |
| **Tp Clerk** | **Mrs Sue Brough** |

### COMINGS AND GOINGS

Recent arrivals in the Troop include **Sgt Steve Gerrish** from

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Gutersloh, our new MT NCO—**Cpl Ian Harrison** who joins us from 2 Div, and also part of our MT section, a new REME Craftsman—**Darren Horswill**.

Recent and imminent farewells are to **Cpl 'Geordie' Brown** to 7 Sig Regt, **Sgt Alan Piper** leaves for a punishment posting in Cyprus and Troop Storeman **LCpl 'Johno' Johnstone** goes back to UK, and our hairy little **Cfn Martin Clarke** goes back to 21 Sigs LAD at Wildenrath. Also best wishes to **LCpl 'Wilbur' Wilson**, recently departed to Belize. A special farewell to our Troop Clerk **Mrs Sue Brough** who leaves us shortly. Good luck and thanks for everything.

**UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT**
**SIGGIES FOOTBALL TEAM**

Until 21 January the Siggies FC, which consisted of H Troop, Ground Radio flight and the Commcen at RAF Bruggen, were having a decent sort of season and running middle order of the First Division. Then, disaster struck, at the hands of the mighty 37 Sqn RAF Regt, we were defeated 15—1! So began the huge task of building a new team from scratch. As luck would have it, the very next day the Manager's slot was filled by **LCpl Johnstone**, the resident H Troop Storeman. So with 'Big Ron' at the helm and myself **Cpl Billy McKeegan** as Captain, we managed to form a team from H Troop. We haven't actually won our first game yet but we're getting better every game and who knows, by 1992 we could be giving some teams a run for their money.

The Siggies FC consists of: Goal Keepers—**Sig Tim Holmes, LCpl 'Wilbur' Wilson** and **Cpl Ian Harrison**; Defence—**Sig 'Titch' Shaw, Cnf Martin Clarke, Cpl Steve Bennett** and **LCpl Steven Dickinson**; Midfield—**Sig John Buttle, Si Jervis, Simmons** and **Cpl Steve Griffiths**; Forwards—**LCpl Johnstone** and **Cpl Billy McKeegan** (Captain).

**4 SQUADRON**
**J TROOP**

Contrary to popular belief, J Troop (Puma Support) is alive and well, although hidden amid the Squadron infra-structure.

**TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Tp** | **Lt Warne** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **Geordie Bincliffe** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Tom Pollard** |

**ACTIVITIES**

During February the Squadron deployed on Ex Gallant Display and immediately after that our vehicles were coaxed into driving for three of four hours to join Ex Flying Seagull.

The point of interest during the exercises are that **LCpl Tel Terrett** managed to move his SCRA FAX det seven times in 36 hours.

Photographic evidence was obtained which confirms that RAF food is of a high standard. **Sig Akie Atkinson** was marked out when he took the majority of the exercise enemy single handed. (They were in the back of his truck when a German car hit it.)

**LCpl Geordie Hume** confirmed he has been working with the RAF for long enough when on completion of an error free message; Victory rolled his Rover.

While the majority of the Squadron was dressed in the 'now you see me, now you don't kit'—some of the boys were suffering greater hardships. **Cpl Baz Hardman** and **Sig Smudge Smith** were sent to Hong Kong to work in the Commcen.

**SQUADRON TECHNICAL INSPECTION (STI) AND SQUADRON ADMIN INSPECTION (SAI)**

The aim of these inspections is to find out exactly what equipment is held, where it is, what condition it is in, and if we are accounting for it properly. It also proved a good opportunity to have a huge blitz on garages, stores and offices. (Spring cleaning in a big way.)

The accounts system was further complicated by the disbandment of the O Troop element in Wildenrath and their being absorbed into the two remaining Comms Troops, I and J Troop.

The STI inspection consisted of the detachments being laid out on the car parks and garages, as per CES. Inspection teams then descended upon the unsuspecting crews, vehicles—for condition and serviceability, equipment—for quantity, condition and administrative paperwork. The FofS and Tech Sgt also attacked our equipment for first line inspections. To cap the lot it rained!

The SAI was the following day, the Troops were told to report in No 2 Dress, with no further instructions. Being the man that he is, the OC Sqn—**Capt Andy Hickling**—we were called at 0400 hrs to undergo a crashout kit inspection. The rest of the day consisted of a BFT, First Aid (in NBC conditions) test, 8 mile CFT and TOETs. (Due to failing light Endex was called.) A curry supper followed.


# R·S·A
## The Royal Signals Association AND YOU

**THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION—IT MAY MEAN MUCH MORE TO YOU NOW THAN DURING YOUR SERVICE**

*The principal aims of the Association are:-*

- To try and keep those who have served the Corps in touch with each other with a view to keeping alive a spirit of comradeship—a feature of Corps life you will miss when you leave the Service.
- To help serving and retired members of the Corps (and their close dependants) who find themselves in difficult circumstances with advice and practical aid, financial or in kind.
- To assist, where possible, resettlement in civilian life by trying to find employment and generally advising.

*The Association endeavours to achieve these aims by:-*

- Sponsoring branches in the main towns and population centres of the UK. These branches often meet for social occasions, and there is generally an annual dinner.
- Organising annual reunions at Blandford and Catterick. These provide the opportunity to meet old friends, for the retired to see something of the serving Corps and, but not necessarily on every occasion, to remember the dead.
- Running a welfare and general advice section at Association HQ, which is at the service of all members.
- Publishing the Corps magazine. *The Wire*. Taking out a subscription will help to keep you in touch with Corps and Association affairs.
- Selling items of Corps goods such as Corps ties, car badges and diaries. These are listed in *The Wire*.

### MEMBERSHIP

Nearly all members of the Corps have, whilst serving, been contributing under the Day's Pay Scheme which has greatly benefited our Benevolent Fund. As you conclude your Service, may we thank you most sincerely and remind you that, by virtue of your contributions, you are a Life Member of our Association. Please write **NOW** for registration as such. If you have not contributed at all you can become a Life Member for £2.50.

### THE FUTURE

If, in the future, you are confronted by circumstances or problems where you consider the Association may be able to offer advice or help, please contact The General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD (Tel: (01) 630 0801). Please give your service particulars when writing.

**Your Corps Association has flourished for many years, but only the support of those leaving the service will enable it to continue doing so. If a branch is near you join it and so make your personal contribution towards this end.**




# 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
# BFPO 35

**SUPPORT SQUADRON**

On Tuesday 20 March **Sgt Reuben Lynch RPC** was invited to lunch with **Col H. Barten** German Army in the Officers' Mess, to mark his departure from the Regiment in April 1990 and the Army in November, after 22 years service. This singular honour was bestowed upon him in recognition of the outstanding service he has given the Northag Signal Group, on exercise and in barracks, during two tours of duty. **Reuben** and **Pat** are to settle in the Stafford area later this year to commence their second career. All the officers of the Regiment are grateful to him and wish him the very best of good fortune for the future.



Sgt Lynch with Col H. Barten, Comd NSG, with his presentation following the lunch in the Officers' Mess

**STORMING THE GATES**

On Friday 23 February Francisca Barracks, St Tonis, home of 28 Sig Regt, found itself under seige by hostile locals. Hordes of outraged St Tonis burghers demanded access to the barracks as is their right during Karneval. The well trained and rigidly drilled barrack defence guard were immediately deployed to defend their territory. A vicious fire fight ensued, but there was only going to be one winner. Bringing up the battering rams, the Karneval Prince's Guard successfully breached the gate, forcing the barrack guard to withdraw. The barrack key was surrendered by the CO, **Lt Col A. W. Merrick**. On gaining entry the Prince, Princess and their entourage were escorted to the banqueting hall where a truce was formulated with refreshments and entertainment. This battle is re-fought every year as the Karneval Prince and Princess of St Tonis exercise their right to enter any establishment within their principality.



The Karneval Prince thanks the Regiment for its hospitality



The CO, Lt Col A. W. Merrick MBE presents the key to Francisca Barracks to the Karneval Prince



Karneval Prince and Princess with their entourage parade through the barracks

**2 SQUADRON**
**OSCAR TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp OC** | **Capt Mark Davis** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Les Robinson** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Rich Cookson** |
| | **Sgt Martin Littlewood** |
| | **Sgt Jo Richmond** |
| **MT Cpl** | **Cpl Ian Pollock** |

**ARRIVALS**

The Troop welcomes the following: **Cpl Ian Pollock** from 244 Sig Sqn, **LCpl Steve Bancroft, Sig Joey Maguire, Vince Chipping, Mickey Finn** and **Gary Edwards** all from 8 Sig Regt.

**DEPARTURES**

The Troop said farewell to the following: **Sgt Martin Littlewood** to Civ Div; **LCpl Tony Booth, Sig Billy Ferrie** and **Ian Gregory** all to 1 Sqn and **Cpl Kenny Sappleton** to 21 Sig Regt.

**INTER TROOP BADMINTION 1989**
**by Sig Den Healey**

Owing to commitments the competition didn't take place until 25 January. It consisted of six teams; two teams from each Squadron. The event involved both Regimental and non Regimental players, but all were high standard. In the end Oscar Tp triumphed beating Golf Tp of 1 Sqn in the final.

The winning team consisted of **SSgt Les Robinson, Cpls Andy Duncan, Neil Truan, LCpls Jason Clarke, Shaun Curry, Cpl Jackie Cottage, Sig Mark Lamont** and **Sig Pete Healey** and last but not least **Sig Tim Robinson**, who played a great part as chief cheer leader and first reserve.

**TECH DEPARTMENT**

The Squadron Techs would like to say farewell to the tech workshops. It has been taken over as the new RAF Museum, curator **WO2 (FofS)** 'Blue Peter' **Wilson BEM**. Full scale models of any aircraft will be gratefully received.

**SNOW QUEEN COURSE 3**
**by Sig John Davis**

Course 3 was the first of the non families courses and Oscar Tp participants were **Cpl 'PB' Pakenham Bishop, Sig Lee Ward** and **John Davis**.

As it was early in the year there was little snow, so skiing was limited, however all members of the beginners class managed to attain their bronze level even though it should have been called the 'Black and Blue' level. There may not have been much snow on the slopes but 'PB' found some ice on the roads (unhappily for his car). Alas only his pride was hurt but the car is still in Wertach.

**SNOW QUEEN COURSE 4**
**by LCpl Dino Flint**

As anyone who has been on an Ex Snow Queen will know the trip to Wertach was a long and exhausting one. We arrived eventually and assembled in a swamp known as the Snow Queen car park.

It was about this time that people began to realise the distinct lack of snow and that everyone was walking around in T shirts improving their sun tans.

To pass the time **LCpl Geordie McKay, Sig Dom Curtis** and myself acquired fake noses and moustaches and for the next week the three of us were caught egging down the slopes sporting these garments. The fact it took us an hour to travel to the snow was something that we had to put up with, until the second week.

During the second week we awoke to find everything covered, much to the delight of the instructors. The noses were stopped when **LCpl Geordie McKay** was caught leaving the showers without his and given his 10 seconds failed to reach it in time.

By this time it had become obvious that the 'Three amigos' supplied by Oscar Tp were the only life and souls of the course that even Papa Tp couldn't rival.

We came back much improved in the skiing techniques thanks to all the instructors help.

Instructors: Downhill—**Cpl Nick Hawkins, LCpl Craig Crockart** and **Sig Harry** 'Neil Diamond' **Harris**. Langlauf—**LCpl Bartie Bartliff**.

**THE RCZ BOXING FINAL**
**by LCpl Dave Alderson**

In the RCZ Boxing Final some members of Oscar Tp represented the Regiment against 21 Sig Regt. Amongst them were: **LCpl Kid Curry** who fought at featherweight and won his bout on points. **Sig Jim Bean** fought a superb bout at light welterweight; he also won on points. **Sig Pete Trant** only just made the final, due to a hair appointment! His fight was a hard contest, he put up a good fight and was unlucky to lose. The last bout of the evening was at welterweight and **Cpl Billy Reilly** put on a good display but lost due to a misunderstanding between the trainer and himself. The team consisted of the following Troop members: **Cpl Billy Reilly, LCpls Kid Curry, Dave Alderson, Eddie Eddelston, Sig Jim Bean, Pete Trant, Kev Hook, Barney Balmforth, Lee Lester** and **Lee Rawcliffe**.

**PAPA TROOP M*A*S*H NIGHT**

Through the gathering gloom the deep, regular 'wop-wop' of the rotors could be heard echoing around the dimly lit interior and camnet draped walls of the 'Club-28' Amenities Centre. As the casualties began arriving in two's and three's from the wind-swept square outside the expert hands of **Cpl** 'Grunter' **Grinell** began the serious process of replacing vital bodily liquids for the unfortunate troopers.

The mashed spuds, beans and 'compo' bangers gave sustenance to the shell-shocked souls while Clint Eastwood, Telly Savalas and Donald Sutherland were seen in the corner-with the rest of 'Kelly's Heroes'—enjoying the generally chaotic atmosphere.

**Cpl 'Jabba' Ker**'s simulated broken-leg was voted the most professional dressing—but turned out not to be simulated after all! A good time was had by everyone during their one evening's 'Sick-Leave'.



# 30 Sig Regt
# Blandford Camp

**'RAM RAM'**

On Friday 30 March the Regiment welcomed the arrival of a nine strong advance party from the Queen's Gurkha Signals in Hong Kong. They will form the nucleus of 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn which ultimately will be 86 strong.

The Gurkhas will be working alongside their British counterparts in blustery Blandford and no doubt upping the standard of volleyball in the camp.

A big 'Swagat Chha' from all the members of 30 Sig Regt.



RSM Skip Redman welcoming the Gurkha advance party
*(Left to right):* WO2 Bomkarna Rai, SSgt Bikramjung Gurung, Sgts Ramparsad Gurung, Nagendra Rai, Cpls Minbahadur Gurung and Parsuram Rai




**EXERCISE PLATINUM MERCURY 90**
**by SSM Gerry Knight**

Ex Platinum Mercury was a Contingency Communication Exercise (CONCOMMEX), held on the islands of Trinidad and Grand Turk during late February and early March. The aim of this CONCOMMEX was to practise communicating from the Caribbean back to UK should the need arise for the Regiment to deploy in support of disaster relief. Strategic links were provided into DCN via satellite and HF anchor stations located at Belize, Gibraltar and Bampton Castle. Tactical links were provided between Trinidad (JFHQ) and Grand Turk (FMB) via a combination of secure and insecure HF links. In addition, an HF maritime link was established between JFHQ and the West Indies guard ship HMS *Arrow*. HF links were also established to the British High Commissions on Trinidad and Grand Turk.

Another aspect of the exercise was to provide material support for the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment (TTR). Weeks before deployment, **SSgt (SQMS) Jim Keeping** was to be found collecting stores from as far afield as the QM's Department, medical supplies, MT parts, radio spares; not a stone was left unturned. Finally, as everything came together the advance party left by Boeing 747 bound for Port of Spain.

The freight aircraft were loaded under the watchful eye of **Sgt Fred Worgan** who must take comfort in the knowledge that he was the first man to fly a 19 Kva generator, (a dubious claim to fame).

Upon our arrival everything had been made ready by the advance party. Our accommodation was to be in a conference centre. Each room was air conditioned which the Troops decided might work more efficiently if all the windows and doors were left open! This error was rectified by a piece of friendly advice from **WO2 (SSM) Gerry Knight** who also reminded everyone about the uncanny amount of duties required during the exercise. Some people remained unconvinced and managed to change the island's climate to such a degree that the Test Match was rained off!

Once communications were in we were able to assist the TTR. **WO2 (AQMS) Keith Williams** assisted by **Cpl Geordie Franklin** and **LCpl Colin Whellans** set about putting the TTR MT back on the road, an immense task which was, as it turned out a full time job. One particular vehicle which took some time and effort was a bus. After it was declared road worthy by the AQMS it was proudly driven out of the workshop and parked up, only to be crushed later by a falling palm tree! It reminds the writer that, on average, five people die each year in Trinidad as a result of being struck by falling coconuts.

By the end of the first week the exercise was well set and all personnel were used to the routine and rigour of shift work and the SSM was still looking in boxes trying to find the Regimental video camera which **Cpl Colin Stevenson** assured him was in there somewhere.

R and R activities were many and varied. A number of soldiers found off duty relaxation in the form of fishing for the most ferocious looking Cutlass fish. The R and R packages were organised by **2Lt Liz Wise**.




Cpl Colin Whellans working on a TTR vehicle

During the exercise the annual Trinidadian Carnival was held, a fact obviously overlooked by the planners. It consisted of three days of partying, dancing in the streets, ear splitting music and general mayhem. All soldiers managed to sample the fun during their time off shift, an opportunity which was not to be missed as the Trinidad Carnival is second only to that in Rio. Before it was known what the island held in store for the unwary tourist, it was decided that a member of the local constabulary should be invited to address the Troops on the usual problems they may encounter. A senior police officer duly arrived and was briefed by the Squadron Commander, **Maj Tim Rimell**. The police officer began by welcoming all of us to Trinidad and having reassured us that we were in for a good time suggested we should report for shift on the first day of Carnival and then go absent and join the festivities! We all agreed that he had got his priorities right!

**SSgt (YofS) Dave Marriott** organised two radio exercises involving some of our operators and some of our counterparts from the TTR.

Both were an outstanding success due in no small part to the enthusiasm shown by everyone involved.

Towards the end of our stay **Sgt Pat Keating** and **Sig Dunny Dunderdale** were invited to crew two yachts in a Sunday race held at the local club. The priming and setting up of sails finished, the boats were jockeying for position and after a false start **Sgt Keating**'s boat took up a commanding lead over the rest of the pack but was being chased all the time by **Sig Dunny Dunderdale** a wily old sea dog but after some nifty manoeuvring and having taken the lead he was to retire shortly afterwards. **'Salty' Keating**'s boat regained the lead and was making good headway when the race was called off owing to time problems. It was unfortunate as he had a 400m lead at that point. Everyone returned to port disappointed at the outcome. Nevertheless it was a happy occasion.

In all respects Ex Platinum Mercury was a success and the personnel who took part will remember it for a long time to come.



Sgt 'Salty' Keating sorting out the sailing equipment with Sig 'Sea Dog' Dunderdale



WO2 (FofS) Terry Inman visiting The Queen Elizabeth School for Handicapped Children in Port of Spain, Trinidad

**EXERCISE PLATINUM MERCURY**
**by Cpl Cadwgan**

In mid February, nine very reluctant Techs drawn from the various technical departments within the Regiment deployed to 'The Island of Love' in the Caribbean—Trinidad. This hardy band of Techs was placed in the care of **Sgt Chris Higgins**, our illustrious Tech Sgt.

On our arrival in Trinidad, courtesy of the RAF and having recovered from the shock of seeing what you might call our living accommodation, the sheer hell of living in a conference centre with showers and toilets in each room, the actual business of the exercise began. After sorting out the usual start of exercise mishaps/disagreements, the tech dept settled into the exercise shift system. We discovered very quickly that we were mistaken if we thought we were in for a quiet time. A large stockpile of various 'broken' equipments built up rapidly. There was a great deal of scratching of heads and emergency reading, plus many comments emanating from the tech tent during the first couple of weeks. Eventually things settled down and we could enjoy Trinidad and 'soak up' the local culture.

The Carnival was in full swing during our visit, and this makes the Notting Hill Carnival look like the local village fete. It is something you have to witness to appreciate. We also worked alongside the techs from the Signal Platoon of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force.

A much welcomed R & R was spent on the Island of Tobago at the end of the exercise. This was definitely the 'postcard' Caribbean island with golden sandy beaches, blue sea and everything you imagine the Caribbean to be. A great time was had by those who visited Tobago, with many a squaddie boarding the plane reluctantly for the flight back to Trinidad.

Our month in Trinidad over, and it was back to reality with a bump in sunny Blandford. Ah well, we've the next one to look forward to.

**IADS 90/2 KUANTAN MALAYSIA**
**by Sgt Bob Buckingham**

It was a real shame when the RAF threw off half of the TSC 502 SATCOM from one of their aircraft as it meant that I had to accompany the kit.

The SATCOM was deployed to provide rear link communications for a Type 99 radar used by the RAF, which was being sent to join the IADS (International Air Defence Treaty Exercise) off Malaysia. For the two weeks before the exercise started, there was very little to do, except catch the sun.

The det worked hard in the heat and when not working could find no fault with the Coral Beach Resort (the five star hotel situated to the North of Kuantan) and the hospitality of the Malay people.

Everyone agrees that the Type 99 crew can call on us anytime if they are going to be sent anywhere like Kuantan again. Detachment personnel were: **Sgt Bob Buckingham** HQ Sqn, **Sgt Davey Beggs** 1 Sqn, **Cpl Bernie Bernard** 1 Sqn, **Cpl Scouse Williams** 1 Sqn, **Sig Mick Iveson** 1 Sqn, **Sig Dangerous Dangerfield** 1 Sqn, **Sig Dusty Miller** 1 Sqn and **Sig Guy Padfield** 1 Sqn.

**HEADQUARTER SQUADRON**
**RHQ TROOP**

The military clerical staff of RHQ is now back to as near full manning as it is likely to get. Our thanks go to **WO2 (ORQMS) Mick McGrath** and **Cpl Bob Walton** who 'held the fort' in the Orderly Room whilst the Namibia Operation was in progress.

**Mick** recently left on an 'exchange' posting with **WO2 (ORQMS) Pete Cuckow**, and is now serving at the Apprentices College, Harrogate.

**Cpl Mick Parrish** scuttled away on leave when the ORS **Sgt John Reeves** returned from Namibia. Another clerk on the move was **Sig Paul Edwards**, who within days of arriving from basic training accompanied 1 Sqn on exercise to Trinidad.

Our roulement post to 633 Sig Tp caused **Cpl Walton** to sweat a bit with **LCpl Mick Didcock** due to return in August, it seemed a second tour in Belize was on the cards for **Bob**. However, he can now send **Mr George McKenzie** of C Wing a 10 pack for sending **Cpl Chris Hurford** to us. **Chris** decided that life in civvy wasn't as good as he had thought it would be and had re-enlisted. (Which firm in civvy street would allow you a six month holiday in Belize?) For **Cpl Walton**—there's always next year!

Completing the line up of military staff is **LCpl Simon Smart**.

We wish **Cpl Bryan Smith** all the best on posting to 3 Inf Bde and thank him for his hard work here. Other recent postings were **LCpl Andy Callaghan** to Cyprus and **Sig Darren Savage** to Bicester.

We mustn't forget the Pay Corps across the corridor in the shape of **Sgts Eve Watkins, Alan Inch** and **WO1 Bob Stout**.

**MT TROOP**

After a short but eventful tour, we would like to say farewell to **Sig Andy Primmer** on his way to sunny Cyprus and **Sig 'Taff' Berrill** who is now teaching the Irish how to play cricket. We wish them all the best for the future.

We wish a hearty welcome to **Sig Dusty Miller, Trev Croxon, Brad Bradley** and **John Williams** and hope that they have a happy and successful tour.



**TM TROOP**
**BACK FROM NAMIBIA**
**by Sgt Edge**

TM Tp personnel returned recently from Namibia where they have been throughout the elections. The election phase ensured plenty of travel for our technical support staff as the Dets were spread far and wide.

**REGIMENTAL INFORMATION TEAM 1990**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Team Manager** | **SSgt Paul Horton** |
| **Team Captain** | **Sgt Steve Welding** |
| **Team Vice Captain** | **Cpl Bobby Bundy** |
| | **LCpl Jez Jezzard** |
| | **Sig Slap Dash** |
| | **Sig Ted Heath** |
| | **Sig Rafters Raftery** |
| | **Sig Taff Richards** |

The team was out on its travels again in April and will return to Blandford at the end of September. They will visit 32 public events in the SWDist area, starting at Plymouth and working through Devon, Cornwall, Gloucester, South Wales to finish at events in the Dorset area.

The highlight will be the Royal Bath and West Show to be held at Shepton Mallet in early June with the Army sponsoring this show.

**SSgt Paul Horton** is managing the team and is responsible for co-ordination and administration in Blandford. Whilst out on the road the team will be captained by **Sgt Steve Welding** recently back from Namibia.

It is hoped that the weather will be as good as it was last year and draw large crowds to the events. If any members of the Corps should meet up with the team on tour please drop in as they will be pleased to see you.



*(Left to right):* Sgt Steve Welding, Sig Rafters Raftery, LCpl Bobby Bundy, Sig Taff Richards, LCpl Jezz Jezzard and Sig Slap Dash

**ACF/CCF LIAISON**

Throughout the present term Kemp Welch ACF have stolen the limelight from all other ACF/CCF detachments sponsored by 30 Sig Regt Trg Wing. The highlight being the re-badging ceremony held on 21 February.

Thirty six members of the ACF aged 13-18 years paraded under the watchful eye of **Lt Gordon Davies** (OC ACF Det) and **SSgt Tony Davies** (SSI) to receive their Royal Signals cap badges from **Col Galloway OBE**, Dep Comd 2 Sig Bde. In attendance from 30 Sig Regt were **Maj Trevor Hendren** (2IC Regt), **Sgt 'Titch' Howitson** and **Cpl Andy Armitage** (Cadet Liaison NCO). Overall a successful term for both ACF and CCF with several cadets passing the Signals Classification Test. All ACF/CCF Detachments would like say thank you to **Cpl Polly Perkins** who has moved on to pastures new, and a warm welcome to **Cpl Andy Armitage** the new Cadet Liaison NCO.



Members of Kemp Welch ACF after receiving their long awaited Corps cap badges from Col Galloway

**LS & GC PRESENTATIONS**

**Brig C. A. Brown**, Comd 2 Sig Bde visited the Regiment on 20 March to present LS & GC medals to **WO2 (YofS) Hall, Sgts Winsett** and **Wynn. Cpl Pye** received the GOC's Commendation for outstanding work in Northern Ireland. Congratulations from all at 30 Sig Regt.



Sgt Wynn receiving his LS & GC from Brig Brown

## 32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)
## Glasgow

We warmly welcome two new Officers into the Regiment, **2Lts David Dodds** and **Elizabeth Scott-Park** both of whom are in 61 (City of Edinburgh) Sig Sqn (V). In addition we congratulate **OCdts Patricia Baird** and **Helene Martynski** on passing their TAPOC Battlecamp. Now they have only their RMAS Course prior to commissioning. We still have some 15 Officer Cadets going through the system with our latest **Ronald Scott** who has just passed his DAB.

**TRAINING**

The Regiment was surprised to see blue uniformed figures riding our motor bikes and taking part in other training activities at Drip Camp during March. This was the first of what we hope will become many visits and weekend attachments between members of the Regiment and the crews of HMS *Renown*, one of the Royal Navy's four Polaris Submarines. The Commanding Officer is keen to broaden the affiliations and scope for training offered to members of the Regiment. We hope during the next couple of months to see 20 members of the Regiment go to sea and learn about life under the water. We hope that **SSgt John Taylor** and **LCpl Paul Buckley** have recovered from their White Helmet antics with the Naval ratings on the motorbikes.

**EXERCISE COMBAT CATERER**

As usual a team of Regimental Chefs participated in the Annual Catering Competition—Ex Combat Caterer. The competition consisted of fieldcraft and military tests in addition to cooking under field conditions. The Regimental team, under the guidance and watchful eye of **Capt (QM(V)) Chris McEwan** was placed first in the Cookery Competition and first in the Kitchen Layout and Camouflage Competition. Overall the team achieved third place out of 19—no mean feat considering that the majority of the Infantry Teams are used to 'roughing it' all the time.



The Combat Caterer Team *(left to right):* Cpl Linda Rennie, LCpl Karen Grant, Sgt Dave Patterson and Cpl Ivan Sutherland the team driver

**51 (HIGHLAND) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)**
**EXERCISE NORTHERN VENTURE**

Deciding to break from our routine of Trade Training and Radio Exercise our OC **Maj Saddiq Ahmed** dreamt up 'Ex Northern Venture'.

Planned to take advantage of the Aberdeen holiday weekend, Northern Venture was the Squadron's annual opportunity for letting its hair down based on a packed programme of adventurous training and related military subjects.

The exercise, on mainland Orkney, comprised five phases—each of a days duration: Deployment, Navigation/Map Reading, Islands Overview, Hill Walking and Recovery.

**DAY 1**

Having assembled in Prince Charles Barracks TAC the previous night, Squadron members were roused at dark o'clock for a sharp 0600 hrs departure for the road journey Aberdeen—Thurso: approximately 240 miles—six and a half hours minimum behind the wheel. The Squadron set off in packets observing correct convoy procedures and rotating drivers regularly to maintain a high average speed. Picking up **OC Regtl LAD Capt Willie Cunningham REME** in Inverness. The Squadron in addition RV'd twice in Huntly and Bonar Bridge before arriving in Thurso to refuel before the short trip to Scrabster Harbour. We met attached HQ Sqn personnel led by **Maj Ann Sweeney** and **Lt John McCall** on the quayside. The sea crossing to Stromness was by commercial P & O Ferry St Ola and most took the opportunity for 40 winks before the final 25 mile leg to the TA Centre, Weyland Park, Kirkwall where we were to be billeted by kind permission of OC A Coy (QO Hldrs) 2/51 Highland Volunteers, **Maj Ted Trevellion**. After a long day in the saddle, the visibly wilting soon rallied after some scoff prepared by **SSgt 'Chic' Doyle, Sgts 'Shuggie' McLean, Gary Garland** and **Jackie Dolan**.

A few small nightcaps followed—and so to bed.

**DAY 2**

For a small place, mainland Orkney (Pomona to the Cogniscenti) is full of history and surprising artefacts.

'Ex Trade Wind' consisted of Map Reading, Driving and Navigation Skills competitively organised to answer the cryptic clues set by the deviously cunning **Ahmed** on his previous recce. It gave Squadron members a chance to see the territory. Normally a five-man detachment forms the Signals Cell in TAOR Orkney. Operating 170 miles as the crow flies from Sqn HQ we all now know why the Orkney Det looks bushed after an exercise. After visiting the Highland Park Distillery that is.

**DAY 3**

AM. Squadron members seized the opportunity to tour the islands courtesy of the Royal Navy Auxiliary Service.

RNXS 'Exploit' is a 20m glass reinforced plastic inshore patrol craft and it can shift! Bats out of hell have no chance! GTI yuppies eat yer hearts out. Many thanks to **Lt Cdr Gordon Ivol RNAS**.

PM. Opportunity for the soldiers to explore more fully sites visited on Day 2.

Late PM. All hands to the barbecue.

**DAY 4**
**EXERCISE HOME RUN**

After breakfast the Squadron mini-bussed to Houton and ferried to Lyness on Hoy Island. Hoy apparently is one of the youngest of the Orkney Islands having emerged from the deep a mere 6 million years ago. We walked from Orgil, through the Glens of Kinnaird, skirting Ward Hill, en route to view the Old Man. The rock cliffs here are breathtaking to behold. After a quick paddle in the sea at Rackwick it was return to Lyness to ferry back to mainland Orkney.

**DAY 5**

After an early start it was 'Break Camp' and reverse the sequence of Day 1. After four days of glorious weather the heavens opened and



OC HQ Sqn Maj Ann Sweeney WRAC looks on while SSgt Jim Smart (Ex RN) demonstrates how to salute Navy fashion—Lt Linda Duncan steers side-saddle ladylike fashion





we departed in drizzling rain. As the ferry drew away we left Orkney dark and brooding, shrouded in mist.

A visit for anyone historically minded is a must and we left Orkney enriched.

51 (H) Sqn writ large another chapter of Orkenyingasaga.

Many grateful thanks to **Maj Ahmed** and the 'Orkney Connection' **Lt Col E. M. Gibson MBE, TD, LD, Maj Ian Thain** and **PSI Sgt Wemyss** (QO Hldrs) for such able and cordial assistance which made Ex Northern Venture such a rewarding success.



Squadron members on Hoy with CO Lt Col Mike Anderson in foreground (knobbly bit on left is the Old Man of Hoy)

**STOP PRESS**

We have just held our first fund raising Reel Party in Jardine Street. This was the brainchild of our CO, **Lt Col Michael Anderson** who with his wife **Layle** cajoled some 165 people aged 9-99 to part with £5 notes. We raised some £1,000 during the evening which saw everyone reeling in the Drill Hall until gone midnight. Thanks must go to all who helped organise and run this event but in particular **Maj Brian Campbell, Capts Mick Besant** and **Nick Nicholas, WO2 Rab Campbell** and **SSgt Joe Sharma** who did so much behind the scenes to get the event running so smoothly. In addition our chefs for the night **WO2 Dave Fraser** and **SSgt Chic Doyle** were overwhelmed with all the food brought in by the guests and did sterling work sorting it all out. Finally to all those who assisted with organising the event—thank you.



The HI Field Bank playing the Reel of the 51st Division



Some of the youngsters dancing to the Reel of the 51st Division during the Family Reel Party at Jardine Street TAC

## 33 Sig Regt (V)
## Liverpool

Our Annual Camp this year is being held overseas and we are now entering the 'pressure' period leading up to deployment on 9 June.

An air of 'fervour' is developing in RHQ with all departments operating at full stretch to issue exercise instructions and collate essential data like 'who is going' and 'what vehicles are they travelling in'.

In past years the Regiment has always moved to the Continent via Hull but this year we are moving via Felixstowe which will certainly test drivers in convoy drills and co-drivers in route card reading.

**PERMANENT STAFF ADVENTURE TRAINING**
**SKIING IN THE RAIN**

This year's annual visit to the Scottish Highlands took place between 4-10 May and was supported by both permanent staff and volunteer soldiers from HQ, 42, 59 and 80 Sqns.

The party was led by **Maj Peter Bowles** who is more accustomed to sand than snow having last served in Saudi Arabia. However, on arrival at the Speybank Handicap Centre (their accommodation for the week), it was evident that there was going to be more water than snow as it poured with rain which was accompanied by high winds.

Although many members managed to find snow in the early part of the week, most of it was slushy and did not make for ideal skiing. However, wet but undaunted they persevered through the week and were rewarded with fresh falls of snow on the Thursday and Friday prior to returning home.

Four members of the party took part in the Army Giant Slalom Championships, namely **Majs Peter Bowles, Jean Payne, Cpl Tony Wylie** and **LCpl Grenville Smith**. Unfortunately they gained no places of distinction but they did thoroughly enjoy the experience.

Injuries this year were sustained by **Maj Jean Payne** and **Pte Lynda Roy**—both suffered torn ligament damage. We hope they both recover in time for next year's visit.

As usual on these trips someone has to do the admin and cooking chores and this year thanks go to **LCpl Tommy Currie ACC** and **Pte Julie Johnson**, both at HQ Sqn in Huyton.



Cpl Tony Wylie (80 Sqn) and Maj Jean Payne (RHQ) prepare for the Giant Slalom venture



Members of all Squadron's of the Regiment prepare for take-off on the slopes of Aviemore
*(Left to right):* Cpl Les Bradley, Sgt Paul Robertson, Sig Paul Robertson Jnr, LCpl Martin Orley, Pte Sharon Draper, WO2 Marie Watkinson, Ptes Elaine Webb and Lynda Roy



LCpl Tommy Currie and Pte Julie Johnson preparing the evening meal in 'primitive style' at Aviemore

**FOCUS ON TM TROOP**
**Report by Sgt Pete Anwyll**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **FOS** | **SSgt Ged Keegan** |
| **PSI Techs** | **Sgt Alan Welch** |
| | **Sgt Ken Myerscough** |
| | **Sgt Phil Newman** |
| | **Sgt Pete Anwyll** |

Whilst reading through a multitude of copies of *The Wire*, it was noticed that not a lot is, or for that matter has, ever been mentioned about the role of the Troop or to be more accurate Troupe. With this in mind it was decided to tell the rest of the Corps about the role of a technician PSI.

Within the bounds of the knowledge required, anything from the most menial technical task to a one hour lesson on the mating habits of the Reitbok is classed as fair game. Colloquial 'scouse' is also a fundamental requirement if you wish to succeed and an in depth understanding of phrases such as 'boxed off' and 'sound as a pound' is also essential.

On the technical side of life we are tasked in all aspects of the trade, although some of the equipment leaves a lot to be desired. When first entering a Mux vehicle that old phrase 'if I leave it in the wardrobe long enough it's bound to come back into fashion' springs to mind.

Although the calendar is always full the next major event is our bi-annual exercise in Germany. To this end if the technical labyrinth was to be entered at this time, **SSgt (FofS) Ged Keegan** could be found planning away and trying to instil some enthusiasm into his merry band of workers. **Sgt Alan Welch** is as normal muttering something to himself in a corner of the workshop, whilst **Sgt Phil Newman** and myself are desperately trying to master a crash course in 'do it yourself botany' so we can look after **Sgt Ken Myerscough**'s greenhouse on his forthcoming departure.



**WELCOME**

We would like to welcome the return of **Sgt Bruce Murdin** and his wife **Pat** who join us from Afnorth. We hope they enjoy the second time around.

**FAREWELL**

As mentioned earlier we are saying farewell to **Sgt Ken Myerscough** and his wife **Jackie**. **Ken** is leaving after 15 years service and we wish them well and hope **Ken** does well in his new career in topiary.

**HQ SQUADRON**

What have we been doing? There have been just a few things. To start with—Ex Long Trek. HQ Sqn based at Huyton, supported by 42, 59 and 80 Sqn from Manchester, Liverpool and Chester, brought back to life Ex Long Trek, a competition aimed at sharpening the driving skills and expertise of Squadron members.

On Friday night 9 February members arrived at the TAC, all eager to meet the challenge. Our DS staff ( **Sgt Guy** and **Sgt McCormick**) soon got over the initial shock of seeing so many happy, smiling faces turn out for an exercise and set to work creating a stiff exercise scenario. Once again our cooks led by **Cpl Duffy**, provided us with a feast fit for kings to help us on our long road journey up to the Ripon training area.

Convoy discipline and packet formation was a joy to behold all the way to Ripon (can this be maintained in BAOR?). On arrival at base camp we were greeted by the intrepid leader of our advance party, **Sgt 'Robbo' Robertson** who, along with his crew, had produced a camp of gargantuan proportions, the only thing missing being hot and cold showers. So it was off to bed and an early rise to enable the competition to start. Saturday breakfast was an excellent full English style feast, giving us the energy to enable our teams to perform and function at the peak of their ability.



LCpl Binstead of HQ Sqn (Huyton) displaying the amphibious qualities of a ¾ tonne LR

Teams set off in two groups, group one consisting of teams 1, 2 and 3 on the driving/map reading competition and group two consisting of teams 4, 5 and 6 on the cross-country driving course. It must be mentioned that the DS staff set off early to get to the various checkpoints along the route and all credit and thanks to them that they achieved their goals in magnificent style.

Throughout the day the teams were being monitored and marked on their performances and the spirit of competition was evident at all times.

Saturday afternoon the groups swapped over and with the arrival of the World in Action Team under **WO2** (Snaps) **Jolliffe**'s control a video of events began to be produced.

The cross-country course run by **Sgts McCormick** and **Jennings** proved to be very popular especially the water-jump, which the video shows was not an easy obstacle to negotiate.

Saturday night the teams were involved in a quiz and also the production of a route card for the Sunday morning phase; after a few well earned beers it was off to bed for an early start Sunday.

Sunday morning 0715 hrs—what a start to the day—snow, cold biting wind and a cross-country run in PT vest, boots and combat trousers was certainly designed to wake you up. Whilst the teams continued the competition and part of the DS went on the cross-country course, the rest took the opportunity to dismantle base camp in readiness for the journey home.

The result of the competition was not given until final parade and what a close run thing it was between team 1 and team 4, with team 1 just winning by 10 points.

Hopefully everyone who took part enjoyed it and we can now plan for the next one. Our thanks must go to all those who contributed to

The evening got off to a great start, when the Squadron, now all squeaky clean after showering, gave a marvellous rendition of Monty Python's Lumberjack Song, as a tribute to **SSgt Davy Rhodes'** arrival in the cookhouse wearing a shirt normally seen on a Canadian forestry worker.

get the show on the road and a big thanks to all Squadron OCs for allowing use of Squadron members.

Then after recovering from Ex Long Trek, the challenge was put out to 42 Sqn (Manchester) to meet on the field of combat. The first meeting was to be held at 42 Sqn (Manchester) and was a badminton competition. **Sgt (Robbo) Robertson** led an enthusiastic team to 42 Sqn, but it was not to be—42 Sqn winning 5—1. But a good night was had by all.

Undeterred the challenge continued with 42 Sqn returning to fight on HQ soil, this time at netball (mixed teams). This time HQ Sqn took the victory. Again a very enjoyable night. All participants of both events, I am sure are eagerly awaiting the next meeting, so come one, come all, HQ Sqn will have a go.

**NEWS FROM 80 SIGNAL SQUADRON (CHESTER)**
**EXERCISE MUST GO**
**Report by OCdt D. Womack**

Ex Must Go, also known to some people as Ex No, I'm Not Lost, was a competition between teams made up of a mixture of people of various ranks and ability, from different Troops within the Squadron. It took place on 10/11 February. In total there were five teams of 7 or 8 members and a team leader. The competition was designed to test each team's proficiency in various signalling and military skills and general physical fitness.

The Squadron left Gilwern on the Saturday morning for Leek Training Camp and was greeted upon arrival with a taste of the weather to come, namely rain, mist and wind. After the first parade, briefing and dishing out of food, the teams were transferred to different locations on the surrounding moors. It was at these locations that day one's five tasks were to be situated. Part of the competition being to get to each stand, and in doing so allow the team leaders a chance to demonstrate their proficiency (or lack of it) in basic map reading and navigation. Upon arriving at a stand, each team was briefed on the task to be completed and then given one hour to complete it.

The first stand my team (D) arrived at, consisted of a scenario where a patrol from HQ Sqn had gone on a find and destroy mission and had failed to maintain radio contact. It was the teams task to locate the 'lost' patrol and to bring back any casualties. It was here that **Sgt Penfold** discovered his vocation in life as a fine method actor, for he was to be the casualty. The sense of realism he gave was uncanny, in particular the look of worry and despair he gave when he was being carried along on a makeshift stretcher. So, after successfully slipping and sliding down an extremely muddy hillside and falling into the stream, D team made its way off into the mist to the NBC stand some 1½km away.

The NBC stand tested the teams ability in a situation where it was under threat of a chemical attack and also possible attack by ground forces. The usefulness of the volunteers handbook was demonstrated here when it was suggested we post a chemical sentry.

After being psuedo-gassed and subsequently covered in Fullers Earth we made our way to the next stand, Radio Relay. It was on this journey that a mutiny nearly occurred in D team. This was when the team leader, who was navigating, suggested that he wasn't really lost and that we really did have to go up that rather steep looking hillside. After a degree of debate, the mumblings of discontent, the team scrambled up the hillside to discover their target some 90° to their direction of travel. This team leader still maintains that this was going to be the case all along. However, we moved swiftly across the boggy, rainswept moorland towards our next stand, to arrive some 15 minutes late.

Radio Relay turned out to be D team's forte, considering three of the team members were from Radio Relay Troop. This task involved establishing communication between two RR dets situated 200-300 yards apart. The D team leader was unjustly punished by his team for getting them there late by being made to operate the pump.

Navigation to our next stand was somewhat easier because this time we could actually see where we were going. HF was the name of the game here and since **Cpl Tony Wylie** was the only team member who had the slightest idea of what was going on, this stand consisted mainly of him, running around like a man possessed and the rest of us looking on saying 'what do we do now **Tony**?' every 2 minutes or so.

Our final outdoor activity of the day was the Line task, consisting mainly of connecting two phones up a track, doing a buried crossing, and so across a stream to two more phones. After breaking one phone handset and re-assembling it, we made good time and finished the outdoor part of the day by running the length of the Line course, which included falling in the stream again, to form an all round defence. We made our way to the four tonner that was waiting to take us back to Leek for our evening meal.

The quiz results were to be included in the final competition results and so meant that we all had to think and drink at the same time, a tough task but we all seemed to manage. The importance of getting a good position in the quiz was so great that D team even researched a couple of their answers. This consisted of running to the NAAFI to check the colour of the F on a can of Fosters and phoning Kentucky Fried Chicken to see how many pieces you get in a bucket!

**LCpl Pritchard's** quiz was won on the night by 'The Management', a team consisting of DS. However, the highest placed competing team was D team, so proving that all that running around was not in vain.

The highlight of the exercise was next, firing the SA 80 on the 30m range. For a vast majority of the Squadron this was the first time they had fired the Army's new weapon.

Various comments were made about it, mainly positive. People generally felt it was easier to use, that the sights were such that it was virtually impossible to miss also that it was lighter. A problem with the weapon that was mentioned was that the sights tended to mist up in the rain. However, this did not seem to affect team E's shooting as they managed to score 74 out of a possible 80.

The final joy of the exercise was the assault course. The Leek course was fairly typical, with the wall, monkey bars, scramble net etc. I feel it is worth mentioning at this point the great efforts made by those members of the Squadron who have problems with heights. I'm pleased to say that their 'gusty' performances and determination meant that every member of the Squadron finished the course.

The weekend complete, 80 Sqn returned to Chester to await the announcement of what was felt to be a very closely run race.

The final result being, that D team won with E team only half a point behind. On the whole, it was as the SSM had promised it would be 'A classic, full technicolour production' and a weekend exercise that everybody enjoyed immensely. To coin an old cliché—everybody was a winner!



Members of 80 Sqn (Chester) D. Team on their way to winning the trophy during Ex Must Go



## 34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V)
## Middlesbrough

**50(N) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)**
**THE WHO'S WHO? NOMINAL ROLL OF PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Peter Woodhead TD R Signals (V)** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Peter Skinner R Signals (V)** |
| **PSAO** | **Capt Andy Bell R Signals (V)** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 John Kerry** |
| **PSI** | **SSgt Bill Laurie** |

**EXERCISE EARLY CALL**

For many years we have started the New Year with a mobilisation exercise and we were delighted to see that this year the Regiment followed our lead with Ex Early Call. We were also pleased that Comd 12 Sig Bde **Brig S. G. M. Gordon** visited us during the exercise.

We later deployed in fine weather to a communication exercise. Overnight snow changed the scene and **Cpl David Hedley** had the interesting experience of bringing his Triffid out of the Cleveland Hills down a road where the snowplough had got stuck.

**THE ANNUAL .22 SHOOTING COMPETITION**

The challenge was thrown down at the end of last year by the Volunteers to the Writers, the Talkers, and the Walkers for the .22 Shooting Competition. It is an annual event dating back many years in which the Squadron—the Volunteers challenge, the Writers (staff from the Northern Echo), the Talkers, (BBC Radio Cleveland), the Walkers (members of the Durham Special Constabulary) to display their shooting skills as a team of six members. The evening event organised by the SSM **WO2 John Kerry** was held on 15 February. Afterwards, teams retired to the JRC for a buffet supper and the award of the trophy to the winning team—50 Sig Sqn team (we wouldn't have mentioned it otherwise).

**POSTING**

There have been a number of changes and we welcome: **Capt Bob Holmes** who joins us from 90 Sqn to command G Troop at Gateshead. **WO2 Dave Walker** and **SSgt (FofS) Mick Stocks** both having recently left the Regular Army. **Pte Ritchie** takes over duties as Squadron Pay Clerk.

With hellos there are invariably farewells and we thank the following for their service: **2Lt Clive Chisholm** internal posting to 90 Sqn, **WO2 (YofS) Keith Bark** to 49 Sig Sqn and **LCpl Janice Quinn** accompanies her husband to 259 Sig Sqn Cyprus—to the envy of everyone.

**GROUP 5 ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIP**

The North East, North West and Scotland combined championships were held at Wass Forest near Thirsk North Yorkshire on Saturday 31 March. The Regiment entered teams for both the mens and womens races. The day was hot, and the courses both physically and technically demanding, with the average time for the A course well over 2 hours.

The mens' team ran well overall with **SSgt Mick Stocks** becoming the TA champion. **Sgt Gil Jordan** was second in the M40 class on the B Course and the other team members **LCpl Ian Stewart** and **Sgt Steve Lee** managed to finish in creditable times so that the team finished third overall and thus qualified for the UKLF Championships in May.

The female team were all inexperienced orienteerers and did well to finish the courses. Better luck next time.



## 35 Sig Regt (V)
## Sutton Coldfield

**NOT QUITE ANNUAL CAMP**

After a relatively calm period free of major events or exercises the Regiment is now concentrating on preparations for Annual Camp in BAOR. SOP's, Recce Reports and Routes Cards from the previous BAOR Camp have been retrieved from the Regimental archives, given a dust down and consulted by the current planning team in the hope of improving on past glories; and perhaps to ensure the same mistakes are not repeated. In fact the Recce Party was in a supremely confident and cheerful mood prior to deploying to BAOR via Hull (courtesy of North Sea Ferries) and was equally confident of achieving its objective in securing various exercise locations and assistance from supporting headquarters and Unit. Our field correspondent has reported that the Recce went so well that some of the party managed to take time out for a Battlefield Tour excursion of Arnhem.

**OFFICERS' MESS**

On Saturday 18 February the Officers' Mess held a special dinner at Sutton Coldfield to dine in the new Commanding Officer **Lt Col Brian Foxon** and his wife **Carolyn** and to say farewell to the Training Major, **Maj David Elson** and wife **Jo**. To mark his departure **David** was presented with a suitably engraved Decanter and he responded by presenting the Mess with a magnificent silver tray. **David** leaves the Army on retirement to manage a nursing home in Aboyne, Scotland. We wish him and **Jo** every success for the future. We also extend a warm welcome to the new Training Major, **Maj Lance Byrne** and his wife **Sarah**, QM, **Capt Rod Gladwin** and his wife **Shirley**, 2IC RRTT, **Capt David Munson** and our long awaited Medical Officer, **Capt Colin Holborn** from 202 Gen Hosp (V).

Finally commiserations are extended to **Capt Colin Meikle** of 89 Sqn who not only lost his place on the Recce Party at the last minute which he found most distressing, but even worse during a training weekend found the rock in his sleeping bag was in fact a cow pat! Keep your boots on next time **Colin.**



A sneak preview of a Battlefield Tour or is it the Annual Camp Recce Party?



LCpl Di Maddocks and Sig Adrian Dixon, LCpl Dick Jones and LCpl Di Mouland test drive the new Line Rover!

**WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS BURNS NIGHT**

The main event so far this year in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess was the dining-in of our new Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Brian Foxon.** The occasion was quite unique in that the CO is Irish and was dined into a Birmingham based Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at a 'Burns Supper'. The celebration of Burns Night in the Mess is now traditional and to dine in the new CO during this annual event was too good an opportunity for the RSM, **WO1 Mick O'Hare** to miss. The evening was a tremendous success and our resident chefs, **WO2 Mick Kearney** and **Sgt John Byrne** are to be congratulated on producing a superb meal.



LCpl Smith about to serve the Haggis to the Top Table

**WELCOME AND FAREWELL**

Recent arrivals to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess are **SSgt Bill Dyson** as PSI 58 Sqn, **Sgt Graham Wilkinson** as PSI 95 Sqn and **SSgt Dave Arnot** an ex PSI who has returned to the Regiment as NRPS of 89 Sqn; we have it on good authority that **Dave** now knows the difference between a Vehicle Decontamination Kit and a BCF Fire Extinguisher. We wish all our new arrivals and their families a happy and rewarding tour. Newcomers on promotion include: **WSgt Margaret Hughes** and **Sgt John Bagnall** of 48 Sqn, **Sgts Kevin Hand, Malcolm Barrington-Clarke, Nigel Knowles** and **Phil Johnson** all of 58 Sqn, **Sgt Dave Butlin** of 89 Sqn and **W/Sgt Angie Strawson** of 95 Sqn. During the last few months we bade farewell to **WO2 Danny Harewood** on his retirement from the TA, **Sgt Bert Angus** on his retirement from the Regular Army and to **SSgt Alan Hoensch** who leaves the Regiment on promotion to WO2. By the time this goes to print he will have forever impressed himself on the minds and hearts of all RSSSC students—our loss will be Catterick's gain.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Our congratulations are extended to the following Mess Members on their selection for promotion in the coming year: **SSgt Pete Marsh REME, Sgts Kate Williams, Alan Balderstone** and **Clive Williams** who is posted to 3 Armd Div Sig Regt in October and **SSgt Dave McLuskey.**

**48 SQUADRON**

The Squadron started to prepare for BAOR Camp with two eventful weekends in March. For the weekend 2/4 March, 48 Sqn was again asked to provide A Coy 5 RRF with a platoon for a 143 Inf Bde FTX, Ex Polar Dawn. Although infanteering (did someone say soldiering?) does not form a major part of Squadron life, our intrepid bunch of potential soldiers competently led by **2Lt** (Officer of the Year) **Chris Heaton** produced a performance of which they could be proud. The gallant platoon inspired by their equally courageous leader engaged in section attacks and played an active part in Battalion and Brigade attacks on positions held by 5RRF's long established sparring partner, the Royal Anglians. This exciting weekend also involved night time river crossings, aided by the Royal Engineers, and hair raising heliborne assaults from RAF Chinooks and Pumas. Our main concern now is how to prevent numerous requests for transfer to Airborne Signals.

More fundamental work was done during Ex Pronto Playtime during the weekend 17/18 March. The theory was that a normal Regimental Communication exercise was to be staged. The planners, who clearly hadn't consulted the sporting calendar, had forgotten that England was playing Scotland for the Grand Slam on the same day. Our reputation for maintaining communication at all costs unfortunately suffered due to an unexpected major technical failure; by sheer coincidence links were fully restored after the match. The same couldn't be said for morale as the disappointment of the Rugby result hung like a cloud over the Wyre Forest for several hours. That was until 2245 hrs when 48 Sqn proved yet again how useful they are by successfully defending their site (which included the Regimental CP) from an SAS attack and capturing two SAS troopers in the process.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Many congratulations to **Cpl Andy Baugh** and **Pte Donna Best** on their recent marriage and to **Sgt Jan Kalinski, Cpl Lee Vincent** and **LCpl Baugh** on their promotion.

## 58 SQUADRON
### EXERCISE COLD FRONTIER

Ex Cold Frontier is the annual 58 Sig Sqn infantry exercise. The Squadron is divided into two equal teams/platoons. For three months prior to the exercise news releases and intelligence briefs were posted informing all personnel of the unrest in a nearby Fantasian area. Just after Christmas (well you wouldn't go to war during Christmas, would you?) the tension was so high that 58 Sqn was called in to sort out the matter. So off we went/deployed to Nessclifffe Training Area our Op Loc to deal with some very nasty urban terrorists. The terrorists were led by **Cpl Mick Bagguley** who set up a mobile base in the back of a 4 Ton GS PAX. The British reinforcements were commanded by **WLCpl Norma Evans** (who would like to thank her Dad—**WO2 Evans** for all the kit which allowed them to be warm and comfortable during the Op).

The first night, Friday, was spent establishing the relevant HQs and sending out patrols. Saturday morning saw the DS making a tactical retreat to the UN base where **SQMS Kevin Robinson** produced something unrecognisable which he called breakfast. This was the first of many culinary disasters which ended up with a partially baked GS table courtesy of **WO2 Bill Lambert** watched with horror by our NRPS **SSgt Stew** (pity we didn't get any) **Waring**. A simple case of two many cooks! The first success of the exercise/operation was unfortunately by the terrorists who captured one of our sections commanded by **LCpl Adge Lewis**. He, to the surprise and bewilderment of his section gave up peacefully and was whisked off for interogation. **LCpl Lewis** however managed to dupe the terrorists and escaped with his section with more intelligence about the terrorists including equipment radio frequencies and methods of operation. In the meantime the UN Force, consisting of cadets from the local ACF Unit decided that far from remaining as neutral observers they could not resist taking sides and took every opportunity (strictly controlled) to loose off blank rounds at anything that moved. Although a fun exercise valuable lessons were learned and our infantry skills were certainly improved.

The unprecedented action by the rogue cadets precipitated full scale attacks from both sides which led to the end of the exercise and a hearty breakfast. Although a fun exercise our infantry skills have improved beyond imagination.

### NEW YEAR CHANGES

First news of newcomers to the Squadron and fond farewells to those who have moved on to pastures new. We always like to see new faces and we give a warm welcome to **Ptes Dominique Hope, Jean Hurlin, Gillian Moore, Louise Scott, Sig Stewart Kennedy, Davydd Ankrett** and **Ian Young**. We hope to welcome **Julian Barrington-Clarke** the son of our MT Sergeant joining us from the cadet force—which proves that the TA really is a family affair.

We say goodbye to **Pte Fox, Sig David Baddeley, Jock Nibloe** and **Cpl 'Dolly' Parton** who have joined the Regular Army. They clearly enjoyed the TA so much they decided to make a career in the Army.

## 95 SQUADRON

95 Sqn continues to go against the national trend by increasing their membership and maintaining a Squadron that is not short of manpower and can even help others suffering short term deficiencies. The highlight of our social activities recently was the annual dinner at which the OC and RSM were principal guests. The dinner was an outstanding success.

During the weekend 3/4 March the Squadron participated in Ex Four Wheel Drive. As the name suggests it involved extensive off the road driving over extremely difficult terrain in the Telford Area. It proved a hair-raising experience.

Like other Squadrons in the Regiment we too have said goodbye to some long and faithful members and also welcomed one or two into or back into the fold. We have said goodbye and bon voyage to **2Lt David Threadgold** who has left us for Australia for a year's work experience (we could have given him that, but he fancied getting it down under instead).

We also said farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Danny Harewood** on his retirement from the TA. We welcome into the fold **2Lt Richard Morris** and **WO2 (SSM) Bob Keen** and back into the fold **OCdt Jim Simpson** who rejoined us after a short spell jumping from aircraft with 264 Sig Sqn. Although he seems a little shorter we welcome him back into the potential Officer training programme.



# 36 Sig Regt (V)
# Wanstead

### VISIT/PRESENTATIONS

On Thursday 22 February the GOC London District **Maj Gen S. C. Cooper** visited the Regiment. It commenced at Ilford where the LAD workshops are situated and the General was able to talk to the REME personnel while they were engaged in trade training. He went on to Wanstead TA Centre where he was briefed on the Regiment's role by the CO **Lt Col Conlon**. Afterwards the GOC toured the remainder of the centre and met personnel from RHQ and HQ Sqn. Here he watched the Euromux and Triffid detachments in operation. At the end of the training evening the General was asked to present TD and Efficiency Medals to members of the Regiment.

**Capts Allan WRAC, Blake** and **Redrup** received the TDs awards, **SSgt Day WRAC** was presented with an Efficiency Medal and **Cpl Hales** received a Clasp to his Efficiency Medal.



*(Left to right):* Cpl Hales, SSgt Day, GOC Maj Gen S. C. Cooper, Capts Allan WRAC, Blake and Redrup

### 752 TROOP'S YEAR

1989 was an interesting and successful year for 752 Tp, 45 Sqn's premier soldiers! **Lt Nigel Brunn** and **Sgt Ken Blackman** left after long and valued service and were replaced by **OCdt** (now 2Lt) **Mark Smith** and **Sgt Pete Stockwell.**

The Troop's European tour in Holland and Belgium on Ex Windward Reach was good fun and also proved that we could provide good communications and keep smiling even under the most adverse conditions—at Regiment's site anyway, with mosquitos, bed-bugs and patrolling WO2's!

Troop 'Super Trooper', top soldier was **LCpl Babester**, the best lineman in the Regiment. He is in fact the Troop's longest serving member.



*Back row (left to right):* Cpl Nicholls, LCpl Glynn, Pte Eve, LCpl Dyball and Sig Hayes
*Front row (left to right):* Pte Trotsenberg, LCpl Babester, 2Lt Smith, Sgts Stockwell and Jones
*Absent:* LCpl Wadwell, Pte Cutler and LCpl Honeywell



# 38 Sig Regt (V)
# Sheffield

## 64 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) (SHEFFIELD)

Now that the necessary tasks of yearly stores board, weapon and vehicle inspections are over, 64 Sqn can look forward to enjoying the more interesting aspects of TA life.

The first weekend away this year was at RAF Digby in Lincolnshire, where members were able to gain those last minute bounty qualifications. NBC, First Aid, APWT and the dreaded BFT were all covered during the two days at Digby and although many Squadron personnel had already qualified, over 80 turned out for a little more practice or for a refresher.

Saturday night was undoubtedly the highlight of the weekend. The fun commenced at 2000 hrs with the SNCOs organising a Casino atmosphere; Roulette, Poker, Blackjack and snap all were played with (unfortunately!) monopoly money. This was followed by a buffet and disco, courtesy of RAF Digby.

Congratulations are in order for those members of the Squadron who have recently gained promotion. Well done to **Sgts Hillary Horton, Chris Travis, Mickey Rooney** and **Stewart Sinclair**. Promoted to Corporal are **Pete Horton** and **Andy Wragg** and to Lance Corporal, **Jane Lindley, Michelle Cliff, Simon Parkin** and **Boris Plant**.

Recent newcomers to 64 Sqn start at the top with our OC, **Maj David Rigley**. **2Lt Vicki Walker** moved from 87 Sqn (Nottingham) on gaining her commission and has been joined by **2Lts Jayne Boulton** and **Steve Lee-Jones** from Sheffield UOTC.



Cpl Julie Potts assists LCpl Sally Burton with her webbing during NBC Training

## 87 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) (NOTTINGHAM)

**'And then there was one . . .'**

Nottingham bids farewell to OC, **Maj Mike Wright** who has moved to Regimental Headquarters to take up the appointment of Regimental Operations Officer. **Maj Wright** was one of the only two members at Nottingham who have been with 38 Sig Regt (V) since it was formed in 1968. Although we feel sure he will relish his new role as Operations Officer, we know **Maj Wright** will always treasure fond memories of his many years with 87 Sqn. Our long serving Corporal **Cpl Roger Poole** (a clandestine marathon runner and superman on the quiet!), now holds the title of the longest serving member of the Squadron. Stick with us **Roger**!



We welcome back **Maj Mike Petty**, who rejoins us to take command of the Unit and congratulate him on his success. We also welcome **Capt Frank Atkins** as our newly appointed 2IC.

Despite tying the knot only recently, newly weds **LCpls Craig** and **Vicky Toft** found time to compete with 87 Sqn in the Devils Leap and Maiden Scurry teams at Catterick. Although no prizes came our way, both teams put in a tremendous amount of effort before and during the competition; we have high hopes for 1990!

**Sgt Noel Smith** has retired after 19 years service. **Sgt Smith** was a valued member of the team at Nottingham and will be sadly missed; we all wish him well for the future.

## 93 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) (BLACKBURN)
### EXERCISE MAIDEN SCURRY

This exercise is organised by NEDist and controlled by 3 Bn Yorkshire Volunteers so how is it that 93 Sqn are involved I hear you ask. As 93 Sqn is based in Blackburn and Manchester and has its RHQ in Sheffield, the Unit is fortunate in receiving invitations to compete in various military competitions from both North West and North East District. One such competition is Maiden Scurry and as the name implies, it is a patrol type competition for WRAC.

As is customary with the girls of 93 Sqn there was no shortage of volunteers and the team of 10 was quickly formed. Preparatory training, including intensive fitness and subjects not normally covered in the Squadron's usual programme got under way. Our thanks go to OC D Coy 4 QLR in particular, for providing specialist instructors, and to our PSI's, **SSgt Mick Pound** and **Sgt Tony Bentley**, for giving up their free time to assist and advise.



The 93 Sig Sqn Maiden Scurry Team

Soon the expected day dawned and off to darkest Yorkshire went our gallant band led in singing by **Pte Haworth** with verses known and some unknown! At 0730 hrs on 16 November the girls led by **Sgt Heather Kenny**, crossed the start point and went into the Command Task which consisted of recovering a casualty from an island whilst under fire. I should point out that this was a real island and a real boat, not the usual mine tape cordoned off concrete, in conjunction with a vivid DS imagination. The clock was beaten and valuable points were collected. NBC and military-skills followed in quick succession. Due to bad visibility, the shoot was delayed and then cancelled.

The final task of the day was the Obstacle Course which involved gaining access to a farm building via a barbed wire tunnel and once the building was cleared, exiting from a first floor on a rope slide. Unfortunately rope sliding had not been part of the girls training but all went at it with a vengeance including **Ptes Barron** and **Scone**.

Night fell and the team paused for a quick brew and a snack. Then on to the Night Shoot and, the gaining of second place, thanks to various hot shots. This was followed by the Night Navigation phase which proved to be arduous but was completed in time which gained us bonus points. The chance of a few hours sleep was grabbed with both hands for the remaining event was the dreaded March and Shoot.

The final event became an anticipated hard slog over rough terrain and although the team suffered a few minor injuries, the fitness training paid off. Likewise the shoot did not present any real problems and so the competition ended. As military competitions go, it was tiring and difficult but thanks to the planning by the sponsor Unit and NE District it proved of great value, especially to the younger and newer girls. As it was the team gained fourth place in 1989 but intend to 'go for gold' this year.

## 39 Sig Regt(SC) (V)
## City of London

**1 SQUADRON**

Since the Squadron's last entry, there have been many changes including the departure of **Maj Nigel Keleher** to concentrate on directing 'Sky' news and his replacement as Squadron Commander by **Capt Philip Moore**, previously 2IC. The Squadron has greatly benefited from the arrival of our first PSO, **Capt Alex Leitch**. Apart from keeping it on the straight and narrow, his many talents include overfeeding the Officers and Sergeants on drill nights at the Regimental barbecues.

The period of intense trade training weekends towards the end of the year culminated with Ex Farne Deep—a Regimental Communication exercise. This was a great success, for which the Regiment thanks the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry for its contribution to it. Part of the Squadron was luckly enough to be deployed to Cyprus and was heard to complain that the weather was not quite warm enough! For those of us who held the fort back in the UK the weekend was not without event. A practical joke meant for MT's **Cpl Jenny Hall** succeeded in locking the OC out of the Camp.

The shooting team enjoyed another successful year with the 1 Sqn contingent qualifying for the final of the London District 0.22 Target Rifle Match, held at Wellington Barracks. The team of **Cpl Tony Mather, Sig Steve Bland, Sig Dave Misell** and **Sig Dave Hedges** came a respectable third overall and went on to the London District Skill-at-Arms meeting.

A newly formed 14 man team entered the London District Orienteering Championships held on a wet and windy day in February. **LCpl Ray Rock, Sgt John Harrison** and **LCpl Clive Sillence**, in particular, demonstrated a flair for the sport and the team plans to enter the competition next year.

Earlier this year, we were visited by GOC London District, **Maj Gen S. C. Cooper**. This was a particularly happy occasion because **WO2 (CSM) Carolyn Baker** was presented with her Territorial Efficiency Medal and **SSgt (ORSQMS) Alan Gillard** his LS & GC Medal. As well as members of the Squadron and RHQ witnessing the presentation, we were pleased to welcome the friends and families of the recipients, affording them an opportunity to glimpse some of the activities that take up so much of our time. After the presentation, the GOC made a tour of the building to see the Squadron at trade training.



*(Left to right):* Mrs Baker, WO2 (CSM) Baker, Maj Gen Cooper GOC Londist and SSgt (ORSQMS) Gillard

There are many Squadron and Regimental events planned. At Easter, the 'wedding of the year' took place between **Sgt Hilary Breach** and **Cpl Brian Higgins** (3 Sqn). Congratulations! Annual Camp is being held in the first two weeks of June. Because of the dispension of the Regimental TACs this is the only chance the Regiment has to get together during the year—with rather permanent consequences in some cases!

The Squadron has chartered the Corps yacht, 'Skywave', for two weeks in August. Having taken advantage of the excellent facilities available at JSSC, we now have a hardcore of enthusiastic sailors with ever increasing experience.

With one thing and another it promises to be a very busy year.



## HQ Queen's Gurkha Signals
## BFPO 1

**THE MACAU GRAND PRIX 1989**
**by WO1 (GSM) Mick Pawlak**

Despite, and I choose that word deliberately, the efforts of those designated to produce *Wire* notes from the four Squadrons of Queens Gurkha Signals, articles do, from time to time, succeed in reaching the pages of the Corps Magazine. Invariably though, they originate from the 'Sabre', sorry, 'Kukri' Squadrons that is 246, 247, 248 Gurkha Sig Sqns, and lean and mean HQ Sqn (perhaps one day the script, correctly laid out, in English, with photographs that actually go with the script will appear on my desk, on time . . . 'to sleep . . . perchance to dream?).

For those who are not familiar with life in Hong Kong there is another department, based in the misty reaches of Headquarters, British Forces (HQBF) in HMS *Tamar*, that is manned predominantly by Queens' Gurkha Signals personnel and, on occasions, they do venture forth out of the 'Ivory Tower'. I am referring, of course, to the Joint Services Signals Staff (JSSS), Commanded by **Lt Col Hamish Adams MBE** who combines the duties of Commander Queens Gurkha Signals with the duties of Commander Communications Far East Theatre. (The Colonel has two hobbies, first his beloved hockey, and second, throwing the RAF football team off his hockey pitch!).

In addition to communications duties, JSSS also undertakes equipment management, Signal works services, frequency management and any Operational Comms matters between UK, Hong Kong, Brunei, Nepal, Sabah or wherever there are British servicemen.

The current staff of JSSS is:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Head of JSSS/Comd Comms** | **Lt Col H. M. Adams MBE** |
| **Dep Head/SO2 Comms (RN)** | **Lt Cdr Richard Ward RN** |
| **SO2 Comms (Army)** | **Maj Stewart Law MBE** |
| **SO2 Comms (Tels/Wks)** | **Maj (Retd) Bob Stather** |
| **Ops YofS** | **WO1 (YofS) Gus Colville** |
| **Chief Clerk** | **WO2 (ORQMS) Terry Morrisey** |
| **Clerk** | **WLCpl Nicki Hodge** |

**THE MACAU GRAND PRIX 1989**
**by WO1 (YofS) Gus Colville**

Saturday saw the first race day provide thrills and excitement for the 20,000 crowd. Unfortunately, there was a slight drizzle which made the track slippery and too dangerous for motorcycles. Consequently, the motorcycle GP was supended in the hope that it could be squeezed into an already tight schedule the following day. The minor races such as the Novice cars, Classic cars and ACP Trophy went ahead causing an upturn in trade for car bodywork shop workers! Very few drivers negotiated their required number of laps without leaving some part of the vehicle dented or scraped on walls and armco barriers.

Sunday, the big race day, arrived with a capacity crowd and good weather. The first big race was for Ghia cars with favourites **Andy Rouse** and **Tim Harvey** in Ford RS5000 Cosworths. The previous year, **Rouse** led until the last lap, the 35th, before engine problems slowed him down and allowed the two following BMWs to pass to take first and second place. This year was to be almost a repeat. **Rouse**, a familiar name to race fans, led until the 30th lap (reduced race due to the tight schedule) when he was overtaken by **Tim Harvey**. This year the problem was faulty suspension. Third place Formula 1 reserve, **Emanuele Pirro** crashed into the armco on the dangerous Fishermans Bend, allowing **Rouse** to limp home into second place, Robbed again!

The premier race, the Formula 3 Grand Prix, was to be run in two stages, each of 15 laps, with the best combined times being used for overall placings. The big names were all at the front of the grid: **Otto Rensing, David Brabham, Paul Stewart, David McNish** and **Andy Irvine**. The race start went off without a hitch but on the first bend, the notorious Statue Corner, the leader **Rensing** skidded on an oily patch causing **McNish, Irvine** and two other drivers to collide. **Brabham** and **Stewart** avoided the carnage and sped on only to find the race halted. Fifty minutes later the race restarted, minus **Irvine** who did not have a second car, and **McNish** who was disqualified on a technicality because his mechanics were repairing his damaged superstructure on the grid. A fast and furious race saw a surprise winner in **Michael Schumacher** with **Brabham** second and Briton **Julian Bailey** third.





## 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## (205 Sig Sqn)
## Aldershot

**SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj M. W. Edwards** |
| **2IC** | **Capt J. Turner** |
| **AO** | **Capt J. Aspinall** |
| **Ops Offr** | **Capt S. R. Workman** |
| **RSM** | **WO1 (RSM) M. A. Granitza** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (YofS) G. M. McCrindle** |
| **CC** | **Sgt J. Richards** |

We have had a quiet few months punctuated by one or two notable events.

The Alpine skiing team took part in Ex Pipedown held again this year in Galtur, Austria. The team performed well, and returned home with the accolade of UKLF Minor Unit Runners-Up.

The Troops continued to find themselves involved in the day to day exercises and commitments both large and small with ever diminishing manpower.

The Squadrons recruiting team toured the BAOR Units in February trawling for volunteers. Thirty six soldiers are now awaiting places on pre-para and P Coy. If you missed our presentation and are interested in joining the Squadron, apply through your Orderly Rooms for a pre-para—we look forward to seeing you. The first Leading Parachute Battalion Group (LPBG) exercise of the year was held on Stanford Training Area in March and was a great success.

**ALPHA TROOP**

The Troop is in a quiet period with a number of personnel away on various courses.

**SSgt Eddie Grattidge** has been counting blankets on the RQMS course and shortly heads for the AEC to check whether he was counting as per EPC training. **Cpl 'Spud' Murphy** and **LCpl Bohanna** are currently pushing pens in Catterick on A1 courses. **LCpl 'Ritchie' Long** has recently returned from Brecon after passing the Pathfinders Selection Cadre—a tremendous achievement and well deserved. Congratulations also for first place on the RSDCC in December 1989. Asked to comment on his recent exploits in Brecon he replied 'It makes P Coy seem like a stroll in the park on a sunny Sunday afternoon'. **LCpl Chris Coates** also attempted the cadre, however, this was not his lucky year, but Pathfinder Platoon had told him to re-apply next year. Good try, **Chris**.

**LCpl 'Steve' Navesey** and **Sig Ford** are enjoying a sunny six weeks in Kenya with the RRF, and still no sign of a postcard! **Sig 'Gas' Shuck** has been recounting many Omani tales from his exercise with 1 Para.

The ambulance strike gave three members of the Troop a chance to carry out real first aid. **Sig 'Mad' Mount, LCpl 'Dinger Bell** and **Sig 'Jonah' Jones** have blue lighted all around the Midlands. Congratulations to **LCpl Bell** on his recent promotion.

**Sig 'Gaz' Christie** is still at Brize Norton on the 'No' jumps course—perhaps he'll return in time for Christmas. **Sig 'Mo' Morris** has been improving Army/Navy relations aboard HMS *Challenger*, while **Sig 'Jake' Rosser** did the same on HMS *Campbelltown*.

**Cpl 'Dougie' Craig** has left the Troop for a three month tour in Northern Ireland with 2 Para, complete with new DZ flash and SA 80.

Two departures to report, **LCpl 'Scouse' Delaney** leaves for Catterick on promotion and **Sig 'Jonah' Jones** heads for London to join 238 Sig Sqn. Good luck to them.

Two NCOs have escaped through the Troop wire, **SSgt Chris McGinley** to Trg Wing and **Sgt Andy Dawson** to Bravo Tp.

Finally, good luck to the four Troop members who are about to be thrown to the lions on pre-para, **Sgt Mez Merrill, Cpl Dave Girling, Sig Skeg Carroll** and **Mo Morris**.

**BRAVO TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp Comd** | **Lt Rob Healey** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Fred Hutchinson** |
| **Tp Sgts** | **Sgt John O'Driscoll** |
| | **Sgt Andy Dawson** |
| | **Sgt Jack Hawkins** |

During this period B Troop has had only a couple of major commitments, however courses and detachments have kept most members of the Troop extremely busy. At the start of November the whole Troop deployed to France on Ex Purple Venture. The Squadron combined with 244 Sig Sqn and 30 Sig Regt to make a composite Signal Regiment and this worked well.

The other main event was an internally run communication cadre organised by **Lt Rob Healey** and **YofS McCrindle**. The cadre took place at Browndown Camp between 22-26 January amidst hurricane force winds. The cadre proved to be a great success and this was largely due to the various instructors, **SSgt Hutchinson, Sgts O'Driscoll, Merrill, Cpls Craig, Bernstein, Girling, Taylor** and **LCpl Hails**.

Various members of the Troop are currently detached, **Cpl Jonah Jones** and **LCpl Phil Smithurst** are in Kenya with 1 RRF, **Cpl Chris Brown** is in Chile on Op Raleigh and **LCpl Gratrick** and **Sig Tinnion** are in Northern Ireland with 2 Para.

**LCpl Pete Lawn** was the lucky operator who went on Ex Rocky Lance with 1 Para in the Oman. It is of particular note that **LCpl Gratrick**, whilst on his RSDCC attaining an overall fourth place, smashed the existing BFT record.

Unfortunately the Troop has said goodbye to several members. **LCpl Forster** has been posted to Berlin and **Sig Dougan** and **LCpl Phelps** have decided to apply their talents in civilian life. We wish them all the best for the future and hope that they return for some of the many reunions are being held during Para 90.

Finally two continuing sagas result in firstly **LCpl Steve Hails** being stranded with **Sig Morris** (A Troop) in Gibraltar having sailed down on HMS *Challenger* during a recent Jocomex. Secondly **LCpl Cave** is now into his second month of his Basic Parachute Course but has yet to jump. **LCpl Cave** is fortunate that he did not have the Admin Officer, **Capt John Aspinall**, as his Safety Officer because I'm sure that he would have completed all of his jumps by now, whatever the wind speeds—'It's OK lads, it's only 5 knots!'.

During February the Troop was kept busy preparing for the exercise season. It deployed on Ex Long Hop which took place from 26 February to 1 March. It was the first one that **Sgt 'Jack' Hawkins** had taken part in since returning to the Squadron after four years with Pathfinder Platoon.

**Lt Rob Healey, Cpl Spencer Cave** and **LCpl Phil Smithurst** attended a rigging course at RAF Brize Norton while **Sgt John O'Driscoll** and **LCpl Pete Lawn** were involved in a photo session with the Regimental Colonel.

Ex Red Lanyard I was the first major exercise of the year. It involved a night jump onto the Thetford Training Area followed by subsequent operations. **Cpl Bernstein, LCpls Ollie Oliver** and **Pete Lawn** were all involved in further operations, the latter two doing another night jump into Scotland.

**MOVEMENTS—STOP PRESS**

**Sgt John O'Driscoll** is now on resettlement and **Sgt Andy Dawson** is in Belize, having just been selected for promotion. **Cpl Bernstein** has successfully completed the YofS Selection Board and **Cpl Brown** has returned from Chile. Welcome to **Sig Gardiner** who has joined the Troop straight from 8 Sig Regt.

**QM DEPARTMENT**

The department managed to sail through the forecast choppy seas whilst **Sgt 'Scouse' Reid** was away on his RSSSC. During his absence, **Cpl Dave Turner** was thrust headlong into the hot seat. Things were ticking over nicely until someone gave him a pen. **Sgt Martin Gear** offered the odd piece of advice, which proved to be very odd indeed! The RQMS, **WO2 Steve Clarke** continued to lead the orienteering team with great prowess, however he still has big problems finding the NAAFI.

**Sgt Reid** was successful in passing his RSSSC, and very soon is due to leave us for 249 Sig Sqn. He will be missed by the department, especially by **Cpl Jeff Whittaker** (RCT), who will now have to *buy* his own NAAFI breaks instead of raiding Scouse's personal larder!

Also fond farewell to **Cpl 'Panda' Turner** on his way to AFCENT. Who will make the tea when he's gone?

**SSgt 'Mac' McKenzie** also successfully passed his course, 'How to get off work for six weeks' with an 'A' grading. On a more serious note we are all happy to hear his sickness is not as serious as first thought, although he is not out of the woods yet.

The Department's Airborne element has increased by the success on P Coy of **LCpl Lynch** and **Pte Phil Smithson**, well done lads. A special

mention for the Quartermaster, **Capt Fred Bancroft**, on passing the course at 43 years; an example to all of us!

Congratulations also to **LCpl Dewar** on passing his AIPT Course, although now we will all be doubling around the R & I Bay. Congratulations to **Sig Stu Totten** and **Maxine** on the birth of their son, **Robert**.

Stop Press: **Sig Dave Pilgrim**, although now in 7 Sig Regt, will continue to haunt us.

**M TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp OC** | **WO2 (FofS) P. Gaffney** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Phil Green** |
| **Tp Cpl** | **Stu Archer** |
| **Cpl** | **Matt Wigley** |

M Troop has seen a fairly quiet start to 1990 with Troop members away living it up 'on the ambulances' all over the country. The year started with congratulations to **Cpls Andy Lothian** and **Matt Wigley** for coming second and third on their RSDCC, followed a few weeks later by **Cpl Andy Paton** who came top of his course and got an 'A' grade.

Sportwise, M Troop has been successfully involved in the Squadron Cross Country with the team winning the SE District Championships, held at Deepcut, for the fourth year running. The team was well represented in the top runners, with **Sgt Nick Preston** winning the race well ahead of anyone else.

**Cpl Stu Archer** has just returned from a lucrative recruitment tour of our Units in BAOR with a good reaction and plenty of names, so hopefully we will see some more keen faces here soon.

**TROOP WELCOMES**

We have seen the return of **Cpl Matt Wigley**, as well as the arrival of **Cpl Andy Scott, LCpl Chris Palmer** and **Sig Carter**.

**TROOP FAREWELLS**

The Troop has lost **Cpl Kenny Read** to civvy street and so good luck as he starts a new life in Australia. **Cpl Gerry McGovern** is also off to Civ Div and takes the Troop's best wishes for him and his family. The final goodbye is to **LCpl Lawrence Casci**, enjoy 30 Sig Regt.

**REPORT FROM TRAINING WING**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Trg SNCO** | **SSgt Nick Nielson** |
| **Comms SNCO** | **SSgt Chris McGinley** |
| **Trg Sgt** | **Sgt John Black** |
| **APTI** | **Cpl Clive Smith** |
| | **LCpl Glen Suttenwood PRC** |
| **Computer Op** | **Cpl Tommy Taylor** |

**EXERCISE WELSH WONDER**

During February, 10 AB Wksps invited a platoon of men from the Squadron to join them on their company live firing Battle Camp in Sennybridge.

The men were greeted in Sennybridge by **CSM Keith Wilder**. Amid horizontal rain and low flying sheep, **Sig Gaz Shuck** was heard to say 'Is there any chance of this being cancelled?'. **SSgt Nick Nielson, Sgt Bob Wrigley RPC** and three men from 1 Para Machine Gun Platoon, with a great deal of ammunition, were to assist the running of the exercise.



Pte Clarke RPC on the GPMG SF. 'Am I hitting the target?'



Sig Girling setting the sights on the Browning .50, 'Did he say 2000?'

Unfortunately, owing to heavy commitments, the Squadron could only release a section to this worthwhile exercise.

The live firing consisted of all stages to train the battle shot, ie APWT, individual and team battle shooting, CQB, section and platoon attacks using 21mm sub cal L2 grenades, night defence shoots, bunker bashing and low level light air defence shoot. Other ranges included M79 firing 40mm HE, 66mm LAW Heat, GPMG SF and Browning .50 cal heavy machine gun.

The Battle Camp concluded with a three day airborne exercise deploying and withdrawal by Chinook helicopter.

**PRE-PARA 11**

12 February saw the start of a Squadron Pre-Para, one of the many run each year. **Sgt John Black** heads these courses assisted by **Cpl Clive Smith. LCpl Suttenwood** (RPC) was otherwise engaged on his Section Commanders' Course. He is to be congratulated on his 'Top Student' award. Fortunately, **Cpl Stu Archer** was available and very willing to help out with the running of Pre-Para.

The aim of Pre-Para is to build up soldiers, and to harden them, in preparation for P Coy. This is achieved over three weeks. The first week being quite easy, consisting of running, gym work and swimming, and ending the week with an introduction to marching with packs.

The second week is somewhat harder and involves learning how to speed march. Students are also introduced to the assault course and steeplechase, ending the week with a 15 mile march over the South Downs.

Week three is a rest week to allow students to recover in time for P Coy. Confidence is built up by completing two of the P Coy tests. On Monday, the students have to complete three laps of the assault course in 7½ mins and two laps of the steeplechase in 18 mins. The remainder of the week is taken up with sport and medicals. The course normally disperses on the Thursday.



The start of the Pre Para assault course



**COMMUNICATION CADRE**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OIC Cadre** | **Lt Rob Healey** |
| **Chief Instructor** | **WO2 (YofS) Mac McCrindle** |
| **Trade Trg SNCO** | **SSgt Chris McGinley** |
| **Admin SNCO** | **SSgt Fred Hutchinson** |
| **Instructors** | **Sgt John O'Driscoll** |
| | **Sgt Mez Merrill** |
| | **Cpl Berni Bernstein** |
| | **Cpl Dougi Craig** |
| | **Cpl Tommy Taylor** |
| | **Cpl Trev Bailey** |
| | **Cpl Dave Girling** |
| | **LCpl Eddy Corcoran** |
| | **LCpl Steve Hails** |
| **Chef** | **LCpl 'Pilchards' Parks AAC** |

The Cadre took place at Browndown Camp, near Gosport (very scenic). Our thanks go to 63 Sqn SAS(V) for the use of their Troop Drill Hall. The aim of the Cadre was to refresh and cross train the Squadron's operators. All the Corporal Detachment Commanders were tasked with providing lesson plans, and the subjects taught within the week ranged from the Tac Sat, to the Home Defence Radio.

The daily routine was not just sitting in a classroom. A run at 0700 hrs in torrential rain and Force 9 gales; the seaside does have its drawbacks! Many thanks to **LCpl Greg** 'Sports Billy' **Harwood** for his enthusiasm and Airborne spirit. He made up for what we lack, at that time of the morning.

Throughout the week all the JNCOs were given tasks which they carried out exceptionally well. For those on the Cadre who thought they were going to sit in the classroom all week, their bubble was burst as the Yeoman's HF lesson was conducted outside. The weather was atrocious, but the Yeoman had brought his Gortex, so out they went into the rain and hail; for those who had forgotten their Gortex, the good old GS plastic bin bag came into use, **Sig Steve Girling** will vouch for that! The highlight of the week was on Thursday 25th when Hurricane Hugo struck us. Being 25m from the sea, we felt the full force of the hurricane, 63 Sqn take note: We didn't smash up your antennas, it was Hugo! We must not forget to mention **Sgt Taff '264' Dale** who extended his Troop's hospitality to us selflessly, thanks **Taff**. The week's training concluded with a round robin, followed by a quiz. Each section completed four tasks ranging from passing a message over the 319 to the Trend Cossor test. There were some surprising results on the Trend. (Biannuals Skills in April.) The final was the quiz, resulting in a win for B Section, **Cpl Shane Rook, LCpl Crooks** and **Sig Gaz Shuck** who were rewarded with a pot of tea and three cups. The remainder got the beer, 'only following orders', **Lt Rob Healey** said.

On Friday 26th we all returned to Aldershot expecting to deploy on Op Orderly. Glad to say we didn't, well some of us at least: on reflection it was a week well spent and we look forward to the next one in Jamaica.

**VISIT TO HMS *CAMPBELLTOWN***
**Report by Sgt Tom Owen**

'How would you like a 10 day holiday in Gibraltar and Portugal?' said **Yeoman Mac McCrindle**. 'Love to', replied **Sig** 'Psycho' **Rosser** and I.

And here began one of the most fluid experiences of my army career.

We left Aldershot Central at 0630 hrs for Luton International Airport and boarded the aircraft. At 30,000ft and 400 mph we were soon on our way to sunny Gib. On arrival we made our way to HMS *Rook* where we were informed that it would be several hours before we would be able to board HMS *Campbelltown*, so we decided to play the tourist meanwhile. We eventually boarded the ship, and were met by Radio Supervisor **'Al Boyce'**. After introductions we were shown our respective accommodation and at this point **Jake** and I were doomed not to see each other again. **Jake** went off to the Killicks Mess and I went to the Petty Officers' Mess.

The next day we were shown the radio room and Ops room and I must admit it was very impressive. It was warm, air-conditioned, clean, comfortable and so relaxed, just like the Squadron's Para Tac HQ.

The following day we spliced the main brace, weighed anchor and set sail for Portugal and arrived 24 hours later surrounded by Soviet trawlers (well, that's what they said they were). Here the Ship's Company did a bomb burst to various well known establishments in Lisbon to begin a four day period cementing Anglo/Portuguese relations (but only if the Portuguese were female, single, and knew how to party).

After four days we were off again to good old England and it was time to get some serious work done. It had been planned to do a 24 hour Jocommex (is **Jake** on board?). The Jocommex went well with no hitches and was declared a success by both the Ship and the Squadron. During this time the ship had a fire exercise and after the alarm had sounded I was told to stay in the Mess as it didn't concern me. Five minutes later, **'Sgt Owen**, contact the bridge asap', My excuse, 'women and children first'.

All too soon we were off Lands End and time for 'Channel Night'. A Navy tradition of a party before leave. I made the presentation of the Squadron plaque and thanked all on board (are you sure **Jake** is on board?).

To sum it all up, **Jake** and I had a great time and were well looked after. Many thanks to the Mob and the Squadron for an unforgettable time.

**SE DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The course was 6.25 miles in length over rugged terrain and from the start it was apparent it was going to be a hard race. **Sgt Nick Preston**, our most successful runner was in the leading pack from the start and after the first lap was breaking away on his own with the remainder of the squad closely packed not too far behind. As this was his last race for the unit it was only fitting that he should be the overall winner of the race. As the results came in elation grew within the squad as it became apparent that they were the winners by a very clear margin. Special mention should also go to our super vet **Maj Mike Bott** who, at the age of 49 years, can still show the younger members a clean pair of heels and was awarded third Veteran place.

The squad consisted of **Maj Mike Bott RAEC, Capt Scott Workman, WO2 Steve Clarke, Sgts Nick Preston, Chris Hamill, Cpls 'Q' Rose, Bernie Bernstein, 'Scouse' Walsh, Fred Hargreaves, Steve Scott, Slither Lynch, Sig 'Mo' Morris** and **Steve Girling**. Well done.




Sgt Nick Preston first across the line in the SEDist Championships 1990

## 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Sig Sqn) Colchester

### EXERCISE FLYING FALCON

These photographs were taken whilst the Squadron was on Ex Flying Falcon and show some of our members—at work!



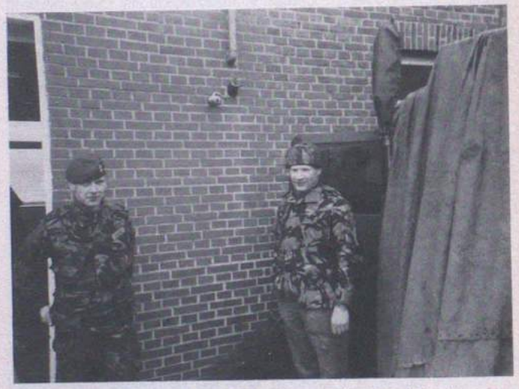
Sqn Comd, Maj Hoole planning our next move



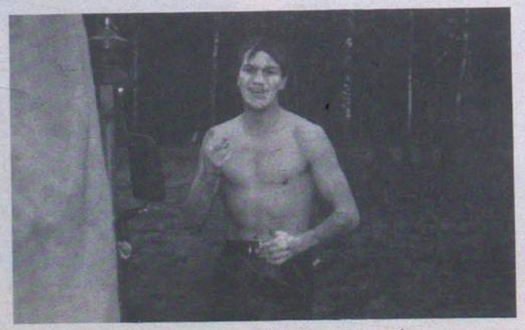
Capt Quinlan *hard* at work



Sgt Thomas pondering the future



Cpl Dean and Pte Davies RPC at the Guard Post



LCpl Copely engaged in his daily routine



## 238 (London) Sig Sqn Chelsea Barracks

We have finally made it! The Squadron has now completed the move into new offices and has a different outlook over the parade square at Chelsea Barracks. M Troop and stores are well hidden towards the back of camp and a ball of string is offered to those brave enough to tackle the journey!

The silly season has started with the State Visit that wasn't on Tuesday 3 April. The early morning rehearsal went very well and it was a little disappointing that the visit didn't go exactly to plan on the day. A suspect bag on the platform at Gatwick railway station meant that the normal parade through the streets of London didn't take place. It was still a good opportunity to take a Squadron ceremonial photograph.

This month we said farewell to **SSM 'Gus' Hales**. He is moving on to another Northern Ireland tour and we would like to thank him for all the hard work he has put into the Squadron, especially Battle Camps, training weeks and Squadron lunches. We welcome **SSM Alun Parry** to the job and wish him luck in the coming ceremonial season!



SSM 'Gus' Hales *(left)* receiving a 'Jimmy' from the junior ranks of the Squadron, Sig McKinstry is presenting the statue

**ARMY RUGBY**

**LCpl Steve Bartliff** made the transition this year from Corps Rugby to the Army side. He was selected for the Army after scoring a try for the Corps against the Royal Engineers. He played the next five games against the TA, Met Police, Oxford, Cambridge and Surrey. He got his first cap against the Navy at Twickenham. This was an extremely physical game with the Army running out as narrow winners.

Due to an injury to another player **LCpl Bartliff** got a chance of a second cap against the RAF. This gave him a chance to play against the England Winger **Flt Lt Rory Underwood**. This time it was **Steve Bartliff** who made the headlines not the England player, by scoring twice before having to come off injured. The Army went on to beat the RAF 36—12.

It has been a good season for **LCpl Bartliff** and hopefully he will go from strength to strength.

**SQUADRON HOCKEY TEAM**

We congratulate the Team which again managed to win the London District Minor Units Cup. The team also reached the Semi Finals of the Minor Units UK Cup but unfortunately were beaten by RAOC Blackdown in the Semis. This is the first time the Squadron has reached the Semi Finals.



Squadron Hockey Team

*Back row (left to right):* WO2 (RQMS) Pylee, now reported to have retired! Cpls Salisbury, Campbell, Sgt Richardson, Cpl Knights, Sgts Gilbert and Barnes

*Front row (left to right):* Cpl Small, Sgt Gallimore, Sig Crompton, Sgt Matthews and Cpl Rothwell



The Squadron hockey team in action, tackling the goalie!

**OTHER FIRSTS**

**Cpl Kev Salisbury**—Scored his first goal in his hockey career. Will he now retire? **Sgt Steve Matthews**—Actually played this season; and **SSgt Mark Schofield**—Missed one match this season—'The Semi Finals of the Army Cup'.

We thank **Sgt Steve Matthews** and **Cpl Kev Salisbury** for their support in organising the games this season.

## 244 Sig Sqn (AS)
## RAF, Brize Norton

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sig Comd** | **Maj A. J. Hutt** |
| **2IC** | **Capt A. J. Wood** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Humble** |
| **RQMS** | **WO2 (RQMS) Charlton** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 (FofS) Stockdale** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (YofS) Pywell** |
| **CC** | **SSgt (ORSQMS) Smith** |
| **Trg Sgt** | **Sgt Baron** |
| **Pay Sgt** | **Sgt Wilkinson** |

Again we say hello and goodbye to several faces: Farewell to **Sgt Simon Laughlin** who has gone to Celle and 2 Royal Anglian on promotion to SSgt. **Capt 'Tom' Pengelley** is now at MOD Directorate of Manning perched high up in Empress State Building in the middle of Earls Court London. He will be ideally situated for his forthcoming attempt in the 1990 London Marathon which is being held on 22 April. **Capt Pengelley** has been 2IC for the past 2 years and has seen quite a bit of the world in that short time. Bon Voyage and best wishes to him and **Mrs Pengelley** for the future from the Red Hand Gang.

Welcome to our new Pay Sgt, **Sgt 'Baz' Wilkinson**.

Farewells to **Cpl Smudger Smith** Tele Op (P&A) and his wife **Ruth**; best of luck in civvy street. Also farewell to **Cpl Mackfall**, bad luck about the shoulder problem, still the pain can be no more severe than parting from the Army to civvy street, best of luck in the future **Mack**!

Welcome to new arrivals, **LCpl Nicholas** (November 89), **Cpl Noonan** (March 90), **Cpl Giddings** (March 90), **LCpl Morris** (February 90), **Cpl Hegarty** (March 90) (new cook), **Sig Currill, SSgt Griffith-Williams,** (both January 90)—Yes SHQ has experienced a few changes of faces this year! There are quite a few more promised too.

We are planning our deployment to Cyprus (TAC 3) some lucky people going for the Easter holidays and sunshine (you don't fool us in the headshed).

The Tele Op (P&As) are working flat out as usual, a special mention is made of backroom boys **LCpls Nicholas** and **Edwards** both due to leave in early 1991. Any interested volunteers to plug the gaps?

The Sergeant Major can be heard muttering to himself, 'Hair Loss, Hair Loss, Hair has it all gone?' He is planning hard for the forthcoming Battle Camp, and looking forward to it I may add (the only one who is!).

Comd 2 Sig Bde and Cotswold Garrison, **Brig C. A. Brown** visited us recently. He toured the Squadron and visited the Troops on the ground in the early morning. Later he dined in the Sergeants' Mess with the Squadron SNCOs and Officers. We enjoyed the visit.

Thank you to Elizabeth for typing these notes again (tedious, she says!).

**DELTA TROOP (MAOTs)**
**PERSONALITY**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp Comd** | **SSgt Chris Gopsill** |

**THE TROOP**

Outgoing was **Sgt Paul Anderson** who successfully completed his RSSSC, en-route to 1 QLR in BAOR to become a Panzer-Hom on Warrior. Incoming was **SSgt Chris Gopsill** ex-Panzer-Hom off Warrior—a veteran of 2½ years with the Grenadier Guards, returning for a second tour with the Red Hand Gang.

**COMMITMENTS**

During the past several months the Troop's normal tasking agency—No. 1 Group RAF, has stepped up the pressure, as has TCW/244, resulting in a lot of exercises and more night flying. Not all of this has been in the UK, far from it. Members of the Troop have ventured as far as Hong Kong, Singapore, Trinidad and Turks and Caicos in the Caribbean. A lot of work has also been undertaken by the AMF(L) elements together with their annual trek to the Tundra on Ex Hardfall for two months.

**HARDFALL 90**

On 3 January AMF(L) 'D' Troop deployed from RAF Lyneham by Hercules aircraft for Norway, expecting to meet up with our vehicles on arrival! However, they were 'lost' so **LCpl Cadman, Sig Green, Sutherland** and **Wiseman** were dispatched to look for them since 'they were definitely on the boat!' Ten days later they were found . . . at Marchwood Docks lined up and waiting to be loaded!

After this delay, work began inearnest. Recces were undertaken so that helicopter night flying could take place in some of the remotest spots you could possibly imagine. The weather was abysmal which seriously curtailed night flying in the region so the two dets took turns in moving up to Hjerkin in search of better weather and to assist the Force Arty in gun lifts. **Sig Green** was also detailed to provide safety comms from the site of a crashed Puma. The next move was to Granvin Docks to load the vehicles onto the boat for the Northern deployment. This time everything was going smoothly until **Sig 'Wiz' Wiseman** hit black ice which took his BV 206 (Vehicle) over the crash barrier and into the drink (Thank goodness they're amphibious!).

In the North we joined up with other NATO allies and were soon busy working with German Hueys, Canadian Jet Rangers and British Gazelles and Pumas, although a lot of time was spent liaising with aircraft pilots.

The redeployment went smoothly back to windy Blighty and everybody was happy to be home.

**COURSES**

Congratulations to **Cpl George Rahman, LCpls Brian Millarvie, Jack Frost** and **Taff Jones** on their successful completion of the HH Instructors Course at JATE.

**LCpl Baz Cadman** has completed his Det Comds Course, well done **Baz.**

Best of luck to **LCpl Bri Millarvie** on his A1 Grading Course at 8 Sig Regt.

**SPORT**

The Troop fared well in the Station Commander's Cup, finishing fourth out of fifteen over ten different sports, a creditable performance. **Cpl George Rahman** (AIPT) is now priming the Troop ready for 1990s competition!

We took part in the annual rugby fixture against RAF Brize Norton. After several frustrating training sessions taken by **SSgt Chris Gopsill** and **LCpl Bri Green** we selected a squad of 20 eager gladiators only to surrender two of them to the opposition on the day! The Delta Tp XV put in a creditable performance with some five tries by **Sig George Sutherland** and **LCpl Bri Green** with excellent kicking by **Sig Paul Musson** and despite a strong cross-wind we ran out winners 24—4 and then retired for the 'Third Half'!

**SOCIAL**

One of the big subjects of the 80's seems to have been charities; so it was on this theme that the Troop Entertainment Committee, led by PEC **Sig Andy Wiseman,** suggested and organised an Oxfam Night.

Each member and guest were required to buy their evening gowns and suits from any registered charity outlet eg Oxfam and produce proof of purchase on the night or pay a fine. The fine was to be the equivalent of the highest receipt rendered—Nobody got fined, the highest receipt was £19.70.

Thanks must go to **Sig Andy Wiseman** and his committee of **LCpl Pete Thrush** for their efforts in organising the function at short notice.

Over £350 was raised and distributed to various Charities in the Andover and Salisbury areas.

**MATCHES AND DISPATCHES**

This appears to be the new craze in Delta Tp—congratulations and best wishes to: **LCpl Steve** and **Dee Frost, Sig Paul** and **Jane Musson** and **LCpl Brian** and **Izzy Millarvie**. The following personnel have 'escaped' and our best wishes go with them and their families: **Sgt Paul Anderson** to 1 QLR; **Mr** (LCpl) **Brian Ives**, would you buy a satellite dish from this man?; **LCpl Brian Green** to 210 Sig Sqn, at least it's close to home; **LCpl Kelvin** and **Debbie** and **Rocky Jones** to 21 Sig Regt and **Sig Mark** and **Maggie Porter** to 7 Sig Regt.





## 251 Sig Sqn
## Aldershot

There have been many personnel changes in the Squadron of late, the line up is now as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj R. G. Drake** |
| **SOO** | **Maj P. J. McLoughlin** |
| **2IC** | **Capt J. Trainor WRAC** |
| **OC Tropo Tp** | **Capt P. H. Davis** |
| **OC Tech Tp** | **Capt J. J. Gerrard** |
| **Tp Offr** | **Lt L. C. Minshall WRAC (nee Hollingsworth)** |
| **CDSO** | **WO1 J. Skelton WRAC** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) S. Barclay WRAC** |

Over the next few months we shall be welcoming **Lt D. H. Jepson** on commissioning as the new SOO and **Lt K. M. Lilleystone WRAC** as our new Tp Offr.

**MILITARY TRAINING**

In an endeavour to achieve the Army Training Directives throughout the year (and to have some fun!) the Squadron holds military training days each month. Recent events have included Range Days firing an APWT, swimming lessons, indoor ranges and first aid lessons (not necessarily in that order!).

The days in the 25m indoor range, proved interesting, as can be seen . . .

**SPORT**

The Squadron is represented in a variety of sporting activities and have reached the Army Finals in Women's Table Tennis and Men's Badminton.

**Cpl King** (Tech), **LCpl Garven** (PTI) and **Pte Beattie** (SBO) represented the Army in the Inter Services Netball Championships. **LCpl Garven** and **Pte Beattie** have since been chosen to play for the Combined Services Team.

Other personal achievements include **Pte Darby** (SBO) and **Pte Scott** (DVR) who ran in the Fleet Half Marathon to raise money for Leukaemia Research, and **LCpl Bell** (SBO) who swam for the Tri Services Swimming Team this year.

## 254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 567

**SHQ PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj J. G. Peck** |
| **2IC** | **Capt R. P. Giles** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 W. Henderson** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt C. Alexander** |
| **CC** | **Sgt A. B. Rose** |
| **Stores Acct** | **Sgt J. Williams** |
| **FSO Clk** | **Mrs J. McGhie** |
| **Typist** | **Mrs S. Hiscock** |

**FAREWELL**

This month we said farewell to **Liz Donaghy** who has left us for somewhere really exotic, Belize, she will be much missed by the Squadron and we wish her all the very best for a good tour.

**TECH AND LINE TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Tp** | **WO2 (FofS) G. Whiteford** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt A. Broadbank** |
| **Tech Sgt** | **Sgt P. Hancock** |
| **Line Sgt's** | **Sgt P. Jennings** |
| | **Sgt A. Norrie** |

Farewell, thanks and good luck to **Pte Brad Walsh** who returns to Canada, to **Cpls Timmy Pickersgill** and **Neil Inman** who go to 262 Sig Sqn at Dhekelia. A warm welcome to **Sgt Glen Renshaw, LCpl Ian Lamb** and **Pte Frank Roux**, hope you enjoy your tour with the UN.

Recently we have taken part in two of the OC's Dash Competitions. The first in February which was in three parts and consisted of hockey, football and orienteering, in which we were narrowly beaten by Commcen Tp. The second Dash started at 0600 hrs with an 8 mile CFT then into a Grenade throwing competition and finally the dreaded Assault Course. Tech and Line again pulled out all the stops winning yet another Dash Trophy even though they were unable to field the statutory two 12 man teams because of injury during the CFT.

The beginning of March saw **Sgts P. Jennings, A. Norrie** and **Sig Watts** contribute to the Squadron in the UN Support Regiments Skill-at-Arms Competition in firing the SA80 and pistol—well done lads.

**COMMCEN TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Tp** | **WO1 (YofS) N. Hammett** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt L. Thornton-Granville** |
| **Day Cpl** | **Cpl S. Gill** |
| **A Shift Cpl** | **Cpl J. Clancy** |
| **B Shift Cpl** | **Cpl A. Fife** |
| **C Shift Cpl** | **Cpl K. Niblock** |

**ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES**

We would like to welcome the following members to the Troop: **Cpl Steve Gill, Sig Paul Edisbury, Scouse Aitken, Dave Yarrow, Dave Greenstreet** and **Stavely-Wadham.**

Fond farewells go to: **Cpls Ginge Purves, Jim Clancy, Andy Fife, Sig Dan Burdus, Wayne Dunbar, Jock Imrie, 'Ash' Ashworth** and **Paddy Lucas.**

**DASH TROPHY**

This Inter-Troop Competition is held in three phases and tests the fitness, skill and individuality of the Squadron. The first event was the orienteering, in which Commcen 'A' team stormed into a clear lead leaving the rest of the Squadron pondering a new approach for the next event, hockey.

The firm favourites for this event were SHQ/Tech and Line, but they soon found that skill is no match for the guts and determination shown by the Commcen.

The final event was football. The Commcen started well, but soon found it tough at the top. This however, did not dampen any spirits and Commcen 'A' won the event and the competition with a maximum 45 points. The winning team were: **YofS Nick Hammett, Sig 'Chico' Towers, LCpl John Murray, Cpl Andy Fife, Sig Dan Burdus, Dave Yarrow** and **James Stavely-Wadham.**

**TRIP TO SALAMIS**

All packed up and ready to go by 0830 hrs, the Troop was looking forward to seeing the sights of Salamis. **Ginge Purvis**—the pack leader, took us down a few wrong roads until we arrived at Salamis Bay 45 minutes late. We visited the ruins, taking snaps of various items of interest. Then we moved on to Famagusta to sample their way of life. Splitting into individual groups we set off on shopping expeditions. After an enjoyable day everyone headed back to Nicosia.

**RADIO TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Tp** | **Lt Steve Gaunt** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Mick Halford** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Rick Whitaker** |

**ARRIVALS**

The Troop would like to welcome the following—**Lt Steve Gaunt, Sgt Rick Whitaker, Cpls Bill Clark, Steve Coombs, Perry Pike, Dan Winsor, Ghislain Veilleux, LCpls Douglas, Plug Rayner, Sig John Davies, Bob Giddings, 'Marc' Wilson** and **Tim Vanandel**. Hope you all enjoy your tour.

**DEPARTURE**

Recent departures include—**Lt Ben Poirier, Sgt John Robson, Cpls Mick Marsh, Wayne Forrest, LCpls Alfred Hitchcock, Dick Whittaker, Sig Darren Larsen, Steve Leafloor, Kenny Marlow, Jason McCarthy** and **Mike St Jean,** our best wishes to you all and thanks for your support.

An aspect of Radio Tp that helps to make life interesting is the frequent changeover of manpower. A six month tour passes fairly quickly for most people when kept busy for most of the time.

**Lt Steve Gaunt** arrived from Canada to find that he had been nominated to lead the team in the Military Skills Competition together with certain other 'volunteers' from the Squadron. An impressive performance was provided by the team, particularly on the assault course which earned us third position overall.

The Troop continues to do well in the OC Sqn 'Dash' competitions the 'A' Team were recently beaten to first place by one point by the Commcen team. The Troop 'B' (Hippo) team maintained sixth place headed by **Cpl 'Fish' Fisher** and assisted by **Sig Don Povey**.

# 262 Sig Sqn
# BFPO 58

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Capt Nick Naylor** |
| **2IC** | **Lt Susie Byrne** |
| | **WO2 (SSM) Dave Thomas** |
| **OC Maint** | **WO1 (FofS) Peter Martin** |
| **OC Comms** | **WO2 (YofS) Chris Rogan** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Keith Talbot** |
| **CC** | **Sgt Trevor Glover** |

**HELLOS AND GOODBYES**

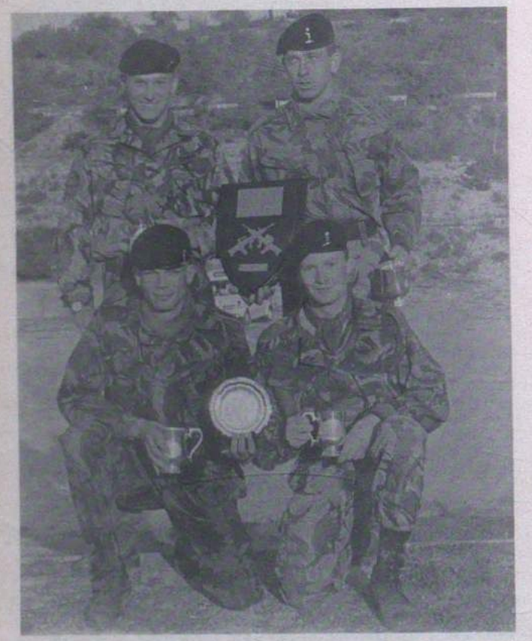
Hellos and welcome to: **Cpl Jill** and **Stephen Mackay, Cpl Clive** and **Kate Smith, Cpl Tim** and **Trudy Pickersgill, Pte Sid** and **Paul Davies** and **LCpl Clarke** and **Alice Stanley-Jones.**

Goodbyes to: **SSgt Dave** and **Linda Edgecombe, Sig Neil** and **Sharon Frank, Cpl Sally Anne Oldridge , Pte Karyn O'Connor, Cpl Taff** and **Sue Shaw** and **LCpl Paul Marsden.** Good luck in your new Units.

Congratulations to: **Cpl Andy** and **Karen Maynard** on the arrival of **Graham Andrew, Sig Vinny** and **Maureen Hewitt** on the arrival of **Nicola Louise** and **SSgt Keith** and **Alison Talbot** on the arrival of **Jennifer Alice.**

Towards the end of 1989 many of 262 Sig Sqn members could be seen about Dhekelia training earnestly. Having started with at least 12 good men and true, the SSM, **WO2 Thomas** soon whittled the numbers down; broken ribs on the rugby field, stress fractures and various other injuries quickly resulted in the team having no reserves left. All the hard work was to ensure that the Squadron started the ESBA March and Shoot Competition with at least some small chance of success. The SSM and his team of **Sgt Senior, LCpl Cheney** and **Sig Jones** faced a gruelling course covering a total of 10 miles including a landrover push, stretcher race and Gemini paddle.

The team approached the day buoyant and confident and were well rewarded for all their efforts as they romped home in first place ahead of 9 Sig Regt.



The winning team clockwise from top left: Sgt Senior, WO2 Thomas, Sig Jones and LCpl Cheney

We also staged a pantomime again this year. Our illustrious leader **Capt Nick Naylor** took to the stage as Vulgarity, one of the Ugly Sisters in the Dhekelia Garrison production of Cinderella. Dressed to kill in the most colourful left bank fashion, our Dame made his mark and really stole the show.



'Sisters' Titilate and Vulgarity, *(right)* Capt Nick Naylor in all his glory!

Vulgarity made a reappearance at the Squadron Wives Club charity event held in February. The days activities commenced with 30 wives taking up the challenge of the Assault Course in Alexander Barracks, a sponsored event designed to stretch the imagination and push the ladies to their limits. **Liz Rogan** was awarded the prize for the bravest performance, well done that girl! Later in the day at the Dutch Auction organiser **Jenny Thomas** found herself in the position of having to pay £15 for her own number plates, some crafty individual removed them from her car and wouldn't return them until the cash was handed over.

In total £450 was raised, the money going to Age Concern and Dhekelia Playschool in equal amounts.

**Jenny** has two more fund raising events up her sleeve, a sponsored abseil and a potted sports competition.

Other winter activities have included action on the ski slopes and the sports field, with keen Squadron interest in hockey, rugby and football.



Caroline Corrigan and behind her Julie Cockroft being given a helping hand over the Assault Course by LCpl Dave McInnes





# 633 Sig Tp
# BFPO 12

**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

**Capt Paul Pople** is now firmly established in the OC's chair having taken over from **Lt Neil Stevens**, and **SSgt Dave Taylor** has taken over the Admin reins from **SSgt Dave Gilbert**. As the Troop has a high rate of turnover names are to numerous to mention, but we would like to thank those departing for all their hard work and say a big welcome to all the recently arrived. May you have a happy tour in the Caribbean.

**GENERAL**

The Troop has been hosting inspection teams. Having been checked out by PRE, CDCN, EST and the Crypto buffs there was only one hurdle left, DAMA. Had there been available a modem/multiplexer for changing jungle drums into Murray Code they would have staffed the commcen with local civilians. Thankfully common sense prevailed and they contented themselves with less radical changes.

**TROOP OUTINGS**

To keep us happy we organise Troop outings from time to time. On 11 March the Troop visited the Banana Bank Ranch to do some horse riding. After a perilous river crossing, we met our steeds at the ranch. The horses that carried **WO2 (YofS) Chris Aitken** and **WO2 (FofS) Tim Prince** didn't look too impressed, and rumour has it that half way round the trail the riders swapped places with the horses to give them a rest. There were some fancy Roy Rogers riding out on the prairie that day. The only self confessed expert rider was the OC, **Capt Paul Pople**, but did he really mean to go swimming with the horse, whilst muttering something about the horse needing to be cooled down! The prize for best horsemanship that day though was awarded to **Cpl Bert Scaife**, for his gallop back into the ranch and trying to break the land speed record on a horse. His daring skills were much admired by everyone. Giving orders to the horse like 'Whoa', 'Stop' and other such commands; the horse finally got the message and stopped, but **Cpl Scaife** decided to carry on. Nice landing **Bert**! He said afterwards that the look of terror on his face was just play acting really, and he was in command the whole time. He just wanted to be first in the queue for the barbecue! A good day out, and one to be repeated in the future—for some.

On 24 March the Troop paid a visit to English Cay, a small island off the coast of Belize, to seek sun, sand and sea. unfortunately we couldn't find the sun, but we did enjoy the barbecue huddled together under the floor of a house whilst sheltering from the tropical storms. Still, who needs the sun when you're busy snorkeling around the coral reefs. However some people did a very hasty U-turn when they saw the shoal of Barracuda skulking off the coast. No doubt we shall return. Other trips are in the pipeline for the future, some suggestions being a day in Bognor Regis or a Troop outing/barbecue at Rauls.



Everyone sized off with their mounts and ready to go



Cpl Bert Scaife after his sudden stop



Floating the beer aboard the Lady Patricia



Cpls Steve Witty and Andy Burns building flood defences on English Cay helped by FofS Prince's daughter Helen

**SPORTS**

On 20 March we entered the Inter Unit Sports Day held at Air Port Camp. We had some good results coming first in football, thanks to the efforts of our goalie, **Cpl** 'Diddy the Cat' **Didcock**, and coming second in rugby. The other sports . . . well we participated! We ended up being third overall which isn't bad as over half the Troop are shift workers and we couldn't field a full Squad in some events, (the OC was not aware that he had such a big Troop!). On 23 March we entered a team in the 1/2 Gurkha Rifles farewell 10km road race, in which we came third out of 12 teams entered. Well done lads.

# Association News

## MR WILLIAM PARRISH

In this anniversary year we look back on our history, how the Corps came into being and, most important of all, the sort of people who played their part in giving us pride in the badge we wear.

**Mr Parrish**, now in his 93rd year and in good health is one of those early signallers. He can still use morse code! This article is a small tribute to a remarkable man who, despite a harsh and largely unloved childhood, has led a happy and successful life, supported by a family and a firm Faith.

Born in Bromley-by-Bow in 1898 his father died whilst he was still an infant and four years later he and a brother were sent to an orphanage. Despite a very severe regime several of the children there went into the professions: his brother won the Military Medal which was presented to him by **Earl Haig**.

After leaving the orphanage **Mr Parrish** joined the Pimlico Houseboy's Brigade destined to become a butler and valet. The training took him to several London houses and, as a result, into contact with members of the Royal Household: he met **Lloyd George** and other influential people.

Illness overtook him during this period—and off and on throughout his life—and it is pleasant to record that, whilst in the hospital, he was visited by a lady in whose home he had worked. She showed him great kindness and used her influence to better his lot.

**Mr Parrish** joined the Army in 1917 and was discharged from Maresfield Park Camp in November 1919, then followed a career in the civil service. He worked in Germany with UNRRA and Prisoners-of-War and Displaced Persons Division and later in the Inland Revenue.

We publish his recollections of the days which led to the formation of the Royal Corps of Signals as a separate arm, the Corps in which we renew our pride in membership in this our seventieth year.

'I received my calling up papers on 6 March 1917 and reported to Tonbridge and after kitting out etc: I was posted to 32 Bn, The Middlesex Regt which was under canvas at Gorleston-on-Sea and was there for six months. During that period two events occurred which stay in my memory. The first happened while we were in the trenches practising throwing live hand grenades. The trench that we were manning was rather deep, each portion manned by six soldiers. One of the soldiers misthrew his grenade, after he had removed the pin with the result that the grenade rebounded back into the trench. One soldier immediately snatched off his helmet and put it over the grenade and laid down on it. It exploded and blew him and the soldier next to him to smithereens. This spontaneous deed undoubtedly saved the other four soldiers in the trench.

The other incident took place a few weeks later when I was visiting Great Yarmouth. I was writing a letter in the YMCA when a shell from the Bismarck hit the building causing considerable damage. The bombardment lasted about an hour but the part of the building that I was in remained undamaged and I escaped unhurt.

Soon afterwards a notice appeared in Company Orders calling for volunteers to sit an examination and, if successful, to be transferred to Royal Engineers (Signal Section). I passed this with top marks (not a boast) and was transferred and posted to Bedford. My initial training was in cable laying with telegraphic communication which included morse code and semaphore. We also received training in the handling of horses. This was undertaken at Wiltstead and lasted for six weeks.

When I returned to Bedford I underwent training in telephonic communication. I found this less exciting than 'Team Wagon' work as I missed being outdoors and the thrill of being on manoeuvres. The war had now ended and thousands were, of course, leaving the Army.

During this period there was a persistent rumour that we were to be reformed. When the change came about it was marked by a parade during which we were presented with new badges and so The Royal Engineers (1 Telegraph Bn) came into being. We celebrated this event in the way best known to soldiers.

A few weeks later I was posted to Maresfield Park Camp and became valet to the Officer-in-Change, **Lt Col Llewellyn**. I remember this Officer asking me 'what is sharper than the sword?' and telling me that it was a woman's tongue!

I left the Army due to ill health on 11 November 1919 and was awarded a pension.'

*(Readers will like to know that* ***Mr Parrish*** *is visited regularly by* ***Mr D. E. Watkins*** *of 53 (W) Sig Sqn (V) and a member of Cardiff Branch and we are indebted to him for sending this article).*

## 3 DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

**by E. E. Bayley, Hon Secretary**

Saturday 24 March, a lovely spring day in London, saw the assembly of 78 members of the Reunion Club and their guests on the occasion of the 38th AGM and Luncheon Reunion, at the Victory (Services) Club. The strength of the attendance justified the decision last year to hold these annual functions as luncheon engagements instead of dinners.

Our Guest of honour was **Brig Dick Baly**, Commandant School of Signals, a former CO of 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and a member of the reunion club, **Lt Col Jonathan Cook**, the present CO of the Regiment and **WO1 (RSM) G. T. Reeves**. Our new President, **Brig J. D. T. Brett**, who took over the Presidency after the untimely death of **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe**, welcomed our Guest of Honour, members of the Regiment, their widows, guests and first footers namely **Lt Col Abbott, Lt L. Brown, Mr G. Ford, Mr A. Greenwood, Mr L. Holter, Mr S. Sprice** and **Mr R. Steel**. **Brig Cuthbert Moore** our Vice President, now in his 87th year, was unable to join us. After recovering from illness in hospital he was unfortunately knocked down by a car. I am happy to say that he is making a good recovery from this incident too. A 'Get Well' card was circulated and signed by everyone, with the hope that **Brig Moore** will be present at the 40th anniversary celebrations.

After toasts, **Brig Baly**, spoke briefly on the role of the Corps today with a focus on 30 Sig Regt and their part in Nambia with the UN Forces deployed during transition to independence.

**Brig Baly** said how pleased he was to see so many old friends present and hoped to meet some of them at the Royal Signals Association Blandford Reunion on 20 May.

**Lt Col J. R. Cook** said that is was an honour for him and his RSM to be present again on this occasion. He had brought over some photographs of Regimental activities in the field of sport and also of the Veterans visit in June last year when everyone had had such good fun. He had brought with him some bottles of Abenheimer Klausenberg Kabinett wine, with labels specially printed to mark the day and everyone was invited to take one home with them. **Col Cook** talked of the 'Work, Rest and Play' in the Regiment today. He ended by saying that the Regiment was looking forward to the 1990 visit of club members and a special programme has been arranged to cover the visit. The invitation was warmly received by everyone.

The Reunion Club always welcomes new members and the publicity given in The Royal British Legion Magazine and the Sunday Express newspaper yielded new members who had never heard of the club despite its 40 years existence!

(The 22 March 1991 has been provisionally booked for the 40th Anniversary of the Club's foundation in 1951).

**THOSE PRESENT**

**Brig R. F. Baly** and **Mrs E. Baly**—Commandant School of Signals, Blandford Guest of Honour.

**Lt Col J. R. B. Cook**, CO 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt **WO1 (RSM) G. T. Reeves** and **Mrs Reeves**—representing all ranks of 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

**Mr Alex Trueman**—Secretary Indian Signals Association (GB).

**MEMBERS AND GUESTS**

**Lt Col R. D. Abbott** and **Mrs Abbott, Mr W. J. Anderson, Mr J. R. Atterton** and **Mrs Atterton, Mr E. E. Bayley, Mr J. M. H. Brady, Mrs Yvonne Barrett, Lt Col T. W. Baynes** and **Mrs Baynes, Brig J. D. T. Brett** and **Mrs Brett, Mr R. T. Broad** and **Mrs Broad, Lt L. F. Brown** and **Mrs Brown, Mr B. Corlett** and **Mrs Corlett, Mr T. Dean** and **Mrs Reavley, Maj R. S. Etherington, Mr G. T. R. Ford, Mr P. G. Gibbons** and **Mrs Gibbons, Mr A Greenwood, Mr C. Hodder** and **Mr D. Hodder, Mr L. A. Holter** and **Mrs Holter, Col P. R. Hoskins** and **Mrs Hoskins, Mr S. G. Hounsell, Mr J. Hudson** and **Mrs Hudson, Capt A. Hughes, Maj H. Kelly, Mrs Dorothy Kontzle, Mr E. G. Leat** and **Mrs Leat, Mr S. G. H. O'Dell** and **Mrs O'Dell, Mr H. W. Palmer, Mr P. W. Pannett, Lt Col M. A. Philp, Lt Col A. F. Pownall, Maj D. J. Roberts** and **Mrs Roberts, Brig (Rev) W. B. Rowett** and **Mrs Rowett, Maj G. Schofield** and **Mrs Schofield, Maj K. N. Smartt** and **Mrs Smartt, Mr W. Spittal, Mr A. W. Spratley, Mr S. G. Spruce** and **Mrs Spruce, Mr R. M. Steel** and **Mrs Steel, Mr J. T. Templeton, Mr H. F. Timms** and **Mrs Timms, Col J. A. Waite, Brig P. H. F. Webb, Maj A. B. Wheeler** and **Mrs Wheeler,** and **Mr L. Wright** and **Mrs Wright**.



## 56 (LONDON) DIVISION OCA TA

The bi-annual dinner dance of the DR Motorcycle Display Team (OCA) was held at the Wish Tower Hotel, Eastbourne on 10 March.

It was a very successful weekend reunion with 70 members and guests and their ladies at the dinner and most staying overnight. The Royal Signals Display Teams were well represented with **Lt Col Phil Spooner** and **Mrs Spooner, Capt Kit Lewis, Sgt Gary Elliston** and **Cpl Andy Whitmore** among the guests.

## THE INDIAN SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN

The Annual Dinner of the Association took place at the Victory Club on 7 April with good attendance, including one founder member of the Corps who arrived on the Frontier nearly 70 years ago. The Speaker was **Capt Eric Lomax** who was one of the body of gallant but undecorated heroes, many from Signals, who made and operated radio receivers in prison camps to bring outside news to help the morale of their fellow inmates. After time in Singapore, he worked on the Burma railway, which was vital to the Japanese for the supply of their forces. He and others were eventually detected and given 'special' treatment in a jail of their own in Singapore. There they met, amongst others, Australians who had entered Singapore harbour in a Japanese ship they had acquired and blew up considerable numbers of the enemy ships which they found there. **Capt** and **Mrs Lomax** recently appeared on Television in connections with the Medical Foundation for the Treatment of Victims of Torture.

## CALLING ALL BRANCHES

**Your association has 57 Branches and nine affiliated Branches throughout the United Kingdom. We like to hear your news. Please keep in touch via your magazine. If activities are limited, an annual news letter would be appreciated.**

## THEN AND NOW

The photograph shows **K. W. Edwards** as a Signalman in Chiswick in September 1939. His service was to take him to Egypt, Sicily, Salerno, Italy (78th Division), Monte Cassino, Monte Grande and El Alamein.

He still has some of the poems that were written at the time describing life amid the sun and the sand, not to mention, the enemy.

**Mr Edwards** is a life member of the Corps Association and also a member of the Royal British Legion.



# — Sport —

## SAILING

**THE ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB**

The aim of the Royal Signals Yacht Club is to encourage sailing in all its aspects throughout the Corps. Membership is open to all serving members of Royal Signals including junior soldiers, apprentices and TA. Royal Signals trained WRAC personnel are also eligible. Retired members of the Corps may also apply to become members of the Club.

The Yacht Club provides sailing facilities in several places around the world and organises training courses and competitive events throughout the sailing season. These have already been well publicised and Unit Sailing Officers should have full details. In case these details have not reached you they are repeated here and in future we aim to publish information about the Club and its future programme on a regular basis.

**OFFSHORE SAILING**

The Corps has two yachts at Gosport on the south coast of England, one at Keil in north Germany and one based in Cyprus. All these boats are suitable for private charter for cruising or adventurous training. One of the yachts in UK—*Petasus*—is brand new having been launched at Easter. The boat in Germany—*Quicksilver*—is only three seasons old and is fast, roomy and comfortable. Bookings can be made direct with the relevant Yachtmaster who all have slots available in their programme. For those of you put off by the thought of sailing in cold Northern waters, why not give *Parang* based in Cyprus a try.

Future events are: UK Offshore Rally in the Solent—9-10 June and Baltic Regatta (Germany)—11-22 July.

Contacts for further details: UK: **Maj J. Barret** School of Signals, Blandford 2270; BAOR **Capt P. G. Cross** 14 Sig Regt, Celle Taunton 250; Cyprus: **Maj J. Wilson** 9 Sig Regt, Ayios Nikolaos 7466.

**DINGHY SAILING**

The Corps owns a fleet of six Enterprise sailing dinghies which are based at the Parkstone Yacht Club in Poole Harbour on the south coast of England. These boats are used for training and racing and are available for use by any properly qualified member. Other centres of Corps dinghy sailing are the Ripon Sailing Club in Yorkshire and the Mohnesee Sailing Club in Germany.

**Future Events**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| UK | | |
| North v South | Ripon | 8 June |
| ASA Junior Championships | Dover | 18-20 July |
| Bosun National Championships | Portland | 21-22 July |
| ASA Dinghy Championships | Netley | 1-2 September |
| Services Laser Championships | Stokes Bay | 13-14 October |
| BAOR | | |
| BFSA Open Championship | Mohnesee | 11-12 June |
| Laser Open Championship | Roermond | 19 July |
| BAOR Inter Unit | Dummersee | 20-21 September |
| Inter-Services Championship | Dummersee | 27-28 September |

Contacts: UK: **Capt D. C. A. Ellis** School of Signals, Blandford 2489; BAOR: **Sgt C. Avey-Hebditch** 3 Sig Regt, Korbecke 359.

## WINDSURFING

Most Unit PRIs have a number of boards which are available for members of the Unit to use. However last year the Corps bought 10 boards so that we could organise competition on an even basis. As a result a small Inter Corps League was started and this year we expect to see it expanded with the Corps team again at the forefront.

**Future Events**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| UK | | |
| Army Championships | Browndown | 30 June-1 July |
| Corps (UK) Regatta | Browndown | 5-9 September |
| BAOR | | |
| Corps Regatta | Dummersee | 20-22 June |
| BFG Regatta | Dummersee | 16-18 July |
| Inter Corps Championship | Dummersee | 17-18 September |
| Inter Services Championship | Dummersee | 1-2 October |

Contact: **Capt D. I. Gilchrist** 1 Inf Bde Sig Sqn, Tidworth 2043.

## CORPS RUGBY REPORT 1989/90—A VINTAGE SEASON

**By Capt F. J. Connor (R Signals RUFC)**

1989/90 has been a very successful season. Last season's defeats have been over-turned and the Corps' prospects for next season look bright. For the first time for many years an officers team was fielded, and a splendid match against the RAEC resulted in a 32—12 victory.

Several good players have recently returned to the UK and without doubt that has enabled the Corps to field a stronger team. These players are now able to improve their skills and competitive edge by playing good club rugby. As a result we have had greater representation at Army level than for many years. **Sgt Eric Atkins** continues to represent the Army and Combined Services and played against the Soviet Union in December 1989. **LCpl Steve Bartliff** gained his first Army cap against the Royal Navy and also played against the Royal Air Force in this year's Inter-Service Tournament scoring two tries. **Capt Ian Whitehall** and **LCpl Kevin Bowling** also played for the Army this season.

At the beginning of the season **WO1 (YofS) Harry Elkan** volunteered to take on the responsibility of coaching the Corps team. It is true to say that coaching was given up in favour of match preparation, and in this respect the team was well prepared for all matches. **WO2 (SSM) Gus Hales** again gave his support for the season and worked well with **WO1 (YofS) Harry Elkan.**

The team was captained by **Capt** (now Maj) **David Jones** who provided strong leadership both on and off the field. **Sgt** (now SSgt) **Paul Collins** also captained the team and we can look back on some satisfying moments. The commitment of all players this season has been outstanding.

Finally many thanks to all units that have released players during the season. I would ask that the same support is given next season to maintain the Corps' position at the top of Inter-Corps rugby.

**WEDNESDAY 4 OCTOBER 1989—R SIGNALS 32, RAEC 12**

This was the first occasion for many years that an officers team had been fielded. The match was played at Beaconsfield in glorious late summer weather. RAEC started strongly and moved into a 6—0 lead mid-way through the first half courtesy of two well taken penalties. The Corps replied just before half time when **Capt Jim Richardson** kicked a penalty.

In the second half, **Capt Jim Richardson** now playing fly half after the injury to **Capt Jon Dakin** scored the Corps' first try from a well won 5 yard scrum, and then converted to put the Corps ahead 9—6. Following a further penalty by **Capt Jim Richardson, Lt Pete Cubbin** scored a try from a good three-quarter move. This roused the RAEC team which replied with a converted try to narrow the score. The Corps at last began to dominate and scored a further three tries from **Lts Tony Burgin** and **Jim France** (2) which were converted.

Team: **2Lt Prince, Lts Cubbin, Walker, Capt Richardson, Lt France, Capt Dakin, Lt Burgin, Capt Whitehall, Maj Strawbridge, Capts Jones, Stephenson, 2Lt Mulholland, Lt Davies, Capts Pople** and **Miller**. Substitute: **Capt Thornber** (for **Capt Dakin**).

**WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER 1989—R SIGNALS 29, RMCS 8**

RMCS looked a small side in comparison with the Corps but soon showed it would not be a pushover. The Corps' first real attack was stopped short by a good tackle on **Capt David Jones** following a peel from a lineout. Shortly afterwards **LCpl Kevin Bowling** opened the scoring with a penalty. This roused RMCS who quickly won a scrummage and outflanked the Corps' defence to score a try in the corner. Having laboured for 20 minutes the Corps team eventually sparked and played some powerful rugby. First, **Cpl 'Zoo' Williams** crashed over for a try after some good play by **Capt David Jones.** This was quickly followed by an exhilarating move by the backs involving **Sgt Eric Atkins, LCpl Kevin Bowling, Sgts Dean Richardson** and **Sgt Mickey Walker** ending with **Cpl Paul Gartside** scoring the try. The Corps capitalised on their dominance with two further tries from scrum half **Cpl Gary Cassidy. LCpls Zoo Williams** and **Kevin Bowling** converting. Half time score 23—4.

RMCS began the second half strongly but were then demoralised by an excellent individual effort by **Sgt Eric Atkins** who ran fully 60 yards to score under the posts; **Williams** converted. Mid-way through the second half RMCS pinned the Corps back in its own half. The constant pressure resulted in one RMCS try leaving the final score 29—8.

Team: **Sgts McNelly, Walker, LCpl Bowling, Cpl Gartside, Sgts Atkins, Richardson, Cpl Cassidy, Capt Jones, Cpl Williams, Capt Cooper, Sig Adams, 2Lt Mulholland, Sgt Keevash, WO1 (YofS) Elkan** and **Cpl Smith.** Substitutes: **Sgt Ginty** (for **Cpl Smith**), and **Cpl Tredwell** (for **LCpl Bowling**).

**WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 1989—R SIGNALS 38, RAPC 6**

Success breeds confidence and after two victories and the prospect of another large victory over the RAPC spirits were certainly high. The Corps began well and settled quickly. **Sgt John Ginty** supported a break from **LCpl Kevin Bowling** and **Sgt Eric Atkins** took a pass at speed to score. **Capt Jim Richardson** converted. The RAPC were playing very well and were awarded a penalty try following an interception and break and the score was level at 6—6. **Sgts Eric Atkins** and **Dean Richardson** combined down the narrow side resulting in a try for **Sgt Dean Richardson** which was converted by **Capt Jim Richardson**. Half time followed with the score 12—6.

The Corps improved in the second half especially in the ruck and scrummage. **Capt Ian Whitehall** picked up at No 8 and put **Capt Joe Cooper** through for a try, **Richardson** converting. Following excellent rucked ball **LCpl Greg Harwood** looped around **LCpl Kevin Bowling** and released **LCpl Steve Bartliff** for another try. The remainder of the match was dominated by the power and speed of **Sgt Eric Atkins** who scored a further three tries; the best being a tremendous run down the blind side breaking through four cover tackles. **Sgt Ian McNelly** converted two of the three tries following an injury to **Capt Jim Richardson**. Final score 38—6.

Team: **Sgt McNelly, LCpl Bartliff, Capt Richardson, LCpl Bowling, Sgts Atkins, Richardson, Lt Burgin, Capts Whitehall, Cooper, Jones, 2Lt Mulholland, Sig Adams, Sgts Keevash, Newton** and **Sgt Ginty**. Substitute: **LCpl Harwood** (for **Capt Richardson**).

**WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 1989—R SIGNALS 12, RE 6**

Last year's fixture at Chatham ended in a 44—8 defeat. Although stronger than last year some doubts lingered during the preparation but the scrum was strengthened by the inclusion of **Lt Graham Deans** and **Cpl Vinny Fallon**.

The Corps began superbly and dominated the early phase of play. There was even a large gasp from the touchline when the Sappers first scrummage was shunted backwards almost 10 yards. This was the lift the Corps needed and from another Sapper scrum the ball was poached. **Capt Ian Whitehall** picked up and drove on with quick support from the Corps forwards and the ball was quickly released to **LCpl Steve Bartliff** to score going round the narrow side. **LCpl Greg Harwood** converted and followed it with a penalty shortly afterwards.



The first half honours belonged to the Corps and we turned around ahead 9—0.

The Corps maintained the pressure against the wind and extended the lead to 12 points when the Sappers strayed offside at a ruck and **LCpl Greg Harwood** kicked the resulting penalty. The Sappers however, had not yet given up and soon rallied exerting considerable pressure on the Corps. Errors began to slip into the Corps' play and the Sappers kicked two penalties to reduce the deficit to six points with about 10 minutes remaining. Good tackling kept the Sappers at bay and the Corps won 12—6.

Team: **Lt Burgin, LCpl Bartliff, Sgt Atkins, LCpls Harwood, Douglas, Sgt Richardson, Cpl Cassidy, Capts Whitehall, Cooper, Williams, Lt Deans, Capt Jones, Cpl Fallon, Sgt Snow** and **WO2 (YofS) Hall**. Substitute: **Sgt Collins** (for **Lt Burgin**).

**WEDNESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 1989—R SIGNALS 15, RAOC 9**

Having beaten the Sappers a victory aganst the RAOC would leave us unbeaten before Christmas. The game got underway with the Corps expecting the RAOC to use their bigger forwards as battering rams down the narrow side. As expected the RAOC used the blind side but met **Sgt Paul Collins** in excellent form. The RAOC opened the scoring with a penalty and **LCpl Greg Harwood** replied with one for the Corps. A second penalty put the RAOC in front and this was followed by five missed penalties from the Corps. The match was turning into a heavyweight battle up front with honours even. **Cpl Bob Vowles** was stretchered off with a broken shoulder blade but in the process he 'wrote-off' a large RAOC forward. Again honours even. On the few occasions that the backs had the opportunity to run the Corps looked dangerous and more likely to score, but sadly most attacks came to nothing. **LCpl Greg Harwood** levelled the scores with a penalty before half time.

Early in the second half **Sgt Dean Richardson** and **LCpl Kevin Bowling** made a good break and in the resulting ruck the RAOC strayed offside. **LCpl Greg Harwood** missed the opportunity of putting the Corps ahead. Given a similar opportunity the RAOC kicked a penalty at the other end. The Corps began to dominate and eventually broke down the RAOC defence through sheer opportunism. A promising attack looked over when the RAOC full back kicked for touch but **LCpl Kevin Bowling** retrieved the ball and darted into the corner with the RAOC defence stranded. **LCpl Greg Harwood** converted and kicked a final penalty close to full-time to complete another fine win by 15—9.

Team: **Sgt Walker, Capt Richardson, LCpls Bowling, Harwood, Douglas, Richardson, Maj Pritchard, Sgt Booth, Capt Cooper, Sgt Collins, Lt Burke, Cpls Vowles, Smith, Snow** and **WO2 (YofS) Hall.** Substitute: **Sig Adams** (for **Cpl Vowles**).

**WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 1990—R SIGNALS 8, ACC 0**

The Corps 'B' side was not prepared for the extremely spirited performance of the ACC in turbulent conditions.

The Corps initially played with the wind and kept the ACC back on their own line. The Corps was much better in the set play but was continually beaten to the loose ball by the more eager ACC forwards. Christmas had done us no favours. **Cpl Gary Cassidy** burst over from a ruck to score a much needed try but **Cpl Les Oliver** could not convert. **Cpl Gary Cassidy** scored his second try when following up but **Oliver** could not convert. An 8—0 half time lead would be hard to defend.

The second half was played entirely in the Corps' half and only resolute tackling prevented the ACC from scoring. As the game proceeded both sides struggled to come to terms with the deteriorating weather. It was a very tired and thankful team that left Aldershot with a narrow victory.

Team: **Lt Burgin, Sgt Hall, LCpls Bowling, Harwood, WO2 (SSM) Hales, Cpls Oliver, Cassidy, ATCpl Parr, Sgts Smoothy, Collins, Moir, Booth, Cpl Smith, Sgt Snow** and **WO2 (YofS) Hall**.

**MONDAY 5 MARCH 1990—R SIGNALS 60, RA 0**

A very strong squad was assembled for the next three games (RA, REME and Gloucestershire) and included players from BAOR. The Gunners were known to be under-strength due to Army Cup commitments but a win was essential in preparation for the following games. The game began well for the Corps with some excellent rucking and passing movements. It was obvious that we would win and we scored quickly from a good scrummage and well worked move which **LCpl Kevin Bowling** rounded off.

Points were easy to come by especially as the team were playing forceful, attractive rugby. **Sgt Paul Collins, Capt Ian Whitehall, Sgts Phil Price, 'H' Glean** and **Sgt Ian McNelly** all scored tries before half time with **LCpl Greg Harwood** converting four out of five to make the half time score 32—0. The Corps' dominance of play continued from the start of the second half. **Capt Ian Whitehall, LCpl Neil Sorley** (2), **Sgts 'H' Glean** and Phil Price scored second half tries with **LCpl Greg Harwood** kicking a further four conversions.

The Gunners were far weaker than expected and it was very sportsmanlike of them to honour the fixture. Despite the imbalance it was pleasing that the 60—0 victory was achieved with some exhilarating rugby.

Team: **Sgts McNelly, Glean, LCpls Sorley, Harwood, Bowling, Sgt Richardson, Cpl Cassidy, Cpls Whitehall, Cooper, Sgt Collins, Lt Burke, Maj Jones, Sgt Price, Cpls Anderson** and **Roberts**. Substitute: **Sgt Booth** (for **Maj Jones**).

**WEDNESDAY 7 MARCH 1990—R SIGNALS 10, REME 3**

The Corps began in confident style but unreasonably expected the flair demonstrated at Larkhill to be maintained against a much stronger REME team. A degree of over-elaboration and the absence of some of the better known players resulted in unexpected breakdowns in play at crucial times. The heavier REME scrum capitalised on our mistakes and they made good use of boot and wind. **Sgt Wallace** scored a try sprinting over from a metre out whilst **Sgt 'H' Glean** showed all his old power and speed to go over in the corner. With **Capt Ian Whitehall** absent, **Lt Mike Burke** shouldered much greater physical responsibility and grew in statute throughout the game.

Team: **Sgts Richardson, Clean, LCpls Bowling, Sorley, Sgt McNelly, LCpl Harwood, Cpl Cassidy, Capts Whitehall, Cooper, Sgt Price, Lt Burke, Maj Jones, Sgts Wallace, Snow** and **Roberts.** Substitutes: **SSgt (YofS) Fielding** (for **Maj Jones**), and **Sgt Sherman** (for **Sgt Wallace**).

**WEDNESDAY 21 MARCH 1990—R SIGNALS 46, RCT 3**

In the final match of the season the Corps 'A' side struggled to settle for the first 20 minutes of play. The RCT opened the scoring with a penalty after half an hour. This proved to be the spur the Corps required with **Sgt 'H' Glean** scoring in the corner following a quick passing movement by the backs—but the try was disallowed for an earlier infringement. The Corps eventually scored through **ATCpl Parr** after a well timed pass from **LCpl Kevin Bowling. LCpl Greg Harwood** converted. In the last five minutes of the half the Corps maintained the pressure and scored two more tries through **LCpl Kevin Bowling** and **Sgt 'H' Glean.** Both tries came from planned moves by the backs and **LCpl Greg Harwood** converted one.

The second half almost became a rout. The Corps forwards dominated the RCT and produced good ball for our backs to run at every opportunity. **Sgt Ian McNelly** burst into the line to score under the posts and straight from the resulting kick off another move resulted in **Capt Jim Richardson** scoring under the posts. Both tries were converted by **LCpl Greg Harwood.** Not wishing to be outdone by the backs the forwards' domination produced a try for **Capt Joe Cooper** who having received a pass from **Sgt Paul Collins,** charged over from 20m. **LCpl Greg Harwood** again converted. The match was rounded off by second tries for **Capt Jim Richardson** and **Sgt Ian McNelly,** both being converted. The final score of 46—3 ensured that the Corps remained unbeaten in Inter-Corps matches this season.

## CORPS TUG OF WAR

Any individual who wishes to get involved with the Corps Tug-of-War team, even if they are relatively inexperienced, is requested to forward their name through their CO/OC to the Corps Secretary at AA College Harrogate.

# ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

## PROPOSED RE-ZONING OF BRANCHES

(To match Area Recruiting Zones)






# THE EDITOR'S ANGLE

**THE PUBLISHING CYCLE**

- Six issues of *The Wire* are published annually and these are distributed in February, April, June, August, October and December.
- Contributions are required to reach the Editor by the 15th.

December for the February issue
February for the April issue
April for the June issue
June for the August issue
August for the October issue
but 7th December for the February issue

- Please despatch all matters bearing on *The Wire* by first class mail.

**A POSSIBLE STANDING PROCEDURE, INCLUDING GUIDE LINES FOR UNIT CONTRIBUTIONS**

Note: W Day is despatch date—three days prior to that defined in 'The Publishing Cycle' above.

**W DAY – 60**

- Seek a steer from your commanding officer/second-in-command/adjutant. What significant occasions are to arise during the period you are to cover? These could for example be:-

Operations/Exercises
Unusual commitments
Change of command or rotation of important posts (eg RSM)
Important visitors
Significant sporting events
Presentation of medals/colours

- Make a plan on content and ensure that a reliable photographer:-
  - (a) takes photographs of every event you plan to cover; and
  - (b) process the film in a sensible time frame to permit you to select the best photographs and ensure they are properly captioned.

**W DAY – 60 TO W DAY – 10**

- Encourage others to write up events for you. Our Corps magazine provides the opportunity for all ranks to reflect the enjoyment and satisfaction of participation and achievement. Edit and correct expression rather than attempting to do it all yourself.
- Target on events rather than input from Squadrons/Troops which can be repetitive by covering the same regimental activities.
- Do not overlook wives. Their contribution to some unit activities can be considerable and they in common with all components of a unit, like to see their efforts recognised in print, supported by photographs.

**W DAY – 10 TO W DAY – 4**

- Assemble all your material including photographs. Read with a criticial eye for accuracy.
- Pass for typing.

**W DAY – 2**

- Check the typing—or better still seek the assistance of another person who you know will have a critical eye for accuracy, good English and spelling.
- It is helpful to annotate contributions to show where photographs connect with the written words. Check captions carefully; spelling names incorrectly is a bad error.

**W DAY**

- Despatch notes 'first class post' to The Editor, *The Wire*.
- Never delay for photographs. It is acceptable that these follow within seven days. Always ensure they are properly protected.

**W DAY +7 TO W DAY +14**

- Check 'printers proofs' received from The Editor for accuracy. Up-date if necessary. Return these proofs with the minimum of delay by first class post.

**IMPORTANT POINTERS**

- There has never been—or will be any obligation for every component of the Corps to make a contribution to each issue of *The Wire*. If there really is very little worth reporting, carry forward the input to the next issue. No restriction is placed on the size of the contribution. Use common sense—and aim for quality rather than quantity of content.
- Situations will arise when it is necessary for The Editor to shorten a contribution or defer it to a later issue. *The Wire* is printed in a multiple of four pages eg 100, 112 or 116 pages. This imposes restraints.
- Any photograph of any size—colour or black and white—can be processed into our Corps magazine. Contrast is an important factor and the very high quality 'PR Style' black and white gloss photographs should be sought for any important unique occasion eg a visit by our Colonel-in-Chief. With this qualification, any competent photographer with a good camera should be able to take photographs of sufficiently good quality for incorporation into *The Wire*.

**TYPING THE CONTRIBUTIONS**

- Type with 'double spacing'.
- Do not type places and names in capital letters.
- Ranks and employments should be abbreviated. (See Joint Service Staff Manual, JSP 101 and SOinC's Policy Directive No 1).
- We like to use christian names. If you use them, decorations should be omitted.

ie Maj John Smith—correct
Maj J. T. Smith MBE—correct
Maj John Smith MBE—incorrect

- Number all sheets, and photographs.
- Number all photographs lightly with a soft pencil or ball point pen—but not felt tip. Photographs are easily damaged and degraded.
- Captions should be typed on a separate sheet(s) and related to the numbered photographs.

# Corps Goods Available from the Museum Shop, Blandford, Dorset DT11 8RH

**Any telephone enquiries to Blandford Military (0258 452581) Ext 2248.**

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| Car badge, 2" × 2", silver badge on enamelled Corps colours | 3.00 |
| Clip board with Corps Crest | 10.00 |
| Cocktail mats set, six, blue acrylic with Corps badge | 6.25 |
| Corps badge, on foil, framed and glazed, 11" × 9" | 6.05 |
| Corps Records and Cassettes—Information Sheet Available | |
| Crystal Engraved with Corps Badge | 17.60 |
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| | |
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# The Memorial to Corporals Howes and Wood at Catterick Garrison




THE
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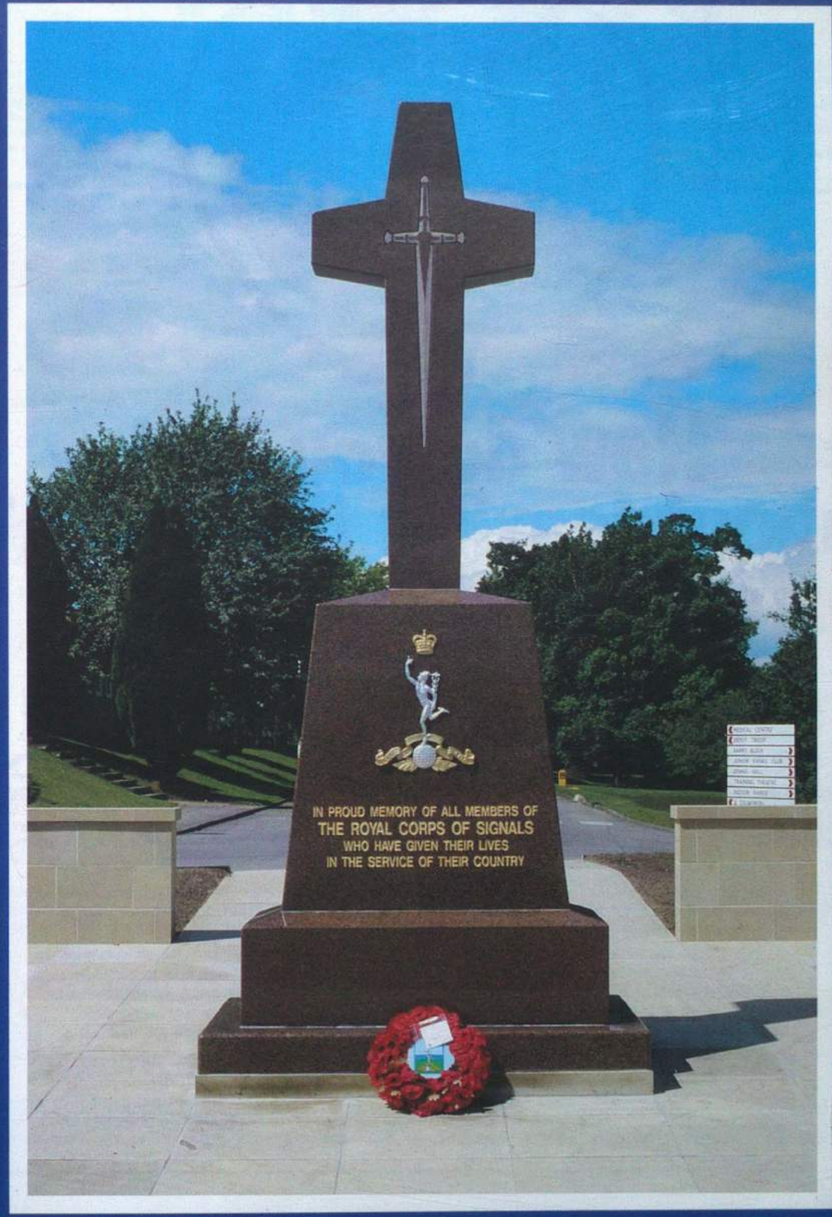
The Royal Signals Magazine




August 1990



# How do you feel about leaving the Army?

As you're well aware, serving in the Forces isn't just a job. It's a way of life. So, it's no surprise, that after leaving, many people feel as though they're high and dry, like a fish out of water.

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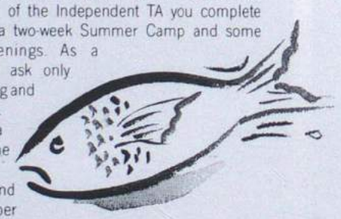
There are three options open to you.

Firstly, you can join one of the Territorial Army Independent Units based in the TAVRA region in which you have decided to settle. An ideal route for those leaving Infantry or Cavalry regiments.

Secondly, if you are leaving a Corps, you could retain your capbadge and become a member of either an Independent Unit or a TA Specialist Unit. In either, you can maintain and extend the special skills that you have learned.

Thirdly, you could join the HSF, which fulfils a vital role in our home defence, and in particular is suitable for people with limited spare time.

You can contribute as much time as you want in any one year. The minimum that we ask is that as a member of the Independent TA you complete 6 weekends, a two-week Summer Camp and some weekday evenings. As a Specialist we ask only 15 days training and two weekends.



And, as a member of the HSF, 6 to 10 days training and one evening per month. In return you will receive payment equivalent to the rates paid to Regular Army soldiers plus an annual tax-free bonus.

If you would like more information about how you can stay in the swim of things, write to the address below, giving details of which option you are interested in, your current age and address, your intended county of residence, and of the regiment you have left or are leaving.

The Territorial Army, Freepost, 4335 (Ref: 9000), Bristol BS1 3YX.



The Royal Signals Magazine

August 1990 Vol. 44 No: 4

# The Wire

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**Editor Lt Col K. E. P. Andrews MBE**
**Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs**

**The Wire is a member of the Association of Service Newspapers**


## BIRTHDAY HONOURS

All our readers will wish to join us in congratulating the following who received awards in the Birthday Honours List:-

**CB**
**Maj Gen C. N. Last OBE**

**CBE**
**Col M. P. K. Beatty TD ADC DL**

**OBE**
**Lt Col D. G. W. Gardiner**

**MBE**
**Maj S. G. Marshall**
**Capt J. Logan**
**WO2 R. A. Downie**
**WO2 J. H. Willock**

**BEM**
**SSgt P. J. Addison**
**SSgt F. Sharp (TA)**
**Sgt G. C. Elliston**
**Sgt M. Keech**
**Cpl R. B. Low**
**Cpl M. J. Whelan**

## PRINCESS ROYAL DAY, 28 JUNE

The Master of Signals **Major General J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL** sent the following greetings to our Colonel-in-Chief, **Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal GCVO:-**

*On the occasion of Princess Royal Day, 28 June 1990, in this our 70th Anniversary year, the Master of Signals and all ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals, serving and retired, send to their Colonel-in-Chief, HRH The Princess Royal GCVO their best wishes, affectionate greetings, and their thanks for her kindness and devotion to her Corps.*

The Colonel-in-Chief sent the following reply:-

*I was delighted to receive your kind message of affectionate greetings and thanks today, 28 June 1990, on the occasion of Princess Royal Day and would ask that you convey my best wishes to all members of my Corps, both serving and retired.*

OUR COVER PICTURES

Front: The Corps Memorial which was dedicated in Catterick on 24 June 1990.
The back cover picture shows members of 39 Sig Regt (SC) (V) creating a world record for indoor abseiling in the Lloyds Building in London. An account of this event appears on page 316. The abseilers were *(left to right)* Sgt Eldridge, Capt Willmott and LCpl Rock.

# THE AWARD OF THE MEDAGLIA AL VALOR CIVILE
# TO THE LATE BRIGADIER R. F. MAYNARD MBE

On Tuesday 29 May 1990 **Mrs Marguerite Maynard** received the highest Italian decoration for Civil Bravery awarded to her husband the late **Brig Russell Maynard MBE** in recognition of his outstanding courage in rescuing six young children from treacherous sea conditions off Fregene, Italy. The award was presented by the Italian Ambassador, **HE Signor Boris Biancheri**, at a ceremony at the Italian Embassy in London. **Brig Maynard**'s son **Matthew**, daughter **Rebecca**, and parents, **Maj** and **Mrs Maynard**, were also present.

On 15 July 1988, while **Brig Maynard** was relaxing on the beach with his wife and family, the weather suddenly changed and strong winds whipped up the sea. **Brig Maynard** and a Danish Officer spotted six children in severe difficulties in the sea and without hesitation or regard for their own safety went to their assistance. The children were pulled to safety but the rescuers, exhausted by their efforts, were overwhelmed by the strong current and drowned. At the time of his death **Brig Maynard** was attending the NATO Defence College, Rome before taking up an appointment at SHAPE.

As a consequence the Italian Government awarded **Brig Maynard**, the Italian Gold Medal for Civil Bravery—its equivalent of The George Cross. Through this unprecedented gesture the Italian authorities have shown their regard for his selfless action as a fine example of maintaining, at all costs, 'the highest of human values'.

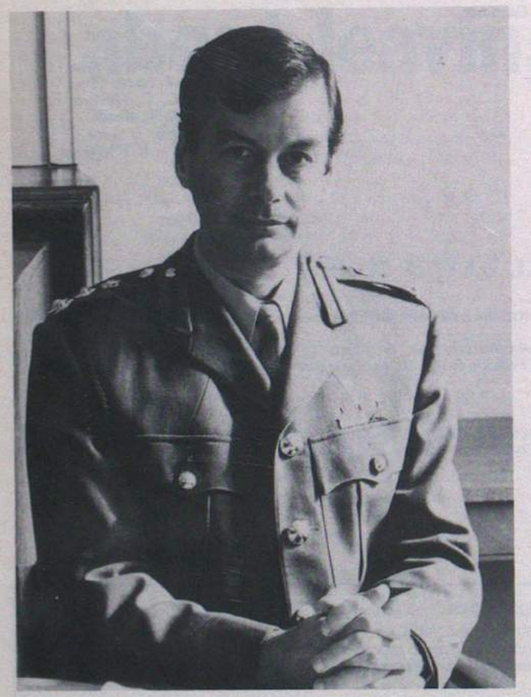
In addition **Mrs Maynard** received the Carnegie gold medallion awarded by the Carnegie Hero Trust Fund. This Trust Fund was formed for the North American Continent by **Andrew Carnegie** in 1904 and at later dates similar Trusts were established throughout Europe. The primary purpose of the Fund was to assist the dependents of those who perished in attempts to save the lives of others in peace time.



HE the Italian Ambassador presenting the medal to Mrs Maynard, also in the picture Rebecca and Matthew Maynard



Mrs Maynard with HE Signor Boris Biancheri



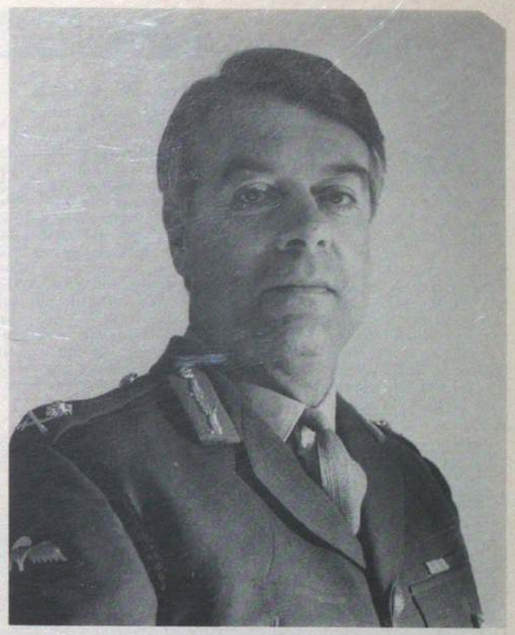


Major and Mrs Maynard, Mrs Marguerite Maynard, Rebecca and Matthew Maynard

*Photos courtesy of London Sera*



# VALE
## Major General C. N. Last CB OBE



**Maj Gen C. N. Last** who has been made CB in the Queen's Birthday Honours List has now retired from the Army. His last appointment was as the Military Deputy to the Head of Defence Sales, an important post which these days seems to be held more frequently by officers of the Corps—a sign of the times perhaps. **Gen Last** started his military career as a National Service Officer, gaining a Regular Commission in 1958. He subsequently served in UK, BAOR, Singapore and Borneo during 'confrontation' with the Indonesians.

After attending the Staff College and the National Defence College he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1974 when he was appointed CR Signals Northern Ireland and at the end of that tour was awarded the OBE.

A spell in the MOD followed during which he was promoted Colonel and was involved with the introduction of ADP in the field Army (Wavell and Bates).

Command of 8 Sig Regt in 1980 was followed by his appointment as Commander Communications HQ 1st British Corps. Returning to the MOD and an appointment in the Procurement Executive in 1983, he was in 1986 promoted Major General and became Vice Master General of the Ordnance. In April 1988 he became the Military Deputy to the Head of Defence Sales.

During his service he has played hockey for the Corps, the Army and the Combined Services and he has also represented BAOR in rugby.

We wish **Maj Gen Last** and his family the best of good fortune in the future.

# R-S-A
## The Royal Signals Association AND YOU

**THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION—IT MAY MEAN MUCH MORE TO YOU NOW THAN DURING YOUR SERVICE**

*The principal aims of the Association are:-*

- To try and keep those who have served the Corps in touch with each other with a view to keeping alive a spirit of comradeship—a feature of Corps life you will miss when you leave the Service.
- To help serving and retired members of the Corps (and their close dependants) who find themselves in difficult circumstances with advice and practical aid, financial or in kind.
- To assist, where possible, resettlement in civilian life by trying to find employment and generally advising.

*The Association endeavours to achieve these aims by:-*

- Sponsoring branches in the main towns and population centres of the UK. These branches often meet for social occasions, and there is generally an annual dinner.
- Organising annual reunions at Blandford and Catterick. These provide the opportunity to meet old friends, for the retired to see something of the serving Corps and, but not necessarily on every occasion, to remember the dead.
- Running a welfare and general advice section at Association HQ, which is at the service of all members.
- Publishing the Corps magazine. *The Wire*. Taking out a subscription will help to keep you in touch with Corps and Association affairs.
- Selling items of Corps goods such as Corps ties, car badges and diaries. These are listed in *The Wire*.

### MEMBERSHIP

Nearly all members of the Corps have, whilst serving, been contributing under the Day's Pay Scheme which has greatly benefited our Benevolent Fund. As you conclude your Service, may we thank you most sincerely and remind you that, by virtue of your contributions, you are a Life Member of our Association. Please write **NOW** for registration as such. If you have not contributed at all you can become a Life Member for £2.50.

### THE FUTURE

If, in the future, you are confronted by circumstances or problems where you consider the Association may be able to offer advice or help, please contact The General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD (Tel: (071) 630 0801). Please give your service particulars when writing.

**Your Corps Association has flourished for many years, but only the support of those leaving the service will enable it to continue doing so. If a branch is near you join it and so make your personal contribution towards this end.**

## — From our "In" Tray —

## ROYAL REVIEW

**Her Majesty The Queen** visited 5 AB Bde in the field on Salisbury Plain during Ex Stone Warrior on 17 May. In a three hour visit Her Majesty watched the Leading Parachute Bn Gp deploy from the 15 Hercules C130 stream; there were 21 members of the Squadron on the jump. Her Majesty then toured the static stands around the drop zone and afterwards visited the Brigade Tac Headquarters and the Brigade Oscar Headquarters. Squadron Commander, **Maj Mark Edwards** had the honour of being presented to the Queen together with some members of the Squadron. Having a rehearsal prior to the visit **WO2 (YofS) Mac McCrindle** played the part of the Tacsat Operator; he was to jump in to take up his position on the day of the real visit. The rehearsals were dogged with troubles ranging from meteorological problems, ie too much wind, and other such hazards. But the old adage of 'a bad rehearsal is a sign of a good performance' seemed to work, because on the big day the sun came out, the wind dropped and, the Brigade put on a spectacular display for Her Majesty.



Capt Scott Workman and LCpl Bo Bohanna demonstrating 'Para tac' HQ during the Royal Review



The Squadron Deploys
21 members of the Squadron jumped as part of the Royal Review

## ABSEIL WORLD RECORD

1245 hrs Thursday 24 May 1990 saw six intrepid members of the 39th Sig Regt (Special Communications) (Volunteers) establish the world record, of 231ft 4in, for the longest free space abseil within a commercially used building. The six from the Regiment were part of a team of 18 volunteer Reservists who work within the Lloyds of London Insurance Community.

The abseil took place in the Lloyds Building located in the heart of the City of London under the watchful eye of six Television News crews, and assorted international press.

The six participating members from 39 were:-

**Sgt Les Eldridge**
**Pte Carolyn Higgs WRAC**
**LCpl Ray Rock**
**Sig Marcus Simeoni**
**Capt Paul Willmott**
**Lt Mike White**

Training for the event included free space abseil training at the Joint Air Transport Establishment, RAF Brize Norton, and helicopter abseiling from a Sea King Mk4 of 707 Naval Air Squadron, RNAS Yeovilton. Specialist equipment, and administrative support for the event was provided by 39 Sig Regt by permission of the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Mervyn Sharp**. He, together with all the permanant staff were the personal guests of the Deputy Chairman of Lloyds on the day, and consequently had ring side seats and VIP treatment.

The event raised over £10,000 for the Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond, and also added to 39 Regiment's contribution to the new Corps Museum.



Working on the Gantry!



The 39 Team
*(Left to right):* Lt Mike White, Cpl Alan Jefferies (ground crew), LCpl Ray Rock, Pte Carolyn Higgs, Sig Marcus Simeoni, Sgt Les Eldridge and Capt Paul Willmott



## ABSEILING IN BOURNEMOUTH

**Cpls Mick Stanyer, Steve Renouf** and **Paul Williams** taught the Bournemouth Lions the art of abseiling in their sponsored abseil off the tallest building in Bournemouth, the Abbey Life Tower (180ft). Altogether 20 people from Blandford took part, including **Capt Philippa Owens MBE**, and **Lt Liz Wise** (Adjutant and Assistant Adjutant, 30 Sig Regt). The photographs were taken by **Cpl Paul Williams**.



Cpls Mick Stanyer, Steve Renouf, Mr Ralph Smales (Dorset Ambulance Service)



Joanne Smales takes the plunge!



Cpl Mick Stanyer at peace with the world!
*Photos by Cpl Paul Williams*

## STOP PRESS

As we go to press we have news of several successes by Corps teams in the RASAM Bisley.

The School of Signals won the Kolar Goldfields Cup (Long Range team match).

Queen's Gurkha Signals won the following:-

14/20th Hussars Cup (SMG team match) with a score of 1,412 followed by 23 Coy RPC—1,319.

The Small Arms Cup (Section Match) with a score of 736, followed by 94 Locating Regt RA—600 and 35 Engr Regt—600.

The Corps Methuen Team won the following:-

The Woolwich Trophy (match between RA, RE and Royal Signals).

The REME Trophy (Series B—SA80 with Iron Sights) with a score of 1,227. Second were REME 1225 and third RE with 1206.

# THE CORPS NEW MUSEUM—AN UPDATE

**by Brig R. L. Stonham, New Museum Project Manager**

Several letters, containing helpful and constructive suggestions, ideas and comments, have been received in response to the article in the April issue; these are much appreciated by the Project Team. This contribution is in the form of an up-date following the April article.

**THE APPEALS**

Over the last few months, the Project Team has been concentrating its main efforts on both external and internal fund raising. The External Appeal has been fostered by two main events. The first was held on 22 May 1990 at Blandford Camp and was attended by, amongst others, the Lord Lieutenant of Dorset, the **Lord Digby**, **Ned Sherrin** of BBC Radio, an ex Corps Member, and Chairmen and Managing Directors of some 40 companies and firms. It took the form of a Beating Retreat Ceremony, featuring the Massed Bands, Pipes and Drums of the:-

Staff Band of the Royal Corps of Signals
Staff Band of the Womens Royal Army Corps
Queen's Gurkha Signals
34th (Northern) Signal Regiment (V)
Army Apprentices College (Harrogate)

This was followed by a reception in the Headquarters Officers Mess. The Retreat Ceremony was open to the public and the total raised for the fund by the sale of tickets and collection was £1,200. A video of the Retreat Ceremony will shortly be available for purchase.

Secondly, the Project Team set up a stand at the British Army Equipment Exhibition at Aldershot from 3-9 June 1990. This was a useful publicity exercise and many contacts were made, both with exhibiting companies and overseas visitors.

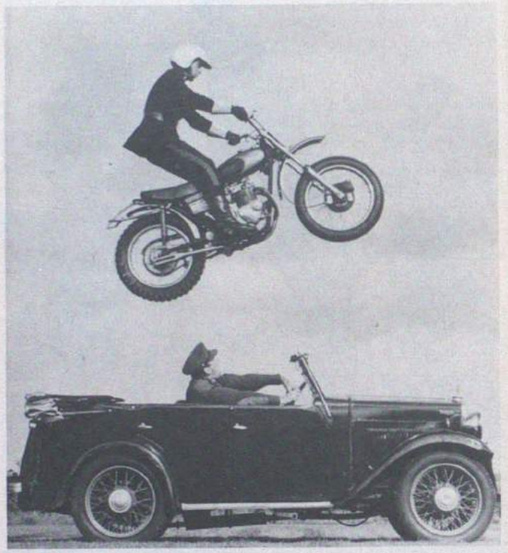
In addition all firms who have had business with the Corps have received a letter from the Master of Signals informing them about the Project. In order to co-ordinate the appeals, a Fund Raising Executive Committee, chaired by the Master of Signals, with the Deputy SOinC (Designate) and Commander School of Signals as the Serving Members, and **Col P. J. Mather** as the TA Member, holds regular meetings at RHQ; the main aim of this Committee is to identify and invite influential members of industry, commerce and the political field to assist us with fund raising.

In order to keep up the necessary momentum of the Internal Fund Raising, all units have been sent a copy of the 'in-house' briefing video. Also, in response to several requests, a publicity poster has been produced and copies distributed to all units and Chairmen of the Association Branches and affiliated Branches; and letters of former soldiers of the Corps are now being sent out.

**THE FUND**

Donations from Retired Officers are still arriving together with the first flow of individual contributions and some unit donations from the serving Corps. These, together with a few industry contributions, give a total amount received into the fund so far, including Covenant pledges, of just over £100,000. We have a long way to go but, the general high level of interest being shown in the Project and the positive responses from many units in planning fund-raising events are most encouraging.

**FROM THE MUSEUM ARCHIVES**



A member of the 1975 Display Team jumps a 1933 Triumph Tourer


## ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS

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*Any Amount Made Up as Required*

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Export 3in Web without Strengthening..... £5.75 plus post

UK inc VAT 3in Web with Strengthening .... £8.00 plus post
UK inc VAT 3in Web without Strengthening £6.61 plus post

**T. FROST (Saddlers)**
SOUTH PARADE, BAWTRY
DONCASTER, SOUTH YORKSHIRE


## ARMY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

At the Annual General Meeting of the Army Football Association, held at Aldershot on 20 June 1990, the Chairman, **Maj Gen R. L. Peck**, announced that **Brig T. H. Wheawell, ADC**, Deputy Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army), the retiring Vice Chairman of the Army Football Association has been appointed Honorary Vice-President of the Association. **Brig Wheawell** is the first member of the Corps to hold this appointment.



# THE BEAMISH TROPHY TRIAL 1989

**by SSgt Roger Thompson**

This story begins in Cyprus where in 1985 an old Villiers engined motorcycle was acquired for a bottle of whisky. This was then crated up and shipped back to England, but not before a fortuitous set of circumstances meant a cylinder rebore, new piston and rings for less than £20.

Customs in England took one look at the forlorn collection of bits, gave me a clearance certificate and wished me luck. Two years of searching for missing parts, refurbishing old parts and arguing with the LVLC over registration numbers at last saw the motorcycle running.

The Vintage Motorcycle Club had identified it as a 1949 James model 10D of 125cc. It had been exported to Cyprus in 1950 where it was registered 'B 223'. (If anyone has any recollections of it I would be very interested to receive any information.) November 1987 saw it UK registered as 'LSU 102'.

It had to wait until 1988 for its first serious outing in the Castleford Cavalcade of British Motorcycles in June. This run knocked out the big ends; it finished with a loud grumbling noise coming from the bottom end.

The engine was ready for the Beamish Trophy Trial in September 1988. This is a 120 mile long rugged trial for motorcycles over 25 years old starting and finishing at Beamish Museum and following the route of a famous trial held in the 1920's.

Neither the bike nor I were prepared for just how rugged it was especially for such a little engine. We got to Gold Hill without much trouble but really struggled up the hill, eventually making it to the cheers of the spectators. An overheated engine slowed down progress, but we cleared Westgate Ford without mishap. Peat Hill was a real battle, the crankcase seals blew three quarters of the way up the hill and we had to retire. I decided it would be quicker to go direct back to Darlington, with very little crankcase compression I had to push it up all the hills but could manage to ride it downhill. That was 35 miles and it felt like every one was uphill! But it gave me the resolve to finish the trial next year.

A 1963 Triumph T90 350cc came my way at the end of 1988, and I thought this would easily cope with the Beamish. Unfortunately, for some reason I decided this was the easy way out, the real challenge lay in completing it on the James. So, into little bits came the Villiers engine and this time reassembled with accuracy and loving care by yours truly. All the work was completed by July 1989 and thus started the careful running in and preparation of the bike. A final service at 500 miles and the bike was ready for the big day, 17 September 1989.

I was fourth bike away from the start at 0901 hrs. Gold Hill, Westgate Ford and Peat Hill (last year's downfall) were all completed without any hitches. The observed section at Hagg's Mine was just too steep for an engine developing only 4.5bhp. It was scaled but only by running alongside pushing and slipping the clutch at the same time with the engine revving flat out. At the summit a cooling off period was required for machine and rider, being dressed for the cold and rain I had sweat in the form of steam coming out of my jacket collar.

This slowed down my average speed and I was late arriving at Allenheads for lunch. The stop attracts hundreds of spectators and the lone village pub must have made more money that lunchtime than it does all year. A swift coffee and sandwich meant I had to be on my way or really get behind schedule—I could have murdered a pint too!

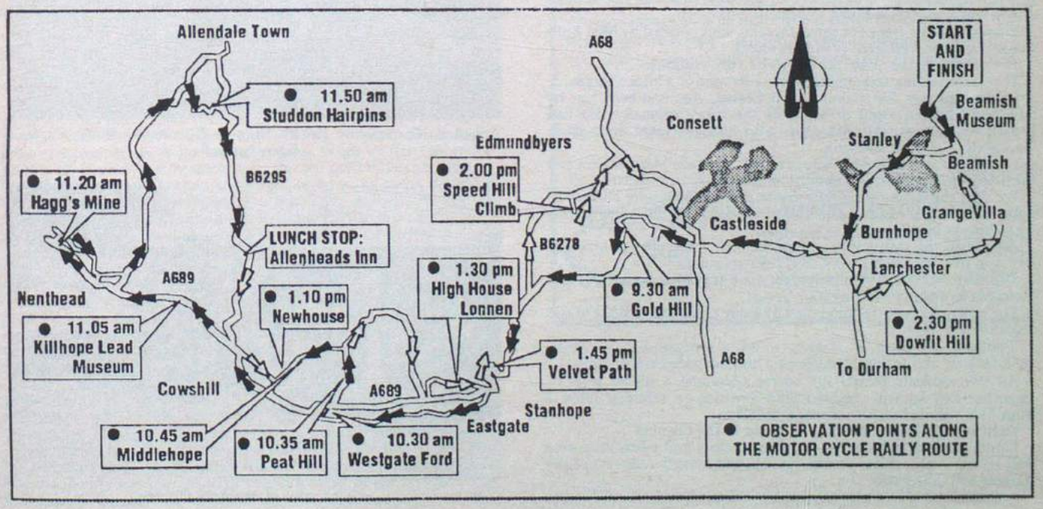
The run back to the museum covers some beautiful countryside, it was a pleasure to be able to participate. Until I got to High House Lonnen that is; what on earth is that you may ask, I did and I can tell you—it is a hill that seems as if it's never going to end. It was back to pushing again as the engine just couldn't cope. The remaining sections were completed without mishap.

We arrived back at the museum at 1645 hrs to complete the trial by doing speed and brake tests within the museum grounds. Eight hours and 120 miles later it was all over, a magic day, and a real sense of achievement particularly on such a small bike. What about next year? Do I fit the more powerful 197cc engine I have acquired to take an even easier option and use the Triumph twin? No, I think with a bit more preparation and a four speed gearbox instead of the present three we can crack those bigger hills; perhaps then I'll consider the other options.

PS. Any three competitors can form a team to take part in the team competition, so if anyone has a 25 year old bike, a little trials experience and likes a bit of a challenge get in touch with me and perhaps we could enter a Corps team?



'The famous James' (registered trademark) 1949 James 125cc Model 10D



# MOTORCYCLE PROJECT—THE GAMBIA 89

**by Sgt P. Engering R Signals, Motor Cycle Instructor in the Advanced Training Wing, Army School of Mechanical Transport**

Some weeks before I was involved in the Gambia project, my son asked 'Where is Gambia?'. Situated in West Africa, the Gambia River, which the Country was named after, is 200 miles long and stretches the entire length of the country, which is also surrounded by Senegal, the capital is Banjul. The brief for my project was to teach Basic Motorcycle skills to community health nurses (now referred to as CHN's), also to organise and run an instructors course for pre-selected students. The duration of my stay was three weeks (27 October-18 November 1989).

**THE TEAM**

**Sgt P. Engering**, Royal Signals Motorcycle Instructor, **Mr Geoff Myers**, Chairman of Transaid and **Mr Barry Coleman**, Writer and Producer of the Motorcycle Manual.

The manual drafted by **Barry** was to be trialled and tested during our stay and on completion it is to be used throughout the third world, as a guide for instructors and administrators alike.

During our first few days we realised we had to 'live on our feet', preparations for our visit had been done at the last minute and communications hardly existed. During our first week we travelled the Eastern Region with analyst **Mervyn John** who was carrying out a survey, for Transaid, to examine the use of Motorcycles relating to the primary health care programme and also set down recommendations for future use in the Gambia.

**Geoff Myers** was writing a report for Save The Children Fund, and his findings would be presented to the Gambian Health Department.

We attended meetings talking to the men in charge of various Government Departments. I was pleased to be able to attend and listen, this gave me a basic understanding of how the Gambian Ministry's policies worked.

The CHN's of Essau on the North Bank, had previously been issued with new motorcycles, our job was to introduce five new C110 Honda Motorcycles to the other remaining CHN's and to check their level of riding expertise.

The one day course was very compact. The saying 'Mad dogs and Englishmen' came to mind at 1200 hrs, whilst standing on the edge of a mangrove swamp watching the students, and surrounded by a pack of wild dogs.

The simple exercises we had set the students seemed to be going well, and everyone was enjoying themselves, apart from **Barry Coleman**, who was seen being dragged across the sandy area, behind one of the CNH's who 'froze' with the throttle wide open. He had his work cut out, as **Mia** had not previously ridden anything, including a push bike, so her sense of balance was very limited. Although **Barry** had pulled some thigh muscles, we returned the following week to give **Mia** further instruction, at the end of this day, **Mia** was able to take a different motorcycle home to practise on.

We stayed at Bansang for three days this week, hosted by **Miss Kath Conn** 'Save the Children' (Field Director).

The terrain further East proved to be very arduous.

The CHN's riding and maintenance skills were of a higher standard.

I think this was due mainly to **Ali Cessay**, who had been lent by Save the Children Fund to assemble the bikes originally. He had proved to be a capable Manager, who had generated enthusiasm among the CHNs at Bansang.

I inspected and with **Ali**'s help, carried out Basic Maintenance and Servicing on most of the motorcycles there.

We then carried out training with the CHN's, who were all keen to improve their basic skills, at the end of the day I was more than happy with their knowledge.

**Ali** passed the instructors course on week three, and returned to Bansang to continue his work and rider training.

The third week was spent tidying up and travelling backwards and forwards to various meetings.

The instructors course could only be a day and a half instead of our required five days.

Training consisted of: taking a lesson, organising a course, maintenance and technical skills quiz and advanced riding skills.

All five students passed the course obtaining a higher level of expertise. One student required more practice on teaching skills. I think this was due to his language problem.

Deep sand is the main riding problem in the Gambia.

I worked hard with the potential instructors and when they were well versed in all aspects of negotiating sand hazards, the rest of the training fell into place.

I found the students very responsible and quick to learn, and it was down to their hard work, that they reached the required level of expertise, in such a short time.

**AS A FOOTNOTE**

It is interesting to note that the immunisation programme is at over 80% in the Gambia, the highest in Africa.

With the varying health care projects, and the problems they have, it still rates as a good success story. I hope the work I was involved in, will help the very polite and helpful Gambian people.

*(This article first appeared in* 'Drive Alive' *Summer 1990 issue and is reproduced here by courtesy of the Editor, Maj C. Candlin, Coldm Gds).*



Barry Coleman discusses finer points with instructors



Angelica (Community Health Nurse)—Successful Basic Student from Essau



Successful Instructors Course



# 633 SIGNAL TROOP GO UNDER—EXERCISE AQUATIC MERCURY

Ex Aquatic Mercury was a subaqua diving expedition mounted by 633 Sig Tp (Caribbean) off Belize on 25/27 May. Many of the soldiers here completed novice diving courses, but few have been able to take the sport further. The exercise chartered a commencial dive boat, the *Manta IV*, and the soldiers spent three days doing seven assorted dives around the Turneffe Island/Blue Hole, all off the coral reef of Belize.

The exercise started on the Friday morning when we loaded our stores on to the *Manta IV*. **LCpl Stephen Lewis**, in charge of refreshments showed us all how he had cornered the world market in diet Cherry Coke ('but everyone drinks it, honest'); **Capt Alan Blackwell** (ex leader) and **Cpl Ian Roy** had already spent a profitable hour that morning stripping the main kitchen of anything they thought might be of use in feeding the 5,000 (well, 10, but **WO2 (FofS) Tim Prince** was with us); finally **LCpl Mick Sim**, who doubled up as our Medic, saw that we had enough equipment to start a field hospital aboard. Half an hour later, we set off across an unusually flat sea towards Caye Bokel, our first dive site.

Around three hours later, in the early afternoon, we anchored off Caye Bokel. Our first dive was to 20m: an opportunity for those who were borrowing equipment to familiarise themselves with it, and for those who had not dived for a while to refresh their memories. Within a couple of minutes we had seen a pair of spotted eagle rays. **FofS Tim Prince** was so bouyant (not fat) that he had to return to the boat for a further 10lbs of lead. We were accompanied by a friendly grouper for most of the 20 minutes dive and also saw barracudas camouflaging themselves on the sea bed.

Lunch back on the boat was appreciated by all, particularly the Foreman who was determined to sink on the second dive. The remains of lunch were put to use on the end of the fishing lines and both **Cpl Ian Roy** and **LCpl Mick Sim** caught a fish apiece.

The second dive of the day, in the late afternoon, was little shallower but lasted for half an hour. Everyone had by this time got their individual weights sorted out. Unfortunately the top couple of metres was infested with pica-pica, the spawn of jellyfish, which can sting quite badly on contact. Back at the boat we were told there was to be no drinking until one hour after the last dive. The Foreman had already set his stopwatch as he left the water!

Friday night was a quiet and very hot night on the boat, punctuated only by the sound of itching and a few choice words as pica-pica stings took hold on some peoples' bodies. Saturday morning saw everyone up at 0600 hrs when we set sail for the famous Blue Hole and our deep dive. We had a light breakfast during the two hour journey and 'Doctor' **Sim** happily poured vinegar and other potions over the main pica-pica sufferers, **Capt Alan Blackwell** and **Sig Mick Lynn**.

**Larry Parker**, the owner of the boat who knows the area extremely well, gave us all a quick history/geography lesson on the Blue Hole, how it had been formed, and what to expect when we dived into it. We were going to 37m, the deepest any of us had been and the limit that our SADS, **Maj Alan Barnes** (RAEC) could allow in service diving. Everyone was also reminded of the dangers of deep diving and once again we went through the features, depths and times we all needed to know.

The Blue Hole itself was spectacular. On the surface it is a deep blue circle approximately 400m in diameter, surrounded almost entirely by a coral wall. The deep blue is attributed to its great depth in an otherwise comparatively shallow area of sea. When we first descended we saw an impressive limestone wall, formed before the last changes in sea level 12,000 years ago. At 30m we were met by a very noticable thermodine, when the temperature fell from around 30 degrees centigrade to 22 degress centigrade in a metre. We also came across magnificent limestone caves and stalagmites and stalactites at 30m. The caves were too deep to explore, but we spent a couple of minutes around the other limestone features, each several times the size of a man.

Having done a deep dive in the morning we were severely limited with the time we could spend at depth for the rest of the day, so we remained at less than 9m for the following dives. The afternoon saw us anchored off Long Caye where we did a 30 minute dive in an area similar to that which we would use for the night dive. Back on the surface, as the light faded around 1800 hrs, fish were attracted to the strong lights at the stern of the *Manta IV*. The keen fishermen amongst us were having a field day, but none managed to catch any of the large tarpon which were swimming around near the surface.

The first group entered the water for the night dive just before 2000 hrs and descended into the still warm sea through a group of tarpon. The marine life was particularly rich, with much of the activity being nocturnal in the sea. The half hour dive went fast and it was no time before the first group were handing over their diving lights to the second group and, of course, starting the one hour countdown. The second group emerged from the water just before 2100 hrs, narrowly missing the lines being cast by those keen to catch some of what they had just been swimming with.

Sunday's breakfast was again in two parts: a light breakfast before the half hour, 20m dive off Long Caye, then back on board for black pudding and fresh caught barracuda. We then had to start the journey back to Belize City ('the jewel of the Caribbean'), stopping off en route at Caye Bokel for a dive before lunch.

The exercise was a great success; we were blessed with exceptionally calm seas and clear skies (affording excellent visibility underwater). The diving was quite outstanding and opened up a new world to all of us, particularly the Blue Hole dive and the night dive. Headquarters British Forces Belize generously donated Bze $1,500 (£500) to the exercise.

Those taking part were: **Capt Alan Blackwell** (ex leader), **Maj Alan Barnes** RAEC (SADS), **Capt Paul Pople** (OIC Account), **WO2 (FofS) Tim Prince, WO2 Eric Martin, Cpl Ian Roy, LCpls** 'Cherry Coke' **Lewis,** (Doctor) **Mick Sim, Sig Mick Lynn** and **Mac McKillop.**

Copies of the full PXR are available from **Capt A. R. Blackwell**, HQ BF Belize, BFPO 12 at £5 each. All profits will go to the Museum Appeal.

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# REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS GAMES CLUB FOR WINTER SEASON 1989/90

I must first report on the outstanding successes of **Cpl Callander** of 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt and **WO2 Akabusi** APTC (formerly Royal Signals) who won gold medals at the Commonwealth Games 1990 at Christchurch, New Zealand in the 4 × 100m sprint relay and 400m hurdles respectively. I hope the 'Top Level Sportsmen' policy which we have recently introduced will help to bring through many more of our soldiers to Army, Combined Services and international level competition.

There have been a number of team successes in the winter season 1989/90. 21 Sig Regt became the first Royal Signals unit to win the Army Squash Championship beating 39 Engr Regt 3-2 in a hard fought final. 16 Sig Regt continued its success in White Water Canoeing ending the season as Army and BAOR Champions. 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt are the Army Cross Country Champions. The Corps Rugby team has had an outstanding season beating all other Army sides played, losing only to a very strong Gloucestershire County side in a hard, well fought match which was graced by the presence of our Colonel in Chief. The Corps Hockey team won the Army Inter Corps Indoor Competition and was runner up Outdoors, only after extra time, to the RAOC.

Individual performances are headed by **Cpl Callander**'s success for England at the Commonwealth Games. **Cpl Davies** of 22 Sig Regt continues to represent Great Britain in Nordic Skiing and finished 10th in the National Championships. **Sgt Anderson** also of 22 Sig Regt won a place in the National Ski Orienteering Team and competed at the World Championships in Sweden. In the British Bobsleigh Championships this year, **Cpl Farrel**, of 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt won a Gold and Silver when acting as a Brakeman in the two and four man Bobsleigh events respectively. **Cpl Mosely** of 8 Sig Regt is to be congratulated on becoming the North of England 500cc Enduro Motor Cycle Champion and the Yorkshire Enduro Champion. The Corps Association Football, Hockey and Rugby Football teams produced a number of individuals who represented the Combined Services and the Army at both Senior and Junior/U-21 level. Finally, many congratulations go to **WO2 Kitson** of AA Coll Harrogate on refereeing the Army Challenge Cup Final at Aldershot on 11 April 1990.

# ROYAL SIGNALS SPORTS RESULTS WINTER 1989/90

## ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

**RESULTS**

| Date | Opponents | Venue | Result | Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11 Sept 89 | Corps BAOR | Krefeld | Won | 1—0 |
| 13 Sept 89 | RAF (G) | Rheindahlen | Won | 2—0 |
| 15 Sept 89 | BAOR XI | Rheindahlen | Lost | 1—2 |
| 13 Oct 89 | RCT | Aldershot | Won | 3—1 |
| 4 Nov 89 | Wimbledon FC | Wimbledon | Lost | 1—4 |
| 5 Nov 89 | TA | Aldershot | Drew | 0—0 |
| 13 Nov 89 | RE ) | Quadrangular | Drew | 2—2 |
| 15 Nov 89 | RA ) | Competition | Won | 1—0 |
| 17 Nov 89 | REME ) | Aldershot | Lost | 0—3 |
| 2 Mar 90 | RAOC | Catterick | Drew | 2—2 |
| 9 Mar 90 | RAPC | Blandford | Drew | 2—2 |
| 16 Mar 90 | RPC | Catterick | Won | 4—1 |

The following players gained representative honours during the season:-

**Senior Level**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Sgt A. Brown** | 238 Sig Sqn | Combined Services/Army |
| **Cpl A. Higgins** | 2 Div HQ & Sig Regt | Combined Services/Army |
| **Cpl S. Welsh** | School of Signals | Combined Services/Army |
| **Sig P. Brown** | School of Signals | Combined Services/Army |
| **LCpl Robinson** | School of Signals | Army |

**Youth Level**

| | |
|---|---|
| **AT Strouts** | Combined Services/Army |
| **AT Collins** | Combined Services/Army |
| **AT Tharby** | Army |
| **AT Scott** | Army |
| **AT Hoaner** | Army |
| **AT O'Neill** | Army |
| **AT Smith** | Army |
| **AT Heyhurst** | |

**WO2 Peter Kitson** of AA Coll Harrogate who is a Football League Linesman refereed the Army Challenge Cup Final which took place at the Aldershot Stadium on 11 April 1990.

## BADMINTON

An indifferent season due to lack of new blood. The Corps Team entered the Inter Corps Tournament (2-4 February) and finished third equal. Younger players are required if the Corps is to make its way back to the top of this sport.

## BASKETBALL

**Results**

**Friendlies**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| R Signals v Aztecs | L | 60—65 |
| v Garrison | W | 89—61 |
| v Stags | W | 66—58 |

**ABBA Inter Corps Championships**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| R Signals v RA | W | 67—44 |
| v RAPC | W | 78—35 |
| v AMS | W | 69—34 |
| v APTC | L | 68—90 |
| v REME | W | 62—59 |
| v RCT | W | 85—50 |
| v RAOC | W | 83—61 |
| v INF | W | 110—60 |
| v ACC | W | 81—53 |
| v RE | W | 80—78 |

## CANOEING

**BAOR Championships**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Major Unit Champions | — | 16 Sig Regt |
| Individual Places | — | 1st **Sig Haigh** ) |
| | | 2nd **SSgt I Dobson** ) All |
| | | 3rd **Cpl A. Dobson** ) 16 Sig Regt |
| | | 5th **LCpl Broders** ) |

**Army White Water Championships**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Major Unit Champions | — | 16 Sig Regt (Team consisting of **Cpl Dobson, SSgt Dobson** and **LCpl Broders**) |
| Individual Places | — | 3rd **Capt J. Bunce** |
| | | 4th **Cpl A. Dobson** |
| | | 5th **SSgt I Dobson** |

**Inter Service White Water Championships**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Individual Places | — | 5th **Capt J. Bunce** |
| | | 11th equal **Cpl A. Dobson** |
| | | **SSgt I. Dobson** |

## CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

**Army Championships**

1st Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt won the Major Unit Championships on 7 February 1990. **Sgt Bill Bailey** finished 10th and won the Joe Cotterill Trophy for the highest placed Royal Signals runner.

**BAOR Championships**

A scratch Corps team achieved second place to the RAOC in the BAOR Championships with **LCpl Vile** of 1 ADSR finishing second overall.

## HOCKEY

An extremely successful season for the Corps team whose major achievements were:-

Army Inter Corps Indoor Tournament — Winners
Army Inter Corps Outdoor Tournament — Runner Up
Nationwide Anglia Tournament — Fourth

**INTER CORPS INDOOR**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| R Signals | 5 | RCT | 0 |
| R Signals | 4 | RAEC/RMP | 2 |
| R Signals | 3 | RAPC | 2 |

**INTER CORPS OUTDOOR**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| R Signals | 0 | RAOC | 2 |
| R Signals | 0 | APTC | 0 |
| R Signals | 0 | RA | 3 |
| R Signals | 9 | RAEC/RMP | 1 |

**Semi Final:**
R Signals 6 RE 2

**Final:**
R Signals 7 REME 6

**Semi Final:**
R Signals 3 RE 1

**Final:**
R Signals 3 RAOC 3
(Extra time lost 5—3)

**Other Matches:**

| | |
|---|---|
| 25 Oct v RAMC | Won 3—1 |
| 6 Dec v Staff College | Won 5—0 |
| 28 Feb v RMAS | Won 3—1 |

**SUMMARY**

| Played | Won | Lost | Drawn | Goals For | Goals Against |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21 | 12 | 9 | 0 | 60 | 50 |

The following achieved representative level:-

**Senior Level**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Maj G. James** | Army |
| **Lt J. Williams** | Army |
| **Lt M. Hanson** | Army |

**U21 Level**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sig R. Beany** | Army and Combined Services |
| **Sig N. Pollitt** | Army |
| **Sig R. Burton** | Army and Combined Services |

## ORIENTEERING

**Royal Signals Championships (BAOR)**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Major Unit:** | 1st | 14 Sig Regt (3rd year running) |
| | 2nd | 22 Sig Regt |
| | 3rd | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| **Minor Unit:** | 1st | 211 Sig Sqn |
| | 2nd | Berlin HQ & Sig Regt |
| | 3rd | 3 Sqn 13 Sig Regt |

Some 31 teams of 4 participated.

**The Royal Signals Championships (UK)**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Major Unit:** | 1st | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| | 2nd | School of Signals |
| | 3rd | 30 Sig Regt |
| Minor Unit: | 1st | Comms and Sy Gp UK |
| | 2nd | 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| | 3rd | 233 Sig Sqn |

The Royal Signals 1989 Individual Champion was **Capt Jim Wood**—School of Signals. Once again **Maj Jean Payne** WRAC(V) and her husband **Capt Andrew Payne (V)** were the leading volunteers. Two juniors **AT LCpl Haffenden** and **AT Wright-McCarthy** are showing great promise.

## RUGBY FOOTBALL

**Results**

| Date | Opposition | Venue | Result |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4 Oct 89 | RAEC Offrs | Beaconsfield | Won 32—12 |
| 18 Oct 89 | RMCS | Shrivenham | Won 29—8 |
| 1 Nov 89 | RAPC | Blandford | Won 38—6 |
| 15 Nov 89 | RE | Blandford | Won 12—6 |
| 29 Nov 89 | RAOC | Blandford | Won 15—9 |
| 7 Feb 90 | ACC | Aldershot | Won 8—0 |
| 5 Mar 90 | RA | Larkhill | Won 60—0 |
| 7 Mar 90 | REME | Arborfield | Won 10—3 |
| 11 Mar 90 | Gloucestershire | Bristol | Lost 10—46 |
| 13 Mar 90 | Salisbury II | Salisbury | Won 13—10 |
| 21 Mar 90 | RCT | Blandford | Won 46—3 |

| Played | Won | Lost | Points For | Points Against |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | 10 | 1 | 273 | 110 |

The following gained representative honours:-

**Senior Level**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sgt K. Atkins** | Army Cap and Combined Services |
| **LCpl S. Bartliff** | Army Cap |
| **Capt I. Whitehall** | Army |
| **LCpl K. Bowling** | Army |

**U21 Level**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sig S. Admans** | Army Cap |

**Colts Level**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sig Hayes** | Army |
| **AT Morgan** | Army |
| **AT Parr** | Army and Combined Services |

## SKIING AND BOBSLEIGH

**Nordic**

The Corps came third in the Divisional Championships, winning the 15km patrol race in fine style. **Sig Fowler** won the 10km race and became Divisional Novice Champion.

**Alpine**

At the Army Championships the team achieved fourth place overall, with a second in the Team Super Giant Slalom.

**Sgt Brown** and **LCpl Crawford** were again selected to represent the Army at the Inter Service Championships. It had been hoped that **Cpl Cunningham** would have been able to join them but he was not selected after a bad fall at the Army Championships. **LCpl Crawford** is waiting to find out if he is selected for the Inter-Service Team.

**Bobsleigh**

The Royal Signals Bobsleigh team has had a very successful season with two drivers (**2Lt Quinn** and **Lt Stocker**) competing in all three events open to them and one brakeman (**Cpl Farrell**) representing Great Britain.

Detailed results are:-

**Army Championships** (Cervinia, Italy in January 1990)
9th **2Lt Quinn** and **Cpl Rock**
11th **Lt Stocker** and **Sig Renwick**

**British Championships** (St Moritz Switzerland in February 1990)
12th **2Lt Quinn** and **A. N. Other (Cpl Rock** was unable to take part due to a training week in Lake Placid, Canada)
16th **Lt Stocker** and **Sig Pilling**

**Cpl Farrel** won the gold medal acting as brakeman for **Cpl Tout** and a silver as part of the Tout Team which came second in the British Four Man Competition.

## SQUASH

**Results**

**Open**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Winner | **LCpl Gallagher** | 21 Sig Regt |
| Runner Up | **SSgt Ranier** | 13 Sig Regt |

**Plate**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Winner | **Capt W. Miles** | 37(V) Sig Regt |
| Runner Up | **Sig Wood** | 30 Sig Regt |

**Super Plate**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Winner | **Cpl Nirmal Bhattachan** | QG Signals |
| Runner Up | **SSgt Altham** | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |

**LCpl Gallagher** of 21 Sig Regt had an outstanding series of matches beating five Army A Team Players.

A summary of this years results is:-

Played 10 Won 4 Lost 6

## SPORT MOTORCYCLING

**Results**

| Events Entered | No of Riders | Awards | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Gold | Silver | Bronze |
| 18 | 28 | 13 | 4 | 6 |

2 × Championship First
1 × Championship Fourth
1 × Army Colours

**Cpl M. Mosely** (8 Sig Regt) had an extremely good season including winning the North of England 500cc Championships, overall champion in the Yorkshire Enduro Championship, fourth place in the Army Motorcycling Championship held at Catterick and the award of Army Colours.

**Cpl S. Crawford** (11 Sig Regt) also did well finishing third in the 500cc North of England Championships.

# *PETASUS III*—THE NEW CORPS BOAT IS NAMED

The new Corps boat joined the Royal Signals Yacht Club fleet in April 1990. She was formally named at a ceremony at Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, on Saturday 9 June, during a Yacht Club rally. A large number of serving and retired members of the Club, and their friends, were present to see the Past Admiral, **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE**, perform the naming ceremony. In addition to marking the occasion in the usual way, members were able to admire the new boat, which is undoubtedly a magnificent acquisition and will give pleasure to many thousands in the years to come. Whilst not doing justice to the new boat (we have to publish better pictures of her in a later *'Wire'*) the photographs do capture a significant event in RSYC history.

In a speech at the ceremony, the Admiral (**Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB, MBE**) paid tribute to all those who had worked so hard to ensure that the substantial funds needed to purchase the boat were made available. The Commodore, **Col W. Roper**, gave an account of the previous two boats to bear the name *Petasus*.



The Admiral, Rear Commodore (Offshore) and Commodore at the naming. Brigs Blake, Webb and Mrs Hild



Maj Gen Hild, Past Admiral conducts the naming ceremony



*Petasus III* is named



Col W. Roper and Brig P. H. F. Webb at the wheel of *Petasus III* in the rain



# SEAVIEW REGATTA 1990

This annual Regatta is held at Seaview on the Isle of Wight. It is sailed in the local one design boats, The Seaview Mermaids. A fleet of 10 is owned and run by the local town's Yacht Club, and are chartered out for racing to outside groups.

The Services hold a series of Regattas through the early summer, culminating in the Army Sailing Association (ASA) Regatta and Inter-Service matches in mid-July. The Royal Signals Regatta is held as both an Inter-Unit match, and as a selection for the crews to represent the Corps in the Inter-Corps Regatta, the ASA Regatta and Inter-Service events.

This year the event was held on 16 and 17 May, two meteorologically contrasting days. The first day was blustery with a stiff breeze and short Solent chop, making spinnaker work exciting and everybody somewhat damp. In spite of the gentlemanly look of the boats, and rules to stop the crew from leaving the cockpit, quite a lot of water finds its way down your neck or onto the sails on this sort of day. The four races fitted in easily with the day's highlight coming in race 2, when the eventual winners of the series led half the fleet around the wrong course. A little embarrassing, but as each crew only sail in seven of the eight races, and are allowed to discard one result, it did not totally destroy a crew's chances.

The day produced its usual crop of protests and newcomers quickly learned of the unpleasantness of the protest procedure. This was lost amongst the pre-dinner chatter and bonhomie brought on by warmth and an ale. The Admiral of the RSYC, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB MBE** who had led the race committee during the day took the head of the table for the Regatta dinner and concluded it with a commendably brief speech.

The next day oilskins were left ashore, replaced by sun cream and Tee Shirts. It was a balmy summer day and tested the race committee to the full. **Gen Alexander, Brig Blake** and **Col Holbrook** managed to run the full four races in difficult conditions, having finished the first race early, at a course mark, just before lunch. The sea breeze filled for the afternoon allowing the remaining three races to be sailed in light and changing winds, without finishing too late. The results are shown below:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| First | **Capts Ellis, Wadey** and **Maj Galpin** | 7 pts |
| Second | **Sgt Avey Hebditch, Cpl Cryer, LCpl Harper**—3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt | 12.5 pts |
| Third | **Maj Smedley, Capt Owens, Sgt Thorpe Willett**—30 Sig Regt | 13.5 pts |
| Fourth | **Cpls Pansett, Parr** and **Hampson**—8 Sig Regt | 31 pts |
| Fifth | **Cpl Downie, Sgt Pritchard, Cpl Lever**—School of Signals | 31 pts |
| | **ATs Box, Nice** and **Cumming**—AA Coll Harrogate | 31 pts |

Teams from 71 Sig Regt (V), HQ Trg Bde, 8 Sig Regt, AA College Harrogate and 2 Sig Bde also participated. **Mrs Christine Alexander** kindly presented the prizes. In addition to prizes for the first three boats, both the Inter-Unit Cup and the Salver for the Best Soldier Helmsman went to the team from 3 Armd Div, led by **Sgt Avey Hebditch**. The effort they made to come over for the Regatta proved worthwhile, and secured their selection to particpate in the Inter-Corps Regatta. The other boats that will make up the team will be **Capt Ellis'**, **Maj Smedley's** and a combination of **Cpls Pansett** and **Downie's** crews. These crews will also be involved in the ASA Regatta, the Services Gold Cup and the Inter-Services Cunningham Cup.



Finishing in light airs

# ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB—EXERCISE SIGNAL VENTURE 1
## 8 OCTOBER 1990—14 APRIL 1991

This adventurous sail training exercise is to be held under the auspices of the Royal Signals YC (UK) and will involve the sailing of the new Victoria 34ft Petasus 111 on 12 consecutive legs each of from two to three weeks duration.

All ranks from all three Services regardless of qualifications and/or experience may apply to take part in this venture.

Qualified Skippers and Mates may apply for further assessment during particular legs of the exercise.

Novices may wish to qualify for RYA Competent Crew awards during their leg.

VHF Radio Operators Licence awards are available on specific legs as required.

Legs 1, 4, 10 and 12 are Passage sails and have some 1,000 miles to cover during the period, with two to four days between ports of call.

Legs 2 and 3 are passages between Gibraltar and the Balearic Islands with ports of call every day along the Spanish Coast.

Legs 5 to 9 inclusive are 'island hopping' cruises around the Canary Island group with ports of call every day. Approximately 500 miles each period.

Leg 11 is a cruise around the Gibraltar area, the Spanish Coast and Portuguese Algarve including Tangier.

Contributions are inclusive of travel to/from the UK to the vessel and rations aboard as follows:-

Legs 1 and 12 at £200 Legs 2, 3 and 11 at £275
Legs 4 and 10 at £300 Legs 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 at £350

Non R Signals personnel and TA applicants add £40 per leg.

Application Form together with further details available from the Project Officer or Exercise Co-ordinator: **APPLY NOW**.

# ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB—ITINERARY FOR EXERCISE SIGNAL VENTURE I

| Leg No | Date | Passage/Cruise Details |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 8-28 October 1990 | Gosport-Gibraltar |
| 2 | 29 October-11 November 1990 | Gibraltar-Palma Mallorca |
| 3 | 12-25 November 1990 | Palma Mallorca-Gibraltar |
| 4 | 26 November-16 December 1990 | Gibraltar-Gran Canary |
| 5 | 17-30 December 1990 | Gran Canary-Cruise |
| 6 | 31 December 1990-13 January 1991 | Gran Canary-Cruise |
| 7 | 14-27 January 1991 | Gran Canary-Cruise |
| 8 | 28 January-10 February 1991 | Gran Canary-Cruise |
| 9 | 11-24 February 1991 | Gran Canary-Cruise |
| 10 | 25 February-10 March 1991 | Gran Canary-Gibraltar |
| 11 | 11-24 March 1991 | Gibraltar-Cruise |
| 12 | 25 March-4 April 1991 | Gibraltar-Gosport |

For details contact either:-

Project Officer, **Maj J. Barrett MBE**, School of Signals, Blandford, Dorset DT11 8RH. Tel: (0258) 452581, Ext 2480. or
Exercise Co-ordinator, **Sgt A. Morgan**, 106 St Nicholas Avenue, Gosport, Hants PO13 9RW. Tel: (0705) 526144

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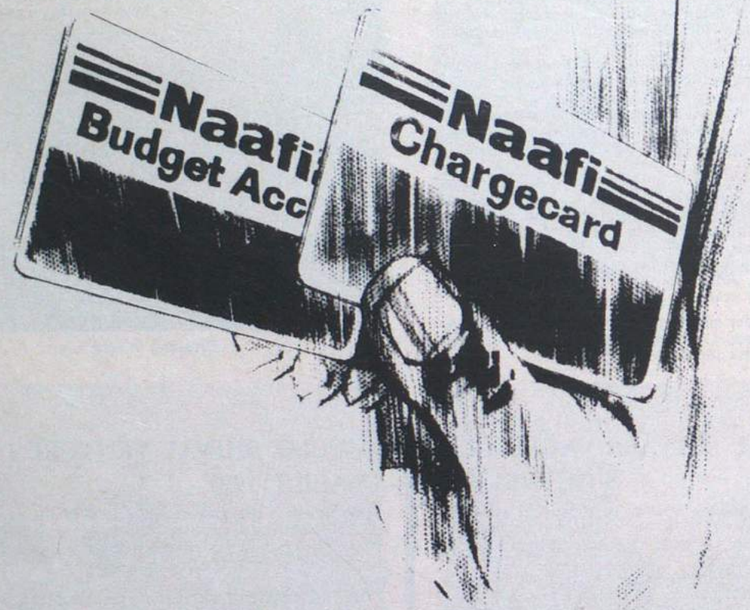


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# — Movements —

## OFFICERS

JUNE 1990

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| Lt Col J. F. Budd | 1MS Brussels |
| Lt Col A. Davies | School of Signals |
| Lt Col T. E. M. Richardson | QG Sig Regt |
| Lt Col R. F. Rutherford | RSM&RO |
| Lt Col D. Strong | HQ NORTHAG Sig Sp Gp |
| Maj R. M. D. Collins | 259 Sig Sqn |
| Maj M. C. Gilyeat | 633 Sig Tp |
| Maj P. J. McLoughlin | 242 Sig Sqn |
| Maj P. C. Smurthwaite | QG Sig Regt |
| Maj J. F. Stuart | School of Signals |
| Maj J. O. S. Vannan | HQ 12 Sig Bde |
| Maj R. J. Williamson | 56 Sig Sqn |
| Capt A. P. C. Beard | QG Sig Regt |
| Capt C. H. Birchall | AA Coll Harrogate |
| Capt R. C. W. Chisholm | Sangcom |
| Capt N. P. Metcalfe | HQNI |
| Capt R. G. West | D of Land Svcs Ammo |
| Capt M. I. Weston | School of Signals |
| Lt P. R. M. Evans | HQ BF Belize |
| Lt A. P. Scott | AA Coll Harrogate |
| 2Lt C. N. Cooper | School of Signals |
| 2Lt A. J. Parsons | School of Signals |
| 2Lt J. E. R. Smith | School of Signals |
| 2Lt D. G. Taylor | School of Signals |

JULY 1990

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| Lt Col R. J. Brown | 33 Sig Regt (V) |
| Lt Col D. G. Dudley | HQ UKLF |
| Lt Col C. K. R. French | 8 Sig Regt |
| Lt Col D. G. W. Gardiner | MOD (DSS) |
| Lt Col A. W. Hunt | 8 Sig Regt |
| Lt Col C. I. Spencer | 34 Sig Regt (V) |
| Lt Col J. M. Sweetman | HQ 2 Sig Bde |
| Lt Col R. D. Symonds | MOD (CGS) |
| Maj S. Hargreaves | 9 Sig Regt |
| Maj C. N. Lightfoot | HQ BAOR |
| Capt M. D. Bailes | 13 Sig Regt |
| Capt A. R. Blackwell | School of Signals |
| Capt C. M. Clark | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Capt M. Davis | 22 Sig Regt |
| Capt S. Evans | School of Signals |
| Capt I. G. Favager | QG Sig Regt |
| Capt A. A. Goff | 11 Sig Regt |
| Capt R. M. R. Graham | HQ 1 (BR) Corps |
| Capt N. J. Griffiths | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Capt A. J. Hall | HQ 2 Sig Bde |
| Capt J. W. Hornby | 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Capt D. B. Hudson | School of Signals |
| Capt M. A. Kerr | 21 Sig Regt |
| Capt D. R. McClelland | 7 Sig Regt |
| Capt I. Sleightholm | UKNDA Thatcham |
| Capt D. W. Somerville | 21 Sig Regt |
| Capt A. J. Stringer | 28 Sig Regt |
| Capt D. J. Walker | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Capt J. C. Williams | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Lt D. J. M. Bizley | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Lt N. I. R. Dewar | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Lt R. J. Freeman | 14 Sig Regt |
| Lt M. G. Hanson | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Lt C. J. Hinsley | 7 Sig Regt |
| Lt J. M. Hodges | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Lt I. N. Hunter | 30 Sig Regt |
| Lt T. M. Jones | 28 Sig Regt |
| Lt F. G. S. MacLennan | 22 Sig Regt |
| Lt S. L. Roberts | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Lt J. R. Tod | 21 Sig Regt |
| Lt A. S. Williams | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| 2Lt I. A. Blower | 22 Sig Regt |
| 2Lt J. W. Dakin | 21 Sig Regt |
| 2Lt C. R. Foster | 22 Sig Regt |
| 2Lt R. H. King | 7 Sig Regt |
| 2Lt T. M. P. Mountford | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| 2Lt D. L. Naden | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| 2Lt T. D. Smith | QG Sig Regt |
| 2Lt D. J. Watts | 7 Sig Regt |
| 2Lt T. O. Wood | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |

**MOVING?**

**Have you told RHQ? Your *Wire* will be sent to your old address unless you tell us of a change.**

## WOs and SNCOs

JUNE 1990

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| AWO1 J. T. Hyde | 35 Sig Regt (V) |
| AWO1 T. M. Perkins | 36 Sig Regt (V) |
| AWO1 A. Spray | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| AWO1 (FofS) W. P. Stockdale | 7 Sig Regt |
| WO2 K. Bennett | 9 Sig Regt |
| WO2 W. Brennen | School of Signals |
| WO2 J. M. Kirkpatrick | 22 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (FofS) S. K. Whitwood | 244 Sig Sqn |
| SSgt I. J. Foster | 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| SSgt C. M. Hardwidge | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| SSgt M. P. Hartley | Comms and Sy Gp (UK) |
| SSgt C. M. McCue | 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| SSgt L. J. Robinson | Comms and Sy Gp (UK) |
| SSgt N. M. Sloane | 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| SSgt R. E. Smith | 11 Sig Regt Depot Tp |
| ASSgt B. D. Durlik | 210 Sig Sqn |
| ASSgt V. Hunter | Defence Intelligence and Security School |
| ASSgt D. Wooley | HQ 1 (BR) Corps |
| Sgt C. M. Brown | 1 Gr Howards |
| Sgt M. G. Brown | JCUFI |
| Sgt S. Bullimore | 642 Sig Tp |
| Sgt D. Burgess | 11 Sig Regt |
| Sgt R. D. J. Carroll | HQ Afcent |
| Sgt S. J. Chilton | 15 Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. J. Crinnion | 15 Sig Regt |
| Sgt C. M. Dennis | AA Coll Harrogate |
| Sgt A. R. Dixon | 251 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt R. Docherty | School of Signals |
| Sgt G. G. Foster | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. J. Hancock | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt R. H. Hicks | 15 Sig Regt |
| Sgt G. Johnston | 262 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt J. P. Johnston | 640 Sig Tp |
| Sgt M. Jordan | 225 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt C. A. H. Kerrigan | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt T. R. Lund | 262 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt P. Marshall | School of Signals |
| Sgt M. Mulhearn | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt I. J. McCutcheon | Berlin HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt D. McDonald | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. McDonald | RAF Mount Pleasant |
| Sgt E. J. Perry | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. D. Rowe | 251 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt C. J. Warnes | 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| ASgt S. K. Coombs | 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| ASgt W. M. Kelly | 21 Sig Regt |
| ASgt B. A. McLaughlin | 3 RHA |
| ASgt M. J. Parrish | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| ASgt G. D. Robinson | 11 Sig Regt |
| ASgt P. R. Walsh | 27 Fd Regt |

JULY 1900

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| WO1 N. J. Cawthra | School of Signals |
| WO1 G. L. Hegarty | 11 Sig Regt |
| WO1 J. P. Mold | 7 Sig Regt |
| WO1 J. A. Pape | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| AWO1 (YofS) K. Bell | 16 Sig Regt |
| AWO1 M. Bohanan | 7 Sig Regt |
| AWO1 R. P. Logan | 40 Sig Regt (V) |
| AWO1 R. J. Parkinson | MOD |
| AWO1 P. Whitehouse | 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| AWO1 A. W. Williams | HQ Afcent |
| WO2 A. E. De La Haye | 8 Sig Regt |
| WO2 G. Ellis | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| WO2 P. Halstead | School of Signals |
| WO2 A. S. Houghton | HQ 11 Sig Bde |
| WO2 P. J. Lawlor | AA Coll Harrogate |
| WO2 J. McEwen | 9 Sig Regt |
| WO2 D. L. Parry | 11 Sig Regt |
| WO2 S. M. Toms | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| AWO2 C. M. Atherley | 16 Sig Regt |
| AWO2 G. Brook | Berlin HQ and Sig Regt |
| AWO2 J. A. J. Brooks | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| AWO2 S. Campbell | 30 Sig Regt |
| AWO2 D. G. Ikin | 262 Sig Sqn |
| AWO2 R. P. Iley | AA Coll Harrogate |
| AWO2 P. Jackson | AA Coll Harrogate |
| AWO2 P. J. McElwee | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| AWO2 A. H. Reeds | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| AWO2 M. R. Widdicombe | 9 Sig Regt |
| AWO2 M. A. Wright-Jones | 13 Sig Regt |
| SSgt J. R. Acklaw | Rocchan (Balado Bridge) |
| SSgt W. J. Celtel | 243 Sig Sqn |
| SSgt G. R. Dodd | 15 Sig Regt |
| SSgt P. J. Gibney | School of Signals |
| SSgt (FofS) A. Hockley | School of Signals |
| SSgt B. Johnson | FSS Saxa Vord |
| SSgt P. F. Jones | School of Signals |
| SSgt D. M. Matthews | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| SSgt D. Meakin | 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| SSgt J. C. Pickles | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| SSgt T. W. Potter | 22 Sig Regt |
| SSgt J. G. Smith | FSS Cape Greco |
| SSgt R. J. Spencer | 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| SSgt C. A. Taylor | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| SSgt C. E. Ward | 35 Sig Regt (V) |

JULY 1990

| Rank and Name | Unit to which posted |
|---|---|
| ASSgt R. J. B. Bayly | 9 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt (YofS) S. J. Bertram | School of Signals |
| ASSgt B. Carlin | 21 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt D. A. Deegan | 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| ASSgt P. Duffy | 21 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt (YofS) S. H. Firth | 22 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt (YofS) A. M. Haresign | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| ASSgt (YofS) P. Kendrick | QG Sig Regt |
| ASSgt (YofS) A. J. Large | 35 Sig Regt (V) |
| ASSgt T. R. Murrell | 22 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt (YofS) R. W. McCombe | 16 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt (YofS) R. G. Nixon | 36 Sig Regt (V) |
| ASSgt T. Oakes | 28 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt J. P. Ogburn | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| ASSgt (YofS) G. Pardew | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| ASSgt (YofS) S. A. Perks | 8 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt (YofS) N. W. Richards | 28 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt (YofS) G. Shakespeare | 34 Sig Regt (V) |
| ASSgt (YofS) A. G. Trask | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| ASSgt P. R. Whittle | Berlin HQ and Sig Regt |
| ASSgt (YofS) P. V. Willimont | 40 Sig.Regt (V) |
| Sgt J. P. Avery | 7 Sig Regt |
| Sgt K. M. Belam | SHAPE Ace Commsec |
| Sgt N. W. Bell | 6CTT (Woolwich) |
| Sgt M. S. N. Brown | ACIO Sheffield |
| Sgt A. R. Coleman | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. A. Daniel | 38 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt C. J. N. Daniels | 9 Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. N. Eley | 28 Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. C. Ferris | Sennelager Trg Centre |
| Sgt J. H. Garner | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt C. Geelan | 259 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt M. R. Gillard | UK Support Unit SHAPE |
| Sgt G. Gillings | School of Signals |
| Sgt P. R. Harvey | School of Signals |
| Sgt S. S. Kent | QG Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. Knight | 14 Sig Regt |
| Sgt D. O. Morley | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. D. McFeely | NORTHAG Air Sp Radio Sqn |
| Sgt R. J. Norman | 642 Sig Tp |
| Sgt J. F. Oshea | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt R. A. Powell | 15 Sig Regt |
| Sgt R. A. N. Quaile | 9 Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. C. Salvesen | JCUFI |
| Sgt A. J. D. Saunders | 7 Sig Regt |
| Sgt C. J. Sinclair | 22 Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. E. Sutcliffe | 608 Sig Tp |
| Sgt J. J. Wayman | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. S. West | 9 Sig Regt |
| Sgt R. L. Witherstone | 633 Sig Tp |
| ASgt S. H. F. Bovan | 8 Sig Regt |
| ASgt P. T. Davies | 38 Sig Regt (V) |
| ASgt S. A. J. Elliott | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| ASgt J. Farnell | 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| ASgt B. Kimber | 22 Sig Regt |
| ASgt K. Wilkinson | 244 Sig Sqn |

## ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during May 1990:-

| | |
|---|---|
| In memory of Lt Col W. G. Daubeney | £372.00 |
| RSA Shropshire | £250.00 |
| Smith & Williamson Securities | £100.00 |
| AA Coll Harrogate | £85.00 |
| L. E. McIntosh | £83.50 |
| D. L. Kennedy | £40.00 |
| A. D. Gaudin | £20.00 |
| Mr Gillespie | £5.00 |
| Miscellaneous | £12.25 |
| | £967.75 |

The following donatins were gratefully received during June 1990:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Bequeathed by Maj Gen A. E. Morrison | 1000.00 |
| 36 Engr Regt | 76.34 |
| M. W. Thomas | 50.00 |
| G. W. & H. Cook | 24.12 |
| In memory of D. J. Carnell | 20.00 |
| In memory of Col J. Reading | 10.00 |
| Maj R. H. Blizard | 10.00 |
| R. C. Paxton | 6.00 |
| Misc | 8.00 |
| B. F. Newman | 5.00 |
| Certa Cito (January, March, May) | 30.00 |
| | £1239.46 |


# 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 |

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# NOTICES

## DEATHS

**Bagnold—Brig R. A. Bagnold OBE, FRC, MA**—served 1921-45—died 28 May 1990.
**Brindley—Brig A. D. Brindley CBE**—served 1939-71—died 8 June 1990.
**Bruce—Sgt M. Bruce**—served 1959-81—died June 1990.
**Chell—Col R. A. Chell**—(TA)—died 18 May 1990.
**Davoll—Cpl D. A. Davoll**—served 1962-1984—died 28 June 1990.
**Franklin—Spr G. A. Franklin**—served 1915-19—died June 1990.
**Haxell—Mrs E. R. Haxell**, wife of **Maj Haxell**—died 4 June 1990.
**Hooper—Lt Col C. G. Hooper**—served 1941-78—died 30 May 1990.
**Jones—ex SSgt C. Jones**—died 4 May 1990.
**McGreish—WO2 T. W. McGreish**—served 1950—died 27 May 1990.
**Reading—Col J. Reading MBE, ERD**—served 1927-48—died 13 June 1990.
**Stanley—Col M. C. Stanley**—died 3 June 1990.

## OBITUARIES

**Johnson—Sgt W. Johnson.** It is with deep egret that HQNI announce the death of **Sgt Bill Johnson,** who died on 6 June 1990. Our deepest sympathies go to his wife **Debbie** and their two children.

**Martin—Sgt G. D. Martin** died on 11 June 1990, aged 57 years. **Dennis** (as he was known by all his friends) joined the Corps in 1956 and served in Catterick, Kenya and Singapore. He was discharged in 1968. During his service he was employed mainly as a Clerk Technical. He was a life member of the Royal Signals Association. **Dennis**'s first wife died in 1971 and when he remarried he settled in Newcastle-upon-Tyne where he became an active member of the church. Before joining the army **Dennis** had played in the Sunderland Football reserve team. He leaves a widow, **Linda**, four daughters and three sons, one of whom is in the 2nd Light Infantry. A wonderful, loving father, a much loved father-in-law and grandad who will be sadly missed by family and friends alike.

**Shaw—Sgt N. C. Shaw.** It is with great sadness that ROCCHAN (Balado Bridge) reports the death of **Nick Shaw** as a result of a road traffic accident in Perth on 28 May 1990.
**Nick** enlisted in the Corps on 13 September 1979. After training as a Radio Relay Technician he was posted to 28 Sig Regt. He subsequently served with 633 Sig Tp, 10 Sig Regt, 8 Sig Regt and 262 Sig Sqn before joining Balado Bridge in November 1989.
**Nick** was a cheerful and popular member of the station who will be missed by his many friends throughout the Corps. Our sincere condolences go to his wife **Elaine** and all members of his family.

**Wilson—ex Cpl T. F. Wilson MM** died peacefully on 22 May, aged 73, after many years of illness. **'Tug'**, as he was affectionately known, was one of the first parachutists in the Royal Corps of Signals and served in the Middle East, Sicily, Italy and Arnhem, mainly with 1st Parachute Brigade Signal Section.

During the invasion of Sicily **'Tug'** was dropped way off course—in the area of Mount Etna—but succeeded in carrying out sabotage work with the late **Maj 'Dickie' Dover MC**. Eventually they joined other members of 1st Parachute Brigade near Catania Bridge, returned to North Africa to take part in the invasion of the Italian mainland. It was for duty in Sicily that he was awarded the Military Medal.

During the Battle of Arnhem he was with 2nd Parachute Bn at the Bridge and was taken prisoner there. On his return to civilian life he went into several business ventures. He maintained his links with his old comrades, attending the Airborne Signals reunion whenever he could but ill-health prevented him from attending regularly.

**'Tug'** was as highly regarded in civilian life as he was as a soldier, a strong supporter of charities and his Masonic Lodge where he played the organ regularly.

At Arnhem in September 1989 he demonstrated his talent as a pianist and kept everyone entertained at the Pietersberg.

Always cheerful and willing to give a helping hand he will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him.

Our sincere condolences to his wife **Peggy** from all his Old Comrades who were represented at the Service.

## MEMORIAL TO STAFF SERGEANT K. FROGGETT




The memorial plaque

A Memorial Service was held on 20 May 1990 in Somercotes Parish Church in honour of **SSgt Kevin Froggett** who lost his life whilst on duty in Northern Ireland on 16 September 1989. A plaque designed and made by **Kevin Froggett**'s cousin, **Martyn Hemingray** was the gift of the Somercotes Branch of the Royal British Legion of which **Kevin**'s father is the treasurer. It was unveiled by the **Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire, Col Peter Hilton**. The Service was conducted by the Vicar of Somercotes Parish Church, the **Rev Peter Dawkes** and attended by members of **SSgt Froggett**'s family and many friends. **WO1(YofS) Reynolds** represented the Corps at the Service.

## CORPS DATES

**CORPS DINNER IN SCOTLAND**

An inaugural Corps Dinner will take place in Glasgow at the Western Club on Friday 28 September 1990 at 1900 hrs for 1930 hrs. A 'pay bar' will be open before and after Dinner.

Dress: Highland Evening Wear or Dinner Jacket. All Royal Signals Officers, regular or volunteer, serving or retired are eligible to attend. WRAC Officers who are or have served with Royal Signals are also eligible to attend.

The cost of the Dinner is £16.50 including wine at table for all those who contribute to Corps funds, regrettably the cost for those not contributing will be £33.00! Cheques should be made payable to Royal Signals Corps Funds.

**WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' CORPS DINNER EVENING**

The Corps Warrant Officers' and SNCO's Dinner Evening is to be held on Thursday 1 November in the HQ Sergeants' Mess, Helles Bks, Catterick. Dinner table allocation is three per major and two per minor unit, depending on response with overnight accommodation available. Individuals wishing to attend and not in receipt of the letter sent out in April, are to contact **WO1 (RSM) G. Douglas**, 11 Sig Regt, Tel: Catterick Mil 3704.

*continued on page 330*

## THE INSTITUTION LONDON LECTURE—29 NOVEMBER 1990

This will be given by Mr C. N. Donnelly TD, BA Sovietologist-in-Residence at HQ NATO. The title of the lecture is: **Russia in Revolution 1990** and will deal with the implications for both East and West of **Mr Gorbachev**'s policies.

The lecture will take place in the London International Press Centre, 76 Shoe Lane at 1800 hrs on Thursday 29 November 1990. Application for tickets for the lecture and if desired supper afterwards should be made to RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, SW1P 4AD.

## OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCIATION REUNION DINNER: 14 SEPTEMBER 1990

The OWA Reunion Dinner will be held at the RCT Mess, Buller Barracks, Aldershot, on Friday 14 September 1990.

Dress will be Black Tie and timings are 7.30pm for 8.00pm. The cost will be approximately £20.

Applications, including a contact address and telephone number should be sent to: The Adjutant, Welbeck College, Worksop, Notts S80 3LN or by telephoning: Worksop (0909) 476326 Ext 30.

Applications should arrive at least two weeks prior to the Dinner.

## A CAROL SERVICE AT ST STEPHEN WITH ST JOHN, ROCHESTER ROW, WESTMINSTER

An evening service of Lessons and Carols, is to take place in the Parish Church at St Stephen with St John, Westminster, on Tuesday 18 December 1990 at 1800 hrs.

It is hoped that members of the Corps and their families especially those serving in London TA Regiments, Association Branches, Chelsea Pensioners and Yeoman Warders, will attend this Service in the Corps affiliated London Church. Light refreshments will be available in the nearby Church Hall after the Service for all those who are able to stay.

Those wishing to attend the Service are asked to inform Regimental Headquarters so that seats may be reserved and the refreshments ordered. Since the overall capacity of the Church is only 350, allocations will be made on a first come, first served, basis.

## CORPS CAROL SERVICE

We shall be raising a choir to lead the singing at the Corps Carol Service, as we did last year. Sight-reading ability is highly desirable as there will be only one full rehearsal on the afternoon of the Carol Service. Music will shortly be available and choristers are asked to study it before the final rehearsal. Aspiring singers, including boys voices, should contact **Maj John Chambers**, AT1b, First Avenue House, London WC1V 6HB. Telephone: Lacon 071-430 7495.

## FOR SALE

A quantity of second-hand officers uniforms and associated kit is held for sale at Headquarters Mess Blandford. Any officer wishing to purchase kit or place uniforms in the store to sell should contact the Mess Secretary on Blandford Military 2480 or civil (0258) 452581 Ext 2480.

Regimental Mess uniform, the late **Sgt W. Ritchie**. Offered in excellent condition and includes a dress shirt and cummerbund. Height 5ft 8in approx: waist 34in approx. Offers in writing to Royal Signals Association, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Proceeds from the sale will be for the benefit of Royal Signals Association Benevolent Fund.

## REUNIONS

**HORA HENA, EKALA AND KANDY**

This year's Reunion will take place at the Belmont Hotel, Leicester on Friday 26 October 1990. It is hoped that as many as possible who served in Hora Hena, Ekala and Kandy will be able to attend this year.

Last year 63 people including wives enjoyed a buffet supper and dancing. It is hoped that even more will be there this year. Further details from **Mr Harry Moore**, 1 Blue Granite Park, The Green, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire LE12 7AG. Tel: (0533) 375423. He will be delighted to hear from anyone who served at one, or all, of these locations during 1944 to 1950.

## COMMONWEALTH WAR CEMETERY—KANCHANABURI

**Mr F. G. Elwood**, Hon Sec Sheffield Branch RSA recently visited the cemetery in Thailand. He took photographs of some of the graves there, including that of **A. Weller** (No 2371542) who died on 2 September 1943, aged 37 years. He will be pleased to provide copies of the photograph to relatives. Please write to him at 30 Mawfa Avenue, Sheffield S14 1AH.

## THE LAST ROUND IS ON YOU

**Mr Malcolm Stephens** is retiring from the Officers Mess, Catterick after 30 years service there. A fund has been set up to provide a retirement gift in appreciation of all that **Malcolm** has done for countless officers in the serving and retired Corps. Any officer who has not already been approached, is invited to send a contribution, not in excess of £5 to the President, Royal Signals Officers Mess, 11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire, as soon as possible.

## HILLCREST NURSING HOME

**Mr A. McDonald**, Hon Sec Catterick Branch RSA has advised that the owner of the Hillcrest Nursing Home, Catterick Garrison has offered to accommodate six ex Corps members in the home at DSS rates. All enquiries should be addressed to the Matron, Hillcrest Nursing Home, Byng Road, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire.

## BOOT—THE SSM'S DOG

Many soldiers who passed through 2 Sqn, 8 Sig Regt in 1977 and 1978 will remember Boot, **SSM John Goodman**'s dog, and will be sorry to hear that he died recently aged seventeen and a half years. **Mr Goodman** is now at Fernbank House, Torrs Park, Ilfracombe, North Devon EX34 8AZ.

## CALAIS 50 YEARS ON

In a letter to the Chairman of the Association, **Col L. W. Wright TD DL** says:-

'I have just returned from Calais where I went with the survivors of the Queen Victoria's Rifles, Kings Royal Rifle Corps and London Rifle Brigade, for the great day on Wednesday 23 May. There were 110 of us, survivors, on parade plus the Guard of Honour of the RGJ, the French Marines and the bands of 3RTR and the RGJ. **HRH The Duke of Gloucester** together with **General Pascoe** and the French **General Codet** inspected us, the latter saluting each one of us. There followed a Service, Reception by the Mayor of Calais, good lunch, a display by the Massed Bands of the Light Infantry, the RGJ and the RTR in the Place D'Armes and a visit to the War Cemetery. I was with the Queen Victoria's Rifles with whom I fought when I ceased to be of any use as a signalman in 12 Wireless Section. Later I attended a reception on RFA Sir Bedivere.

The RGJ were so kind to me. It was good to speak again to **Field Marshal The Lord Bramall** and **General Sir Peter Hudson** and his wife whose father, **Major Knollys**, was in close proximity to me in the battle. There were two other Royal Signals people, **George** and **Arthur**, present from an L of C unit that got caught up in the fighting.

Fifty years ago, yesterday (26 May) I had to go to surrender. Fifty years ago today, in my birthday suit and with a crushed right foot and having stopped a bullet with the rim of my helmet I escaped after nearly being shot as a German "death or glory" boy.

Wednesday was a very emotional day; but I would not have missed it for anything!'



# LETTERS

**From: Dennis K. Egan**

Dear Sir,

I have just received the June *Wire* and have read it from cover to cover. The article from **WO2 (YofS) B. J. Hayward** on page 224 was of great interest; lets hear from you again, Sir, and perhaps may be able to get through the 'pile up' to 'work' you as A45Z? Hi. The nearest I got to Oman was, Egypt, Palestine and JY1 Land ie Jordan King Hussein QTH. This was long ago, of course, Circa 1945/1947 after a stint June 1944 BLA.

The other item that was of interest was on page 307 'then and now' picture of **K. W. Edwards**. I lived in Chiswick and was born there in January 1925. We lived in Grove Park Gardens and I remember well the coming of the Army and saw the stringing up of the Don 8 wire on the lamp posts etc. The soldiers were Royal Signals and took over various empty houses in our road, Bolton Road, Grove Road Terrace, etc. I was nearly 15 at the time so did not get into the Service until latish 1942, but expect that **Mr Edwards** and I must have passed each other; strange how these things come to light so long after the events, 50 years ago seems only like yesterday.

Perhaps **Mr Edwards** will let us have a bit more information on how he got on during his Service and get in print some of the poems that he still has.

I am still trying to find my old chum and Best Man at my wedding, 12 January 1952, one ex **Cpl Graham W. Cookson**, he went 'down under' about 1954 when he got married. Letters to Royal Signals Records, DHSS, Australia, Saga, have not found him yet. Even photographs published in *The Wire* September 1986 page 531 did not get any result, or January 1985 Letters page. I would like to see a few articles about the exploits of people like **K. W. Edwards** etc.

Yours faithfully
**Dennis K. Egan**

4 Hazel Grove
Longmeadow
Dinas Powis
South Glamorgan
CF6 4TE UK

**From: Mrs Cynthia Powell (née Kendall)**

Dear Sir,

Please may I ask for your help in trying to trace pupils of Abbassia Garrison School, Cairo, Egypt, of the 1930's.

Many of us have responded to the enclosed letter from **Bob Carrington** (a NAAFI Managers son); and, as the youngest of the family of CQMS. **A. G. Kendall**, Egypt Signals, we lived in Suez houses, and know there were many 'Signals' children there with us, who went to Abbassia Garrison School too. **Bob**'s idea is to hold a reunion (before we get too old!). With the coming of WW2, our marvellous school was 'no more', so we are really the last ones of Abbassia Garrison School.

I will be happy to pass on any information to **Bob**, or perhaps the former pupils might like to contact him directly, at Highfield Avenue, Aldershot.

Yours faithfully
**Cynthia Powell**
**(née Kendall)**

19 Grenville Drive
Church Crookham
Hants GU13 0NR

## CHEQUES

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# REPORT FROM ULSTER

## 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## BFPO 809

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Comms Tp** | **Lt Simon Gregory** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Nigel Sloane** |
| **Radio Sgt** | **Sgt Chris Hobday** |
| **TM Sgt** | **Sgt Chris Rumney** |

The Squadron continues to recover from the shock of our first entry in *The Wire*. This issue sees the formation of the new, imporved Comms Tp which has wrested command of TM from **WO2 (FofS) Bob Walton**.

Anyway, down to personalities. Syscon continues to watch endless videos and appears not to have noticed the absence of Arch-Skiver **Cpl Jock Hanlon** who gets in more leave than the Pay Sergeant, and Weapons and Drill courses interspersed with diving in Cyprus.

**Cpl Neil Duncan** pacifies himself by designing more boards to while away the wee small hours.

Meanwhile in the Commcen **Mr Spocks** Life-Dectector registers a nil-reading, particularly regarding **Cpl Eddie O'Connell**. All attempts to communicate with those inside have been stopped from the fuhrerbunker upstairs occupied by **WO2 (YofS) Bill 'Jobsworth' Jackson**. But for posterity's sake we wish to record sightings of amongst others, **LCpls Ged Roberts, Nige Wardle** and **Dannie Richmond** and **Sigs Nick Feasey** and **John**. Congratulations, by the way, to **LCpl Tony Brown**, a shadow of his former self on his successful return from his RSDCC, he particularly wants to thank **Sgt Stu Johnson** for the travel arrangements. 'Nuff Said'.

Across in TM Det. The techs and riggers under **Cpl Bamber Gascoyne** disappear into no-man's land only to return days later claim forms to the ready. Back in time for a well-earned rest (?). The lads are quickly 'encouraged' to press on with 'Project 90' and under **LCpl Taff Switchenbank** can be heard hammering away into the later hours. Otherwise the rest of the Det is working well, and for no other reason than they all complain of never having been in *The Wire*. Here are a few to remember: **LCpls Taff Artigan, MOD Maddison** and **Chris Braund** and **Cpls Nobby 'Whats a Uniform?' Noble** and **Martin 'Don't ask me' Farmer**. (Well at least that sold five more copies).

On the arrivals and departures we welcome **SSgt Nigel Sloane, LCpl MOD Moylet** and **Sig Gaz Love**, and bid farewell to **SSgt Peewee McElwee** on his promotion. Particular thanks to **Sgt Alan 'Quasi' Gill** and **Cpl Chris 'FCJ' Nelson**.

Finally, best wishes to both **SSgt** and **Melanie McElwee** on the birth of their son, **Samuel**.


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

Another scorcher of a Londonderry summer has passed us by, or so we think. Apparently this year summer was from about half three-ish on 24 May until, well, slightly later the same afternoon. But, no matter, the 8th (FEBA) Brigade trudges stolidly on, with its continuing mission: to boldly communicate where no man has communicated (boldly or otherwise) before.

Our notes this month are almost monopolised by some welcome success at various sports; our shooters dominated the NISAAM, walking away with pretty much every Minor Unit cup on offer (a cynic would ask how many other Minor Units were there to stop us, but so what, at least we showed up), and congratulations to our new Province Badminton Champion, **Cpl Paul Walker**. Doubtless another Province based unit will crow on other pages about their success in the Mercury Cup at Lisburn; we'll sit back securely in the knowledge that we had, without question, the best barbecue tent on the day. Otherwise, our ARU has come and gone smoothly, and the PSA has finally completed our SHQ and ever so smart accommodation block—the Squadron has now formally entered the second half of the twentieth century.

No farewells from the hierachy this month, but a very welcome hello to our new Admin Officer, **Maj Lew Godfrey** of the 15/19th Hussars. His arrival was met with tears of joy from both the 2IC and RSM; they can now go back to doing what they do best—the RSM's stick has never shone more brightly. Younger readers may be interested to known that **Lew** has a certain amount of Province experience; his first tour here was in 1957 (that was during the Border Campaign, for those whose education is lacking). Shown to his room in the Mess he was delighted to discover there was electric light! Welcome aboard **Lew**!

**TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE SECTION**

Another three months rip roaring period in the Maiden City endured, a period fraught with danger and relieved by occasional glimpses of daring, a period full of sunshine, beer and barbecues, a period when the section welcomed the odd car fit task as a moment to catch its breath . . .

We wish!

Since our last notes we've had to say a tearful farewell to two and a half members of the section: **Cpl Neil Phillips** has left us for the joys of Civ Div, taking with him our best wishes and extreme jealousy, and **Cpl Martin Kendall** has left us for 8 Sig Regt and his T1 (rumours the ship listed badly all the way over are, of course . . . completely true).

Fresh from Catterick we welcome two new faces, **Sgt Phil McMullen** and **Cpl Andy Forbes**, both of whom just love car fits (they haven't said as much, but you can tell from their expressions, y'know?).

We also extend congratulations to **Cpl 'Yvette' Darlington** on his long awaited promotion, and on his achieving the most unlikely BFT time ever seen in Ebrington Barracks; well done **Phil**, next stop the Olympics.

Of course, no TM Section entry would be complete without a tale of human suffering, misery and tragedy, and all here would like to offer their sincere and heartfelt condolences to **Cpl Dave Harris** on the demise of his long suffering street credibility. The end came, after a long and painful illness, when **Dave**, having wired up a car for Cougar, jumped in and made a test call to Syscon. Over the net, the harrowing message was heard: 'Hello Charlie Zero Charlie this is Char . . . Oh ****, its on fire!

Never mind **Dave**, after all, it was only the Deputy Commander's car. And finally, **Sgt Dave Kidd**, the author of these brief words, would like at least one mention of his name, as he firmly believes he won't be writing for the next issue—how right he is.

**ARU VISIT BY COMD 8 INFANTRY BRIGADE**

The scene: 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn's brand spanking new, really impressive, conference room.

The date: Late March 1990.

The event: The OC's weekly conference.





First Aid Training
Comd: 'That's a nasty injury he's got there, Cpl Thomas'
Cpl 'Tommo' Thomas: 'No Sir, he was born with that face'



The Comd with the Orderly Room Staff, Sig Danny Cockram, WPte Vicky Davison and the Chief Clerk, SSgt John O'Donnell, The RSM, Dixie Dean, maintains a stern composure in the background

*OC:* 'OK, so, next point: the Commander's ARU visit on 12 April. We've got him for three hours or so, and of course it's his second and last formal visit. I think we should show him everything he didn't see last year.' OC turns and shakes 2IC until he regains consciousness. 'Jake! what did he see last year?'

*2IC:* 'Oh, er, let's have a think . . . er, oh, well, he climbed the mast and fitted a dipole, and then he went through a simulated riot with Rover Group, and then he met all the techs and saw a transportable talk through and a mobile Brigade HQ, and then he met everyone in Comms Tp and saw all the TTW stuff, and then there was heli-tele, and—'

*OC:* 'OK, OK, I get the picture. He saw all the good stuff. Question is, what's left?'

*Assembled throng:* 'Umm, now you're asking, er, well . . . chunter, chunter . . .' (10 minutes of discussion time quickly pass).

*2IC:* 'Right, we've come up with a draft programme, boss. Trouble is, it's a bit thin, and so you might have to fill in the gaps by walking slowly between the stands.'

*OC:* 'So, what have you come up with?'

*2IC:* 'Well, he arrives, you meet him, then he goes to SHQ and, er, does a cash check of the central bank, and then, well, er . . . he goes home.'

*OC:* 'And? . . .'

*2IC:* 'And, er, that's it essentially. We considered a visit to the RQ's paint store as well, but thought we might be gilding the lily a bit.'

*OC:* 'Yes, I see. "Thin" would be one way to describe it, wouldn't it? So would "anorexic to the point where the OC gets sacked". Right you lot! I'm off to another conference. MTWO! get the golf clubs. Chief Clerk! draft a letter to my predecessor: "Dear Jeremy, thanks for nothing, I hate you". yours etc. And as for you—' (turns to 2IC who has re-assumed the prone unalert position) '—you've got the rest of this afternoon to think of something for him to do which doesn't involve waving goodbye to me from the tarmac at Aldergrove, otherwise that "low adequate" CR that you managed to pick up last year is going to look like a love letter compared with this year's. I hope I make myself clear. Good day, gentlemen.'

Of course, it wasn't exactly like that (for starters, it was a middle adequate, all right?), but mightly oaks from little acorns and all the rest of it, and by the time the big day came around, we were all ready. A good omen: last year the snow was falling on the day of the visit, whereas this year, for about the first time since September, the sun beat down from a clear sky (rather made us wish that some of the programme was outdoors, but you can't have everything in this life).

**Brig J. W. Parker OBE** (for it was he) descended upon the Ops/Plans Cell to begin with, where he was briefed by **WO2 (YofS) Paul Forryan** and **WO2 (FofS) Jim Abernethy** on the latest gossip from the world of Cougar and Brinton. Disproving his claim to be 'a simple God-fearing infantryman', the Commander asked some searching questions, which the Yeoman struggled to answer truthfully. The Foreman, more sensibly, lied his head off.

Next up was a visit to **SSgt Kev Bailey**, the 'mad professor' of the tech workshop, to see his latest invention, a device which sends command data to the talkthrough sites and automatically redirects the beamwidth centre (Hey, I really sound as if I know what I'm talking about, don't I.) anyway, this device has the major benefit of cutting down quite heavily on the number of 1771s our techs can submit, so it's got to be a winner. Well done **Kev**. Suitably impressed by this technical wizardry, the Commander was escorted to our pride and joy; the new Syscon, where he was briefed by the professional (their words, not mine) operators of the Squadron: **Sgt Tony Scoins, Cpl Shean Dewar** and **LCpl Phil Boot**. He was most pleased by the Laura Ashley 'urban cam' line of curtains, and admired their video collection—not available at your local SSVC.

All this 'Ops world' stuff was proving too much to take in at one go, and so next stop was the calm, relaxed atmosphere of the Orderly Room, where our Chief Clerk, **SSgt John O'Donnell**, introduced his ever-so-hardworking team; **Sgt John Masters, Cpl Marty Briody, Sig 'Jungle' Jim Gray** and **Danny Cockram**, and our most recent addition, **WPte Vicky Davison**. He also said hello to our two civvy helpers; **Sandra** and **Iris**. After he'd had his ear bent seriously for about 10 minutes on the subject of our lack of an AO, **Sig Danny Cockram** allowed him to book his own ferry ticket for a change (so there'd better not be any complaints about this one).

The RQMS, **WO2 Bob Taylor**, proudly displayed 'his' new accommodation block before the Commander strolled down to the bottom of camp where **Sig Bob** 'love that body' **Goldsmith** was supervising (that's one word for it) the wives' fitness session in the gym. Hardly had he had time to digest all this, however, when, suddenly, without more warning than a week's preparation and three dress rehearsals, a simulated mortar attack (thank you to 321 EOD Coy RAOC) rocked the camp. A heavily armoured OC Comms Tp, **Lt Mike McGinty**, raced in and hurriedly briefed him on the attack, before doubling him away to the QM Dept, where **Sgt John Hogan, Cpl Don Cunningham, LCpls Stey Shaw** and **'Rocky' Rokotuni** demonstrated the art of mortar clearance patrols. Just as everything was beginning to calm down, casualties (sporting suitably impressive make up) began to stream in, and the Commander watched a first aid demonstration. **Sgt Steve Maycock** supervised, and the lucky participants were **CSgt 'Reg' Varney, Cpls Terry Stidwell, Billy McKelvie, 'Taff' Thomas, LCpl 'Mac' McDonald, Sig Sy Roome** and **'Tina' Turner**. As the tomato ketchup started to flow in ever greater quantities, the Commander was evacuated to a safer area of camp by **Cpl 'Taff' Mallaney** and the boys from Rover Gp.

The Commander's last visit of the day was to the lonely outpost of MT/LAD: hosted by **Sgts Rick Shepherd** and **George Campbell**, he was introduced to **Cpl Barney Taylor, LCpls Kev Harvey, Ian Twaites, Kev Penman** and **'Sharkey' Williams**.

The OC, **Maj David McDowall**, is still here—so it can't have been bad.

**NI SKILL-AT-ARMS COMPETITION (NISAAM)**

**The Beginning**

Early one Monday morning.
'**Sgt Maycock**, are you ready?'
'What for?'
'Practice on the ranges.'
'What practice?'
'For the competition.'
'What competition?'
The shooting team for 1990 was now fully briefed.
Ranges were booked, weapons and ammunition issued.
'Right, what now?'
'We zero the weapons.'
'Then what?'
'Then we go back to work.'
'What about the practice?'
'This is it.'
'**?!!*'

**The Middle**

We went to Ballykinler, we kept our cool through various technical and organisational problems, and showed everyone else the way to do it. It would be quicker to list what we didn't win, but what we won was: 'The Fire Team Match, the Minor Units Gun Match, the Minor Units Rifle Team Match, and the overall NI Minor Units Championship.

**The End**



The Squadron team Captain, SSgt Kev Bailey is presented with the Northern Ireland Minor Units' Championship trophy by Commander Land Forces


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The Victorious Squadron team:-
*Back (left to right):* SSgt Kev Bailey, the OC, Maj David McDowall and Sgt Steve Maycock
*Front (left to right):* LCpl Kev Penman, Sgts Tony Scoins and Dave Kidd

**NI BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Despite an acute lack of preparation, the Squadron despatched its finest to RAF Aldergrove with instructions to 'bring something back for the OC's display cabinet or don't come back at all'.

Things looked dicey as **Cpls Terry Stidwell** and **Don Cunningham** crashed to defeat in the first round, and by the time our Mens' Doubles pairs, **Cpls Barney Taylor** and **Paul Walker**, and **Terry Stidwell** and **Don Cunningham**, had left their competition at an early stage, all our hopes were pinned on **Cpl Paul Walker**'s performance in the Mens' Singles. Fortunately, he didn't let us down, winning the competition in impressive style. On now to the UKLF Championships (anything for a free flight).



Cpl Paul Walker—Winner Mens' Singles



# 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn BFPO 801

**VISIT OF BRIG M. D. JACKSON MBE**

On 24 April the Bde Comd, **Brig M. D. Jackson MBE** paid an informal visit to the Squadron. After receiving a communications brief from the Sqn Comd and Ops Officer, he presented the Sqn Comd, **Maj Steve Johns** with the Tickle BFT Trophy. The trophy is presented annually to the Unit with the highest percentage pass for the tickle BFT. The Squadron won it for the second year running with a 100% pass rate. (This does not mean that the OC's weekly run will be discontinued!)



The Bde Comd presenting the Tickle Trophy to the OC. RSM Mackay in the background

**VISIT OF MAJ GEN J. M. W. BADCOCK CB MBE DL, MASTER OF SIGNALS**

On Tuesday 15 May 1990 the Master of Signals visited the Squadron during his farewell visit to the members of the Corps who are serving in the Province. On arrival he was met by the Sqn Comd, **Maj Steve Johns** and RSM, **WO1 John Mackay**. He then went to the Horseshoe Club to talk to the Squadron soldiers and also members of the Wives' Club at the monthly 'bake in'.

It was then on to the 30m range and the final of the Squadron Pistol Shooting Competition. After a closely fought shoot, TM Tp won by 'a clay'! The Sqn Comd and the Master of Signals then had a 'shoot out'. We think the Master of Signals won—maybe a good career move by **Maj Johns**! He then presented the shield and some cans of 'light refreshment' to **Sgt Mick Murphy, Cpls Shuggy Hughes** and **Rabs Rabbetts**. After a brief on helitele and Syscon it was across to the Sergeants' Mess for the presentation of two LS & GC Medals.



LCpl Phil Graham welcomes the Master of Signals to the Heli-Tele workshop

**WO2 (SQMS) Dave Chippendale** and **SSgt Bob Wright** were both presented with their medals (for 15 years of undetected crime!) by the Master of Signals. A super curry lunch followed with the inevitable couple of pints or so. Prior to his departure the Sqn Comd presented the Master of Signals with a Squadron plaque.



The Master of Signals presents the LS & GC Medal to SSgt Bob Wright. Sgt Frank Roberts with the cushion



The Medal recipients
*From left to right (standing):* OC, WO2 (SQMS) Chippendale, RSM, SSgt Wright and 2IC
*(Sitting):* Mrs Chippendale, Master of Signals and Mrs Wright

**MERCURY CUP SPORTS DAY**

The Mercury Cup is an annual event held in Northern Ireland where all regular Corps Squadrons compete for an overall Trophy. The three events are: Shooting Competition, Cross Country Competition and Sports Competition.

The task of organising this year's sports competition fell to 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. It took place in Lisburn on Saturday 28 April. The competition co-ordinator was the RSM **WO1 (RSM) John Mackay**. In total, six teams took part in four separate events to determine an outright winner. With only two points difference between the first and third players! Team trophies were presented by Comd Comms (NI), **Lt Col S. M. Siddall**. The four event winners were as follows: Rugby—233 Sig Sqn, Hockey—225 Sig Sqn, Soccer—39 Inf Bde and Volleyball—225 Sig Sqn.

Overall winner of the Sports Competition was 225 Sig Sqn with 39 Bde Sig Sqn coming second. The new football and volleyball trophies and all the individual winners medals were kindly donated by Mr Tony Richardson of Mandrake Insurance Brokers.




Comd Comms presents the football trophy to Cpl 'Biddy' Baxter of 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn




Comd Comms presents the overall Winners Shield to Sig 'A to Z' Kuczerepon of 225 Sig Sqn

**TM TROOP**
**WELCOME**

Last month the Troop had its first 'new addition' for some time. The Tele-Mech section gained a new member **Sig Jimmy Watson**. He, together with his 'twin', **Sig 'Jammo' Hartley**, is now taking part in a rigorous fitness campaign, their goal is to be selected for an AIPT course!

**PATS ON THE BACK**

Several notable successes have been achieved by the Troop recently. **Mick Payne** went on leave and came back married to the lovely **Miriam**. Another singly bites the dust, but don't worry the boys will soon be around for a barbecue!

Congratulations go to **Sgt Mick Murphy** on passing his Foreman's entrance examination, **Sgt Frank Roberts** for passing the RSSSC and **LCpl Andy Dutton** for completing his RSDCC. Special congratulations go to **SSgt Bob** 'The Tipster' **Wright** on receiving his LS & GC, presented to him by the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock**. He was also presented with a commendation for his service.

**HOT SHOTS**

The Troop crack shots have been in action. **Sig Jammo Hartley** (Team Captain), **Sig Stig Richards, LCpl Phil Graham** and **Sgt Mick Murphy** blasted to victory in the Squadron SA80 competition. They were followed on the glory trail by **Cpls Rabbs Rabbetts, 'Shuggy' Hughes** and **Sgt Mick Murphy** (again) who won the 9mm pistol competition.

**COMMS TROOP**

At the time of writing Comms Tp has been left in the hands of **Sgt 'Scouse' Shield** who is trying to balance as many different hats on his head as possible. OC Tp **Lt Matt Fensom** together with **Sgt John Rutland** (JR), **Cpl Ian Curtis** (Grandad), and **Sig 'Geordie' Aspery** and **'Smudge' Smith** are holidaying in Switzerland on something called Ex Whympers Return.

For the remainder of Comms Tp not on resettlement, extended leave, courses or just hiding in dark corners, life is becoming very busy with Garrison Fetes, Sports Days and never ending Comms trials.

Rover Gp, under the direction of **Cpl Simon** 'Capt Sensible' **Fell** and assisted by **Cpl 'Geordie' Payne** is enjoying endless comms trials in West Belfast, and would like to wish **LCpl Daz** 'Oh go on then' **Wardman** all the best in civvy street. It also extends a warm welcome to **Pte Dave Dunstan** and **LCpl Eddy Roberts**.

Commcen/Syscon have finally decided to work 'four days four nights four days off', for how long nobody is willing to say as they've already tried 3—3—3 and 5—5—5 so hopefully this is a happy medium.

We would finally like to welcome back **LCpl Monty Montgomery** and congratulations on your Det Comds Course, the same to **LCpl Willie Whitelaw** for successfully passing his Class I course, but alas farewell to (Mr) **Pete Messenger** who departs for civvy street shortly.

**NISAM**

On 20 April on the wrong side of 0700 hrs the intrepid shooting team consisting of: OC Team **Lt Fensom**; 2IC Team **SSgt Hendley, LCpl 'Gadget' Smith, Sig 'Silver tongue' Aspery, 'Jammo' Hartley, 'Stig' Richards** and **'Smudge' Smith** left Lisburn to attend the Northern Ireland skills-at-arms meeting at Ballykinler in an attempt to prove to everyone we 'could or couldn't shoot' as the case may be. Moral support was provided by **SSgt Hendley** and OC Comms Tp who tempted us to do better than we have done in the practices, with extra guards and QRFs but, all to no avail!

Congratulations to 8 Inf Bde Sig Sqn which beat us in the Falling Plate Competition and won that all important chance to sprint down the ranges again 10 minutes later! The smile on **Sig 'Jammo' Hartley**'s face says it all.



The gun match provided a few surprises for the team members who took it upon themselves to enter, strolling up to the umpire's tent they were greeted with laughter and smirks. The reason behind all this merriment? We were the only team to have iron sights on both of the LSWs! **Sig** 'Silver tongue' **'Geordie' Aspery** managed to save the day by an epic amount of bluffing so that the umpires believed us when we said that 'That's the way they come nowadays'.

All the other competitors were heard to mutter 'More defence cuts!' The team put in a good performance and qualified for Bisley.



## — News from Headquarters —

# Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

**RAWSON SQUADRON**
**EX BLACKBOROUGH BOUND**
**by AT Sgt 'Penwrite' Parkes**

On 25 May Rawson Sqn embarked on the third 'Rawson Run', this year to raise money in aid of the 'Save the Children Fund'.

Members of the Squadron, sponsored by families and friends, ran in relays from Blackpool to Scarborough, relaying a message of greetings from the Mayor of Blackpool to the Mayors of Harrogate and Scarborough. The run was co-ordinated by **Sgt Mick Fitzpatrick** with much cajoling and double-checking on the part of **AT Colin Badger**. Friday evening saw the first team of runners commence the event after first receiving letters from the Mayor of Blackpool. Led by **Sgt Fitzpatrick**, the intrepid band set off at a good pace down the 'Golden Mile' towards their destination—Harrogate.

Early on Saturday morning the second team waited at the Cenotaph in the centre of Harrogate along with OC Rawson Sqn, **Maj Brian Harrison**, the Chief Instructor, **Lt Col Melhuish, WO1 (RSM) Ritchie** and the guest of honour, the Mayor of Harrogate. Not long after, a group of five runners along with **AT Joe Collins** carrying the Rawson Pennant were applauded by fellow ATs and curious onlookers at the end of the first leg. **AT** 'Is it near a bridge?' **Avis** (who hails from Blackpool) delivered the letter to the Mayor of Harrogate, and received one in return. The messages were then placed in the charge of **AT Sgt 'Adi' Watts**. Accompanied by three supporting mini-buses, including one driven by **Sgt Roe**, the second team began the final leg.

After a long hot day the now bronzed figures of Rawson Sqn arrived in Scarborough to be greeted by the Mayor and Mayoress of the town. The messages were delivered and another 'Rawson Run' successfully completed.

Now came the time for the Squadron to let its hair down, and early Sunday morning we boarded the coaches and headed for Blackpool—to be unleashed on its unsuspecting populace. After a day of exercising some old Viking customs, the lads converged on the Imperial Hotel. The Mayor of Blackpool arrived to the sound of the pipes courtesy of **AT Pipe Major** 'Weasel' **Scott**. Apart from an opportunity to enjoy a well earned meal, this was the time for thanks, after which the entertainment began.

As they say, all good things come to an end—in this case the evening was concluded as **Sgt Fitzpatrick** climbed the stage to perform his rendition of 'Strangers in the Night'; as the Squadron crept out, cringing all the way to the coaches.

**SCOTT SQUADRON**

We begin in the time honoured way with the hails and farewells. The Squadron welcomes the new 2IC and *Wire*-note-writer in Chief **Capt Rick Mather** who several years ago served in 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt with **Sgt Pete Jackson**. Lo and behold arriving on the doorstep of Scott Sqn is one **WO2 (SSM) P. Jackson**—there's no getting away from some people (incidentally the Sqn OC in Verden, was one **Maj A. W. Boag**—rumours that Scott Sqn is to be equipped with AFV 436s in the near future proved unfounded).



'Here you take it.' 'No you keep it.' WO2 (SSM) Spray *(left)* attempts a handover to WO2 (SSM) Jackson

Farewell to **Capt I. Brownlee**—returning to 11 Sig Regt from whence he came and to **WO2 (SSM) Spray**. We thank them for their hard work over the years and wish **WO2 (SSM) Spray** all the best for his tour as RSM at 3 Div.

It is a fact of life here at Harrogate that not all who enter the portals find themselves cut out for the military life. Sorry as we all were to see **AT Bosley** return to Civvy Street he did leave a poignant few words on his departure.

**LEAVING**
**by A. P. Bosley (89C)**

*Since the entrance exam I passed,*
*Six months have gone at last,*
*Since off to the Army I did go,*
*If I wanted to I don't know,*
*I wish I could have made a career,*
*but I didn't feel right here!*

*Yes, a soldier I wished to be,*
*but I guess the Army was not for me,*
*So come on lads don't follow me,*
*You're right for the Army wait and see,*
*Just 18 months here to go,*
*Then when you're posted who would know?*

*Germany, Cyprus, Canada, Belize,*
*Do it for me lads, do it please,*
*Think to yourself 'Oh what the heck',*
*My aim in life is to be a Tech,*

*I didn't stay and lads I'm sorry,*
*but never fear and never worry,*
*'cause some day we will meet,*
*hopefully not in Civvie Street,*

*Think of all the cash you'll earn,*
*And all the different things to learn,*
*Just think of all the places you'll go,*
*It's gonna be hard lads, this I know,*
*The easy route I took out,*
*But look at me now lads, I've got nowt!*

**PENNEY SQUADRON**
**CHARITY CAR WASH**
**Report by AT Sgt Marsh**

This year's Charity Car Wash was planned by **Capt Elliott** but there was one thing that he forgot to do—book the weather! So on Saturday 28 April the Squadron braved the downpour as it deployed to the car parks of Harrogate. **Capt Elliott** said he would have a word with someone and so during the morning the rain eased off and the sun almost popped out.

All the members of the Squadron seemed to enjoy the day. Most of the public co-operated in letting a crack, well-trained, good-looking team of ATs clean their car for charity. One or two, however, actually paid us not to wash their cars!



Capt Dave Luckett *(left)* gives a directing hand on Penney Sqn Car Wash day

We are glad to say that the day was a success, apart from the weather, and a total of £1,360 was raised. The Squadron would like to thank everycne who helped us raise this magnificent sum of money.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

The Squadron would like to congratulate **Capt Elliott** on his recent promotion and to **Sgts Terry Oakes** and **Jeff Watts** on their forthcoming promotion to Staff Sergeant. We would also like to congratulate **Sam** and **Sgt John Fradley** on the birth of their second daughter **Nicola**.

**HARROGATE BRIDLEWAYS RIDE**

On 27 May Penney Sqn was in action assisting in a civil charity horse riding event in and around the grounds of Harewood House. Over 100 horses took part in the event and raised over £900 for a variety of local charities. The Apprentice Tradesmen from Penney Sqn, **ATs Box, Brocklehurst, Duffton, Johnstone, Keeler, Lilley, Marshall, Nightingale, Owen, Reynolds, Robertson** and **Mudd** led by Tp Sgt **N. Finnegan** and **Cpl Morton** from Commex Tp, provided communication from checkpoints around the course and conveyed the progress of competitors and on the odd occasion directed lost horses and riders. In all Penney Squadron made the event work and a good day was enjoyed by everyone.

**BRADLEY SQUADRON**

It has been a busy time in the Junior Leader Squadron.

Intake 90A JL arrived in January and straight away asserted themselves as a spirited group. Formed into Lightning Tp they won the Champion Recruit Troop Competition, overcoming stiff opposition from the Apprentice Tradesmen.

Lightning Tp began their careers under the supervision of **Lt** (now Capt) **Gordon Elliott** and **Sgt Terry Oakes**, who saw them through the rigours of Basic Recruit Training before handing them over to their 'new boys' PS: **Lt** 'Gap' **Ashton**, fresh from the Nordic Racing Circuit at 22 Sig Regt, instantly recognisable in his well packed pink lurex ski suit, together with his right hand man **Sgt** 'Gaz' **Stoker** (here on promotion from the cutting edge at 16 Sig Regt). Already joined by the newly promoted **JL LCpls Nicholson, Lomas, Robinson, Howe, Love** and **Anderson**, Lightning Tp is already poised to be front runner when its time comes.

Other activities involving the Squadron have been: External Leadership in the Cairngorms, the Lake District, Canoeing and Trekking, participation in the Telethon appeal with a sponsored abseil for handicapped children and last but not least Quadrant Tp's involvement in the Royal Tournament.

All in all a lot of activity, but all just part of the every day life of a Junior Leader in Bradley Sqn.

**INTER-SQUADRON ATHLETICS DAY**

This year's athletics extravaganza was held on 5 May. The weather was excellent, there were crowds of delirious spectators, the competitors gave 100%, there was a NAAFI tent. Need more be said? Here are some photos to capture some of the electric atmosphere of the event.

Scott Sqn have developed a somewhat ambivalent attitude towards Inter-Squadron Sports 'You win some, you win some'. After the end of a day of fierce competition Scott Sqn emerged winners in both the Inter-Squadron Athletics and Tug-of-War competitions.



AT LCpl O'Hara receives the Tug of War Trophy from the Commandant, Col K. P. Burke



Pre-event entertainment. To the sound of Pipe Maj Cornwall's bagpipes, AT Springett (Penney Sqn) performs the Indian rope-trick. On a more serious note, AT Springett's (Penney) awesome technique has been the cause of some concern in the Sergei Bubka (Russia) camp. Let's hope the long awaited head-to-head happens this season



Missing since the competition, a brave but inexperienced competitor tries catching the shot



**THE PACE STICK COMPETITION 1990**

The Apprentices College has organised its own Inter-Squadron Pace Stick competition for the past four years. Monday 28 May dawned bright and clear ready for the 1990 contest.

For the uninitiated a Pace Stick is not just the RSM's stick for pointing at litter, plant life and people who upset him, it is a useful aid to drill.

The Pace Stick competition consists of an inspection in full No 2 Dress, Drill Order and then marching in slow time with the stick turning, measuring the correct length of pace 30in, changing hands and carrying over a course of approximately 140 paces. The interesting and most difficult part is marching back over the same course carrying out the movements again but in quick time.

It was a closely fought contest with each of the four Squadrons entering a team of one team captain (the 'driver') who gave the words of command, and three other members. As always the standard of turnout and personal drill was immaculate giving the judges, **Capt S. A. Leigh** and **WO1 (RSM) Ritchie** Scots Guards, a hard time when it came to choosing a winner.

Modesty forbids the author from revealing his identity but Scott Sqn, **WO2 (SSM) Spray, Sgts Jim Harris, Danny O'Brien** and **Mick Tharme**, won the team prize and also the best Pacesticker in the form of **Sgt Danny O'Brien** who contributed suitably to the Sergeants' Mess bar profits after the event.

The College originally started its Pace Stick competition to select a team for entry in the World Championship Competition held annually at the Guards Depot. Unfortunately for various reasons that competition is now only open to Household Division units and so the College, which has always done well at Pirbright, is barred from entering.

It is well known that there is a wealth of expertise in this sport throughout the Corps so perhaps it is time for us to consider running our own Corps competition. Does any other unit in the Corps have a team good enough to challenge the supremacy of the College? Any Corps unit interested in entering a team in the 1991 Corps Championships here in Harrogate please get in touch with the RSM, Army Apprentices College, Harrogate before the end of 1990.

**CANOEING: A SUCCESSFUL SEASON**

At the end of May and one of the driest months on record the College canoeists are looking back wistfully to the winter months when the rivers Ure and Wharfe burst their banks. We have continued to visit Sleningford Mill near Ripon where Frances Petchey is always welcoming. The caravan site at the mill must be one of the best canoeing venues in the north. The river is always different, offering excitement for novice and advanced paddlers alike.

When conditions have been right we have canoed the classic route from Hack Falls near Grewelthorpe down past Mickley Weir to the mill. There is plenty of big water (they trained for the Dudh Khosi at Hack Falls) and plenty of wild life to savour on the way. Heron, kingfishers and crested grebe abound.

Unfortunately, the lack of wind has meant little surf on the east coast. Needless to say 'Ex Dusty Charc' which was mounted during Easter leave whetted the appetite. Seven canoeists spent a week down at Croyde Bay, North Devon searching for the 'big stuff'. Unfortunately, for the first four days the gale force winds blew from the South West. This made for too much hard work, storm surf and poor rides. Fortunately, on the last day the winds abated and the waves were 'Green'. The members of the exercise were **Maj Heritage, Mr Miles, Sig Marriott, AT Rossall, AT Wilson, JL Thommen** and **JL LCpl Thatcher**. Every member of the group had his share of 'Big Wednesday' in a memorable week.



AT Wilson 'walking on water'

The experience and confidence gained from handling canoes on a big water certainly paid off when the four junior canoeists in the group represented the College in the Army Junior Canoe Slalom Championships at Llandssul Dyfed. **AT Springett** and **AT Pennicott** made up the team of six. The Harrogate paddles won the Junior Team event for the fourth year in succession and won second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh in the Individual Championships. **AT Rossall** joined **SSgt (FofS) Truby** and **Mr Miles** helping them to come third in the UKLF Senior Team Competition. **SSgt (FofS) Truby** was second in the Individual K1 event. Well done to all!

The hard training paid off. But there was also time to relax. Time was taken off to see the local scenery Cenarth Falls and the beaches of the Pembrokeshire coast—but also no surf!

Before concluding, mention must be made of the Canoeing Clubs contribution to the 'Race the Sun' extravaganza, a charity relay around North Yorkshire. The Canoeists acquitted themselves well. **AT Springett** and **SSgt (FofS) Truby** eventually found their direction in the early morning mist and set the Harrogate team off to a good start. **AT Weaver** had an early morning bath (0430 hrs in the Yorkshire Ouse) and the second canoe leg of **Rossall, Miles** and **Marriott** reached home in geriatric fashion.

We said goodbye in May to **Lt Sarah Pipe WRAC** RAEC on posting to BAOR. Thanks for all your assistance and expertise **Sarah**. Happy paddling in your new Unit!

**EXERCISE SILVER SWORD—A RAWSON PERSPECTIVE**
**by AT Sgt Mark Parr**

Rawson Sqn, Sunday 13 May. The buzz and excitment in the Squadron was almost audible as intakes 89A, B and C prepared to deploy on the Squadron's annual Home Defence Exercise.

During the week prior to deployment we had to endure kit check upon kit check as our Troop Sergeants ensured that no-one was 'diffi'. Anyway, we prepared to move with our Penney counterparts to Leek Training Area in Staffordshire. The journey took hardly any time as we all kept ourselves amused and before we knew it we were in Leek. We were briefed on all the usual accommodation and meal timings and then bundled off to our respective blocks.

The following day began with a quick inspection and then off for our instructional lessons. This and day two followed the same format, with all the theory of how to guard a key point, cordon off an unexploded bomb, how to build OPs and how to deal with demonstrators, which was taken in with a lot of interest as everyone was more than eager to get out into the field and have a go.

Wednesday. The real beginning of the exercise as we boarded four tonners and moved out to KP Stake Gutter. 1 Platoon moved in first to clear the area and all its buildings before 2 and 3 Platoon could move in. By 1600 hrs all three Platoons of Rawson had moved in and were now carrying out their specific tasks. This first day in the field was quiet with no sign of trouble. By day two all this was to change, with members of the military training staff giving us some stick.

Everyone had a go at all the various KP tasks. Some with more luck than others. The most amusing was the patrolling of the GDA with almost everyone falling foul of the electric fences hidden expertly by the enemy, I'm sure.

88C in the guise of bible-bashing demonstrators also provided a laugh as they, together with Monsignor Barabus Hastings **(Capt Henschel)** and Willie Foggit **(Sgt B. Witherstone)**, quoted at length at us. All in all it was an excellent exercise and thanks must go to all the PS who helped it to be as enjoyable as possible. They all had as much fun as the ATs.

**WINDSURFING**

On Wednesday 3 May three members of Penney Sqn made the journey from Harrogate to Gosport, to take part in the 1990 Corps Windsurfing Championships. These were **Sgts John Fradley** and **Norman Finnegan** and **AT LCpl Daryl Tulk**. After arriving at Browndown Camp it was time for a quick practice on the sea (for some of us this was the first time on the sea) and it proved more difficult than we had anticipated and ended up with **Sgts Fradley** and **Finnegan** spending most of the afternoon in the water inspecting the underside of their boards! The first day's racing proved rewarding, although not windy, the breeze was enough to fill the sails and keep the boards moving. The individual and team races went very well for the College with good individual performances from **Sgt Finnegan** who finished 11th in the lightweight class, and **AT LCpl Tulk** who finished 20th in the lightweight class. **Sgt Fradley** managed to finish 11th in the heavyweight class and was narrowly beaten by **LCpl Liggins** of 7 Sig Regt by 1 point for the best novice trophy. The team event proved to be equally competitive with the College finishing seventh out of 11 teams, an excellent result from the College as it was the first time that it has competed in such an event. A big thanks must go to **Capt Gilchrist** for organising the event. The message from the College is 'Look out in September—we shall be back'.

**EXERCISE KILO RIDE (or John 'O' Groats or Bust)**

Ex Kilo Ride was the brainchild of **Mr A. Green** (OIC Cycling) and was so called because the aim was to ride 1,000km in five days during the first week of Easter leave.

There was a great deal of enthusiasm from Apprentices and PS alike during the early planning stages. As the evil day grew closer, though, enthusiasm from some members began to wane and quite a number opted out. The College was hit with a Chicken Pox epidemic the week before departure and still more Apprentices had to withdraw so that the final composition was three PS and two Apprentices!

The party was: **Capt C. J. Knight RAEC**, Ed Wing; **Capt D. Ollerearnshaw RAEC**, Ed Wing; **WO2 (QMSI) Rafferty APTC**, E L Wing; **AT LCpl Hanmer**, Rawson; **AT Barron**, Penney with **Mr M Grant** and **Mr A. Green** support crew.

We left at 0800 hrs after having loaded the support vehicle with spare bikes, wheels, overnight kit and rations. The first 13 miles took us an hour and a half and yours truly was beginning to wonder whether we would make it to Darlington let alone John 'O' Groats. The teething troubles behind us, though, we then made good progress. I have no doubt that we passed through some beautiful Northumbrian countryside that day but I couldn't appreciate anything so tired and sore was I.

We eventually passed into Scotland at Carter Bar at 1730 hrs. We then had a bus transfer to HQ Scotland in Edinburgh and a night's rest. Having achieved 125 miles that day.

The next morning started with a bus transfer to Perth and then a ride to Inverness (114 miles). Less than the scheduled 125 but it was over some impressive mountains. More about those mountains out of Perth later. It was on this leg that **Capt Ollerearnshaw** had **Capt Knight** off his bike. There was blood all over the road but hero that he is, **Capt Knight**, after a quick cigarette (superb athlete this man) got back on and completed his ride.

Day three was the day when we should have seen John 'O' Groats. The prevailing conditions was a strong North Westerly wind. It was, therefore, decided to drive almost to John 'O' Groats, ride in and then hurtle back with the wind behind us. Fifty miles North of Inverness we ran into a blizzard. It was impossible to drive through let alone ride bikes. After passing two cars in ditches we turned about and headed back for Inverness. Forty one miles short of Inverness we unloaded the bikes and rode the rest of the way in. The mission had failed, we had been defeated by the weather.

The next day we decided to do a scenic route back to Perth alongside Loch Ness and past Ben Nevis. It was a beautiful day and the summit of Ben Nevis was clearly visible. So spectacular was the scenery that aches and pains were temporarily forgotten while we revelled in riding through it.

That night we took stock of the total mileage we had covered. 125 + 114 + 41 + 135 = 415 miles. Clearly 1,000km or 625 miles was not on. It was therefore decided that a ride of no less than 85 miles on the final day would be adequate in order to bring the total to around 500 miles.

The final day then took us to a point 90 miles North of Harrogate by bus transfer and we rode back into camp.

Riding 100 miles plus in a day is not that hard, but doing it day after day for five days is quite another matter. It was probably, on reflection, too difficult for apprentices and neither **Hanmer** nor **Barron** completed the full distance. Although two of the objectives were not met (namely reaching John 'O' Groats and covering 1,000km), the exercise was far from being a failure. The apprentices got away for five days with nothing else on their mind save for cycling and got some invaluable training. They also toured Scotland at no cost.

**TUG OF WAR**

After a long period without competitions there has been a glut of them in the last weeks leading up to half term. After taking part in the Group 5 Championships (NE/NW Districts plus Scotland; The Princess Royal Inter Services Competition and the Morrison Cup (UK) were hosted).

The Army Junior Championships were held at Harrogate and, once all the teams had escaped from the parade square on the Saturday morning, everyone prepared for a hard day's competition. After some very hard pulling the following results were achieved which bode well for the future:-

420kg U18: First—PMC Arborfield; Second—JLR RA and Third—AA Coll Harrogate.

560kg U18: First—JLR RA; Second—PMC Arborfield and Third—AA Coll Harrogate.

560kg Open: First—JLR RA; Second—AA Coll Harrogate and Third—PMC Arborfield.

640kg Open: First—AA Coll Harrogate; Second—AA Coll Chepstow and Third—JLR RA.



The College TOW Squad with the 640 Kg Winners Cup and 560 Kg Runners up medals from the 1990 Army Junior Championships



## Ministry of Defence
## Whitehall

**THE THIRD ROCK AND RUN MOUNTAIN MARATHON 1990**

**Maj Paul Gorford** of the Army Department Radio Branch at MOD and Ex **Capt Mike Dunn**, late of 238 Sig Sqn, completed an arduous and gruelling test of stamina at Kinlochleven at the end of May.

The opening paragraph of the race brochure described the ground and set the scene as follows.

**THE AREA—WARNING**

The Marmores and the Grey Gorries are two high mountain ranges linking a series of major summits (including 19 Munroes—peaks over 3,000ft). The passes between the summits are all above 800m. Teams of two have to avoid hard snow patches, negotiate streams and map read to check points either on top or near the top of the peaks, which included obstacles like snowfields, deep gullies and slopes too steep to walk on.

All food and living equipment had to be carried throughout the event.

Terrain of this severity is new to mountain marathons—prepare seriously for this event!

In the two days we got round the 11 check points in a respectable time, climbed three munroes and ran along some fantastic ridge lines. The Scottish scenery was at its best—pink granite, deep greens of the newly sprouting heather and blue greys of the lochs and lachins.

The 1,000 mile round trip from London was definitely worth the experience. Leaving London after lunch Friday and returning to my desk before lunch on Monday did not give my in-tray a chance to back-up.

This seemed a daunting challenge, however viewed from a desk at MOD, and by **Mike Dunn**, now with accountants Price Waterhouse at Leeds, it seemed a good target to aim for. We took up the challenge.

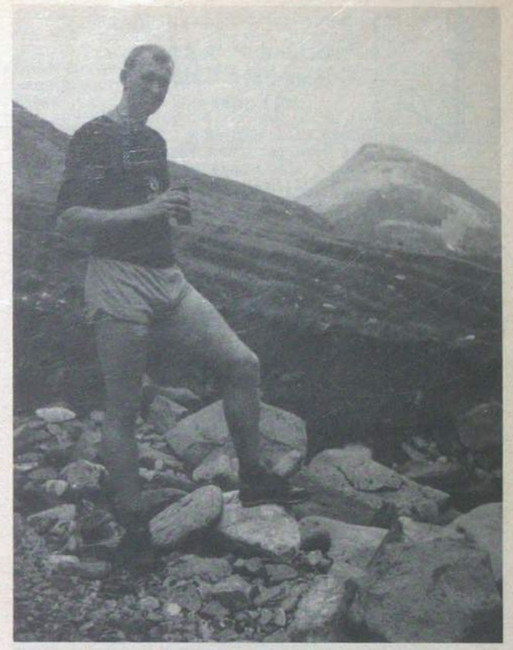
More than just a hard run, the event is a two-day orienteering competition over mountains. Courses are graded and we took the middle standard which according to the straight line distances was 17kms on day one to a bivvy site and 14kms on day two to the finish. Both legs were timed.

These distances may not sound much but a look at the map will indicate there is no way the ground can be covered in straight lines. Suffice to say we learned a good deal about ourselves in two hard but enjoyable days, particularly about the need to select a good route in the high mountains.

We finished the event with a great sense of achievement, determined next year to train harder and do better. We wholeheartedly recommend any keen orienteers who have a head for heights to look out for other Rock and Run events and in particular the Fourth Scottish Mountain Marathon next May.



Maj Paul Gorford and Mike Dunn at the finish of the Scottish Mountain Marathon, force a smile for the camera



Mike Dunn looking back to the second checkpoint on the peak of the mountain in the background


RADIO OFFICER
THE NATURAL CHOICE

If you are coming to the end of your time in the Services and are scheduled for discharge in the next 12 months the natural choice for a second career is GCHQ.

Build on the Radio Operator experience you already have by undergoing specialist training with GCHQ which will prepare you for wide ranging duties encompassing the complete radiocommunications spectrum – DC to light.

To qualify you need:–

a. a minimum of 2 years recent relevant radio operating experience and preferably be capable of reading morse at 20 wpm.

or

Without experience you need to hold one of the following:–

b. BTEC National Diploma (or HNC/HND) in a Telecommunications, Electronics Engineering or similar discipline (City and Guilds 777 (Advanced level) or other qualification incorporating morse skills would be advantageous but not essential).

c. MRGC or equivalent Radio Operating Certificate.

Preferred Age Range 18-45 years.

Following comprehensive training GCHQ offers:

• Good Career Prospects • Competitive Salaries • Varied Work (opportunities for moves within UK and Overseas) • Generous Leave Allowances • Job Security • Non-Contributory Pension Scheme – and much more!

SALARIES (Reviewed Annually)

After a residential training course of between 29 and 52 weeks – depending on background experience – the Radio Officer Pay Scale ranges from £12,678 to £18,431 over 5 years with prospects for further promotion. (Salaries include an allowance for shift and weekend work).

APPLICANTS MUST BE BRITISH NATIONALS

For further information and application form contact:–

Recruitment Office, Room A/1108, GCHQ, Priors Road, CHELTENHAM, Glos GL52 5AJ or telephone (0242) 232912 or 232913.

GCHQ

## School of Signals
## Blandford Camp
## Dorset

**ARMY FIXED TELECOMMUNICATIONS AGENCY (AFTA)**

The Army Fixed Telecommunications Agency (AFTA) was formed on 31 December 1989, following the reorganisation of the School of Signals. Largely based on the old Engineering Wing, it retained the EMC Agency and CPD in its organisation, lost RSSST and Trials Division to the Army Tactical Telecommunications Agency (ATTA) and gained part of the old Planning Wing as a Planning Division. HQ AFTA and Planning Division are located on the bottom floor of HQ Block, for those of you who wish to visit. Here you will find:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Comd (AFTA) | **Col Mike Spence** |
| SO1(W) Comms | **Lt Col David Jessett** |
| SO2(W) IT | **Lt Col Mike Powell** |
| SO2(W) Fixed Comms | **Maj Tony Wood** |
| SO3 Coord | **Capt Katherine Toal** (until she's finished her Handover) |
| | **Capt Sue Madsen** (until she's finished her Handover) |
| | **Capt Annabelle Hyde** |
| AO | **Mrs Ellen Hall** |
| AA | **Mrs Annette Ellis** |

In due course we aim to take over the world, but currently we satisfy ourselves with Studies in support of the Corps Functional Plan, Comms 2000 and supporting **Col David Hunt**, in his role as Col (DPIT), and the DPIT Staff. The practicalities of federating the three service telephone networks keeps our feet on the ground and stops us from being inward looking. Fixed Communications and IT are areas of rapid growth and constant development, where the Corps provides real communications (as opposed to exercises). Planning the Corps future involvement is not dull and certainly not dry, and an education to those raised on tactical matters and concepts.

**COMMUNICATION PROJECTS DIVISION (CPD)**

Last November CPD not only survived the DAMA inspection but was recommended for an increase in staff by 19 posts! Some of the increased posts proposed by DAMA have already been filled by transferring to CPD the Royal Signals Small Systems Group (RSSSG). so we now have ADP Specialists in amongst all the technicians.

For those who wonder what CPD does for a living—read on. We provide all the fixed communications for the Army world wide. This means commercial equipment bought off the shelf and either installed by a contractor or by our own installation teams. The work neatly breaks down into six areas—Radio, Data Terminal Equipment, Microwave, Telephone and Distribution Systems, Tempest Testing and IT. Although based in Blandford the work is done anywhere in the world where the Army operates with a few odd places thrown in, like Bogota in Colombia. Currently there is a team of four led by **WO2 (FofS) Colin Peck** in Hong Kong installing new exchanges; **WO1 (FofS) David Murray**'s team is in BAOR installing terminal equipment for an RAOC computer project, and **SSgt Bob Wood REME** is with a team in the Falkland Islands. **WO2 (FofS) Bob Pullan** lives in BAOR as our liaison officer and **WO1 (FofS) Orph Mable** has just moved to Cyprus to liaise with the contractors installing the new microwave system and exchanges. The Tempest testers usually work three weeks away in BAOR, Cyprus, Northern Ireland, Norway etc before having a week in Blandford writing reports.

Every year we build a raft and paddle down the River Stour the 10 miles from Shillingstone to Blandford. Sponsorship money rolls in and goes to support local Blandford charities. Our team may not be the fastest or funniest in the race but invariably raises more money than most.

**ARMY EMC AGENCY**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Frequency Management Group** | |
| **SO3 (FM)** | **Capt David Powell** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (YofS) Chris Whitehead** |
| **Operator** | **LCpl Mervyn Drew** |

**Test and Evaluation Group**
**Sgt Mark Holden**
**Sgt Pete Messenger**
**Cpl Mick Jervis**

The Army Electro-Magnetic Agency is also known as EMC Division, a part of AFTA, School of Signals. A mainly civilian organisation, we are responsible for the testing of all equipment which is due, or, has been in service with the Army. We are also responsible for Frequency Management on behalf of the Signals Directorate, you may have seen our name in small print on 1 (BR) Corps frequency assignments.

The military test and evaluation members are only on Short Term Cover until the relevant grade of civilian can be recruited. After 25 months of cover, however, we're not convinced that we should be called STC any more.

The disadvantages of an 8-5, no exercise existence, the latest in 'working technology' and a ready supply for Trials Squadron duties, is compensated by the joy of working with our civilian colleagues. This can cause some interesting conversations as most people seem to share a name in common with someone else. The following exchange took place one Friday afternoon:-

| | |
|---|---|
| YofS | (phoning a number shared between SO3 (FM) and **Dr David Tamarind**) |
| Capt P | '2347—FM Group' |
| YofS | 'Can I speak to **David**?' |
| Capt P | 'Which **David**?' |
| YofS | 'The **David** I call **David**, not the **David** I call sir' |
| Capt P | 'Oh, Hello Yeoman . . .' |

We do some travelling and we have sent people as far away as: Malvern, Cinque Ports Training Area, Kineton, London, Kineton, Malvern . . . One lucky break was made as far as Cyprus for a field test, **Sgt Pete Messenger** awaits the return invitation, or written evidence.

If you want to drive a Chieftain/Challenger, break an MLRS or struggle to lift a Bates manpack, then Test and Evaluation Group is for you. Don't tell Manning and Records we told you about it. Seriously, though, the work done in the Agency has a direct relevance to many fields of Army work and the results of the tests we carry out can help to prevent a potential disaster.

**SOUTH WEST DISTRICT SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING**

The SWDist SAAM meeting was held at Bulford Ranges. The School of Signals entered two teams for the Small Arms Pistol Competition where they achieved the following results against stiff competition!

1st WRAC Pistol—**Capt Katherine Toal WRAC**
2nd WRAC Pistol—**Sgt Julie Cheeseman WRAC**
2nd Overall Pistol—**SSgt Colin Riddell**




Skill-at-Arms Meeting
SSgt Colin Riddell, Capt Katherine Toal and Sgt Julie Cheesman



**EXERCISE AFTA EIGHT**
**By Capt Katherine Toal WRAC**

Ex Afta Eight was an adventurous training exercise based at the Corps Adventure Training Centre (the Whernside Centre) in the heart of the North Yorkshire National Park near Dent in Cumbria. Its aim was to introduce participants to a wide range of adventure training activities, learning new skills or, improving those already learned.

The Whernside Centre was chosen because of the wide range of facilities offered and the availability of permanent instructors. The centre was publicised in *The Wire* in November 1989 which outlined all the training options open. The Training Adjutant, 11 Sig Regt runs this Centre and was most helpful in securing a week for us in their very full programme. The week allocated to Ex Afta Eight was not very convenient unfortunately—Easter Weekend. This led to a few problems filling the allotted 20 places, but eventually this was achieved. Half the group were female and all were of Junior rank. Most had only previously attempted one or two of the activities on offer and then only during training. The group could not really be described as gladiators, but after all, those were the people the exercise was aiming at.

Organisation was quite straightforward, completion of the Adventurous Training Form A, covering costs and transport. Each student had to contribute one third of the cost, transport had to be by minibus and food and accommodation refunds had to be applied for. The basic format of the week included a wide range of activities including caving, climbing, fell-walking and abseiling. Windsurfing and canoeing can also be undertaken but unfortunately the weather proved adverse during our stay. The cost included full board, equipment and instruction by fully qualified instructors. The beauty of the Whernside Centre is that a total novice can undertake a wide range of activities at a very small cost.

The Centre does have a permanent cook but asked us to provide one to cover a necessary two day absence of their's, due to posting. **Pte Waugh** from 30 Sig Regt, a keen fell-walker, just out of training, worked for two days, then joined in with the groups of his choice. **Pte Waugh** did not have to pay! The remaining 20 personnel were divided into four groups of 5. The most rewarding aspect of the exercise was seeing a young Private approach the edge of a cliff in a quarry tentatively, during the abseiling phase and white faced 'going over the top'. His last words were 'if those girls can do it ma'am, so can I'. The majority of those attending this exercise were young, inexperienced junior ranks who had not attempted anything like this before.

The only major problem was obtaining transport—two minibuses, and the lack of Shell petrol stations on the route. ADA vouchers were taken but the M5 and M6 proved not to have any Shell outlets. A more detailed, researched route plan should have been undertaken.

The main point of adventurous training is to enjoy oneself, to learn new skills, to pass on such skills to others and to encourage others to participate in such activities. This small exercise was very successful and the feedback received from the units involved suggests that the majority of the aims, were achieved. Thanks must go to the Whernside Centre for a very competent and enjoyable approach to adventurous training. A pity the Centre is so popular, the next available week is during December!

**FRIENDSHIP QUILT**
**by Mrs Nicola Hill**

The Spring and Summer of 1989 will be remembered by many as an unbelievably warm and sunny time, but for 29 wives at Blandford it was the Summer of the Friendship Quilt.



Friendship Quilt

A friendship quilt is normally made by a group of people who share the same interests or live in the same community. Our quilt took six months of regular meetings to complete. Only the two originators, **Nicola Hill** and **Patti Kenehan**, an American whose husband was on an exchange posting, had done any patchwork before, but these two passed on their skills to the other wives.

A wonderful selection of materials was all donated, mostly from dressmaking remnants. Most wives used a machine to complete their individual squares for the special 'log cabin' design called Streak of Lightning. When all the squares were complete they were sewn together and the quilt was backed and knotted. The finished quilt was raffled and raised £150 which was given to the West Dorset Hospice at Dorchester and Barnardo's in Bournemouth. The lucky winner was not an Army wife but a second smaller quilt was made from the rejected squares and raffled amongst the sewing friends. This quilt was won by **Maggie Taylor**.

The Blandford Ladies who helped sew the quilt were: **Keri Backhouse, Lisa Hoghton, Marylyn Hayes, Lyn Copeland, Christina Murray, Caroline Graves, Louise Case, Maggie Taylor, Maureen Holmes, Babeth Thompson, Maria Sullivan, Pattie Kenehan, Nici Hill, Sue Launders, Janice Rich, Jan Hughes, Jan Oakley, Olga Muirhead, Olga Marshall, Bernadette Preece, Lesley Harrison, Stacey Oszczyk, Jane Green, Jackie Lawrence, Lou Stuart, Kay Everett, Jackie Murray, Jean Eames** and **Gillian Flint**.

Such is the nature of life within the Corps, that quite a number of the ladies have already moved on from Blandford; but for a short time together, they gave each other the most precious commodity of all, their time!

**THE RETREAT CEREMONY**

Massed bands, pipes and drums of the Corps Staff Band, WRAC Staff Band, AA College Harrogate Pipers, The Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt and 34 Sig Regt(V) combined to perform the ceremony of Beating Retreat at Blandford Camp on Tuesday evening 29 May 1990 to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Corps. The ceremony, under the direction of **Capt David Wall**, Director of Music of the Corps Staff Band, played several traditional Scottish pieces and some reflected the Corps' motto 'Certa Cito' (Swift and Sure). The bands marched off to Scotland the Brave.

Proceeds from the Retreat Ceremony go to the Royal Signals Museum appeal charitable trust towards the building of New Museum Project.



Beating Retreat

**MOVING?**

**Have you told RHQ? Your *Wire* will be sent to your old address unless you tell us of a change.**

# News from Regiments

## Berlin Sig Regt
## BFPO 45

**1 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Max Little** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Lawrence McCourt** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Alan Bailey** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Neil Thomas** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt Steve Rose** |
| **OC Bde Tp** | **Capt Bill Adsett** |
| **OC Sect Tp** | **WO2 Tim Langford** |
| **OC Comms Sp Tp** | **SSgt (FofS) Sid Kassim** |

It has been an extremely busy two months for the Squadron. We have participated in a number of sporting events, the Queen's Birthday Parade, Allied FTX, the Princess Royal Day and hosted a visit from the Comd Comms.

**BRIGADE SAAM**

The Regimental shooting team participated in the Brigade SAAM held from 10-12 April. Led by **Sgt Terry Frankel** the team produced good results throughout the competition. The team's standard considerably improved with the arrival of **LCpl Dicky Dickerson**, a man not to bet against on the ranges. The team ended the day as runners-up with major successes in the following shoots:-

Whithead Match SLR—Winner **LCpl Dickerson**
Association Match SLR—Winner **LCpl Dickerson**
SMG Shoot—Winner **LCpl Dickerson**
LMG Match—Winner **Cpl Giles**
WRAC Pistol Match—Winner **WPte Rouse**
Runner-up **Cpl Husband**

**BRIGADE ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

On 18 May the Brigade Orienteering Championships were held in the Tegel Stadtforest in the French sector of Berlin. The event organiser was our own **SSgt (YofS) Steve Rose**. The Yeoman set two good technical courses with each team having to field three runners on the A course and two on the B course. The event was well supported with a number of guest teams travelling up from the Zone (the term we Berliners use to refer to West Germany). The eventual Minor Unit winners were the other Signal Squadron in Berlin, 3 Sqn, 13 Sig Regt. The regimental team was only just beaten by them, finishing as runners-up. **Capt Lawrence McCourt** gained second place on the A course in the Minor Unit Competition and **Cpl Dave Giles** was first on the B course.

The team:-

A course: **Capt Lawrence McCourt, SSgt 'SFA' Butcher** and **Sgt Dave Iverson**. B course: **Cpls Dave Giles** and **Rick Cummins**.

**ALLIED FTX**

As Royal Signals personnel we frequently encounter the Staff Officer; although not always enjoyable, the experience is always interesting. In Berlin we have the pleasure of working with three types. The British, whom you know already, the French, whom we have difficulty in understanding, and the Americans, who speak our language but are understood less well than the French. To overcome these problems the allies exercise together whenever possible. Ex Bear Alliance was such an exercise and it took place on 23-26 April. Centred around Ruhleben Fighting City it was the Squadron's first exercise under the command of our new OC **Maj Max Little**. The Sqn Comd was introduced to the world of communications in Berlin, the pitfalls and the frustations.

Althought the pace of the exercise was slow, the flood of excuses for returning to camp multiplied daily. Some were unbelievable, but, the most unlikely of all came from the Foreman who said he had some work to do.

**PRINCESS ROYAL DAY**

Although this scribe cannot emulate the superlatives used last year when describing Princess Royal Day, he can, on behalf of the Regiment, congratulate the March and Shoot team and the shooting team on their efforts at Haltern Ranges. Also well done to the March and Shoot team for winning the Falling Plate Competition. A commendable fourth place was achieved and although disappointed, everyone involved enjoyed the day. The team consisted of the following:-

Pistol team: **Lt Col Collins** and **WO2 SSM Bailey**; March and Shoot team: **Capt Bill Adsett, Sgt Steve Metherill, Cpl Steve Simpson, LCpl Lee Linton, Sig Mark Watson** and **Graham Stanforth**; Shooting team: **Maj Max Little, LCpl Dicky Dickerson, Sig Jim Grimes** and **Russ Marston**.

**VISIT OF COMMANDER COMMUNICATIONS**

**Maj Gen P. R. Davies** came to Berlin on 19 April to say farewell to the Signal Units. The General has strong ties with Berlin having once served here as a subaltern (see, there is always chance for you **Bill**). A hectic programme began by the General inspecting a Regimental guard. The turnout was immaculate and the soldiers' drill was something of a challenge to the Battalions preparing for the Queen's Birthday Parade.

The General's programme included the presentation of the LS & GC medal to **WO2 Colin Ross**.



LCpl Skelton and Sgt Groves are addressed by Maj Gen Davies while the CO Lt Col Collins and WO1 (RSM) Young hope that LCpl Skelton is giving the correct answer



The Ross family pictured here with the General, the CO and the RSM



**THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PARADE**

The month of May is traditionally a busy period in Berlin because of the Queen's Birthday Parade preparations and this year was no exception. The Squadron's tasks range from running the Public Address system to guard duties. Special thanks for their stout endeavours must go to **LCpls Cook** and **Dickerson** for their work on the PA system, **Sgt Moody** and **Cpl Horne** for their hours of practice and preparation for the vehicle screen. Well done also to the RSM for yet another successful Parade as the Parade RSM. The Queen's representative this year was **Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra**, who was escorted on to the Parade by **Maj Gen R. J. S. Corbett**. The parade was a particularly special occasion as this year it was watched by East Germans.



The March Past

**INTER TROOP SPORTS DAY**

During a lull **WO2 (YofS) Tim Langford** and **SSgt (FofS) Sid Kassim** organised an Inter Troop sports day. The sports played, were football, hockey, squash, rugby, basketball and volleyball. Each Troop played in a Round Robin Competition for each of the sports. None of the Troops has a great number of men to call upon, which meant there were many tired legs at the end of the day. The eventual winners were Comms Support Sqn, sorry Troop, winning outright the hockey, squash and rugby. Unfortunately even with half the Regimental football team they did not win the Football Competition. SHQ Tp beat them 1—0. Remember to come off your line next time **Cookey**. First Comms Sp Tp, second SHQ, third Sector Troop and fourth Bde Tp.

**TUG-OF-WAR**

The Brigade Tug-of-War Competition was held on 1 June. The Regiment was the only Minor Unit to enter the open competition and performed well gaining second place behind 1st Light Infantry in the 500kg and 600kg division. The team consisted of **WO2 (YofS) Tim Langford, Sgts Bunny Hutchinson, Terry Frankel, Gordy Raine, Bob Squires, LCpls Gordy Legg** (Capt), **Gordy Blair, 'Scouse' Farrell, Archie Gemmell, 'Taff' Johnson, Adam Yafai, Dave Wilson** and **Sig Tim Williams**.

**BRIGADE ATHLETICS COMPETITION**

Fresh from leading his Troop to victory in the Inter-Troop athletics, OC Bde Tp, **Capt Bill Adsett** organised the athletic training for the Regiment in preparation for the Brigade Athletics Competition on 2 June. After writing a detailed programme for training and emphasising the importance of attending he promptly said goodbye and pursued his linguistic dreams at 46 AEC. Obviously writing 'Ich bin **Bill**', a hundred times each day inspired him on the track. Or as his German instructor pointed out, 'I knew young **Billy** was good at going around in circles in German and I thought if I could straighten him out a bit he would be a good 400m runner', (tenuous I know, but think about it). Anyway back to the athletics competition. On a bright sunny Saturday morning the Regimental team met at 1000 hrs ready for the start of the competition. The team members were still buzzing after the results of two of the field events held the previous afternoon. **Cpl Ian Booth** easily won the Javelin with a throw of 51m thus spear-heading the team's attempt to win the competition. Next came **Sig Tim Williams** and his first place in the Discus. Although this success was not to be repeated, a steady team effort resulted in the Regimental team winning the competition for the first time in a number of years.

This team effort was never more evident than in the final event, the 4 × 400m. Needing to finish second to win outright, **LCpls Wayne Skelton** and **'Lefty' Wright** teased the opposition during their legs, settling comfortably in third position, the handover to **Capt Bill Adsett** meant the teasing was over and he quickly closed the gap between him and the 3 Sqn, 13 Sqn Regt runner. The final leg saw **LCpl Lee Linton** accelerate into second place, slowly pulling away from his opposition. When he crossed the line, it was like watching one of our linemen working, a rare moment to be savoured for eternity. The team consisted of **Capt Bill Adsett, SSgt Phil Philemon, Sgt Alan Griffiths, Cpl Ian Booth, LCpls Adam Yafai, Wayne Skelton, Lee Linton, 'Lefty' Wright** and **Sig Tim Williams**.

**FOOTBALL**

Berlin Minor Unit league—winners
Berlin Stones trophy—winners
Berlin Minor Unit knock out—winners
BAOR Minor Unit knock out—winners
Army Minor Unit knock out—runners-up
Played 24 Won 21 Drawn 2 Lost 1
Goals for-85—against-21

It is always a pleasure to see a team gel together and play well. The pleasure is heightened when a team achieves this, not from having a number of skilled individuals, but from team work. This esprit de Corps was undoubtedly the reason that the Regimental football team has just had its most successful season ever.

Under the guidance of **RSM Rab Young** a squad began training during the preceding weeks of the season. Although postings had left the team depleted, new blood was recruited to form a squad of players. The team began the season by playing in the Berlin Minor Unit league. Success was achieved by only dropping two points throughout the season. During a long, hard season the Regimental team played some entertaining football winning the league comfortably.

The Stones trophy is a knock out competition for Minor Units and Company teams. It is regarded as the most difficult trophy to win, due to the strength of some of the Battalion sides. In the final the Regimental team beat HQ Coy 1st Light Infantry 2—1 with **Cfn Gilly Gilmore** scoring both goals.

The Berlin Minor Unit knock out final was an all Royal Signals affair as the Regiment met 3 Sqn, 13 Sig Regt. Our arch rivals were this time not strong enough to quell the Regiment and the final score was 4—0. The scorers were **LCpl Andy Cameron** 2, **Cfn Gilly Gilmore** and **Sgt Bob Squires**. The final coincided with the visit to Berlin of the Comd Comms who presented the prizes to both teams.

The highlight of the season was winning the BAOR Minor Unit knock out cup. The final was played in Berlin against 1 Corps Tps Wksps who were last year's winners. Undaunted by the opposition, the team led the field confidently and from the start took the game to 1 Corps Tps Wksps. In a friendly, but nevertheless, competitive game, the sides were evenly matched. The break through came from **Sgt Jim Stillie**, who while taking a free kick, closed his eyes, slipped, and instead of the ball being crossed, the ball drifted neatly into the back of the net. His luck must be gained from working with the Irish Guards. The goal proved to be decisive with the final score being 1—0 to the Regiment.

The climax to the season was the Army Minor Unit knock out final played against the Scottish Infantry Depot from the UK. The Regimental team travelled down to Rheindahlen for the final and in front of a large crowd battled against the Jocks for the title. At the end of full time there was no score. Extra time saw the Jocks break the deadlock with a well executed goal. Their joy was short lived as **Cpl Paul Hembley** equalised with an excellent goal. Unfortunately, it was not to be the Regiment's day and the Jocks scored in the last few minutes of extra time to win 2—1. It has been an excellent season and, although stumbling at the final hurdle the players looked back on their success with fond memories. All of them had enjoyed their football and are now looking forward to the next season.

**BRIGADE SWIMMING AND WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The swimming competition took place on 6 June and it was obvious from the first events that only 38 Engr Regt and Berlin HQ and Sig Regt would be fighting it out for the cup. In the end the Sapper's depth proved to be stronger than ours and they won by 38 points to 32 points. **Sig Tim Williams** swam well and won the 50m breast stroke and 100m freestyle and the medley relay team only lost on the touch to the Engineers.

Water Polo was contested on the following day and a confident Sapper team expected to take the cup without too much trouble. The group games were played in the morning and the Engineers and we both won our leagues. In the semi-finals the Engineers beat 1st Light Infantry by 7—3 and we defeated 1 RWF 8—0 and set the scene for a good final. The final proved to be a close and extremely physical



WO(YofS) Tim Langford receiving the Runners-up Trophy from the Bde Comd

game with both teams fighting for everything. In the first quarter we took a 2—0 lead but the Sappers fought back in the second. However we managed to hold a 3—2 lead by the end of the quarter. The third finished 4—4 and at full time is was 5—5. Two extra quarters saw the Engineers score three goals to win 8—5. Their strength in depth in the end defeating our strength of commitment. It had been an excellent game with end to end excitement. In the final **Sig Aggar** scored 1, **Sig Williams** 2 and **WO2 (YofS) Langford** 2. Our player of the competition was goal keeper **LCpl Cook** who kept us in the game with some brilliant saves. A good performance by the team.

**HELLO'S AND GOODBYES**

Welcomes are given by Comms Sp Tp to **Sgts Alan Griffiths** and **Rabb Binnie** and to **LCpl Dicky Dickerson** and his wife **Fiona**. The Troop send a fond farewell to **Cpl Terry Hickey** and his wife **Cheryl** who are off to sunny 262 Sig Sqn. To **Sgt Chris** and **Penny Arnold** who move to the land of ADP at Blandford, and finally to **Cpl Andy Roberts** who leaves for his T1.

Bde Tp welcome **Cpl Brooks** and family from 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and says goodbye to **LCpl Smuge Smith** and family. Unfortunately for them they're are off to Ashley land at 21 Sig Regt.

**A COMPETITION FOR EVERYONE**

Finally from Berlin, this scribe would like to inform readers of a new competition soon to be run by the Regiment. In the next two issues of *The Wire* a photograph entitled 'Where is he now?' will be placed at the end of our contribution. Our photographic technicians will cleverly conceal the location of the RSM. To win, all you have to do is place a cross on the photograph where you think the RSM is located. Winners will have an all expenses paid coffee with the RSM in his new office!

Another competition to follow will be 'spot the Yeoman'. Here you will be required to put a cross on the photograph where you think the Yeoman should have been!

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# 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt BFPO 32

**QM(T) DEPARTMENT**
**EXERCISE SUPPLY TRIANGLE**
**by Cpl Selby (and others)**

'All work and no play' seemed to be the order of routine for the Quartermaster (Technical) Department recently, and there had been little opportunity for the stores accountants to enjoy any form of Adventurous Training. The QM(T), **Capt Mick Ledwards** decided that 'enough was enough' and detailed **Sgt 'Tiny' Reynolds** to plan and organise a Troop Adventurous Training exercise, involving the whole of the department in two, one week phases. This meant that the workload for the party remaining at camp was doubled but . . . nothing (ad)ventured, nothing gained! Say no more!

The Training was to be instructive, testing and relaxing, and the area of the Harz Mountains seemed to be the ideal base, offering not only the rugged and hilly terrain, but also the scenic and picturesque landscapes.

The two groups, with the QM and **RQMS Chhetri** visiting on odd occasions, were:-

Group One: **Sgt Tiny Reynolds, Cpl Paul Selby, LCpls Kev Rain, Kenny Rayson, Pte Neil Eason** and **Sig Mac McGuiness.**

Group Two: **Sgt Steve Bungay, LCpls Chalky White, Paul Grundy, Ray McGrath** and **Sig Geordie Ross.**

The programme for each week included map reading exercises, hill walking and bicycling, preceded by the early morning PT sessions designed to shake off any 'night before' feelings. It must be mentioned that **Cpl Paul Selby** (RSDCC pass?) took some stick from his party for continuously getting them lost and thereby adding more miles to their treks. The 'Mountain biking' day was both arduous and fun but left everyone feeling very sore, except for **Sig McGuinness** who has only just got past the BMX stage (age?).

The week away from the hustle and bustle of a routine day seemed to be just the tonic for the normally desk bound and harassed stores accountants, and everyone came back looking fit, tanned and healthy, with some happy and fond memories. We can't wait to repeat the exercise again next year.

**M TROOP**
**TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Tp** | **WO1 (FofS) Dave Gorse** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Dave Thorpe** |
| **NCO IC G1098/Test Kit** | **Sgt A. J. Wells** |
| **NCO IC Mods/Bodges** | **Sgt Mark Baker** |
| **NCO IC Radio** | **Sgt Barry Patel** |
| **Mr Fixit** | **Cpl Steve Gadson** |

After a successful early-year exercise period scattered to the four corners of the Regiment, the members of the Troop regrouped in their bolt hole, resplendent with its new M Troop sign. Sadly, however, the reunion was short lived as we have had to say farewell to four members of the wild bunch. This was achieved at a combined games night/goodbye thrash ably organised by **Cpl Lee Turbitt.**

Half way through the evening (before too much fall-over juice had been consumed) the 'sport' was halted and those departing were presented with the usual engraved memorabilia and a locally produced framed certificate signed by all Troop members in recognition of the various 'contributions' made to life in the Troop. **Cpl Gaz Williams** received the Skiing Award for breaking his leg and escaping from more CO's Fun-Runs than the Foreman. **Cpl Stu Ridgeway** whose outlandish hairstyle was matched only by an equally horrific taste in tee-shirts received the Best Haircut Award. **LCpl 'Coops' Cooper** received the Driving Award for all the driving he was supposed to do! And last, but not least, **Cpl 'BJ' Fenton** received the 'Mr Know It All' Award because he really did and helped out everyone in the Troop. Many thanks to you all and good luck in your chosen futures.

Following this moving ceremony the games continued and after some close competition finally resulted in the crowning of a number of Champions. **Sgt 'AJ' Wells** won the Carpet Bowls after discovering the right line on the carpet squares, **Cpl Gaz Williams** won the pool and the Foreman won the Darts with some complicated finishes that proved conclusively he could count! An enjoyable night was had by all.

**1 SQUADRON**
**EAGLE TROOP**

Eagle Tp hosted 12 cadets from Hertfordshire ACF. Their visit included an introduction to Ptarmigan, SLR and SMG shooting, NBC training and a Warrior and AAC presentation. They were looked after by **Lt Phil Wheeler** and **Sgt James.**

**CONGRATULATIONS**

We would like to congratulate **Lt Phil Wheeler** on his marriage to **Sally**; we wish them all the best for the future.

**HAWK TROOP**

Hawk Tp would like to welcome **LCpl Robbo Robinson, Sig Si Cartwright** and Steve **Faulkner** from 8 Sig Regt and **Sgt Dave** and **Elaine Watson** from 4 ADSR. The Troop visited the Mosel Valley; extremely good weather made this a very enjoyable event. The only day we went trekking it rained, much to the delight of **Cpl** 'Mick the Grid' **Ginty** who had a sad on for the day. Much amusement came from **Sgt Mark May's** unwitting Tommy Cooper impressions which resulted in a few new catch phrases for the Troop.

**GOLF TROOP**

Golf Tp says goodbye to **Sgt Ed Perry** who is off to 16 Sig Regt, **LCpls Edesh Gordon** and **Molesworth** to Belize and wish them well. Welcome **Sgt Chris Hymas** from 8 Sig Regt.

Good news abounds. Well done to **Cpl Mark Baker** on his promotion to Sgt. Welcome to **LCpl John Sheppard** fresh from the factory—don't worry it'll grow on you. Finally well done **Cpl John Harvery** for at last writing-off his car after numerous attempts—be more careful with the new one.

**2 SQUADRON**

The Second (Panzer-Grenadier) Sqn decided that section assaults upon Fibua Houses and firing their weapons on local German ranges during Ex Flying Falcon had the edge on yet more communicating. **Maj Geoff Cary** therefore decided to lead his men on this during Ex Second Sabre. A cunning plan was put together in **Yeoman Guy Benson's** operations bunker which allowed the whole Squadron to escape from the administrative duties of Verden Station. No more mamby pamby site guard training for us. We dug in on Soltau, had a patrol competition and SA80 firing. Well done to **LCpl Ness Mesbitt** and **Sig Scully Wright** for being best LMG pair and congratulations to the winning section who were: **LCpls Andy Stewart, Fish Fisher** and **Sig Meadowcroft, Johnny Hart, Cliff Clifton, 'Boots' Leboutillier, Stevie Weir** and **John Davies.**

We are currently training with a 4 RTR battle group in preparation to go to Batus as part of an Infantry Company. Germany today, tomorrow the World!



LCpls Dobson, Simms and Sig Newton evacuate a casualty

**3 SQUADRON**

After Ex Flying Falcon the Squadron has been able to apply for leave or follow L Troop OC **Andy Addison** on Ex Snow Queen. The intrepid skiers were **SSgt Graham Miles, LCpls 'Tommo' Thomas, Dave Friend, Sig 'Aitch' Aitchinson, Leroy Williams, 'Cappy' Caprio, Daz Watts, Al Hyland** and **Dean Bird.** All enjoyed the exercise! Many thanks go to the instructors **LCpl Frank McCardle,** OIC Snowqueen hut—see you next year!

During this period, **Cpls Marcus Sala, Dave Stewart** and **Sig 'Deano' Whitehouse** and **'Flash' Kidner** have been on a KAPE tour to the North West of England.

**LCpl 'Brods' Brodie** participated in the sub aqua expedition to

Sardinia and **Cpl 'Spike' Sharp** and **LCpl 'Yorkie' Lawton** have been sight-seeing around the Baltic on a sailing trip.

The Squadron organised a social games night on 5 May. Three teams competed—the Gaffers (Officers and SNCO's), the Go-fers (JNCO's) and the Rear-Enders (Siggies). The events included Bottle Walking, Connect Four, Tug of War, Boat Races, Target Golf, Card Darts and Dominoes. True talent came to the fore and the Gaffers won the night. Thanks go to the referees and judges who were also part of the Gaffers team.

**WELCOMES, FAREWELLS AND CONGRATULATIONS**

Welcome to **LCpl 'Scouse' Littler, Mrs Littler** and the children who have joined Lima Tp from Oscar Tp. Welcomes are extended to the new influx fresh from the factory—**Sig Tony Annetts, 'Ecke' Eckett, 'Robbs' Robinson** and **'Tommo' Tomlinson.**

Congratulations go to **Sgt Dave King** on completing his SSgts board and also to **Maj Paul Towers,** Squadron Commander, on passing his SST.

**PAGE TROPHY ATHLETICS**

After a long hard sporting season, the Page Trophy Winter Competition reached a very satisfactory conclusion recently, with HQ Sqn being declared worthy winners.

In front throughout, the Squadron set a cracking pace and was in an almost unassailable lead with just two events to go. Unfortunately due to a 'technical error' the March and Shoot team was disqualified. This rather upset the plans but gave an added interest to the final event, the Regimental Athletics.

Despite the absence of some of the 'stars', a strong team was assembled for the big day. Everyone was determined to perform well and the result was never really in doubt from the first event. Everyone who competed did well, the most notable contributions coming from the following:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Capt Bob Sharp** | — | Winner—Pole Vault |
| | | Second—High Jump |
| **Capt Steve May** | — | Second—100m Hurdles |
| **Cpl 'Smokey' Graham** | — | Winner—Shot |
| **Dvr 'Gas' Wadsworth** | — | Winner—5,000m |
| | | Winner—1,500m |

Congratulations to everyone who represented the Squadron in the events. With a similar commitment to the summer competition, the chances of winning that trophy must be high.

## REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

The Association, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Employment, 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 the services are available to them throughout their working lives.

Our Employment Officers are situated in Branches throughout the United Kingdom and they maintain close contact with local employers and Jobcentres. Their addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Unit/Ship Resettlement Officers; Jobcentres and local telephone directories.

From 1 April 1989-31 March 1990 the Association assisted 10,584 men and women with their resettlement and placed 5,030 in employment. Of those placed 2,275 were men and women from the Army and 203 were from the Corps.

**BADMINTON**

The 1 Armd Division Inter-Unit Badminton finals were held in Caithness Barracks Verden, on 8 March. The host Unit, 1 ADSR, were the eventual winners for the fourth successive year, defeating 40 Fd Regt RA 8—1, and 14 Sig Regt 7—2 on the way.

In the BAOR Inter-Unit finals held at Bielefeld the following week, the Regimental team was not at full strength due to other commitments. Nevertheless the Regiment defeated 16 Sig Regt 6—3 and 12 Air Defence Regt RA 6—3, to reach the finals for the first time in its history.

The final was tense and exciting but 35 Engr Regt, (holders of the trophy the previous two seasons), proved too strong and we lost 6—3.

Overall it was a good season's Badminton, and the Regiment was well represented by **Lt Col Jim Gilders (RAEC), Capts Mick Ledwards, Dave Somerville, Lt Chris Curtis RAPC, WO2 (RQMS) Om Chhetri, WO2 (QMSI) Steve Seth, SSgt Dave Rogers** and **LCpl Dave Williams.**

**ORIENTEERING**

A gang of intrepid orienteerers attended Divisional League events throughout the winter period and won the divisional league by a healthy margin collecting several prizes at the final event on 5 April.

On 30 March a team of 21 runners entered the Divisional Championships. We were narrowly beaten into third place but certainly had the best turnout which was helped by our LAD attending in force.



The Divisional Orienteering Championships
*Back row (left to right):* SSgt Pattison, Cfn Ledgard and Cpl Tallentire
*Middle row (left to right):* Capt Harwell, LCpl Boyt, Sgts Richardson, Easingwood, SSgt Jones, 2Lts Parsons and Russel
*Front row (left to right):* Maj Cary, WO1 Dunning, Brig Durie, Maj Evans, Lt Wheeler and Maj Walsh



Cpls Tallentire, Hayes and Cfn Ledgard have a cunning plan!



## 201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn BFPO 30

Squadron life has been busy over the past few months with the joys of RSIT, PRE and other such tribulations. Hard work and good weather, saw the Squadron pass all inspections with flying colours.

**FAREWELL AND WELCOME**

The Squadron bade farewell to **Capt Jon Watt.** Thank you for all you have done for the Squadron in the past three years and all the best at Blandford. A warm welcome to **Cpl Dave Jowett** and his wife **Paula** and also to **Sig 'I've got a Namibia T-shirt' Ferguson.**

On Wednesday 18 April, we hosted an ACF visit of 104 cadets once again. They were put through a series of tasks and stands including line crossings, battery charging, operating radios and weapon training. It was a well organised event which all the cadets enjoyed and it gave the Squadron a chance to encourage some potential Corps soldiers.

**CHARITY PARACHUTE JUMP**

A recent highlight was the donation of nearly DM 3000 to the Special Care Baby Unit at BMH Rinteln. The donation was in recognition of the excellent care that several children from the Squadron had received from the Baby Unit. The money was raised through a sponsored parachute jump and a 24 hour five-a-side football competition. **Capt Nick Caleb, Cpls Spike Forbes** and **Mark Rouse** made a successful descent from 2,000ft whilst **LCpl Al McKitterick** organised the marathon football competition.

**VISIT OF MAJ GEN P. R. DAVIES**

On Monday 30 April the Commander Communications BAOR, paid a farewell visit to the Squadron. The General landed by helicopter at 1300 hrs on one of our first sunny and warm days of the year. The Squadron held a military skills competition and the General saw members of the Squadron being assessed in weapon handling, NBC and the assault course.

During the visit he presented **SSgt (SQMS) Dave Cox** with his LS & GC medal. This took place in the Squadron Bar and was attended by **SSgt Cox's** wife, **Jacqui** and their two children, **Debbie** and **Darren** together with other Squadron members and their wives.

**QUIZ NIGHT**

**WO2 (YofS) Mick Boxall** and his wife **Sue** organised the Squadron quiz night which was a roaring success. A team from Brigade Headquarters won the competition and the Squadron teams claimed it was a fix. We also entered the Divisional Rugby sevens for the first time. In the first round we put up a creditable performance and beat 1 RTR. In the next round, however, we were overcome by QDG and were knocked out of the competition. A fine effort by everyone involved. The team consisted of: **Sgt Wells, Sig McKindland, LCpls Greenwood, Brewis, Sig Oulton, Findlay** and **Pte Collumb.**

**PRINCESS ROYAL DAY**

The Squadron attended the Princess Royal Day competition at Haltern Ranges on 4 May. The weather was extremely hot and conditions were not ideal for a March and Shoot; however the Squadron came third in the March and third overall in the Minor Units Championships.



After what seems like a week on the assault course, Sig Oulton finally finds the Thunderbox, but who put it 12ft high?



Cpl Mark Rouse, LCpls Ali McKittrick and Anderson present BMH Rinteln with a cheque for nearly DM 3000 for the Special Care Baby Unit




SSgt (SQMS) Cox with his family after receiving his LS & GC medal from Comd Comms BAOR

## 207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 37

'Right men, it looks as if you will have to pull some more rabbits out of the hat!' This was the cry from OC Sqn, **Maj Mike Dyer**, prior to the Squadron's deployment on to Ex Ramillies/Rolica Rat.

'. . . and this is what you'll be doing for the next two weeks . . .' With artistic flair, the envy of many of Rolf Harris' fans, he busily sketched an overall plan onto the board. 'Alpha Platoon will go here—and die! Then move here, and die once again. You will move here, here and here dying in situ, and then back home for tea and medals!'

By now the troops had begun to get the picture, and indeed prepare for their impending doom. Wills were drafted. The Squadron deployed the following week, under a cloud of uncertainty, as the unit was under the close scutiny of DAMA (Doesn't Actually Mean Anything).

Eventually, the two platoons arrived at their respective locations and discovered that the world's second biggest lie is, 'Your trenches will all be dug for you'.

Early into the next day the Signals Light Infantry went into battle. It was soon realised that our enemy was not going along with the script. Whilst we died as well as the best of them, the enemy just ran over us and drove off! We may have had a better rate of survivability with a little more support from our man on the LMG. A glance in his general direction resulted in watching successive magazine changes with superb professionalism. Perhaps if he'd actually cocked the weapon it might have worked.

The SLI also ran a very professional radio net throughout the two weeks. During the few occasions when **LCpl** 'Simon Bates' **Legg** was not entertaining us all, or **SSgt** 'Driver of the year' **Coles** was not sending grid references of where his latest 'track bash' or vehicle recovery was required, we heard classics such as: 'Hello zero this is 21 . . . is your radio working?'

By the end of week two, morale was still high, not bad considering we had all died about a dozen times. **WO2 (SSM)** 'Pathfinder' **Drain** aided the high morale of the troops by navigating his way around the training area following a compass bearing whilst sitting on the bonnet of his Landrover. We did not see much of him that night.

Finally the two platoons returned home to cheering crowds after defending the free world for a few more months of the year.

**SHQ**

This year's RSIT inspection prep was eventually something of a rush due to the exercise. The techs, gene bay and URS worked all hours to ensure the high quality of the report. The Squadron Commander congratulated us on the hard work and the time spent on our vehicles.

The troop would like to congratulate **Sgt Colin Brothwell** and his wife **Tina** on the birth of their daughter **Kathleen. LCpl Dougie O'Neil** and **Tracy** are congratulated on the recent addition of **Callum** to their family. Finally, to **Sgt John Killoran** and **Petra** on the arrival of baby **Kelsey**.

New arrivals to the troop are **LCpl Gary Preece**, the new radio tech, and welcome back **LCpl 'Scouse' Gatrel** to the gene bay.



The finalists for the most intelligent signalman award proudly pose for a photograph. The 436 was the eventual winner!

**LS & GC PRESENTATION**

On 30 April the outgoing Commander Communications BAOR, **Maj Gen P. R. Davies**, presented the LS & GC medal to **Sgt Bill Surman REME. Sgt Surman** is 2IC of the Squadron LAD and an adopted member of the Corps. A superb runner and orienteerer, he has guided the Squadron team to winning the 1 Armd Div Minor Unit competition and coming runners up in the league. Well done **Bill.**



Sgt and Mrs Surman after the LS & GC medal presentation

## 212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 36

**COMMANDER COMMUNICATIONS FOOTBALL CHALLENGE CUP**

Over the weekend of 4, 5 and 6 May, 207 Sig Sqn hosted this competition in Soltau. On the first day, the team had to play three games of 30 minutes each way in high temperatures. First we lost to 207 Sig Sqn by 3—2 with our goals coming from **Sgt Steve Jackson** and **Cpl Dave Connolly**. Next, the eventual competition winners, 202 Sig Sqn beat us by a lone goal. We were soundly defeated by 201 Sig Sqn by 7—2, but **Sgt Steve Jackson** and **Pte Shep Shephard** had the consolation of scoring our goals.

The next day we stayed in the competition by beating 200 Sig Sqn 3—0. **Pte Shep Shephard** scored all three and he will never let us forget it! This put us in the semi-finals where 202 Sig Sqn showed the form necessary to win the event by pipping us 9—2. **Sgt Steve Jackson** added one goal to his tally and **LCpl Keith Meadows** got the other.

On Sunday we played for third and fourth places. Having already lost once to 201 Sig Sqn, we came close to beating them but narrowly lost by 4—3 with our scorers being **Sgt Gordon Rigg** and the ubiquitous **Sgt Steve Jackson** who scored twice.

Despite some unfavourable results, the squad enjoyed the weekend both on and off the pitch. Our congratulations go to 202 Sig Sqn and our thanks to 207 Sig Sqn for an extremely well organised event.

**REGIMENTAL MARCH AND SHOOT COMPETITION**

This event took place at Hohne on 13-14 March. Virtually a week had been spent on nearby ranges practising the Para Cup as well as carrying out a few gentle tabs. Unfortunately, disaster struck on the day before the event when a PRE weapons check inspected some of the teams weapons resulting in them losing their zeroing at the last minute.

Despite this the team still did extremely well coming second in the March and Shoot. The following made up the team: **Lt Meinertzhagen, Cpl Northeast, LCpls Tanner, Marphy, Ptes Whitford, Shephard, Lesslie** and **Sig Brodie.**

In the Regimental Skill-at-Arms Meeting on the same day, **Sig 'Spats' Brodie** won the 'B' Class best shot and will now represent the Regiment at Bisley.



**OSCAR TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Lt Mike Burke** |
| **SSgt** | **SSgt Ray Bray** |

At the time of writing, Oscar Tp is in the throes of much change with promotions, posting out and, amazingly, the odd posting in.

Firstly, warmest congratulations go to **Cpls 'Blue' Nicholson, 'Scouse' Connolly** and **Tony Taylor** on their recent, well deserved promotions. Also **LCpls 'Tommo' Thompson, 'Mo' Morris** and **Tim Parkins** have recently made that first big step in their army lives and we are confident that it will be the first of many promotions for them. Congratulations are also in order for **Cpls Steve Coombs** and **'Taff' Millard** on their promotions to Sergeant. The troop wishes them the best of luck in their next jobs, as they are both posted.

We welcome **LCpl Jones** to the troop and hope that he can effect a good handover/takeover with **LCpl** 'Ruggedly Handsome' **Beveridge** in the three months that they are both here! The troop has lost **LCpl Ray Pendrich** to the No 2 troop in the Squadron, but has, a few months later, received **Sig Kev Blake** in return. Fresh from training, we welcome **Sig 'Pebbles' Peebles, Babs Bowsing** and **'Spike' Irving**.

We wish **Cpl Dave Connolly** all the best in the UK and look forward to him getting that third stripe he keeps telling us about.

On 17-18 March **SSgt Ray Bray** took a party from the Squadron on a weekend trip to Hamburg. A tour of the city and other highlights were enjoyed. Everyone made it back to the bus and arrived fit for duty on the Monday.



Oscar Tp

**PAPA TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Lt Meinertzhagen** |
| **2IC** | **2Lt Graham** |
| **SSgt** | **SSgt Jones** |

We are saying goodbye to **LCpl Chris Birch** and his wife, **Anna**, who is posted to the UK as a combat civilian. Also we are losing **LCpl 'Giff' Giffen** and **Karen** also off to UK and **Sig 'Gibbo' Gibson** too.

The troop was lucky enough to win the Regimental auction for the new soldier from Catterick. He is **Sig Jim Hardy** and is settling in well. Also the Troop is lucky enough to gain another officer, **2Lt Matthew Graham**, on a six month SSLC attachment.

Stop Press—Congratulations to **LCpl Ray Pendrich** and his wife, **Julie** on the birth of their baby daughter.



Papa Tp

**VOXTRUP 10KM MARCH**

On Saturday 5 May at 0915 hrs, eight bedraggled figures gathered outside the Squadron block. Guided inexorably by the faultless map reading of **Pte Pateman RPC** they reached their first (and only) U-turn. Minutes later they reached their goal. A tent. In a field. This was it then; after a full 40 minutes of intense mental preparation, the two teams from 212 Sig Sqn had arrived at the control tent of the 13th Voxtrup 10km Marching Competition. When they saw that there were six other British teams, as well as the three German Reservist entries, the intrepid competitors knew that this was not going to be easy. Having arrived with the intention of entering two marching teams, plans changed swiftly. Only two teams had entered the running competition and there were three trophies to be won. **Sig 'Swifty' Scott** quickly organised three others to join him in the running team. They were: **Lt** 'If I have to' **Burke, LCpl** 'I'm Game' **Dack** and **Pte** 'Roadrunner' **Pateman RPC**. Armed with two water bottles and wearing the very latest in advanced low impact footwear—the Combat Boot, High—the runners set off in oven-like temperatures.

The marching team found themselves in a far bigger field but, undaunted by the youthful competition, launched themselves after the runners at a brisk, workmanlike pace. This carefully selected team consisted of: **SSgt (FofS) 'Eagle Eye' Dighton, SSgt (SQMS) Vaughan, SSgt Wilson** and **Cpl Bradley.** Determined to give a good account of themselves, they resolved to keep a little in reserve for a strong finish.

The course itself was 11-12km long (but still called the Voxtrup 10km March) and proceeds along farm tracks, metalled roads and woods. The previously commonly-held belief that the Osnabruck area was Germany's entry in the Holland look-alike competition was dashed that morning when the teams encountered not one but seven hills, all of which assumed Ben Nevis type proportions in the sweltering heat.

The running team 'The Osnabruck Whippets' as they became affectionately known in the international arena, shocked everyone (including themselves) by winning their event by a clear four minutes. The walking team, despite their dogged, no nonsense approach missed third place (and a trophy) by a mere minute. At the presentation of the prizes, **Pte Pateman RPC** was elected to collect the runners' trophy because it was so large and he was the only person who would manage to lift it. The Squadron trophy cabinet will have to be enlarged to accommodate it! Then the teams were forced by the Germans to drink some beer! The Squadron Commander was pleased to receive both the teams at his house where he relieved them of the trophy and lubricated palates.

Next year, the Squadron will be back to defend its title in what will hopefully be a cooler competition. The event was very well organised and our thanks go to Oberstleutnant Oschmann for a very enjoyable morning's activity.



The Running and the Marching teams with the German organiser

# 210 (24 Airmob Bde) Sig Sqn
# Catterick

**SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Mike Cost** |
| **2IC** | **Capt James Morley-Kirk** |
| **AO/OC Sp Tp** | **Lt Tom Ponton** |
| **OC Comms Tp** | **Lt Stephen Williamson** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Mal Hopper** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (YofS) Granville Yeomans** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt (FofS) Russ Lifton** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) Jim Monkman** |
| **ORSQMS** | **SSgt (ORSQMS) Brian Durlik** |



Maj Mike Cost, Lt Tom Ponton and the SSM present Mrs Carol Hardy of St John's Centre for the Physically and Mentally Handicapped with a cheque

**PRESENTATION OF LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS**

On Wednesday 28 February the Squadron paraded for the presentation of LS & GC medals to **Sgt Brian Hayles** and **Cpl Bob Hindhaugh**. The presentations were made by **Brig A. I. G. Kennedy OBE**, and **Mrs Hindhaugh** was presented with a bouquet of flowers to mark the occasion.



LS & GC Medal presentation; *(L to R)* Sgt Brian Hayles, Brig A. I. G. Kennedy, Mrs Hazel Hindhaugh and Cpl Bob Hindhaugh

**WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS**

Welcome to the following personnel who have recently arrived to swell our ranks: **WO2 (YofS) Yeomans, SSgt (ORSQMS) Durlik, Cpl Howarth** and **LCpl Sims**. Along with the welcomes we bid farewell to **WO2 (YofS) Dougie MacTaggart, SSgt Glen Brook, Cpls Karl Arnold, 'Holly' Hollingsworth, Al Pilcher** and **Sig Mark Wootley**.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

We congratulate the following on their promotion: **Cpl Danny Thornton** to ASgt, **Sig Pete Barber, Colin Brown** and **Alex Chivers** to LCpl. Congratulations also to **Sig Bob Armstrong** and his wife **Helen** on the birth of their daughter **Jennifer**.

**ACF VISIT**

A Ptarmigan Detachment provided an insight to the Corps to members of the Normanby Detachment of the ACF who visited us on 12 May. A SAN and a Radio Vehicle in its Airlifting attire was shown by **Sgt Rich Wicking**. A slide show and static display was set up for the cadets.

The main attraction of the display was the 30m mast of the Relay vehicle, by **Cpl Den Feely** and **Sig Gordon Strachan**. 'Can you get Sky movies?' was one question asked by the cadets, 'Yes of course' was the reply. The SAS/MC organised by **Cpl Ossie Osborne** and **Sig Rambo Radley** let the enthusiastic cadets loose with the Cossors, subsets and showed them how the fax works. The subsets were the most popular. However, the radio vehicle, under the watchful eye of **LCpl Scouse Hartley**, didn't prove quite so interesting as the SAS and relay vehicles (a lack of lights and noises?). But the cadets enjoyed climbing over the vehicles.

All in all it proved to be an absorbing night for the crews and the cadets. The Squadron host the cadets again in July.

**EXERCISE EAGLES EYE**
**by LCpl Colin Brown**

**LCpls Geordie McPhee, Alex Chivers, Toyah Wilcox** and I left Catterick early in the morning on 13 May. Destination Bodney Camp, Stanford Trg Area. Our mission was to provide Ground and Air communications for Ex Eagles Eye, a Brigade concealment exercise involving; 1 Green Howards, 1 Glosters and 9 Regt AAC. The two Infantry Battalions are relatively new to the Brigade and are in the course of changing their role from Infantry to Airmobile.

The first few days and nights were spent lifting underslung loads. **LCpl Alex Chivers** flew in the left hand pilot's seat of a Puma and was overcome when the pilot told him that the aircraft was in his hands! He flew the aircraft for two minutes! He was exhilarated.

We enjoyed the exercise and the opportunity to do the tasks set, without detailed supervision.



The Squadron completes Airmobile Training in a Chinook



**A DUCKS EYE VIEW**
**by Sgt Archie Fulton**

Saturday 21 April and starters orders for this epic journey as a 'poultry' 5,000 yellow plastic ducks made ready to migrate down the River Swale at Richmond. Their wings were unclipped at 1400 hrs by **Lady Serena James** to great applause from local duck racing enthusiasts. After negotiating the slalom course set for the canoeists, an early lead was apparent as a few featherless friends ducked and dived through the rapids.

Open water provided solitude and time to recover before the next major obstacle, Richmond Falls. However, lurking on the banks were unknown terrors in the form of six year olds who wanted company at bath time, and four legged predators who just wanted them. This stage was no mean turkey and proved to be too much for the chicken-hearted.

Many tears were shed as one by one the weaker competitors became victims, getting entangled in rocks and over-hanging trees. Nevertheless the mallards amongst them waddled on towards the finishing line. First over the line was a thoroughbred, number 199, who set a new course record of 27 minutes. We 'eagley' await next year when we hope to better this time.

Duck sales went well until punters noticed that the sell by date on the tickets had passed. Telling potential buyers in his home town of Newcastle that there had been a postponement proved unwise for **Cfn Geordie Reiling. Cpl Chippy Pomfret** (I can sell sand to Arabs) encountered no such problems with his direct sales approach. Some Squadron members, **SSgt Pete Willey** (RAPC) and chick, **Cpls Duffy Duck** and **Karl Arnold** toured the locality dressed as ducks to promote sales with surprising results.

Thanks to **Sgt Al Yeaman** for organising the start and **Cpl Al Thornton** for his attempts to divert the ducks at the finish and also the River Swale. Local charities received a sum of £1,465 with gratitude. Many thanks to all those who supported this worthy cause.

**SPECIAL-TO-ROLE TRAINING**

210 Sig Sqn's policy is that all new arrivals in the Unit complete a two day Load Rigger/Helicopter Marshaller (R/M) Course. Successful candidates wear the Airmobile Signals Landing Flash on their combat smock, whilst in 24 Airmob Bde Sig Sqn.

Sixteen students participated in an R/M course during May. They passed both dry and live assessments. 210 employ six HHIs, with over 25% of personnel being airmobile trained.



5,000 plastic ducks escape and 'The Great Richmond Duck Race' is on


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# 202 Sig Sqn (33 Armd Bde)
# BFPO 16

**THE MANAGEMENT**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Jo Fletcher** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Mark Baines** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Duncan McAllister** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 (FofS) John Martin** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (YofS) Steve Wayman** |
| **OC Ardennes** | **Capt David Kenyon** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Kev Nelson** |
| **OC Rhine** | **2Lt Brian Russell** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Nigel Sloane** |

**ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES**

Welcome to **2Lt Brian Russell** who has joined us from the Troop Commanders course.

Hello also to **LCpl Bret Palmer** and **Sig Bob Pendleton** from 8 Sig Regt as well as **Sig 'Flav' Flahavan** and **Bob Moore** who join us from Soest.

Meanwhile we bid farewell to the old guard of Rhino Tp. Both **Lt Phil Baker** and **SSgt Nigel Sloane** leave us, for Canada and Northern Ireland respectively. Also bon-voyage to **LCpl Stu Gibbs** (School of Signals) and **LCpl Ian Stewart** (244 Sig Sqn) as well as **Sig 'Simo' Simpson** who travels all the way to Herford.

**REGIMENTAL SKILL-AT-ARMS**

Despite limited practice due to Flying Falcon the Squadron Shooting Team, led by **Lt Phil Baker**, thrashed our Regimental colleagues in March. **Cpl Dave Bartlett** and **Sig Andy Dawson** quickly adapted to a novel method of firing the LMG to secure us the March and Shoot trophy whilst **Sgt Al Speight** and **Cpl Tony Redman** were so fast on the Falling Plates that it is still a matter of debate as to whether any plates were left up by the time **SSgt Sloane** finally reached the firing point.



The victorious Shooting team. The table is only just big enough!

**ATHLETICS**

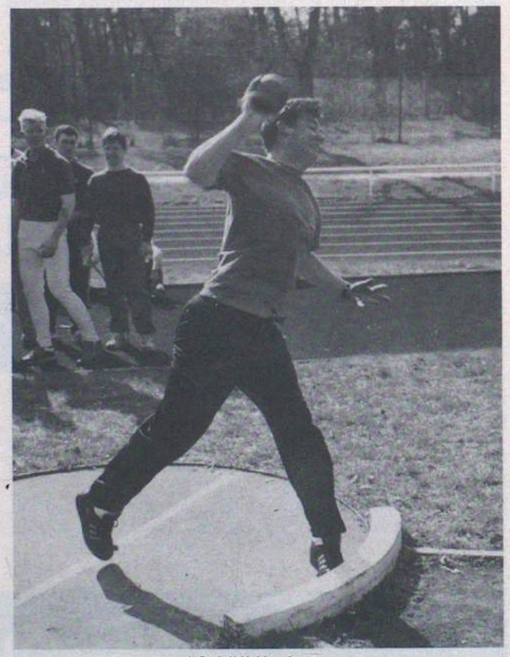
On 3 May the Squadron arrived en masse at the Jahn Stadium, Soest, to show its athletic ability or to support the team. Once again we swept aside the opposition and gained maximum points in the 18 events. There were excellent performances from all our athletes but special mention must be made to our stalwart distance runners, **Cpl Jock Castle** and **Sig Andy Dawson**. In the sprints **Capt David Kenyon, Cpls Jimmy Rock, Tony Redman, Sgt Al Speight** and **Pte 'Flo Jo' Williams** left the rest of the field standing whilst **LCpl Paul Taylor** and **Sig Lance Malin** were keen competitors in several of the events.

**WO2 (SSM) McAllister** received the trophy on behalf of the team asked if having won the trophy for five years running, 'are we able to keep it?'.

Lastly, but certainly not least, was the fine performance of our Tug-O-War team led by **Sgts Dave Stokes** and **Steve Ward**. The team 'squeezed' home to win the trophy after six straight pulls. By the way, has anybody actually seen the trophy?



Pte 'Flo-Jo' Williams burns up the inside lane . . .



LCpl 'H' Herrington





LCpl Stan Howarth displays his remarkable balancing skills

**FOOTBALL**

Having lost our first league match against the Regiment the team pulled itself together and now enjoys top spot in Division 3 (East). We await the winners of the (West) league to decide the 3 Div Championships.

**COMMANDER COMMUNICATIONS CUP**

This year's competition was hosted by 207 Sig Sqn at Soltau. The first day our team played three matches, winning two and drawing the third. The second day saw the team winning both matches played, one by a score of 10—2.

On the Sunday 202 Sqn lined up against the host team, 207 Sqn for the final. Following an exciting end-to-end match our team emerged victorious by five goals to two. Congratulations to the team which showed great resolve and fitness. Special mention should be made of **Sgt Jimmy Grey** and **Cpl Tony Redman** who played so well in the final match.

**CROSS COUNTRY**

The Cross Country team has not been so successful this year due to the diversions of Langlauf skiing and other events. Despite all this, the Squadron team managed to pick up yet another trophy, this time at the Corps inter-unit championships at Verden. Following a very hard course over soft sand and endless hills, **Cpl Jock Castle** and **Sig Andy Dawson** came home clear of **Maj Jo Fletcher** and **LCpl Paul Taylor**. Sustained stamina by **Capt Mark Baines, Sig Taff Kinsey, Si Boase** and **'Cecil' Kielty**—led us to victory.



Squadron Cross Country Team
*Back (left to right):* Sig Andy Dawson, Capt Mark Baines, Maj Jo Fletcher and LCpl Paul Taylor

*Front (left to right):* Cpl Jock Castle, Sig Taff Kinsey, Si Boase and Cecil Kiltey

**WINDSURFING**

The windsurfing season started much earlier this year with the Corps BAOR Championships taking place at the beginning of May. It turned out to be a true ice-breaker event with very cool temperatures ensuring a good thick frost on sails and boards each morning. Once again the Squadron excelled and the team of **Maj Jo Fletcher, Cpl Paul Emmerson** and **Sgt Jimmy Gray** finished 1st, 7th and 15th respectively in the individual event and the team won the Minor Unit Championship for the second year in succession.

Flushed with success the team then travelled to the UK to take part in the Corps UK Championships in early May. Whilst the weather was excellent for sunbathing, the conditions were less than ideal for racing and, at times the fleet was actually sailing backwards due to the strong tidal current. Nevertheless the team which now had **Sig Taff Jones** as a replacement for **Sgt Jimmy Gray** did better than was expected. **Maj Jo Fletcher** again won his weight class and the overall championships and the team retained the inter-unit Trophy. All this bodes well for the remainder of the season.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# 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
# BFPO 15

RSIT dominated the Regiment's activities at the beginning of this period especially after the cancellation of Ex Crested Eagle. This provided all and sundry with a rare commodity at 4 Div—time to produce an overall excellent performance. Since then the Squadrons have enjoyed a little relaxation and recuperation before the exercise period starts in full but first we start with a concise description by OC Defence Platoon of the duties and activities of the training wing. (By the way what does ORT mean?)

**HQ SQUADRON**
**TRAINING WING**

The Unit Training Wing, ably run by our Defence Platoon with a little help from their friends, have had a busy time conducting training with both a technical and a regimental bent. The training staff are drawn mainly from the Royal Pioneer Corps who plan and co-ordinate the various courses, competitions and training. Courses include pre-RSDCC and RSSSC as well as Driver Line Conversions, Driver Training and JNCO's Cadre courses.

Personalities include our valiant leader and Military Master **Lt David Welton RPC, SSgts 'Stew' Campbell** and **'Del Boy' McEleavey RPC,** and our ever thrusting JNCOs **Cpl Mick Walker, LCpls 'SAS' Hanson, 'Space' Morrissey** and at last and certainly least **LCpl Kelly Guest,** all RPC of course. These NCOs were to become both mentors and tormentors during the recent JNCOs Cadre.

The ever changing posts within the Wing have brought an array of new faces to the fold. **Capt Smith** handed over to **Capt Mike Bennett RPC** who handed over to **Lt Dave Welton RPC. SSgt Mac McLane** handed over to **SSgt McLeavey,** both RPC, and **SSgt 'Stew' Campbell** is at present handing over to **SSgt Bud Abbott.** Our congratulations go to **SSgts McLane** and **Campbell** on their promotions to Warrant Officer and we wish them all success in their new posts.

**JNCO CADRE**

Other Corps who attend the course include REME and RPC. The aim is to establish fitness for promotion.

The first course this year was in March. These two weeks consisted of training in military skills. It soon became apparent that it had been some time since they had practised such skills. However, by the final exercise they were transformed into do or die-hard Combatants.

The highlight of the course was the final exercise where the students put into practice the skills taught.

They had also encountered the dreaded water tunnel, in which all was dampened but not lost.

The course was 'Bugged Out' of their patrol harbour leaving a variety of kit behind them which ranged from sleeping bags to radios. It was decided by the training staff to have a Car Boot sale in Herford but our generous hearts gave way to their pleading and their kit was returned to them.

Training Wing looks forward to Battle Camps and the Regimental Military Skills Competition. However, we are not sure that we speak for everyone. See you all in Minden North in November.

PS. Beware the next Cadre Course. We shall be meaner next time and Haltern is a nice wet place in September with plenty of waterlogged tunnels to choose from.

**RSDCC**

The Regiment has had a very successful year so far on the RSDC Courses, not only in BAOR but also at 11 Sig Regt. The first two courses in BAOR had a total of 15 JNCOs from the Regiment on them and some notable results were obtained. **LCpl Till** received an overall 'A' grade and **Cpl** 'Baldrick' **Hendry** a 'B' grade. Our congratulations to them both.

**RSSSC**

We are also having a great deal of success on the RSSS Course. After filling our quota for the year, notification of undersubscribed courses allowed us to surprise some 'volunteers' with the usual, 'what are you doing next month' message. Well, it does save the worry, doesn't it?

**DRIVER LINE CONVERSION**

Training Wing has been running a conversion course to convert Cbt Sig/Lnm/Dvrs to the new CEQ of Driver Lineman. This caused a few problems initially. The course did however, get off the ground eventually and with the expertise provided by 3 Sqn proved to be extremely worthwhile.

**DRIVER TRAINING**

With the new trade CEQs came the small problem of driver training. Some 70 soldiers, who up to this point had required only Group 'A' licence or even no licence at all, suddenly needed HGV3. After much grinding and gnashing of teeth a solution was found. A unit driving instructor's course was run to supply the necessary instructors. We now have a team of instructors who are attached to Training Wing and the light at the end of the tunnel can now be seen as a very dim glow.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Meanwhile, the other departments of HQ Sqn have been out and about and one of the more notable events was the Herford March.

**HERFORD MARCH**

On Saturday 17 March two intrepid teams from HQ Sqn set out to compete in the Herford March. The march, an annual competition now in its 13th year, is a mixture of 'March and Shoot' and Orienteering. Hosted by the Active and Reserve Bundeswehr in the Herford and Minden area, the event is very popular, attracting increasing numbers every year.



Regimental Cadre Course
Instructional Staff LCpls Hanson, Guest, RSM Pawlow, Lt James Giscombe, SSgt McLane, Cpls Walker and Morrissey



This year's march saw a record 36 teams from British, German, Dutch and American units and weather so warm that a number of competitors were in danger of becoming dehydrated on the march.

The HQ Sqn 'A' consisted of **Sgts Bob Sleeman, Mick Rutkowski** (RAMC), **Sgt Pete Furmess** and **Sig Lee Cox**. The HQ Sqn ladies team was very much a Commcen effort, consisting of **WLCpl Helen Richardson, WPtes Kathy Osbourne, Dee Morris** and **Bridgette Coupland**.

Both teams set out at a tremendous pace and were in contention for honours; but then, as so often happens, fate took a hand. The girls from the Commcen put up an excellent time, but their chances were dashed when **Pte Dee Morris** was forced to retire injured at the half-way point. Our mens' team achieved a record time, but were disqualified for missing the final check point. **Sgt Bob** (the airborne navigator) **Sleeman** insists the map was printed upside down!

Both teams are still looking for the Anglo/German LO, **SSgt Andy** (honest it's jut a free barbecue) **Reeds,** who mysteriously disappeared when the team discovered they had to run 13km.

**1 SQUADRON**
**CADET VISIT**

After the Easter stand down we were invaded by the cadets from Greater Manchester who were hosted by **2Lt Damian Quinn** and **Sgt Geordie Merrie.** Many Squadron personalities were in the limelight during a mini Regimental Open Day held for the three visiting Cadet forces. **Sig Tosh Hodgskins** decided it was time to join the cadets, but **Sig 'Hinch' Hinchcliffe** wasn't sure if he was ready for that yet! **LCpl Nick Hough** thoroughly enjoyed getting wet and dirty with the cadets in their infantry based exercise on a nearby training area. The cadets were enthusiastic about their visit and were especially impressed at the soldiers competence.

**BORDER PATROL**

Kiwi Tp, led by **Lt Clive Cook**, embarked on a Border Patrol. As German reunification draws near these are now of general interest rather than an operational requirement. The Troop enjoyed the two days and in particular the night run to Helmstedt.

**SPORTS**

The main sporting events are the Inter-Squadron Swimming and Athletics Competitions. The Squadron won both events, due to a strong team effort. **Cpls Taff Evens** and **Mark Shrives** gave excellent performances in the swimming, whilst **SSgt Kenny Sykes, Cpl 'Robbo'** and **Sig Rick Yeates** gave of their best in the Athletics.



SSgt Kenny Sykes receives his Gold Medal for the 800m from Mrs Michelle Raper

**HELLOS AND GOODBYES**

The Squadron welcomes **Sig Pete** and **Denise Hepple,** and **Sig Tony Benson** and **Steve Dewar.**

Farewell to **Cpl 'Waggy' Wagstaff** who leaves us for 8 Sig Regt and to **LCpl Neil Jones** who is off to 16 Sig Regt; our best wishes to them for the future.



The victorious 1 Sqn swimming team

**2 SQUADRON**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Mike Holman** |
| **2IC/Ops Offr** | **Capt Dave Smith** |
| **OC A1 (Main) Tp** | **Lt Tony Picknell** |
| **OC A2 (Fwd) Tp** | **Capt John Dakin** |
| **OC A3 (Radio) Tp** | **Lt James Giscombe** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Chris Calow** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) Mike Baron** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt (YofS) Steve Holt** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 (FofS) 'Smiley' Edmonds RA Signals** |
| **MT Sgt** | **Sgt John McGowan RCT** |

The Squadron, recently reorganised, has been moulded into a strong team by Ex Four Taste, which closely followed Ex Flying Falcon. Back in barracks the dreaded demon RSIT was tackled and roundly conquered by Oz Foz **'Smiley' Edmonds, SSgt Jamieson** and their stalwart techs. It must have grieved the granite hearted inspectors greatly to have been forced to hand out a decade's worth of 'Very Well Maintaineds' in one week to a single Squadron. The Gunners very kindly relieved our dull and uneventful schedule by means of Ex Four Taste, in the Soltau Luneberg training area. This served as a dress rehearsal for Ex Gentle Gallop which is impeccably timed to follow immediately after Ex Summer Sales. Watch out for a couple of new Z1s, bought out of the proceeds of our Food and Accommodation rebates.

**BEST SOLDIER AWARD**

The previous Sqn Comd, **Maj M. Dent MBE,** bequeathed a shield to 2 Sqn to be awarded annually to the year's best soldier.

Nominations were received from all Troops and the first proud recipient was **Sig Nigel Howard** from A1 Tp for an all round excellent performance both in barracks and in the field. The picture shows him receiving the shield from **Maj Mike Holman** while **SSM Chris Calow** looks on approvingly. As an extra touch **Sig Howard** receives a free long weekend—provided he can find the time to take it!



Sig Howard receives the shield for the Best Soldier of the Year from Maj Holman

## CHANGING FACES

The Squadron nominal roll has experienced its usual alterations since our last despatches. **Capt Dave Smith** was relieved (in more ways than one) by **Maj Mike Holman**'s arrival from exile in Gutersloh—not before time either, he was getting quite 'blue'. Though somewhat aghast at the chaotic first three months facing him, he is sure that a modicum of sanity can be restored. **Capt John Dakin** and his wife **Sarah** arrived to take the place of **Lt Paul Vingoe** who with his fellow subaltern and wife **Ennis**, goes to 30 Sig Regt from whence his replacement has come. Also new to A2 are **Cpl Hamish Harmiston** and his wife **Dot, Sgt 'Gaz' Collins** and his better half **Maz**, all the way from 7 Sig Regt.

Welcome back (again) to **Cpl Darlington** fresh from his 264 probationary exploits. **Sig 'Digger' Dickinson**, alas, has left our ranks for a new panzer in 20 Bde. In A3 the merry-go-round has seen the arrivals of **LCpl Mark Passfield** and **Caroline** from 21 Sig Regt, and **Sig Lee Williams** from 8 Sig Regt. **LCpl Taylor** is bound for 249 Sig Sqn—remember **Ricky**, keep the weight on the downhill ski—and a tear forms in my eye as I come to terms with the depature of **Cpl Ian** 'My friend Comd Comms' **Spruce**, his wife **Tina**, and their offspring **Carrie** and **Craig**. A1 has escaped quite lightly with only one deserter—**LCpl Chappie Chapman**, and has greeted **Sig Chalky White** and **LCpl Johnston**.

## FRENCH COMMANDO COURSE

**Sig Gavin** 'Karate Kid' **Challiner** and **Sig Al Watson** passed their French Commando Course and have stopped singing the 'La Marseillaise' long enough to tell the following tale:

The course is three weeks long and takes place not in France but in Breisach, South Germany. We found it very enjoyable though at times strenuous. Potential applicants be warned: A high level of fitness is required as is a very strong upper body—Arnold Schwarzeneggar should be your role model. Tests on the first day assess both of these and failure means a depressingly early RTU. 2 Sqn's face was saved when we both passed and began the first of three phases. This involved: aerial obstacles, death slides, water tunnels, climbing, being interrogated (in English), escape and evasion, unarmed combat which is taught with great gusto, survival training and FIBUA using the French weapon the Fe-Maz, which is ideally suited to the task. Phase 2 practised section and platoon drills to reinforce cohesion at these levels in: river crossings, mountain climbing, demolition techniques and FIBUA. Having made it through these we were ready, we hoped for Phase 3. In this phase's three days we 'yomped' in the Black Forest up to altitudes of 1,300m in full kit. All movements were at night for up to 10 hours at a stretch and there was not much time to relax because of the tasks we were set each day.

On the whole the course was enjoyed by all. Perhaps the most vivid memory we have is of the French assault course. Its nine obstacles took 1 hour and 6 minutes and that was the platoon's fastest time—teamwork was definitely the answer.

On successfully completing the course we were presented with our French Commando badges, which we wear with pride and a certificate each. We reckon the course is well worth it unless you get vertigo. However if you go, take some compo, the French food is not what you might expect.

## EXERCISE FOUR SQUARE

**(by our War Correspondent in A1, who wishes to remain anonymous—don't you Mr Picknell?)**

Recently honed to physical perfection by **Sgt** 'Yes Airborne' **Catchpole**'s Sqn Trg week, which he and **YofS 'I** can't I'm on my EPC(A)' **Holt** found ways to avoid having to suffer, we deployed to suntrap Hohne on Ex Four Square (christened Ex Four What? by the cynical). This was **SSgt**, (soon to be SSM) **Brook**'s final exercise. The Monday deployment by road (what lowloaders?) meant arriving in location just in time to set up camp and see a Bank Holiday stand down on Tuesday. In an attempt to stem the likely effect on morale, some escaped from the Namibian outback (either the heat must have caused hallucination, or it was something in the water) to the Sudsee. Special mentions go to **Cpl** 'Where's that hammer' **Fox** for almost keeping his cool, and **Sig** 'What do you mean Lineman' **Porter** for his all nighter on the DEL break. Don't you wish you'd taken the phone the first time?

Special thanks to A2 for the loan of a quite magnificent Panzer. Shame about the batteries, radiator, oil . . . and **SQMS** 'Eagle Eye' **Baron** would like to pass on his thanks to **LCpl** 'Can't dodgem' **Fielding** for his softening and reducing tests on a 4 Tonner—my instincts tell me that his gratitude stops just short of sincerity.

And finally, I sign off with a request—can we have another ORT?—Pleeease? It's been hours since our last one.

## NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER

To close, our Oz Foz and amateur anthropologist, gives some thoughts of his antipodean workmates—no phrase books are necessary and we've edited out all the XXXX's.

'G'day! It was a exciting day for me when the phone call from Canberra informed me that I was being posted to Germany. Even the news that I was going to a Pommie Unit didn't dull the excitement, although I have had some prior contact with this race of people, I spent eight years as a policeman in Western Australia.

On arrival in 2 Sqn it took me about three minutes to realise there was a language problem. Met my Tech Staffie **John Jamieson**, who promptly informed me 'Moi dog had three poops which I sold'. Strange I thought, my dog had one a day on the back lawn but I'm blowed if I could find a buyer.

I then met midget **MT Sgt John McGowan**, who emitted a string of noises which included the word Glaswegian (whatever that is, I just reached down, shook his hand and smiled. This must have been the proper thing because he smiled back).

By Friday I was managing to understand a few words, such as Exercise, Monday, Panzer, Ptarmigan, NBC. By Monday I learned some new words such as Cabbie (which I had been silly enough to think was a taxi driver), Ausfahrt (which is not an Australian odour), and compo (which we in Australia call polystyrene). I spent the entire exercise looking confused, which was a relatively easy thing to do.

Upon my return to Herford I found that I was to share an office with the 2IC **Capt Smith**, who had served with my father at Tobruk (small world!), and someone called a 'Yoz' named **Pete Stoddart** who looks like Sylvester Stallone without hair, who thinks Loonch is something you run. At home we eat it!

I have now been here for two months and if this posting is going to be anything it will be intresting. I even managed to drag a few Pomms together for a game of Aussie Rules Football'.

## 3 SQUADRON

**SHQ TP**

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Sqn** | **Capt Williams** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Somerville** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) Woodger** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt (FofS) Minton** |
| **Trg SNCO** | **Sgt Shingler** |
| **Ops SNCO** | **Sgt Mason** |
| **MT Cpl** | **Cpl Weston** |
| **Power Cpl** | **Cpl Stildwell** |

We start by announcing an addition to the Troop in the form of **Master Mitchell Alexander Rowley** who bounced into the world on 18 May, congratulations to **LCpl Mark Rowley** and his wife **Kathleen**. Congratulations also go to **Sig Danny Turner** who married **Diane** on Saturday 12 May. We wish them all the best for their future happiness. The boys have just returned from a well deserved two week's break in Nesselwang in Bavaria where amongst other things they canoed, climbed rocks and went sight seeing in Austria. Finally it's good to see **Sig 'Fitz' Fitzgerald** up and walking after his disagreement with a car, even though he won't be competing in the 10,000m for a while yet.

## SUMMER CAMP

The Squadron has recently returned from summer camp which took place in Nesselwang, a little village close to the Austrian border.

Accommodation for most of the two weeks was at Mercury Lodge, a property which is run as a joint venture by the Regiment and 7 Sig Regt. During the two weeks, a number of small expeditions were organised which included trekking on some recognised routes and also on some others discovered by **Sgt Mason** and **2Lt Gray**. One intrepid explorer, namely **'Snake' Stanley**, has already promised himself that he will take the canoeing option next year. He can't swim but, never mind, he is definitely not going trekking again! Other pursuits included canoeing, top rope and abseiling. The canoeing was a great success with a number of proficiency certificates being awarded, namely **Sig Stobbart, Cpl Rutter, Dvr Ross, Sig 'Bish' Bishop** and **Sig Weston**. The weather throughout was very kind which contributed to an excellent two week's of adventure training.

## NOVEMBER TROOP

**by Sig Castano and Bishop**

The Troop has just returned from Mercury Lodge in Nesselwang, Bavaria, the Regiment's adventurous training lodge. Members were given various options to pursue which included canoeing, walking and climbing. Canoeing started in a lake which was probably one degree above freezing. Of course capsize drills were very popular and we all developed a lovely blue tan as the day progressed. The instructor practised us in strokes and drills until we were competent enough to tackle the river 'Ammor' which boasts 'fast white water'. After a few minutes of fighting the rapids, all previous instruction became a blur. However, **SSM Hilton** reminded us 'gently' of our errors and we all survived the experience. By the end of the course, we had completed a 14km canoe and everyone passed the Army Canoe Proficiency Test. Big thanks to **SSM Hilton** (7 Sig Regt).

The trekkers (goats) looked forward to a few days of easy walking with gentle slopes and picture postcard views. How wrong can you be? **Sgt Mason**, explained we were heading for a nice level walk along a ridge. He forgot to tell us about the three mountains to be conquered first. The drops at either side of us were awesome. Slippery footage, falling rocks and even scrambling on all fours didn't put us off. We were all given words of encouragement like 'don't freeze there, it's not safe'. The course enjoyed excellent mini-expeditions which included a one night stay in a mountain safe hut and two nights camping alongside a lake. Thank you **Sgt Mason** for two terrific weeks, but next time we will do the map reading.

## NOVEMBER TROOP LINE FLAT

In the couple of months since Ex Flying Falcon the work has piled on thick and fast. There we were all ready to start laying out for Wintex and they cancelled it there and then! Pity we'd already unloaded most of the kit. Get off the truck, get on the truck! Worst of all bang goes the excuse for RSIT, all of a sudden we had three unexpected weeks to prepare the vehicles. The sight of the lineman preparing trucks while the tech had a nervous breakdown was one to be savoured. Then all too soon RSIT was over. Thanks to all those who helped (or hindered) and remember—'it was working yesterday, honest!'

Meanwhile we'd said goodbye to **'Penfold' Penwarden**, off to do his bit. Is it true that he got the Mini only as far as Gutersloh?

After RSIT—stand down—phew!

By all accounts Summer Camp was an enjoyable experience.

Goodbye also to **LCpl Parkinson**, what are we going to do for a barman now?

During this period we were visited by **Maj Gen P. R. Davies** and during his visit he saw a first aid stand. Here **Sgt Forshaw**, with clipboard in hand (what else from a tech?) explained to the General what **Sig Castano** should be doing in order to save the life of mortar victim **FofS Minton**.

## TM TROOP

| | |
|---|---|
| **Regt FofS** | **WO1 Witts** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Merrie** |

## BABY BOOM

Congratulations to **Sgt 'Ako' Atkinson** a new arrival himself and his wife **Julie** on their new arrival **Kathleen** who was born on 29 April.

Our farewells go to **Cpl Butler** and his wife **Ez. Cpl Butler** who spent most of last year on courses and exercises away from the Troop has now gone across the parade square to 1 Sqn. Is he avoiding the current baby boom?

## REGIMENTAL HOCKEY

The Regimental Hockey Team has had a solid season's hockey although it failed to capitalise on all its strengths. Despite some solid defence and midfield work goal scoring opportunities were wasted. Many of the early games were 0—0 draws.

Through some excellent team work the team were quarter finalists in the Divisional indoor and outdoor sixes, and in the very tight finish to the Divisional League the team finished 8th out of 20 teams. Unfortunately we were unable to complete all our fixtures.

The best performance was in the 4 Armd Div Hockey Cup where the team was runner-up in the final to RAF Gutersloh after sudden-death penalty flicks to decide the competition. The team then went through to the BAOR Cup but was knocked out in the quarter final by 1 Staffords after a fast and furious game, which could have gone either way, with the final score being 1—0.

Although not winning any trophies, credit must go to all the players who have improved their skills during the season thus providing a solid nucleus of players for next year. Unfortunately we shall lose two of our stalwarts. **SSgt Charlie Dubique** is posted to 1 Div and **WO2 (RQMS) Alan Markille RCT** has decided to retire and concentrate on umpiring. **Sgt Ian Campbell** left for Osnabruck before the end of the season.



BAOR Quarter Finalists

*Back Row:* Cpls George Pudney, Dave Berry, WO2 (RQMS) Alan Markille, Sgt Ian Campbell, SSgt Charlie Dubique, CO Lt Col Raper and Lt Bob Waller

*Front Row:* Cpl 'Fish' Fisher, Lt Angus Porter, Sig Richard Yeates, Pete Emsen, Cfn 'Smudge' Smith, Sig 'Fergie' Ferguson, Capt Nick Smith and SSgt Ron Woodger



Royal Signals (BAOR) Hockey Squad

*Front Row L to R:* SSgt Charlie Dubique, WO2 (YofS) Keith Roach, Sig Peter Emsen, Cpls 'BB' Beardsmore, Duncan Shelly, LCpl Neil Perham and Capt Neville Thompson

*Back Row L to R:* Lt Bob Waller (Sec), Sgt Mick Hodgson, SSgt Graham O'Sullivan, Lt Kev Francis, Sgt Graham Cotterall, SSgts (YofS) Paul Sexby, Paul Stevenson, Capt John Stuart, SSgt (FofS) Nev Smikle and WO2 (RQMS) Stan Wise (ASec)

## 200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 41

The 2IC has been 'lemoned' with this month's contribution to *The Wire*. Perhaps that usual lists of personalities, a thrilling account of a Squadron barbecue and a couple of mildly amusing accounts of recent exercises.

However, read on and you will get a taste of Moroccan culture and see how **Sgt Ken Wood** coped with Hussein and the snake, learn of survival experiences and how the lads coped by developing a new style of dress and finally discover who won the Princess Royal Minor Units Shooting Trophy.

**PRINCESS ROYAL CUP**
**MINOR UNITS SHOOTING COMPETITION**

On 4 May Corps Units gathered from the four corners of BAOR to compete for the Princess Royal Cup. The 11 Units in the shoot out for the Minor Units trophy had all come well prepared to do battle. This year's favourites, and last year's winners were Berlin HQ and Sig Regt. It soon became clear they would take some beating!

The competition was essentially in two parts. Firstly, team members had to fire two out of the following three weapons—SLR, SMG, and pistol. Once that was complete six members of the team had to complete a 5.5km march and shoot down 12 plates at 200m in the quickest possible time.

By the end of the first stage we had done reasonably well and were lying about third. Shots worthy of note were **Cpl Bob Inglesant, Sig Ady Priestley** and **Charlie Brown**, the latter brought in at the last moment after **Sig Jarvis** was injured. It was now down to the falling plates team. On the march they achieved an excellent time of just over 28 minutes, the fastest of the day. On the range none of the previous teams had knocked down all the targets; it was therefore up to us to set the standard. This we did and only three other teams managed a better result. A fine effort from the falling plates team.

There were cheers all around once our victory was announced and the Sqn Comd bought us a round. Congratulations to the shooting team.




The victorious team
*Back row (left to right):* Capt John Charnock, SSgt Steve Cleary, Cpl Bob Inglesant, LCpl Daz Arris, Sgt Mark Richmond and 2Lt Owen Bryant
*Front row (left to right):* Sig Charlie Brown, Ady Priestly, Chin Mitchell and Baldrick Cassar

**EXERCISE FIGHTING FIST 23**
**by Cpl John 'JC' Craven**

For some weeks we had noted that OC A Troop, **Capt John Charnock**, and **SSgt Clearly** had been busily scheming in the office after hours and had also been away on mysterious recces. The word on the street was that there was to be an escape and evasion exercise in the near future. This rumour was confirmed when **Sgt Lou Russell** gave us a lecture on what a survival tin should contain. Come Monday morning we knew nothing more than that.

We reported, as ordered, on Monday 23 April at the tank park at 0800 hrs dressed in our combat kit. We sat on the garage floor and as the nominal roll was called we all wondered what we were in for. The OC arrived and divided us up into eight patrols, of five men each. Then we were briefed on the basic ground rules and the scenario. At the end it appeared he had forgotten some of his notes and he disappeared. That same moment a dozen enemy soldiers burst into the room, led by **Sgt Lou Russell**, and consisting of **Cpl Dobbo Dobbins, LCpls Billy Bremner, Bear Cairns, 'TA' Warren, Sig Taff Jones, LCpl Smudge Smith** and **Pte Pat Paterson**. Shots were fired and we were all thrown to the floor. We had been captured in barracks!

All of us were forcibly and hurriedly hurled out of the garage. Strip searches followed and all our kit was taken away apart from boots, socks, NBC suit, belt, water bottle and survival kit. Once everyone had been processed we were piled into trucks and driven deep into enemy territory. We had become prisoners-of-war.

By this stage most of us thought it wise to co-operate with the enemy. There had already been one minor injury. **Pte 'Olly' Oliver** soon learned that attempting an argument didn't work and several others were shell shocked. No one was more shocked than **Cfn 'Daz' Austin**, this was his first day in the Unit and already he had been man handled, strip searched and thrown into the back of a truck with 20 complete strangers. The likes of **LCpl 'Boy' Hart** were perfectly happy; Linemen are used to this treatment!

After three hours, by which time we were cold and tired, the trucks turned down a dirt track. Then there was an explosion of machine gun fire all around us, the tail board was lowered and 'Partisans' pulled us from the trucks. We quickly gathered amidst smoke and confusion and then the partisans, in the guise of **Sgt Al Churchward, Cpls Wimpy Duncan, Geoff Trotman, 'Bald One' Browning, Cpl 'Big Bird' Jarnell** and **LCpl Nobby Hall**, whisked us away into the woods. After an hour we reached the partisan base. Here we met the partisan leader **WO1 (YofS) Finch** and were told that we would remain here until routes back to our own lines could be organised. During the remainder of the afternoon we received instruction in basha building, tactical fires and making clothes. At the end of the day we were given our emergency RVs and issued with hessian and plastic so we could make our own clothes. The basha area soon took on the appearance of a Worzel Gummidge look alike competition. The following were noted for their fine designs: **LCpl Ben Casey, Sig Cas Cassar, LCpl 'Bill' Grocott** and **Sig 'Bud' Mountfield**. Later the partisans brought us some tea and a meagre portion of stew which was dolloped into some bean tins. We were then left to our own devices huddled together like puppies beneath the bashas and next to the fire.

**TUESDAY 24 APRIL**

Survival instruction continued. More lessons in cooking and traps in the morning, followed by a lunchtime fishing lesson, which happily had a successful outcome. In the afternoon **WO1 Finch** demonstrated how to prepare trout, chicken, rabbit and sheep for cooking. No names, no pack drill but some didn't find this to their liking. Could they kill the enemy we wondered? In the evening we were given our own game and told to carry one. We killed and cooked everything before settling down for the night.

**WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL**

After a long night learning how to map read with a button compass and a very poor quality map we became tired and cold. **LCpls Keith Betts, Boy Hart, Boz Beardall, Sig Ady Priestley** and **Pte 'Geordie' Clayton** were the most tired. They had taken all night to cover only 5km. Most of Wednesday was spent with resistance to interrogation lessons; however the highlight was a dog demonstration from DASU. **Cpl 'Brave Man' Sharp**, amazingly, volunteered to be attacked.

**THURSDAY/FRIDAY 26/27 APRIL**

The next 48 hours were the toughest. The basha area was attacked and we made a frantic escape in partisan transport and were eventually dropped off to make our way to RV with the agents. A hunter force with two Lynx helicopters in support had rapidly deployed and soon captured a small number of 'runners'. Despite low level tactical questioning and a lengthy spell in the prisoner of war cage, most gave little away.

Albeit with only poor quality maps in our possession the majority of patrols reached their designated RVs, determined not to fall into the hands of the hunter force, an experienced cadre from 14 Sig Regt.

By late afternoon on Friday all runners had been picked up, tired, extremely hungry but justifiably pleased with themselves. The first two teams back were led by **Sgt Wood** and **Cpl Sharpe**. Well done to them. Some were not so fortunate. **Cpl Maw** and **Dvr Read** were given away and captured together. **Lomas** and **Cassar** were captured as was **LCpl Thomas**, twice! Once they had consumed a hot meal the 'war stories' came tumbling out. All had experienced a week to remember. Many thanks to **WO1 (YofS) Finch** and his team for their advice and expertise.





Sig Nick Jarvis and LCpl Ben Casey contemplating their next move over a mug of tea



Cpl 'JC' Craven modelling the latest in survival gear



LCpls Ian Sharp, Ken Warren, Cpl Dobbo Dobbins and LCpl 'Bear' Cairns prepare to embark in a chopper to catch the runners

**SQUADRON CONQUERS TOUBKAL—ALMOST**

Eight members of the Squadron have recently achieved a lifetime ambition and participated in an adventurous training exercise to the African Continent experiencing a totally different culture. **Capt Jim Forrest** conceived a plan to take a large group of young soldiers without adventure training qualifications, to trek in the area of the highest mountain in North West Africa.

There was no shortage of willing volunteers in a busy and demanding year. The eight team members represented every cap-badge serving in the Unit. Corps members were **Capt Jim Forrest, Cpl Stu Hamilton, LCpl Chris Truelove, Sig Mike Casar** and **Steve Crosswell**. The remainder of the party were **Sgt Ken Wood REME, Pte Pat Paterson RPC** and **Dvr Danny Read RCT**.

There were many difficulties in planning the expedition and these took months to resolve. The booking of local guides and mules is complicated enough without the delay in replies of three months! A cold, wet morning in March did not dampen the spirits of the travellers as they commenced the road journey from Detmold to the Spanish Port of Algeciras in two ¾T Landrovers and trailers. The trip to Morocco, through Germany, France and Spain, was planned to take five days. However striking fishermen blockading Algeciras delayed the arrival at the Moroccan port of Tangiers by two days.

The group met their guide and stocked up with provisions in Marrakesh, a 10 hour trip from Tangiers. The team then travelled on to Imlil, a popular village stop for expeditions in this area.

The team spent a total of seven days trekking in the area around Imlil getting used to the climate and altitude, stopping at different villages for the night. In these collections of small mud-huts, where running water was a luxury, all the members were struck by the hospitality and happiness of the local people, who made them feel very welcome.

The team managed to reach the mountain refuge hut at the base of Mt Toubkal in relatively good weather. However, the mountain had experienced blizzard conditions earlier in the week. Therefore, on the advice of the local guide, an attempt on the summit was ruled out due to the inexperience of the team members.

Instead the trek around Mt Toubkal continued—hot days contrasted with freezing nights, and the usefulness of the lightweight sleeping bags was questioned on a number of occasions. Although the group hired a mule to carry rations and tentage, individuals carried all their own equipment.

R & R took the form of a few days in Marrakesh, sampling the delights of a hot shower, visiting the city's Casbah (market) and having a traditional Moroccan meal accompanied by dancing. **Capt Jim Forrest** displayed his lack of co-ordination (and sanity), as he exhibited BAOR's answer to John Travolta with a dancer carrying a tray of candles on her head.

The return was uneventful but provided the chance for the expedition members to reflect on the experiences of the last few weeks. Despite not reaching the top of Mt Toubkal, the expedition was a success in every other respect. The soldiers returned refreshed and eager to join the two remaining overseas expeditions planned by the Squadron for later this year.



Hussein and snake getting to know Sgt Ken Wood REME

# 211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
# BFPO 29

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj K. J. Hadfield** |
| **2IC** | **Capt M. D. W. Alexander** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) R. T. Fairfield** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (YofS) C. K. Luckam BEM** |
| **CC** | **Sgt G. H. Pollard BEM** |
| **OCA** | **Capt I. G. Lawrance** |
| **OCB** | **Lt J. C. Gillespie** |

We have been busy with commitments to the Brigade Concentration in Soltau, the Bisley Qualifying Shoot, Princess Royal Day and our Annual Battle Camp. This year Battle Camp was held in Vogelsang and again proved to be very worthwhile for all concerned.

The camp was designed to be intensive and physical in nature. Full use was made of the wide variety of ranges available in order that we might improve our combat skills. Particularly beneficial was the opportunity of joint training with 3 Royal Canadian Regt. A few lucky people got to fire their .50 Browning with 1:1 tracer.

Everyone benefited from the camp which exposed latent leadership in some people in the environment of Panzer maintenance. **Pte 'Tina' Turner** was awarded best young soldier for his enthusiastic participation and the way in which he accepted the challenges that were presented to him.

**REGIMENTAL SWIMMING COMPETITION**

Swimming team: **Lt Jonathan Gillespie, SSgt Mick Boyle** (In Attendance), **Sgts Terry McEleavey, Mike Openshaw, Cpls Al Sparling** (Coach), **Pete Farmer, LCpls Taff Evans, Craig Ainsley, Sig Kev McTiernan, Kev Crawford** and **Pte Shawn Collins**.

On Sunday 1 April we competed in the Regimental Inter-Squadron Swimming Competition. Five out of the six Squadrons were represented. In the individuals we performed consistently with **Pte Mark Tunley** coming a close second in the 50m Freestyle, and **Cpl Pete Farmer** also coming second in the Breaststroke.

In each of the next three individual events, the 50m Backstroke, the 50m Butterfly, and the 4 × 25m Individual Medley, we gained a respectable third place. Swimming in these events were **Cpl Al Sparling, Sig Kev Crawford** (who got lumbered with 'the fly' after training for the crawl) and **LCpl Craig Ainsley**. At the half way break the Squadron was lying second—behind by only a point. Despite spirited swims in the relays (in particular by **LCpl Taff Evans** who started in the 8 × 25m relay in fifth position and finished his leg in second position) we were unable to hold onto our second place, and finished third.

**TEACHERS DAY**

On 25 March 25 local German teachers visited various stands being displayed by units within 11 Armd Bde. Represented were 211 Sig Sqn, 4th Armd Field Amb, 4th Armd Div Transport Regt and the 1st Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's). The teachers were extremely impressed by the range of equipment, the turnout of the soldiers and the number of German speakers available to guide the groups and speak about the equipment on display. The day ended with 'English' tea and biscuits in 211 Sqn Bar. **Herr Korte**, a Deputy Burgermeister of Minden, made a memorable thank you speech to conclude the day, in which he spoke of the need for British soldiers to remain in Minden and of the need to constantly develop and foster Anglo-German relationships.

**FAREWELL TO SGT GRAHAM POLLARD BEM**

**Sgt Graham Pollard** has been with the Squadron for almost seven years and completes 27 years in the Army. He has been the linchpin of the Squadron office and his invaluable experience has been of service to us all here. Our best wishes go with **Sgt Pollard**, his wife **Wilma, Janet** and **Jim** has he starts his new career in civvi street after a short tour in Loughborough.

**WELCOME 2LT DAN TAYLOR**

**Dan** joins us here straight from 'the factory' for a period of six weeks prior to his Troop Commanders Course (TC 18). He has already shown himself to be a keen actor when he gave a graphic performance in 'The Geneva Convention and I' on the Squadron's Battle Camp. We hope you enjoy your last days of freedom with us before someone makes you work for your living.


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# 7 Sig Regt
# BFPO 15

**SPONSORED WHEELCHAIR ATTEMPT AT THE 1990 BERLIN MARATHON**

**Mr John Williams (Ex Sergeant R Signals)**

**John Williams**, whilst serving as a Corporal Radio Relay Operator at 7 Sig Regt in 1987 was involved in a tragic accident on exercise when the mast of his Radio Relay vehicle came into contact with a high voltage cable. As a result of his injuries his left leg was amputated above the knee, and he has spent a considerable time in hospital since. Whilst in hospital in England, the Royal British Legion bought for him a racing wheelchair and he has taken up this sport. On 30 September he will enter the Berlin Marathon which for the first time this year will go into the East of the city; he hopes to complete the race in under four hours, normally well within his abilities but which takes into account the poor road conditions in the East. **John** will race to raise money for the Corps Museum fund. He already has local sponsorship but forms have also been sent to all major and minor units.




**TENNIS COMPETITION—BAOR**

The Royal Signals BAOR tennis competition 1990 was held at 7 Sig Regt in Herford between 8 and 11 May. A total of 35 men and five ladies competed for the honours in what was the biggest entry in recent years.

After two long sunny days, Friday came round with only two semi-finals still outstanding. These were battled out on wet slippery courts and the finals began.

The Mens Singles was contested between **Cpl Andy Dick** 14 Sig Regt and **LCpl Sandy Stothers** 7 Sig Regt. This was the last opportunity for **LCpl Stothers** to win the trophy before he leaves the Army in August, but he was rather overwhelmed by an onform **Cpl Dick**, with a final result of 6—0 6—2.

**Cpl Dick** then repeated the performance with his partner **Maj Gale**, as they went on to beat **LCpl Stothers** and **SSgt Garn** in the Inter-Unit Doubles final, 6—0 6—4. The 14 Sig Regt pair dominated the match producing some very good doubles tennis and were always in command.



Royal Signals BAOR Tennis finalists
*(Left to right):* Lt Foster, Maj Gale, Cpl Dick, SSgt Garn, Cpls Taylor Coleman, LCpl Stothers, Mrs Watts, Cpl Townsend and LCpl Pearson

The Open Doubles final was between **SSgt Garn** and **LCpl Stothers** from 7 Sig Regt and **Cpls Coleman** and **Taylor** of 28 Sig Regt. In a very close match **SSgt Garn** and **LCpl Stothers** finally lost in three sets. After having both played five matches in a row and been on court for over six hours the 7 Sig Regt pair may feel that they were better than 2—6 6—4 6—2.

Earlier in the day the Mixed Doubles final had been played between **SSgt Garn** and **Lt Foster** 7 Sig Regt, and **LCpl Pearson** and **Cpl Townsend** from 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. In another three set match that could have gone either way, and certainly swung both ways in the final set, **SSgt Garn** and **Lt Foster** ended by winning 4—6 6—3 6—4.

**Lt Foster** playing with **Mrs Watts**, also won the Ladies Doubles final, beating **2Lt Watson** and **LCpl Lane** from 16 Sig Regt, 6—1 6—1.

Finally, in the Ladies Singles, **Cpl Karen Townsend** surprised herself by getting to the final, but was not so surprised when she lost to the more experienced **Mrs Claire Watts** 6—1 6—1.

**VISIT BY CHESHIRE ACF**

With the Easter school holidays upon us, it was time once again to host a visit by boys from an ACF Detachment back in the UK. As a result, in late April 14 members of Cheshire ACF were thrust upon the Regiment for a 10 day visit and insight into Army life. The party was led by **2Lt Les Lomax** and **SSgt Phil McSorley**. The last Squadron to raise its umbrella was 3 Sqn and so the task of ensuring the safety and moral conduct of the lads fell to **Lt Stew McConnell**. The minders were: **Lt McConnell, 2Lt Fletcher, SSgt Geordy Frazer, Cpl Thorburn, LCpls Paul Lockwood, Stu Pattison-Turner** and **Sig Ian Deacon**.

The cadets' action-packed programme ensured that they were up with the sparrows for PT and down to sleep after the Queen had been played on TV. Cadet **SSgt McGowan**, who joins the Corps in September, had the fittest half section: they won two assault course competitions and completed all but one of the command tasks set them. Cadet **LBdr Moss** proved to be the driving force behind his group, as well as being the monkey man. Finally, Cadet **LCpls Massall** and **Jakeman** (aged 12), paid a visit to our jail for not shaving. **SSgt Frazer** seemed unimpressed by the cries of 'but I don't shave yet'—it only served to prove Staff right! The visit finished with a two day exercise on Minden North Training Area, during which the cadets felt it would be safer to sleep three or four to a basha, so as to keep the bears and snakes away!

**TRIATHLON—BAD SALZUFLEN**

Eight warriors from 3 Sqn took part in the local 'I've got more muscles than brains' triathlon, organised in a local German village. The course involved a 300m swim, a 22km cycle ride through the rolling country side and, to finish, a 15km run.



Sig Daz Wain leading the cycle race shortly before his bike fell to pieces

**Sig Sammy Lee** was the most smartly turned out competitor with his designer Ladies bicycle. **Cpl Bob Porter** regretted volunteering for the event from the start, but came in last due to his trusty bike falling apart just short of the finish. The players on the triathlon were: 1st **Sig Taff Barron**, 2nd **Lt Stew McConnell** and 3rd **Sig Rob Close/LCpl Paul Randall**.

**REGIMENTAL HOCKEY TEAM**

The team enjoyed a fair amount of success this year, with the side reaching the semi-final of the Divisional Cup, losing to RAF Gutersloh, and the quarter-finals of the Div 6's. The squad was always under threat of being posted to the four corners of BAOR, but despite this the team produced some excellent performances, ultimately resulting in being placed as runner-ups in the Divisional League (out of 20 teams), only one point behind 35 Engr Regt.

It is always pleasing to see young players coming forward to play the sport and this was rewarded with two players being selected for the BAOR Squad, **Cpl Gary Duffy** and **Cfn Jally Taliku**. Apart from these two stars in the making, five other players were selected to represent the Royal Signals Corps team, these being **Lt Francis, SSgt (FofS) Smikle, Sgt Scott, Cpls Perham** and **Shelley**. As a final note, the team wishes to remind **Cpl Shelly** that the goal is the netting between the posts.

Div League results: Played 17, Won 10, Drawn 2, Lost 5.

**5 SQUADRON NEWS**

*If you can keep your head,*
*While all about you are losing theirs,*
*And blaming it on you,*
*You're not in full possession of the facts.*

*(Kipling-ish)*

So it seemed to the Yeoman, **SSgt Nick** (Faldo) **Hawley**, who was deserted by the OC under the pretence of some exam, and who was left to sort out the nets for Flying Falcon. Cries of 'Staff Help!' were met with the reply 'Hats 'n Boots me'. So four days later, with the comms phase coming to an end, the OC returned. The conversation ran something like this:

'Hello boss, how did the exam go?'
'OK'
'Good, I'm going to bed'

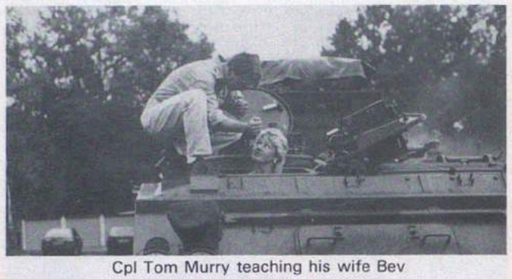
And so he did for 14 hours per day until endex.

As the comms phase ended the Troop moved to prepare for the arrival of the staff. Saturday night saw a team of commandos, led by **LCpl Len** 'Swing those lights' **Bibby**, visit the local carnival. The staff phase started with a bang and whimpered out as the Troop tracked back home in sleet and driving winds. And so Flying Falcon was laid to rest for another year.

Next on the calendar it was the turn of the ARU team to entertain the Regiment. In a fun packed day the members of the Squadron enjoyed, among many things, destroying seven RCT motor cycles, forming a gymnastics display team and organising a helicopter to blow **Maj Gen Davies** into a ditch.

After all the military activity a little light relief was needed and this took the form of a families open night and barbecue. A selection of the Troops' vehicles were available for wives, girlfriends and children to drive, the most popular of these being the 432s. A car was donated by **Sgt Sammy Cook** and the privilege of crushing it was won by **Lisa Overton**; as the picture shows, women drivers are definitely not to be trusted. Refreshments for the evening were provided by **Cpl Jed Robinson, LCpl Tom Murry** and the chef, **Capt Dave Whimpenny**.

As summer is here, sporting minds have turned to the athletics track with the Squadron winning a resounding victory by 30 points. Congratulations to all our athletes and to our manager **Capt Mat Tresidder RE**. The Squadron now looks forward to Summer Sales, summer leave, and our annual trip to Bavaria to re-visit the rivers, mountains and to sample the local beers.



Cpl Tom Murry teaching his wife Bev



Maj Gen P. R. Davies presenting Cpl Thompson with the prize for the most improved motor cyclist



Cpl Cresswell and Sgt Bugsy Jennings inspecting more equipment ready for light preservation



## 8 Sig Regt
## Catterick Garrison

**COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S COMMENDATION**

**Cpl Taggart** has been awarded the Commander-in-Chief's Commendation for his prompt assistance to motor-cyclist after an accident on 12 October. Despite **Cpl Taggart**'s prompt action, he was unable to save the motor cyclist's life. **Cpl Taggart**'s conduct was exemplary.



WO2 (YofS) Jarvis, SSgt (FofS) Thomson, Sgt Applegarth and Sgt Thompson all received their LS & GC's from Brig B. J. Sanderson OBE, ADC on 25 April 1990



Pte Karen McLean receiving her award for distinction in training

## 9 Sig Regt
## BFPO 58

**CYPRUS MOUNTAIN BIKE CHALLENGE**

Mountain biking is one of the fastest growing sports in the United Kingdom, but it has only recently taken off in Cyprus. In an attempt to promote it while raising money for the Ay Nik Playgroup and the World Wildlife Fund, four members of 3 Sqn, 9 Sig Regt undertook a challenge to ride from Cape Kiti over the Troodos Range to the Baths of Aphrodite near Polis, a total of 115 miles. (Although due to several topographical embarrassments it was probably more!) The four riders were **LCpls Paul Fennell, Darren Anglesea, Phil Cox** and **WO1 Don Naismith**, and they were supported by **Lt Angus Johnson** and **Mrs Julie Anglesea** in two 4wd vehicles. **LCpl Fennell** an avid, some would say manic, mountain biker thought up the challenge, planned the route and lead the team.

The challenge began next to the lighthouse at Kiti on 31 March, at 0700 hrs. The first hour went well, then the problems began! At 0800 hrs exactly **WO1 Naismith** threw his chain into the spokes of his rear wheel, leaving the rear derailleur gear beyond repair. Assessment by **LCpl Fennell** resulted in him saving two of the 18 gears. Meanwhile **WO1 Naismith** and **Lt Johnson** had returned to Kiti to retrieve the most important piece of kit, the bag with his cigarettes in it, which had been left behind! Attempts to ride the repaired bike proved impossible and **WO1 Naismith** decided to return to Dhekelia to procure another bike, rejoining the team later at Ora. The rest carried on along the coast and then turned north towards Troodos. Between Khirokitia and Ora was the first hill climb, 1,000ft in 10 miles, and where the low gears became vital. The route now followed the 1,500ft contour line but there were many hills to negotiate. Going up was painfully slow but the 40mph descents made up for the ascents!

The most difficult part of the journey was from Ayios Mamas up to Platres, via the Mesa Potsmos Monastery. The climb here was 2,100ft over 7 miles. The team arrived, exhausted, at the Trout Farm at Platres as dusk fell, managing to avoid the worst of the rain which had started several miles earlier. The night was spent at the Troodos Leave Centre, in a snow storm, recovering from the 70 miles or so achieved since that morning.

The challenge resumed at 1030 hrs the next morning, after a lengthy breakfast. The next 17 miles were downhill through picturesque scenery, the whooping of the riders and the screech of brakes the only noises to disturb the silence. This culminated in the fording of the Dhiarizos River, or falling into it in **LCpl Fennell**'s case! This excitement was short-lived as the hills soon loomed up before the riders again. During this climb the one accident we hadn't foreseen occurred. **LCpl Fennell**'s bike was run over! But **WO1 Naismith** gallantly gave up his bike (or rather **WO2 Bruce Davie's**) so **LCpl Fennell** could finish, and the team made their way to the cafe at Palo Panayla. Another thrilling descent followed to the Potamos River, where **WO1 Naismith** and **Lt Johnson** went on ahead to warn the welcoming committee that the team would be later than expected. With three riders and one support driver the team rode on from Anadhiou to Sarama. However a wrong track was taken leading to a detour back into the mountains of several miles. The sun was just disappearing when the mistake was realised. The right track was eventually found and cycling commenced.

At last the lights of Polis could be seen and a sign stating 10kms to the Baths of Aphrodite. The team agreed this was the longest 10kms so far! At 2130 hrs the challenge was completed, the bikes were loaded into one vehicle, the riders into the other, and the journey home began.

The team would like to thank Zorpas Car Hire and Arena Cycles of Nicosia for their support. We hope this article encourages budding mountain bikers to explore Cyprus in this unique way as we have done. **LCpl Fennell** is in the process of setting up a mountain bike club for all ages and plans days out and competitions in the future. Any one interested should watch for details.



One of Many Punctures!
*(Left to right):* LCpls Anglesea, Fennell and WO1 Naismith

# 13 Sig Regt
# BFPO 42

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **CO** | **Lt Col A. M. Wallace** |
| **2IC** | **Maj G. R. Elliot MBE** |
| **Adjt** | **Capt J. S. Lugg** |
| **AAdjt** | **Lt J. Collis** |
| **RSM** | **WO1 (RSM) Dobson** |
| **Trg YofS** | **WO1 (YofS) McMahon** |
| **Chief Clerk** | **WO2 (ORQMS) Barbe** |

**VOLLEYBALL**

At the time of writing the Volleyball season for the Regiment is still in its final phase with a one day play off to decide the RCZ League Championships. However the Regimental team managed to retain the RCZ cup but lost in a very entertaining BAOR final by three sets to two. Four of the players were later selected for the BAOR squad, **Lt Clark, Sgt Maddock, Cpl Clark** and **LCpl Wootton**. The Inter-Troop Finals saw a repeat of last year's contest between SHQ 1 Sqn and C Troop 1 Sqn and again the Old and Bold came out champions.

**OFFICERS MESS SNOOKER FINAL**

The first Birgelen Masters snooker competition was held recently at the 'Mess Crucible'. A crowd of about 25 watched as **Capt Paul Edwards** and **Lt Tony Clark** battled it out for the title. Four hours of skill and cunning finally saw **Capt Paul Edwards** put **Lt Tony Clark** in his place; the final score being four frames to two

Quote: Something went wrong somewhere, I was supposed to win; I organised it! **Lt Tony Clark**.




Referee Capt Steve Lee looks on as Capt Paul Edwards commiserates with Lt Tony Clark

**1 SQUADRON**
**EXERCISE DECI GUZZLE**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Lt Tony Clark** | OC Exped |
| **SSgt Steve Shannon** | 2IC |
| **LCpls Peewee Campbell** | |
| **Daz Beaney** | |
| **Robo Robson** | |
| **Eddie Edwards** | |
| **Phil Rowley** and | |
| **Tim Chapman** | |

It was with some enthusiasm that **Lt Tony Clark** and his team of seven left behind and dull, wet weather in BAOR for the warmer Mediterranean climate of Sardinia; only to find that on arrival it was raining there too! But the weather soon improved and the party (using the term loosely) enjoyed 10 days of glorious sunshine. The expedition took in some strenuous walks and severe climbing (or was it severe walks and strenuous climbing?) as well as the odd beer or two!

A distinct lack of campsites led to a variety of 'stopovers', ranging from beach huts to garages to disused farmhouses; in fact the tents that had been carted around the island for two weeks were only used twice. The food was glorious, a vivid imagination and weird palate produced such dishes as jam, cheese and nutella omelette, and tuna, marmalade and peanut butter sarnies; all courtesy of **SSgt Steve Shannon**.



*(Left to right):* SSgt Steve Shannon, LCpls Peewee Campbell, Bob Robson, Phil Rowley, Tim Chapman and Eddie Edwards
*On ground:* Lt Tony Clark




LCpl Daz Beaney poses for the camera whilst those below avoid what he has dropped!

The expedition was an unqualified success, achieving all of its aims as well as living up to its nickname!

*Quote of the expedition*: 'It's just over the next ridge lads!'—OC Exped.

**REGIMENTAL SIX-A-SIDE SOCCER COMPETITION**
**by LCpl MacDonald**

On 1 May the QM Department organised a soccer competition, but because of shift commitments, Bravo and Delta Tps entered a combined team of the following personnel: **WO2 Young, SSgt Smy, LCpl Longmuir, Sig Bradbury, LCpls Munro, Oakes, Mulcock** and **Fitzsimmons.**

The competition consisted of two leagues with the top two going through from each league. In our second match **LCpl Dave Longmuir** broke his toe but played on regardless for the rest of the competition.

The team scraped through the league and played Charlie Tp in a hard fought semi-final, the only goal of the game was scored by **Sig Bradbury**.

In the final we came up against the favourites, Alpha Tp, who were without their old stalwart **WO2 Thompson**. This proved to be a very evenly balanced game with both goalkeepers in the shape of **WO2 Steve Young** and **LCpl Mac McKinna** keeping their respective team's chances alive. After extra time there was still no score so it went to penalty kicks. Several people missed penalties but a special mention must go to **Lt Clark** and **SSgt Smy** who both managed to hit the corner flags in their attempts. The winning penalty was scored by **LCpl Rick Munro** and the trophy went to Bravo/Delta Tp.



The cup was presented by the CO **Lt Col A. H. Wallace** to the winning captain **SSgt Dave Smy**.

Both Bravo and Delta Tp's would like to express thanks to all the QM personnel and especially **Maj Hudson** for a highly successful day out.

**H TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Capt R. S. Appleton** |
| **Ops Offr** | **Capt N. C. Mapp MBE** |
| **TAWO** | **WO1 RM Hodges** |
| **OPSWO** | **WO2 J. R. Webster** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 R. P. Logan** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt M. J. Drake** |
| **Ch Clk** | **Sgt J. Stubley** |
| **M Chef** | **Sgt J. C. G. Grant** |

**ORIENTEERING**

The Troop orienteering team, led by **WO2 Logan,** completed an extremely successful season at the BAOR Orienteering Championships in Detmold. The Troop is classed as a Minor Unit and competes in the 1 Armd Div league, although with a held strength of only 54 we like to be considered as a Micro Unit!

The team attended as many events as possible never travelling less than 100km to the booking-in tent. The hard work and dedication shown by all was duly rewarded at the Divisional championships in Hameln where the team finished runners up thereby qualifying for the BAOR competition. The course at Detmold was run over demanding terrain and to get our boys back at all was a bonus. The runners now look forward to competing next year under the watchful eye of **Cpl Dave Earnshaw RPC**.

The squad comprised the following: **Capt Bert Appleton, WO2 Rick Logan, Sgt Jim Stubley, Cpls Mal Wiltshire**—now late of this parish, **Pete Beale, LCpls Mark Chamberlain** and **Foggy Forshaw**.

**INTERNATIONAL SHOOTING COMPETITION—BRAUNSCHWEIG**

The Ops Offr led a four man team at the annual international shooting competition in Braunschweig on 27/28 April. The team finished 9th out of the military teams and 32nd overall out of a total of 53 entries. **Capt Neil Mapp MBE** scored particularly well in the standing pistol competition, finishing third after a shoot off. As in all of the Troop's Anglo—German events, the team was looked after very well indeed for the whole weekend.

The team comprised: **Capt Neil Mapp MBE, SSgt (FofS) Marty Drake, LCpls Vinny Adams** and **Slimbo Hill**.



H Troop Shooting Team
*L to R:* SSgt (FofS) Drake, LCpl Adams, LCpl Hill and Capt Mapp

**3 SQUADRON**

3 Sqn continues to enjoy life in sunny Berlin, most especially the highlight of the Berlin 25km run . . . and the post run barbecue.

**VISITORS**

Over the past few months the Squadron has continued to receive a number of distinguished visitors including **Air Vice Marshal A. Blakley CBE AFC** (DCOS(Ops)) HQ AAFCE, **Maj Gen P. R. Davies** Comd Comms BAOR, and **Maj Gen R. J. S. Corbett** GOC Berlin.

**SQUADRON FOOTBALL 89-90 SEASON**

After a hard season the Squadron finished third in the Minor Units league, losing second place to 38 Fd Sqn (RE) by goal difference. In the Berlin Minor Units Cup, we successfully made it to the final losing to Berlin HQ and Sig Regt 4—0. The score did not reflect the performance of the team with **Sgts Dez McEvoy** and **Paul** 'The Legend' **Dunn** playing particularly well. We were presented with the Brooking Trophy for fair play within Berlin.

The most successful time was the Squadron's games within the Berlin Six-a-Side Competition. The Squadron made it to the final and played RAF Gatow only to lose again 4—0. This was a great achievement by managing to get through at the expense of the three Infantry Battalions and Berlin HQ and Sig Regt.

During the season our football team said goodbye to **Sgts Ridlington** and **Phillips, Cpl Thickett** on posting and **Cpl Foody** to civilian life.

Particular praise must be given to **Sgt** 'Killer' **Armstrong** who has been a stalwart of the team for several seasons and who will soon be departing for civilian life.

During the weekend of 12/13 May, a team from 13 Sig Regt won the Montgomery Trophy beating Int & Sy Gp(G) 3—2.

**SSgts Evans, Gore** and **Sgt Snowden** from 3 Sqn all competed.

**SHOOTING SUCCESS**

The annual Berlin Skill-at-Arms Meeting was concluded on 12 April after three enjoyable and successful days shooting. This year the team consisted of **WO2 Ray Armstrong, Sgts Denver Owens, Gaz Bateman, Cpl Paul Gowdy** and **LCpl Tom Garland.**

Results:-

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| The Roupell Match | — | Winner (SLR) | **Sgt D. G. Owens** |
| The SMG Championships | — | Runner-Up | **WO2 R. Armstrong** |
| The Section/Fire Team Match | — | Winners | 3 Sqn |
| The SMG Team Match | — | Winners | 3 Sqn |
| Whitehead Match | — | Winners | 3 Sqn |
| LMG Match | — | Runners-Up | 3 Sqn |
| Association | — | Runners-Up | 3 Sqn |
| BIBSAM Minor Unit Championship | — | Runners-Up | 3 Sqn |

Finally, a special mention to **WO2 Armstrong,** who has decided to hand the reins of the shooting team to younger blood after many years of competition in full and small bore shooting both here in BFG and in Cyprus. From all past and present team members, thanks **Ray** for your time, effort and skills and we hope to see that famous 'wry smile' quite a few more times yet, down on the range.



The GOC Berlin, Maj Gen Corbett presents the Minor Unit Trophy to 3 Sqn—13 Sig Regt
*(Left to right):* WO2 Armstrong, Cpl Gowdy (RPC), Sgt Bateman, LCpl Garland and Sgt Owens

# 14 Sig Regt (EW)
# BFPO 23

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **CO** | **Lt Col J. M. Shaw MBE** |
| **2IC** | **Maj Malcolm McKinlay** |
| **Adjt** | **Capt Dick Sparshatt** |
| **AAdjt** | **Lt Frances Forster** |
| **OC 1 Sqn** | **Maj Steve Turpin** |
| **OC 2 Sqn** | **Maj John Gale** |
| **OC 3 Sqn** | **Maj Bernie Hewitt** |
| **OC HQ Sqn** | **Capt Mike Kerr** |
| **RSM** | **WO1 (RSM) Pete Aitken** |

**TM TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **TOT** | **Capt Paul Cross** |
| **FofS** | **WO1 Phil Martin** |
| **Troop SSgt** | **SSgt 'Dutch' Holland** |

A quiet time with the troop working through its second line programme. We welcome back **SSgt 'Dutch' Holland** after his recent stay in hospital. He's pleased to say he still has all his vital organs!

Congratulations to **Cpl Harry Arundel** on his recent promotion, to **LCpl Paul Grimes** on his marriage to **Wendy** and to **Cpl Andy Dick** on winning the Royal Signals BAOR Tennis Championships. Good luck to the members of the troop who are going sailing for two weeks—without the TOT! We are looking forward to our Regimental Open Day and are in the process of preparing our stall.

**WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS**

We welcome **Sgt Keith Finlay** and his wife **Christina** and we hope they enjoy their tour. Farewells are extended to **Cpls Gaz Drury** who is off to 'civvy' street, **'Woolly' Woolfall** posted to Belize, and **LCpl 'Jumbo' Deller** who leaves us for 244 Sig Sqn. We wish them all the best for the future.

**MT TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **MTWO** | **WO2 Gordon Townsley** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Dave Gilbert** |
| **BFG/POL** | **Sgt Al Hunter** |
| **Inspections Bay** | **Sgt Al Thompson** |

It's been a while since HQ MT has figured in *The Wire*, well, not since **LCpl Pyro Pete Casson** endeavoured to reduce the MT fleet by at least one vehicle. We have been reliably informed that he has now been totally rehabilitated in the art of radio installation.

**HELLOS/GOODBYES**

The latest additions to MT in recent weeks are as follows: **Sig Bob Kirby** who couldn't settle down in civilian life and decided to don khaki again, **SSgt Dave Gilbert** from the sunnier climes of Cyprus, **Sgt Al Thompson** from 3 Sqn and last but not least **Cpl Sammy James** from 1 Sqn. We wish them all and their families an enjoyable tour in Celle. We also bade farewell to **Sgt 'Wogga' Waugh** who left us to 'baby sit' for the young ones at Harrogate, we wish **Wogga, Janet** and family all the best in their new posting.

**FOOTBALL**

3 Sqn MT challenged the Troop to a five-a-side football match in the Gym on 20 April. Our team ably led by **LCpl Jimmy** 'Maradona' **Marshall** and a few of us oldies managed to hammer the opposition 26—6 after one hour's play.

**BOXING**

**Sig Bob Kirby** and **Nobby Naylor** recently represented HQ Sqn in the Inter Unit Boxing Final. Although both of them lost in closely contested fights, the troop is very proud of its efforts.

**BARBIE**

The Troop decided to prise some of its funds from **Cpl Stu** 'Where's your money?' **Steward**. It took a great deal of getting but he gave in finally when he discovered that his leave pass was on its way to the shredder!

How can you turn the garages into a disco hall was the question? Easy, leave it to **LCpl Pyro Pete Casson** and his band of merry men. They did come up with the goods and with a bit of urban cam here and a splash of paint there, the scene was set for a good night. With **LCpl Jimmy Marshall** running the bar, and **WO2 (MTWO) Gordon Townsley** acting master chef, the night was a great success. Here's looking forward to the next one!

**QM(T) DEPARTMENT**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **QM(T)** | **Maj Andy Boyle** |
| **RQMS(T)** | **WO2 Pete Reynolds** |

**POSTINGS IN AND OUT**

We have said farewell to some leading members of our department recently. **WO2 (RQMS) Peter Woodward** has moved across to 2 Sqn as SSM. **Cpl Tony Simpson** has been promoted to Sgt, posted to the Falklands for four months, returned, and been posted to 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt. The best posting in the department must be that of **Cpl Rich Clatworthy** and family who should by now be sunning themselves with the UN in sunny Cyprus.

We have also said goodbye to **LCpl Colin Rich** who has gone to join 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn in Aldershot. We would like to wish them and their families all the best for the future.

We welcome the following to the department: **WO2 Peter Reynolds** posted in from Scarborough as RQMS, passing through, on his way to 22 Sig Regt as WO1 in charge of training. **Sgt Tony Knight** posted in from 233 Sig Sqn. **Cpl Ade Lines** moved across from 3 Sqn. **Cpl Phil Latimer** from AFCENT. **LCpl Martin Herdman** from 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt.

**1 SQUADRON**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Steve Turpin** |
| **2IC** | **Capt John Stuart** |
| **EWLO** | **Capt Bill Souter** |
| **OC W Tp** | **Lt Nick Mutter** |
| **OC X Tp** | **Lt Paul Peel** |
| **OC Y Tp** | **2Lt Richard Spencer** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Phil Abbott** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Grant Pocock** |

Recent events include the mothballing of Jammer Tp and the raising of Yankee Tp; not as some may think the movement of assets from 1 to 2 Sqn but the formation of a Vampire Tp. There are those who may remember such an organisation under the title of Delta Tp.

We offer our sincere congratulations to **SSM Phil Abbott** on his award of the LS & CG although we are convinced that he now wishes he had a Regimental entry.

We also held the Squadron Battle Camp and the wives organised a Regimental 'Mr Universe' evening for the wives club.

The loss of Jammer Tp was a sad occasion and it would be wrong to let the Troop fade without style so it was decided to hold a 'so-long-until-next-time' parade for the Bromure. The parade started with a speech from the CO and as the first tear was shed and the first lump formed in the throat the speech was jammed; lest people forget! The Tp Comd **2Lt Richard Spencer** led the drive past. The CO did say that the mothballing was only temporary so we will wait and see. Ex members of the Troop may like to know that the Jammer Tp 'shell' was entrusted to the Sqn OC **Maj Dick Turpin** for safekeeping.

This year the Squadron Battle Camp was held on Haltern Ranges near Münster. The exercise was designed to be demanding and tiring and that it certainly was but, a mixture of rain followed by hot sun made it more tolerable than it might otherwise have been. We worked in teams until the test phase of the exercise. **Cpl Dave Sloane** was nominated the SSM but his 'strutting with pride' was short-lived when the Tp Comd **Lt Paul Peel** was 'shot' and he had to assume command. When forced to bug out under a mortar attack such was **Cpl Dave Sloane**'s attention to his men that he forgot his own equipment leaving behind a Gortex bivvy bag and SAS smock. We are still trying to learn with whom he shared a sleeping bag for the rest of the exercise. In final awards for the week **Cpl** 'Green Beret' **Yost**'s Section came out with top honours. Special awards went to **LCpl 'Jez' Clarke** for initiative in sprinting 100m to stop the transport leaving without us at Endex; **LCpl Andy Davies** for falling asleep on sentry duty after reporting the approach of the OC and **LCpl Roger Price** for describing the simulated casualties of an artillery attack in the middle of a wood as a 'traffic accident'.

The 'Mr Universe' competition for the wives club was organised by the Squadron wives. Thirteen of the Regiment's bravest bodies competed for the title which was won by **LCpl 'Fossy' Foster** from the Gym.



**VICTOR TROOP**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Lt Paul Bliss** |
| **2IC** | **WO2 George Dewar** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Paddy Shiels** |
| **Tp SQMS** | **Sgt Dennis Morris** |

The last two months have been a busy time for the Troop due to the re-organisation of the Squadron. Vehicles have been on everyone's mind one way or another. The Q (**George Dewar**) was even spotted in a pair of coveralls, (borrowed). He was reported as saying 'I'm on my way to lend a hand' and got lost en route to the garages! After much hard work, target dates were met. During this period we took part in Ex Silver Stallion, in which a number of vehicles were on display, with **Sgt Alan Davidson** controlling the visitors and the participants. It was a great success. This was a good run through for our next adventure, which was part of the 3 Armd Div stand, in the Staff Colleges Demo held at Sennelager, which again went well. Our thanks must go to **SQMS Bruce Wayne**, who looked after all our needs.



WO2 Dewar—'Honest, it was this big'—Ex Silver Stallion

**DEPARTURES**

The Troop wishes to extend its thanks and good wishes to all who have departed in the recent months, including **Capt Nigel Dakin** and his wife **Mandy, Sgt Billy Chestnut** and his wife **Tanya** and **Sgt Mark Hicks**.

**ARRIVALS**

The Troop extends a warm welcome to all new members and wishes them a happy tour, **Lt Paul Bliss, SSgt Taff Gillespie** and all the Squadron members who have moved from their Troops into Victor.

**KILO TROOP**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **WO2 Tommy Hardingham** |
| **2IC** | **WO2 John Bellion** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Ray Pickering** |
| **Tp SQMS** | **Sgt Mick Wray** |

Although Troop commitments have been drastically reduced the men still have plenty to do.

**BATUS**

Welcome back **Sig Sammy Samuelson** from a successful tour in BATUS. He has been replaced by **LCpl Phil Render**, who, we are sure, will carry on the good work on our behalf.

**EXERCISE CHULU DIAMOND—NEPAL**

The Regiment recently sent a team of would-be Blashford Snells to Nepal to spend time trekking through the Himalayas. **Cpl Brett Laverick, LCpl Sid Barrass** and **Sig Sammy Samuelson** were the Troop representatives and we were kept in touch with the progress of the operation via a barrage of very graphic and explanatory postcards. It appears that they had an excellent trip and they have returned considerably lighter than when they set off! Welcome back lads, and again well done.

**3 SQUADRON**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Bernie Hewitt** |
| **OC DEF EW** | **Capt Carl Storey** |
| **2IC** | **Lt Rob Forrest** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Mal Geer** |
| **YofS** | **WO1 Merv Finch** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 Bob Hamilton** |
| **RCP Tp Comd** | **2Lt Chris Wood** |
| **Comms Tp Comd** | **WO2 (YofS) Kev Doyle** |

The last two months has seen us busy with a restructuring period and a farewell to Romeo Tp.

Sport has played a major part in our life. The Squadron acquitted itself well, finishing runners-up in the Inter-Squadron Athletics and Rugby Competitions, and doing marvellously to win the Inter-Squadron Hockey and Boxing.

During May the majority of the Squadron visited Moosbach for our annual summer camp. This was a great success with everyone involved having a marvellous time.

**INTER-SQUADRON NOVICE BOXING**

The finals of the Regimental Inter-Squadron Novice Boxing were held in the gymnasium on 11 May. After several hard bouts, 3 Sqn won the competition overall, narrowly beating 2 Sqn into second place by just two points. Just before the interval, an exhibition bout between two local area champions, **Bechet Attalan** and **Ilami Eckini** showed the boxers just how fast and fit they would have to be to continue beyond the novice level. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening and our thanks go to **SSgt (SSI) Colin Henderson** and his staff for all their hard work in setting up and running the event.



3 Squadron Winning Team
*Back row (left to right):* Cpl Carly, LCpl Wykes, Maj Hewitt (OC Sqn), LCpl Jarvis and WO2 (SSM) Geer
*Front row (left to right):* LCpl Ingham, Sig Leader and Sharp

**THE PRINCESS ROYAL COMPETITION**

On a hot day, in the thick of the Haltern Training area, the specially volunteered Regimental march and shoot team battled against other Corps Regiments in BAOR in the Princess Royal Competition.

The team included a 'partially blind officer' (**Lt Paul Peel**) and an 'elderly bespectacled' SNCO who was intent on viewing the scenery from a respectable distance (**Sgt Ray Pickering**). **Cpl Bob Wright** led the remainder of the sunbathing crew which included such 'Four Minute Milers' as, **LCpls Spike Harding, 'Happy' Allman** and **Jim Berrey**.

With the blind leading the slow, the team managed to beat a creditable number of teams and **Sig 'Buz' Burrows** showed his amazement by collapsing over the line.

The Falling Plate Competition turned out to be slightly more of a test than the run; only a few of the falling plates seemed impressed enough by our shooting to actually do what their name suggested they might. After we had finished our shoot and the dust had cleared the only noticeable change in the scenery about us was the unexplained absence of the range staff.

Having assured ourselves that we had mistakenly been issued with blank ammunition we trotted off to drown our sorrows.

For posterity, and so that we don't, hopefully, get picked for next year, here are the names of the remainder of the team: **Sig Faz Farrall, Solly Madle, Stu Plumpley, Chris Leader** and **Rob Culliford**.



The blind leading the tired!

# 16 Sig Regt
# BFPO 35

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **CO** | **Lt Col Chris Harper** |
| **2IC** | **Maj Tim Bushell** |
| **Adjt** | **Capt Paul Hudson** |
| **AAdjt** | **2Lt Moira Watson** |
| **RSM** | **WO1 (RSM) Maycock** |
| **ORQMS** | **WO2 (ORQMS) Boyd** |

Bradbury Barracks bears a strong similarity to the 'Marie Celeste' due to SLM(C). But the still and calm has descended after the storm of activity prompted by CO's Days, Princess Royal Day and much much more . . . read on!

**OSCAR TROOP**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Capt Geoff Downey** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 Ian Atherton** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 Chris Heeles** |

**ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES**

There have been a number of departures recently including **WO2 (YofS) Ron Allan** to sunny Belize, **Sgt Sean Kent** to Hong Kong, and **Sgt Bob Bayly** to Cyprus. There is no truth in the rumour that it is compulsory to be posted to Oscar Tp before being posted to the sun. Amongst the new arrivals are **WO2 (YofS) Chris Heeles, Sgt Skip Collins** and **Cpl Paul Patterson**.

**SPORT**

**Sig Pen Pengelly** has achieved notable success on the badminton front being selected for BAOR and Army teams. Having won the Corps singles title he finished runner-up in the RCZ Championships. Now trying his hand at tennis, there are sure to be some surprised competitors in this sport in due course.

**EXERCISE DECI GRIP**

A very successful adventure training expedition to Sardinia led by **WO2 Ian Atherton** took place from 3-17 April. Utilising mountain bikes for transportation they managed to cover some 200 miles of mountain tracks. **LCpl Clare Spearing** who started with 12 gears finished up with one which was only possible thanks to some excellent field repairs by **LCpl Bruce Findlay** and **SSgt Paul Stevenson. SSgt Lenny Mills** now feels ready for his highway code test.



*Back row (left to right):* SSgt Lenny Mills, Ptes Amanda Lee and Deborah Evans
*Front row (left to right):* WO2 (FofS) Ian Atherton, LCpl Bruce Findlay, SSgt Paul Stevenson, Pte Michelle Upson and LCpl Clare Spearing

**SOCIAL**

Prior to the very successful barbecue it was decided to hold a Girls versus Boys football match. **LCpl Ollie Oldroyd** was outstanding in the Boys team before being sent off and **Cpl Paddy Connery** showed surprising agility in goal before also being sent off. **WLCpl** (now WCpl) **Cossy Calabrese** and **SSgt Kim Neilson** played well in midfield and **Siggy Atherton** showed amazing speed on the wing. After some excellent unbiased refereeing by OC Tp the result was a well deserved six-all draw. At the barbecue afterwards the RAF servicemen passing did not appreciate the ground training in the water tank courtesy of a number of very enthusiastic Corps soldiers.

**2 SQUADRON**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Mike Complin** |
| **2IC** | **Lt Pete Doherty MBE** |
| **OC J Tp** | **Lt Julian Swindells** |
| **OC R Tp** | **Lt Karen Osterburg** |
| **OC S Tp** | **2Lt Mark Hanby** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Steve McKechnie** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (YofS) John Dyer** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt (FofS) Ian Dobson** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) Brian Lauder** |

CO's Day is the day the CO gets his own way and each Squadron in turn 'Bows to his every whim' . . .

**CO's DAY**

The CO's days are looked forward to with mixed feelings. On the positive side it is an ideal time to get the house in order as one prepares for the usual round of intense Pre Inspections from socks to fire hoses—from training records to OIC levels. On the other side, is the day itself, when one opens the brown envelope to find what tasking the CO has set to test the mettle of the Squadron.

In an attempt to pre-empt the CO the Squadron formed a 'Think Tank', a professional elite, which scoured previous CO's days written matter, and consulted various 'sooth-sayers' to come up with a programme we thought he would produce. As always in these cases we were totally wrong and the only predictable thing about the programme was its unpredictability.

The day started with the Squadron split into three teams which headed off at a fair rate in full marching kit to the local range. With the assistance of various paraphernalia, the team had to negotiate the normal 'shark infested ravine'. The DS solution was the usual, ignore the oil drums and logs and construct a Rope bridge. With a lot of huffing and puffing and the 'disadvantage' of leaders being taken out of the equation, the ravines were successfully crossed with the odd point being deducted for cowardice in the face of unusual heights, special mention must go out to **Cpl McCorry** whose complex array of webbing did not withstand the test of weight as was proved by the array of bruises that decorated the nether region of members of the team.

After the double back to Barracks the teams then split into groups. Group 1, mainly Juliet Tp, 'trooped their colour'. After a 10 minute change into No 2 Dress and a five minute rehearsal, the Troop, led by **Lt Julian Swindells** put in a performance that would have put the guards to shame—which guards I am not prepared to say.

Group 2, mainly Romeo Tp had the unenviable task of conducting a swimming test in the outdoor pool specially filled for the occasion. I hasten to add this event took place before the recent heat wave. As the masses hit the water the air was filled with spray and expletives, needless to say the incumbents completed the test in record time. Special mention and a bravery award goes to **Lt Karen Osterburg** who was wearing the latest in designer swimwear, red PT top and Army bloomers. Meanwhile in another part of the Barracks, Dets from each Troop were competing in a free standing mast race, won by **Cpl Smurthwaite**, Romeo Det.

The final tasking saw the Squadron again in teams each armed with a ¾ ton trailer filled with an assortment of items. The trailer race took them around a two mile course, finally negotiating a great divide. The improvisation beggars description, suffice to say there was no loss of life although **WO2 (SSM) McKechnie**'s teams' trailer sustained a degree of damage. The FMT 3 statement as to how damage occurred will probably go down in the annals.

The day finished with the usual round of back slapping and Herforder with the 'Think Tank' licking its wounds and promising to do better next time.







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### 3 SQUADRON

**SHQ PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| OC | Maj G. J. Whyman |
| 2IC | Capt J. D. Forrest |
| SSM | WO2 (SSM) G. Richards |
| YofS | SSgt (YofS) P. Sexby |
| FofS | SSgt (FofS) S. Rowe |
| SQMS | SSgt (SQMS) Jefferey |
| SQMS | (Des) SSgt (SQMS) Turner |

The Squadron has undergone a complete metamorphosis since we last wrote and has been taken over by a fair minority of the Jock extraction. Farewell to **Capt Ian Bucklow** who is off to the Training Wing, **Sgt Cornes** (posted to 14 Sig Regt).

**PRINCESS ROYAL DAY**

We had an extremely successful week at Haltern Training Area in preparation for Princess Royal Day. A week's setting up, running and taking down the admin area left most of the team looking like the Black Hole of Calcutta, thanks to very favourable weather.

Thanks go to all those who took part and to those in the Regiment who helped the Squadron in its task.

**DELTA TROOP**
**by LCpl Lee Stewart**

**INTRODUCTION**

In recent months the Troop has had a few changes, with the arrival of **Ptes Eyres** and **Mills**, this being the first time we have the WRAC in the Troop. **SSgt Lawrence** says they will be treated just like the men. Really?

In February the Troop suffered a loss, in the form of **Lt Martin Prodger**; he was replaced by **2Lt Martin Phillips** who has come up with some excellent ideas since he's arrived. For example, when we came back off a three week exercise, he took us skiing in the Harz Mountains for five days. This was popular with the men and went down tremendously with their wives.

**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

The Troop says farewell to **Cpl Andy Andrews** who has gone to 22 Sig Regt and **Sig Billy Girdwood** who has joined the RHF. A warm welcome to **Sig Rob Shaw-Rolands, Andy Jarret, John 'Wobbly' Webley** from the Factory. Last but not least to **Sgt Pete Isles**, who doesn't realise how lucky he is. Last of all we have a special mention for **Cpl Jeb Stewart** and hope he can take a hint: in our Regiment we wear green stuff for exercise, maybe Jim could fix it for you.

**FOXTROT TROOP by LCpl Den Nicol**

**CO'S DAY**

'OK guys' came the war cry from **SSgt Pete Griffiths**. 'Grab your webbing and form up in three ranks'. So heralded the start of CO's day for this part of the Squadron. Sporting his Bergan complete with sword, our Troop OC, **2Lt Parry**, appeared.

Before we knew it, we were on our way to Hulserbruck Ranges, flying the fearless Foxtrot Flag. On arrival, we were met by the RSM, **WO1 Maycock**, who presented us with our first starter for 10, a command task. After dodging 'Minefields' cleverly disguised as grass and minetape, we were sent off on the second task, a 7km tab to the Hubbert Tower. **LCpl Den Nicol** then had the pleasure of carrying our flag to the top of the tower, and proudly raising it.

Command tasks over, we headed back to camp with the other two troops in the Squadron, set up a small Commex, had a bed race and carried out mandatory NBC Training—quite a varied day by this stage.

The climax of the day was a Bedford 4T pull race. Suspicions were aroused when it was discovered that the 4 Tonner had been placed in four-wheel drive. This does not help if one is trying to push it. Trouble was prevented however, as **SSgt Griffiths** was restrained from pulling the vehicle's REME driver from the cab.

**LEICESTER TROPHY ATHLETICS**

Due to various exercise commitments, it was hard to produce a good team from the bunch of Superstars within the Troop. **Cpl Rick Greenland** got us off to a good start, winning the opening event. **Sig Gardiner** won the high jump. Well done to the rest of the team; **Cpl** (Daley Thompson) **Ennis, Sgt Steve Rowe, LCpls John Phoenix, Den Nicol, Sig Jock Terris, Cpl Rick Greenland** and **WPte Kate Langston**.

**FAREWELL**

We say goodbye to **Sgt Rowe**, who is off to sunny Swingate, **Cpl Steve** (Millie) **Millburn** (Civvy Street) and **Cpl Pat Murphy** (PC Plod). We wish them all the best.

### GOLF TROOP

**TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| OC Tp | 2Lt Ian Ellis |
| Tp SSgt | SSgt Fred Tedby |
| Tp Sgts | Sgt Steve Bason |
| | Sgt Tez Brown |

It has been a busy period, with work and pleasure. We're good at the pleasure bit. There was a week in the Hartz Mountains. **2Lt Ian Ellis** broke the world land speed record. **Cpl Rick Greenland** won the gymnastic display and **Sig John Murray** was a kamikaze.

**CHARITY PARACHUTE JUMP**

On 27 May, five members of Golf Tp and two members of Foxtrot Tp, very bravely, or maybe, very stupidly, decided, 'let's do something completely different this weekend: throw ourselves out of an aeroplane and claim it's for the Corps Museum Fund'.

On the Friday night all seven **2Lt Ellis, WLCpl Muir, WPtes Debbie Watts, Zee Hughes, Sig Junior Crawford, 'Speedy' Mann** and **'Scouse' Carlson** left Krefeld after saying goodbye to their friends. They hoped that it was not for the last time! They then set off to the Joint Services Parachute Centre at Bad Lippsringe. Saturday morning and all of the students were looking forward to their first day of ground training, with some very different variations of the same exercise and some complete blowouts by other people. By the time Saturday night came there were a few tired bodies, after a full day's PLF's (Parachute Landing Fall). Several beers were downed, mostly for Dutch courage, then the ritual phone home to Mum. Sunday morning was greeted with an air of expectancy for the Magnificent Seven's task ahead. There were a few last minute nerves. When the dreaded hour came, 3pm, a few were wishing they had never started this foolish dice with death. An hour later it was all over and everyone felt pleased with themselves. The RSM was happy to receive the money we had made at our eventful weekend.

**ON THE SPORTING FRONT**
**FOOTBALL**

A tale of mixed fortunes for the 1989/90 season. Although our league form has been mediocre to say the least we have managed to acquit ourselves well in the cup competitions reaching the final of the league cup losing 5—1 to Scribes in a hard fought match which belied the scoreline, but winning the RCZ Major Units Cup Final 1—0 against our local friends and neighbours 28 Sig Regt.

I am sure they will forgive me if I dwell a little longer on what must go down as one of our most famous victories in recent years. It was a story of two halves, so to speak. The first half was all one way with 28 Sig Regt bringing out the best in our goalkeeper **WO2 John Dyer**. They were unlucky not to go in at the interval several goals to the good. The second half started with the Regiment finding a new confidence and going forward with venom. A corner was forced on the right, a bit of a scramble and **Sig Tibbs Corbin** was on hand to guide the ball into the net. More pressure came which resulted in the ball again in the 28 Sig Regt net, but this time it was disallowed for an infringement. So what could have been so easily a 2—0 result or even a 2—6 result ended up a 1—0 victory for the Regiment—'it's a funny old game'.



The victorious 16 Sig Regt on Cup Final Day

Staying on the football front **Capt Glenn Bartliff** currently running the Corps (BAOR) side thought what a jolly good idea it would be to have a Corps old boys versus Corps new boys match here at Krefeld. The old boys more than lived up to their name. The changing room before the match resembled a spare parts factory with teeth, wigs etc being carefully stowed away and an array of footwear that would have done the Lancaster Gate Soccer Museum proud. A list of names that would have sent a chill down the spine of any defence a few years ago

such as **'Schneker O'Hara', 'Storky O'Rourky', 'Goal a game Doherty', 'Buttons (Don't Blink) Young'** and **'Battling Bartliff'** to mention but a few.

Surprisingly enough the Corps youngsters never had it all their own way and once the arthritics got their legs moving it was a fine old encounter with youth and fitness being cancelled out by guile and cunning. At the end of the day the youngsters had it by about 5 goals to 2. Back in the football club afterwards the air was rent with tales of old glories and those that clipped the woodwork—'oh happy days'.

**BAOR (WS) INTER-UNIT SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS 1990**

The 1990 Inter-Unit Swimming Championships were held on 30 May at the magnificent Blue Pool Rheindalen. The (BR) RCZ Major and Minor Competition was also held in conjunction with the Women's Competition.

After three events 13 Sig Regt was leading by 15 points to 14 points. 16 Sig Regt then came storming back with a convincing win in the Breastroke Relay. Still with only a point in it, it was all down to the final race, 4 × 50m Freestyle Relay. 13 Sig Regt pulled away to win this final race and indeed the Inter-Unit Competition.

The final results were 13 Sig Regt 47 points, 16 Sig Regt 42 points and Bielefeld Garrison 35 points.



16 Sig Regt WRAC Swimmers
*Back row (left to right):* Pte Gilliland, WO2 (SSM) Davies, LCpls Muir and Brooks
*Front row (left to right):* Ptes Watts, Edwards, Cpl Lupton and LCpl Grimes

**EXERCISE LONESTAR BACKSTOP**

Ex Lonestar Backstop was a four week exercise in Texas. The team was: **Capt Mike Stevenson, Lt Karen Osterburg, SSgt Steve Owen, Sgt Glenn Henderson, Cpls Paddy Bredin, Micky Mann, Angie Tilley, LCpl Hammy Hamlet, Sig Mac McIntosh** and **Pte Sheena Motson**.

It was divided into three phases; acclimatisation, Guadalupe Mountains and The Big Bend National Park, each of one week's duration. Texas was new to all of us and we did not know what to expect; the weather, of course, came up with some surprises.

**ACCLIMATISATION**

The thing that hit us most was jet lag. With Texas nine hours behind continental time we suffered.

The first phase took place in semi-desert, some 50 miles outside El Paso where the famous gun fighter John Wesley Hardin is buried. Camping in the desert holds some surprises, the first one being how cold it gets at night. To begin with it was hard going to trek through the desert with 40lb packs, but the thought of a rattlesnake or two kept the party moving and together. Water could have been a problem, but luckily the American army had converted old missile containers into water troughs for cattle and we used these for drinking and washing! It was a surprise having to break the ice every morning. After five days of this kind of life we were fit and ready to conquer mountains!

**GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS**

This mountain range contains the highest point in Texas, the Guadalupe Peak at 8,794ft. The climb was quite exhausting. However, the views from the top were spectacular, but with the 80mph winds we couldn't get too close to the edge. At this height snow had fallen during the night and it took some imagination to realise that we were in the middle of a desert. It wasn't a lot warmer at 4,500ft which was where we were camped. Sleeping at night was still difficult even though we were dressed for the arctic. Each day our climbs exceeded 8,000ft and afforded good views. There was an abundance of wildlife in the mountains, the most friendly animal being a skunk!

In the evenings we visited the Pine Springs store, a wooden shack and the only General Store within 50 miles. It was an ideal place to meet the local Rangers who were extremely hospitable, as indeed were all the people we met in Texas.

**THE BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK**

Being 400 miles south of the Guadalupe Mountains the weather had gone from one extreme to another. The Big Bend National Park, so called because of the bend in the river Rio Grande, encompassed the Chisos Mountains and proved to be a favourite with the local populace. Here we met a lot of Americans and found the climbs and treks very crowded. Apart from climbing Emory Peak at 8,000ft and other lesser peaks, we visited Boquillas, Mexico and sampled the hot springs.

Boquillas is a very primitive Mexican village existing solely for tourists from the Big Bend. There is no gas or electricity, quite primitive. The river is crossed by boat which bore bullet holes, evidence of drug baron shoot outs. You then have the choice of either walking to the village or experiencing a novel ride on a burro. This proved too difficult for **Cpl Paddy Bredin** who lost his balance and made a spectacular fall.

The hot springs were very refreshing and after the long trek it was good to find them. They proved too hot for some who cooled off in a very fast flowing stretch of the Rio Grande.

Once we left the Big Bend it was a case of saying our farewells and heading for home. We managed to squeeze in a stop-over in New York which was a bit of a culture shock after four weeks of camping, but we coped! Jet lag plagued us but with so much to tell about the trip it didn't deem to affect us so much.

We must pass on our thanks to the BLO's at Albuquerque and Fort Bliss as well as the staff at Range Command and the National Park Rangers, without whose help the expedition would not have run so smoothly.



The group at the top of Guadalupe Peak
*(Left to right):* Sgt Glenn Henderson, Pte Sheena Motson, Lt Karen Osterburg, SSgt Steve Owen, Capt Mike Stevenson, Cpl Angie Tilley, Sig Mac McIntosh, LCpl Hammy Hamlett, Cpls Paddy Bredin and Cpl Micky Mann




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**STOP PRESS . . .**

**BAOR CANOE SLALOM CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Regiment's highly successful canoeing team has done it again. The team of **Cpl Dobson, SSgt (FofS) Dobson, LCpl Broders** and **Sig Haigh** filled the first four slots on the individual competition in the above order, and the team took first place. Watch out for the Army Championships!



# 21 Sig Regt
# BFPO 42

**COMMANDER RCZ**

On Friday 20 April **Brig R. M. Bullock**, Comd RCZ visited the Regiment for the first time since taking up command.

The Brigadier showed particular interest in our ageing vehicle fleet and our relationship with the Royal Air Force.

The highlight of the visit was the presentation of the RCZ Ski Trophy to our very successful ski team **Capt Duncan Warne, Cpls Kevin Jarvis, Del Ward** and **LCpl Tim Tomkinson** who under the captaincy of OC LAD, **Capt Frank Kemp**, won the championship for the first time this season. RCZ this year, Army next!



Comd RCZ inspecting the Barrack Guard under comd of SSgt Neil Killen



Comd RCZ with the Regimental Skiing Team and the RCZ Trophy

**1 SQUADRON**

It was a cold Friday afternoon when 1 Sqn and HQ Sqn lined up against each other in the Plate final of the Station Soccer League, both teams having beaten the RAF teams on the way. The first half was unexciting with neither team giving anything away. HQ Sqn made a good effort which was saved superbly by **Sig 'Blondie' Powell**.

After half-time 1 Sqn started to get on top and narrowly missed scoring when **Cpl Jim O'Donnell** hit the crossbar. It must be said the HQ goalkeeper played a superb game continually denying the 1 Sqn forwards. Still no score after 90 minutes so we went into extra time. Eventually 1 Sqn made the breakthrough when **Sig Kev Allen** scored from close range. 1 Sqn's defence held firm, superbly marshalled by **SQMS Tommy McCutcheon**. With HQ Sqn pushing all their players forward they left gaps in their defence which were exploited by **Cpl Jim O'Donnell** who raced through and scored, to put the game out of HQ Sqn's reach; 2—0 was a good result.

A special mention must be made of our Manager **SSM Paul Smythe** who is shortly leaving the Army.



1 Sqn Football Team—RAF Wildenrath Plate Winners

**2 SQUADRON**

The Football Cup Final took place on 4 April between 2 Sqn and Supply Sqn, who are the first Division League winners, so the competition was fierce.

The action started early with a penalty being awarded to 2 Sqn in the second minute; unfortunately we failed to score! 2 Sqn kept up the pressure with attempts to score coming from **Cpls Bobby Maxted, Robbo Robertson, Keith Vicary** and skipper **Rod Oakley**. Half-time came with no score due to good goalkeeping from **Cpl Tommo Tomlinson** and defending from **SSgt Steve Barrington**. However 15 minutes from time Supply Sqn went ahead when **Sgt Adie Jones (RAF)** scored from a 20 yard shot. 2 Sqn tried to recover but even with the help of substitute **Cpl Kev Jarvis**, whose heading ability and speed are second to none, we were unable to score so the game ended with a 1—0 win for Supply Sqn.

After the game the Winners Trophy was presented to Supply Sqn by the acting Station Commander **Wing Commander Roberts**, and the Runners-Up Medals were collected by 2 Sqn (A) team.



2 Sqn Football Team—RAF Wildenrath Runners-Up

## 3 SQUADRON
## H TROOP—RAF BRUGGEN
### PERSONALITIES

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp OC** | **Capt Len Carr** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Steve Dobson** |
| **Pjt Sgt** | **Sgt Steve Brealey** |
| **SNCO IC Techs** | **Sgt Bill Stadius** |
| **NCO IC Maint** | **Cpl Keith Lowe** |
| **MT Cpl** | **Cpl Ian Harrison** |
| **Tp Clerk** | **Mrs Lucy Headley** |

Quite a change around at Bruggen recently (apart from the old guard of course). New additions include our Troop Clerk **Lucy Headley**, our first WRAC driver **LCpl Karen Daniel**, good luck to them both, the only females in this male dominated Troop. Three brand new 'Siggies' straight from the factory are **Sig Lance** (Shellscrape) **Swarbrick**, and wife **Amanda**, **Alan** (Ronald) **Macdonald** and **Jason King**. Welcome to our new Troop Storeman **LCpl Steve Crook**, his wife **Petra** and son **Jason**.

Congratulations to our Tech **Steve Bennett** on his promotion to Sergeant.

### SWIMMING TOUR
**by LCpl Daniel WRAC**

After being with H Troop at RAF Bruggen for just one month I had the chance to go to Cyprus with the Army Women's Swimming Team. On 2 May 11 members of the team plus our coach, **SSgt Rob Coulthard**, flew out to RAF Akrotiri. We had quite an interesting coach trip to our accommodation at Episkopi Garrison, sampling the driving we would become accustomed to throughout the tour.

The next day, bright eyed and raring to go, we arrived at the Garrison swimming pool for our first training session. It came as a great shock to us to find that the pool was not heated at all so, needless to say, our enthusiasm was cooled down! It took all the coach's efforts to keep us going and still some came out of the water blue with cold. It was warmer out of the water than in!

We had a free day on the Saturday which was spent visiting Coral Beach at Pathos. Other spare time was spent at Aiya Napa and Limassol sampling the local delicacies and wines.

The tour came to a head at the 50m Berengaria Swimming Pool. AWSSA v Combined Services Cyprus Team. We won every event except the last event which was a fun race. We lost this under slightly dubious rules. The day before we flew out it still wasn't certain that we had a flight home, we were told to pack and turn up at the airport just in case. We were quite looking forward to an extra week in Cyprus, before the next flight was due. It wasn't until 45 minutes before our flight took off that we were told we were all definitely on it. We returned to our units fit and ready to start training for the Army Swimming Championships in July!

## L TROOP
### PERSONALITIES

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp OC** | **Capt Dave Wright** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Terry Hague** |
| **Projects** | **Sgt Rocky Hudson** |
| **Maint** | **Sgt Andy Elliott** |
| **Techs** | **Sgt Colin Brown** |
| | **Sgt Rod Kenna** |

L Troop RAF Laarbruch is based a few miles south of Goch, two miles from the Dutch border. The most important event has been the retirement of **Frau Busse: Frau**, as she is known to everyone, retired after 35 years service to the British forces. She was first employed in RAF Wahn in 1955. In 1973 after 18 years with the RAF, **Frau** joined 21 Sig Regt as a Movements Clerk here in Laarbruch. When the main element of the Regiment moved to Wildenrath **Frau** stayed at Laarbruch becoming a clerk in L Troop. To mark her farewell the Commander Northern Army Group **Gen Sir Peter Inge KCB** sent **Frau** the following message:-

> 'My most hearty good wishes on the completion of your 35 years service with our forces in Germany. Please be assured I value your work within the British Army of the Rhine most highly. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you sincerely for your loyal service throughout all these years.'

The following were present at her farewell party: **Gp Capt G. L. McRobbie**, Station Commander RAF Laarbruch, **Col P. E. A. Chaddock**, Comd 4 Sig Gp, (**Col Chaddock** was A/Adjt when the Regiment was in Laarbruch), **Lt Col P. Whitemore**, CO 21 Sig Regt and **Maj A. J. Whydell**, Sqn Comd 3 Sqn (L Troop is part of 3 Sqn).

The second farewell was to **Capt Robin Seaword. Robin** is off to the UK for the first time in 23 years. He has now taken up the post of Adjt 33 Sig Regt (V) in Liverpool. He will be missed not only by the Troop but also by RAF Laarbruch Rugby team. He has been replaced by **Capt Dave Wright** and we wish **Dave** and **Susan** a successful tour in Laarbruch.

The other news is the football game played on 12 May against CIS Eng. A return match is played every six months, and this is the first time since the cup was first awarded, that L Troop has been beaten by this flight from Laarbruch. A very exciting game saw the final score at 2—1 to CIS Eng. It was a sad occasion for us when **Sgt Colin Brown**, in the absence of **Sig Scouse Bradley** (Capt), handed over the beautiful cup to a very happy CIS Eng skipper at a ceremony on 18 May.

Some good news is **Sgt Andy Elliott** came first in the BAOR Corps windsurfing (Lt Wt) and third in the Corps UK (Lt Wt). Well done **Andy**.

## 4 SQUADRON
### VISIT TO EBEN EMAEL

It is always nice when someone comes up with an out of routine idea. Such was the case when our newest officer, **2Lt Chris Chudleigh**, on detachment from the King's Regiment decided it was time we had an 'away-day'. (Not on British Rail, I hasten to add.)

His choice for the visit was the Belgian fort at Eben Emael just over the border from Holland and overlooking the town of Maastrich. A date was set for the trip and much preparation went on (or so we thought). The advance party was due for an early start so as to have sufficient time to set-up the area for the 'banquet lunch'.

The main party was to parade at 0800 hrs so **Sgt Garry Hill** arrived early just in case the bus arrived early. Of course it didn't but the freshly decorated I Troop office door soon caught his attention. On closer inspection the fresh yellow coloured area turned out to be a number of messages (after thoughts!) left by **2Lt Chudleigh**. The bus laden with Squadron members left for Eben Emael. Prior to departure the driver had assured us that he knew his way, so we left it in his capable hands. Nothing could have been further from the truth as we took the wrong turning only just out of the camp gates. However, after two stops, numerous U-turns and map consultations we arrived at the fort! All this drama went on but was missed by some members of the Squadron who made the journey fast asleep!

On arrival we were met by **WO2 (SSM) Willie Ireland** from HQ Sqn our guide for the day. After a quick introduction to the history of the fort we began our tour, starting with the interior. Just along the main tunnel we were met by **PHR Vliegen**, the chief guide for the fort. He gave a short talk on the construction of the fort and a summary of the events which took place on 9/10 May 1940 when the Germans attacked using gliders to land on top of the fort. Unfortunately **PHR Vliegen** could not accompany us around as the Swedish Ambassador was visiting the same day but, he provided another guide, who, despite the language barrier, filled our day with many stories and anecdotes.

For those unaware of the fort at Eben Emael here is a short history. The fort was built between 1932 and 1935 at a cost of 35 million francs. It was situated at the end of the Maginot line to dominate the Albert Canal, the routes from Maastrich lying to the West, and the high ridges of Veldvezelt and Wroenhoven and the Vale of Vise, through which the Germans broke during the First Great War. The fort was built in the shape of a horizontal triangle with two sides of 800m and one of 900m. It has a surface area of 75 hectares of which 15 hectares go to form the top plateau. The plan to attack the fort was supervised by Hitler in strict secrecy. After six months exhaustive practice on similar forts in Poland and Czechoslovakia the task force 'Granite' consisting of 85 men was ready to attack. Despite a number of accidents with the gliders the force landed at 0425 hrs on 10 May and by 1200 hrs the following day the fort had surrendered leaving 30 dead, 24 Belgians and six Germans.

Walking around the interior of the fort was an amazing experience. The size of the construction and the way it has been preserved show things, not only as they were before the German attack but, also, what had happened during the attack. Climbing up the 120 steps to each of the bunkers housing the main artillery guns was an experience almost equal to a CFT! **WO2 (SSM) Ireland** proved to be an excellent guide with an incredible knowledge of the fort. After the interior visit the party emerged for an excellent lunch. In the afternoon a nice gentle walk around the top plateau where we observed the bunkers which had taken the brunt of the German attack. Even a spot of rain could not dampen the enthusiasm of the party which found the exterior just as amazing as the interior. Eventually the tour finished and the Squadron made its way back to Wildenrath, with the driver being supervised every step of the way.

The Squadron would like to thank the following people for an excellent day, **2Lt Chris Chudleigh** for the organisation, **WO2 (SSM) Willie Ireland** for being an excellent guide and the members of Catering Tp for providing an excellent lunch.

### MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN VISIT

On the afternoon of Monday 21 May, a party of 30 children and teachers of the Erich Kastener Schule for the Mentally Handicapped, paid another visit to their friends in the Regiment.

The children visited the Fire Section, Aircraft Servicing Flight, the Wildenrath Bowl (where NAAFI kindly offered free use of their lanes) and then to an old favourite with the children, a display by the RAF Police Dog Team.

After the dog display, it was back to the Regimental Club 'The Train' for sustenance in the form of a superb barbecue where the children met with their friends in the Regiment, the soldiers and their families and exchanged news.

This, the latest of many visits was somewhat special, because for eight of the children who have been visiting us since our association began back in 1986, this will be their last visit to us. They are due to leave the school in July.

Whilst the children were enjoying their afternoon, the boys in the Ground Photographic Section at Wildenrath, were beavering away like mad to get a group photograph developed, printed and framed in time for the CO **Lt Col Philip Whitemore**, to present a suitably inscribed copy to the school and to each of the children who were leaving. We wish them all the very best of luck in their careers.

**Mrs Connie Patrickson**, the wife of one of our SNCOs had a presentation to make . . . She recently took part in the RAF Bruggen 10km Road Race where, through sponsorship, she raised the magnificent sum of DM1400. The money has been divided between the Erich Kastner Schule (DM1000) and the St John's Ambulance Brigade. Well done **Connie**, the donations are very much appreciated and will, we know, be put to excellent use!



'Go on . . . you can spare a morsel for me!' The CO tries to get Petra to share some of her meal

### REGIMENTAL SHOOTING TEAM

With the trials and tribulations of the Regimental SAAM out of the way we set about selecting a team from the 'Top 20' to compete in the RCZ annual SAAM held at Haltern ranges from the 14-18 May. Led by **2Lt Bennett**, when he could find the time and **SSgt Kev** 'Look lads, I know all about shooting' **Fitzpatrick**. Admin and disruption was left in the hands of **Sgt 'Andy' Young** and **Stan 'BSE' Haynes**.

Training went well with the lads even getting off exercise—for the first time in Regimental history. The culmination of the training was the Princess Royal Day, a shooting competition between all the Corps Regiments in BAOR, won by us, without too much effort. This was held at Haltern, on 11 May.

As for the RCZ SAAM itself, competition was tight from the start, but not as tight as **Sgt Stan Haynes** who managed not to buy a round all week. But come the end of the week a total of 71 medals were won by the team including Major unit winners SLR, LMG team, SMG, March and Shoot, Pool Bull, Silver in the Pistol.

If the organisers of the RAF (G) SAAM are reading this—we are open to offers.

### REGIMENTAL ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Regimental Inter-Squadron Athletics Championships were held on 10 April on the Station's cinder track. We were lucky in that the weather remained clear and dry throughout the day. As the Regiment is one of the main contenders for the Army Athletics Championships, a very high standard of athletics was expected and to the delight of the spectators they were not disappointed. There were many close fought battles and notable results, including **Cpl Henry**'s double triumph and his excellent time in the 200m without starting blocks (22.70), **SSgt Killen**'s two first and one second (400, discus, shot), **LCpl McSweens** two first in the jumps and **Sgt Pollards** two firsts in the middle distance events. The winners in each event were:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 100m | **Cpl Henry** | 12.00 |
| 200m | **Cpl Henry** | 22.70 |
| 400m | **SSgt Killen** | 52.07 |
| 800m | **Sgt Pollard** | 2.06 |
| 1,500m | **Sgt Pollard** | 4.37 |
| 3,000 Steeple/chase | **Sig Braysford** | 10.16 |
| 5,000 Steeple/chase | **LCpl Mitchell** | 16.50 |
| High Jump | **LCpl McSween** | 1.75 |
| Long Jump | **LCpl McSween** | 6.62 |
| Shot | **LCpl Marshall** | 13.64 |
| Javelin | **Sig Powell** | 50.78 |
| Hammer | **LCpl Curtis** | 38.67 |
| Discus | **SSgt Killen** | |
| Triple Jump | **Cpl Pearson** | |

The team competition was close up to the relays. The first three placings were between 1, 2, 4 Sqns with 3 and HQ battling for fourth position and only the relays remaining. As they carried double points a high climax to the day was guaranteed.

In the 4 × 100m relay HQ Sqn had a 10m lead as the fourth runner took the baton and looked certain to win. However, **Cpl Henry** of 2 Sqn decided first was better than third and stormed through to win, unfortunately HQ moved backwards to come fifith:-

1st 2 Sqn
2nd 3 Sqn
3rd 1 Sqn
4th 4 Sqn
5th HQ Sqn

In the 4 × 400m the lead changed many times during the race between 1, 2, and 4 Sqns however on the last leg **SSgt Killen** (1) and **Cpl Hanlon** (4) were together until the last 50m where **SSgt Killen's** strength showed and he secured the valuable 10 pts:-

1st 1 Sqn
2nd 4 Sqn
3rd 2 Sqn
4th 3 Sqn
5th HQ Sqn

The final team results were as follows:-

1st 2 Sqn
2nd 4 Sqn
3rd 1 Sqn
4th 3 Sqn
5th HQ Sqn

At the presentation **Lt Col Whitemore** declared the day a great success and wished the Athletics team luck for the coming season. The team trophy and individual medals were presented by **Mrs J. Whitemore**.



Mrs Jenny Whitemore wife of the CO presenting the Inter Sqn Athletics Cup to Cpl Kev Jarvis, Captain of the winning 2 Sqn team

# 22 Sig Regt
# BFPO 107



CO Lt Col P. T. Innocent with YofS Nutt, Parker and McInally who, as Corporals, served with him in 249 Sig Sqn

**4 SQUADRON**
**THE NEW KAPE ON THE BLOCK**

Those involved: **2Lt Geoff Pullen, Sgt Steve Nickless, Cpls Karl Wilson, Martin Smith, Roy (FSB) Turner, LCpls Frank 'Batty' Battison, Nick 'Psycho' Wall, Miles Sharman, Freddy Walker, Sig Paul Connell, Derek Fowler, Mick O'Neill, Cfn Paul 'Spanna' Kerr (LAD)** and**WPte Kim 'Slick Chick' Pearson** (16 Sig Regt).

The tour took place in April and May and exhibitions were staged in Rotterdam, Hull, Nottingham, Derby, Sheffield, Doncaster, Grimsby, Scunthorpe and Knaresborough.




Cpls Karl Wilson and Roy Turner with their fan club. Are they considering swapping roles?

**HIGHLIGHTS**

The band was greeted by thousands of screaming fans as it arrived at Hull docks. This gave just a small indication of the reception that this group would get from its followers on the tour.

The first open air gig at Nottingham went well after initial worries. Anxious lead singer **2Lt Geoff Pullen** was discovered flying the Corps flag at the top of a 12m mast before the show, however with the help of drummer **Sgt Steve Nickless**, stage nerves were calmed and the session began. The atmosphere was electric, and at least a dozen fans found it all too much—they were stretchered out by the Red Cross.

Other highlights: backing vocalist **Sig Paul Connell** got carried away in a frenzy of emotional excitement and hammered an earthspike through a large water main. Acoustic guitarist **Cpl Smudge Smith** (ED Class 1) put half the Rover fleet off the road by filling diesel tank with petrol. Bass guitarist **Cpl Karl Wilson** drove one particular female fan wild with his disco dancing in LA's night club, Hull. Female vocalist **WPte Kim Pearson** stunned fans with a complete change of costume, and flaunted her barrack dress after the Aston gig. And teeny-bopper **LCpl Nick Wall**, on keyboards, had a wild 20th birthday in Doncaster—his youthful looks still drive KAPE fans crazy.

This sell-out tour has established 22's KAPE team as one of the lead attractions in the Northern youth scene. For the thousands who were fortunate enough to get to one of their shows, this band made an unforgettable impression. Tickets for the 91/92 tour go on sale in the Autumn.

**INDIA TROOP**

The Troop says farewell to **Capt Anderson** and welcomes **2Lt Foulkes**. Also farewell, and well done, to **Sgt Shirley** on his promotion to SSgt and posting to 2 Sqn and welcome to **Sgt Brown** posted from 1 Sqn. The Troop welcomes **LCpl 'Scouse' Simons** and **Sig West** both fresh from the factory at 8 Sig Regt and **Sig Sunley** on his return to the real world after a short holiday in 'Civ Div'.

We say goodbye to **Cpl Andy Greene** and his wife **Linda** on posting to 8 Sig Regt and **Sig** (now LCpl) **Anderson** on his promotion and posting to 7 Sig Regt.

The next few months will see the Troop engaged in Ex Sweet Martini and Ex SLMC, and the odd Site Guard too.

**4 SQUADRON**
**INTER-SQUADRON JUDO**
**by Sig 'Toppa' Brown**

The competition started on Friday 18 May 1990 at 0800 hrs as a training day as most of the competitors had no experience in the art of judo. It consisted of basic theory: the titles of the moves and what the referee says (in Japanese) during the bout. Lessons in basic throws and ground work were also given.

The next day started at 0900 hrs with grading and testing on theory taught the day before. All those entered successfully achieved their high orange belt theory, which can only be due to the hard work and enthusiasm of our three instructors, **Cpl 'Barry' Robson, LCpl 'China' Cooper** and **Mr Paul Oeland**. In the afternoon we started the hard work of fighting to obtain the belts, the yellow belt was won by completing the theory but now we had to win a fight in order to obtain the low orange belt and two fights to win the high orange belt. From the Squadon **Sig 'Toppa' Brown, Cpl 'Sholly' Martwich, Sig 'Hanny' Hannon** and **LCpl 'Andy' Bruttnell** obtained their low orange belt, and **LCpl Devlin** obtained his high orange belt.

Sunday 20 May was the big day. It started at 1000 hrs with the team event, which we duly won, by winning all four contests. The team was **LCpl Devlin** at lightweight, **Cpl Tom Fraser** at middleweight and **LCpl Bob Anderson** at heavyweight. They were duly bullied/coached by the team captain **Cpl 'Sholly' Martwich**.

In the afternoon the Individual contest began, and in front of a number of spectators the contestants battled it out for the medals and the Inter-Squadron Judo Trophy. All the Squad members did well against some very good opposition. They were **Cpl Tom Fraser, LCpl Devlin** who won a gold in his weight class, **LCpl 'Jase' Harvey** who gained silver in his weight class, **LCpls Bob Anderson, Phil Shawcross** who were awarded a gold in their weight class and **Sig Toppa Brown** and **'Hanny' Hannon**. Unfortunately we were not able to carry off the Trophy, but we were runners-up by three points. Unfortunately **LCpl 'Andy' Bruttnell** and **Cpl 'Tony' Manktelow** had to drop out of the team, due to injuries. Special congratulations to **LCpl Devlin** for winning two gold medals in both the team and individual events.

The three day competition was interesting and enjoyable with all team members and coaches making best endeavours.

**EXERCISE MAGNUM SPIRIT**

This story starts some time ago with a call from **Maj Bob Carter**'s office 'Have you ever entered a rally before Q?' The answer was 'no' and before **SSgt Clive Sear** knew it they were entered for Ex Magnum Spirit. The fee was paid and soon came instructions and start numbers.

The event started at Ripon Barracks in Bielefeld and being beginners **Maj Carter** and **SSgt Sear** were well down the field with a start number of 110 out of 120 vehicles. The vehicles ranged from airportable Landrovers fitted with roll cages, extra lights and intercom sets to our Diesel 90 FFR with no extra fittings at all. (Had they come unprepared?) Before they knew it, they had been issued maps, traces and they were on their way. The first night was a huge learning curve (thanks to all who helped). It finished at 0700 hrs and a well deserved rest was to be had till 1100 hrs when lunch was served and then the cross country event of 10 sections was to take place. After it was over they were pleased to find they had taken sixth place and more astonished to learn that they were in 63rd place overall after the first nights rallying. Just one more night to go.

Night two started and **Maj Carter** and **SSgt Sear** set off a very happy and contented pair of beginners. They passed several accidents during the night, but no-one was hurt, just pride in some cases.

At last the finish was in sight with a chance of a rest before prize giving.

The prize giving was delayed due to computer error, but eventually they were to find that they had been disqualified because of a time fault. They left Bielefeld sad but **Maj Carter** was determined to find out where the Team went wrong.

A letter was soon composed and sent on its way to **Maj Fox (RCT)**. Weeks passed with no reply till at last official results arrived from BAMA, and a very nice letter from **Maj Fox** explaining that there had been a computer error and **Maj Bob Carter** and **SSgt Clive Sear** had in fact taken 41st place overall and become the winners of the Royal Signals Team Cup.

**Maj Carter**'s next question was 'Who's got the cup?'. The phone was busy for days. As you can see it has now been found (thank you Chief Clerk, 14 Sig Regt) and is now on display in RHQ, 22 Sig Regt.

Sadly the team has had to split due to **Maj Bob Carter** being posted back to England. If at all possible they will team up again to make a challenge for the Cup this year.



Maj Bob Carter ready to wash the vehicle after the event

**EXERCISE DECI-CYAN**
**Report by SSgt Boon**

Ex Deci-Cyan was an arduous adventure training exercise in Sardinia by members of 22 Sig Regt LAD and MT.

The plan was to spend 14 days climbing and trekking in Sardinia, an island the size of Wales, off the coast of Italy.

The team of eight consisted of OC expedition **Capt Dave Painter** (the Boss), 2IC expedition **Staff Phil Boon, Cpl Tim Dewey, LCpls Bob Gudgeon, Steve Byers, Cfn Nige Roome, Dvr Pollard** and **Cfn Gaz King**.

26 February our first day began promisingly enough when we left Lippstadt at 1815 hrs for a three hour drive to RAF Wildenrath where we spent the night. The next day started with a bang, with thunder, hail, snow and lightning. We left eventually at 1530 hrs. After a two hour flight we reached Deci six hours behind schedule.

We were met at the airport by OC villa **Lt Paul Smith** and his drivers, and after a short brief we all went in search of a meal. This was not too easy as no-one spoke Italian but we managed.

The next day began with an early breakfast and a three hour drive to our first destination, Arbatax, on the east coast. The drive itself took us through a magnificent mountain range. We reached Arbatax and after making camp we recceed into the nearby village in search of supplies and, more importantly, water.

That evening we left the 'Boss' and 'Grandad' to mind the tents and joined in an ancient Italian tradition called 'your round I believe', where we met the local Mayor (who was a Frenchman)!

After an Italian breakfast of baked beans and beefburgers we split into two groups. Group one recceed a route around the coast to a cliff face we were to climb the next day. Unfortunately this could not be done as the hill top was privately owned but we did find an excellent spot for abseiling and an alternative route.

The second group received lessons in rope work, knots belays etc. After lunch the groups changed and group one 'learned the ropes' whilst the other group went for the supplies.

Day five found us in two groups again. One went on a hike around the coast to the south and the other began climbing under **SSgt Phil Boon**. The climbing phase entailed scaling a vertical cliff face which attracted a crowd of spectators. Despite the fact that we were novices we had a good day's climbing and felt we had achieved something to be proud of until we noticed that one of our spectators had reached the summit wearing a leather jacket and ordinary shoes.

In the evening we had a beach barbecue with bonfire, beer and a few songs from rugby playing days.

The sixth day started early and found us packing our tents ready for the move to the next location in San Pantalo, at the foot of Punta Muvrone, in the north of the island. Our move was delayed however by the late arrival of our Landrover. The journey itself was long and tiring, broken only by stops for food and photos. We eventually arrived about 1700 hrs and met **Herr Walter**, a German who owned the land we were to camp on.

After a sleepless night, due mainly to packs of dogs and howling wolves and the cold, the day dawned. After breakfast the team set off to recce a route to the foot of the mountain some 421m in height. Some recce, four of the group reached the summit, with the other two not far behind. **Tim Dewey** reckons he left his fingerprints in the rock to prove it. After a pizza and a beer we retired to our tents with the dogs still howling.

Day eight was an administration morning for most. The recce party for our next move soon returned to report that someone had built a house across the path. (The maps we used were clearly out of date!)

In the afternoon **Cpl Tim Dewey** and **Dvr Polly Pollard** tried an alternative route, instead ran into a wild boar and her piglets; eventually they stopped running and returned to camp.

The hiking phase which was to follow was delayed due to transport problems—none arrived! To compensate the 'Boss' planned a day's hike to the distant peak of Mount Turritta which not only looked but was, a long way off.

After 2km, disaster struck, and **Staff Phil Boon** had to return to camp to change his boots. The route taken was typical of Sardinia, rock, sand and stone, and gave warnings of the pain to come. The track up the mountain wound back and forth. A good pace was maintained despite the heat; 'Speed along' **Cpl Steve Byers** and 'Run along' **Cfn Nigel Roome** saw to that.

We had walked for approximately 26km and climbed Mount Turritta a height of some 422m, a good day by anyone's standard.

After breakfast on day 10 we had our first chance at hiking with full Bergens including tents. After a good six hour hike in the heat of the day we arrived at our destination of Cannigone, further to the north, for a well earned beer at a bar in the harbour. After a hike of 4km towards Palau and 6km back the opposite way we eventually found a camp site with running water.

Up and away on day 11 without any hitches. We packed our tents and walked into the town where we had breakfast.

It was possibly the hottest day and after encountering some locals out Game Shooting we stopped for 'open foot surgery' on blisters. We continued towards our proposed campsite in Palau. Using out of date maps, we found ourselves ploughing through thick gorse. We eventually reached our camp site which was complete with cold showers and dogs!

Day 12, the start of R & R. It rained and rained and it rained again.

Day 13 was much better as the sun came out. Some of us spent the day in La Maddalena, an island off the coast of Palau. We hired a couple of mountain bikes and cycled to the tomb of Garibaldi. The 'Boss' and **Sgt Phil Boon** found an easier form of transport and were chauffeured around the island by OC Villa.

Day 14 was spent travelling back to the villa in the south, a day's journey that took us through the village of Ploughe. On Sundays the whole village meets in the main street so you can imagine the stir we caused when we stopped for dinner.

The next day, was to be a souvenir shopping day in the capital Cannigionne, unfortunately it was shut, so we had our photos taken in the goal mouth of the world cup stadium instead. We returned to the villa and the afternoon was spent snorkeling and sunbathing. The evening was spent at a barbecue.

Day sixteen was our last day and we left the villa after breakfast for Decimomannu and headed for the American PX to do some shopping.

Good news; our plane was delayed! Bad news; but only for a couple of hours!

If anyone is thinking of adventure training in Sardinia, the views are magnificent and the climate fantastic.

# 30 Sig Regt
# Blandford Camp

**250 GURKHA SIG SQN**
**FORMATION PARADE**

On 1 June, 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn became part of 30 Sig Regt in Blandford. A parade was held to mark this event and the salute was taken by **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook**, SOinC (Army).

The formation of 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn is a unique event in the history of the Corps, as although Queen's Gurkha Signallers have served in the UK before (247 Gurkha Sig Sqn with 51 Bde at Tidworth in the early 60s), they have never done so as a Squadron of a Royal Signals Regiment.

The parade was conducted to symbolise this 'fusion', with the Gurkha elements of the Squadron joining the Regiment on parade at a Gurkha pace of 140 per minute and marching off parade as part of the Regiment at the pace of their British counterparts.

This significant event was witnessed by **Maj Gen S. Cowan CBE**, Commandant RMCS Shrivenham Colonel of Queen's Gurkha Signals, together with many members and ex members of Queen's Gurkha Signals.

In his address, **Maj Gen Cook** SOinC (A) stressed the importance of the occasion.

**EXTRACT FROM SPEECH MADE BY MAJ GEN R. F. L. COOK, SOinC (A) AT THE FORMATION PARADE**

'I am extremely pleased to be taking the parade today to mark the reformation of 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron. It is a very significant event, particularly at this time when in some cases we are talking of disbanding units, that we can raise one again, which used to be in our order of battle. I think many of those present will recall the *original 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron and therefore will share the pride of those who are on parade. The Queen's Gurkha Signals is of course a very fine Regiment and you, the Gurkha soldiers of 250 Gurkha Signals Squadron, are joining, in 30th Signal Regiment, another outstanding unit with a very high reputation both in the Corps and in the Army, much enhanced by its very fine action in Namibia in the last 12 months.

Now, if I may address the Squadron again, you are taking up a role which I am sure you will find challenging, but in which you will acquit yourselves in true Gurkha tradition. I am looking to the new 30th Signal Regiment with its Gurkha Squadron to enhance an already fine record still further in the future.

*Akhirima aja ko din Queen's Gurkha Signals ko lagi euta bishes din ho ani maile 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron lai thulo swagat dinu parccha.'*

*Footnote: *250 Gurkha Sig Sqn did exist as a training Squadron of 17 Gurkha Sig Regt in Seremban, Malaysia in the early 1960s.*

**PERSONALITIES OF 250 GURKHA SIG SQN**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj N. D. Couch** |
| **2IC** | **Capt (GCO) Lilbahadur Gurung** |
| **SQGO** | **Capt (QGO) Mohanbahadur Thapa** |
| **OC V Tp** | **Lt A. I. M. Gordon** |
| **2IC V Tp** | **Lt (QGO) Karnasher Tamang** |
| **OC W Tp** | **Lt (QGO) Dorje Tamang** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Bomkarna Rai** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) Bikramjung Gurung** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt (YofS) K. Emmerson** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt (FofS) G. Wilson** |
| **MT Sgt** | **Sgt Ramparsad Gurung** |



The Gurkha Pipes and Drums march past the Inspecting Officer

*Photo by Cpl R. J. Walton*

The Squadron is established for 85 Gurkha and British soldiers. The strength of the Gurkha element will be 58 for the foreseeable future. Some posts will be filled by British soldiers.

The Squadron's primary role is to provide trunk communication and HQ facilities to the UKMF Rear Maintenance Area (RMA) Headquarters. The Squadron has already made significant steps towards full integration. The Gurkha and British elements work towards common ground and the Squadron's first exercise proved we have the necessary ingredients for success. Now that the trauma and turbulence of the initial formation period are over, we are looking forward to settling into our main role and establishing the new Squadron as part of 30 Sig Regt.



*L to R:* WO2 (SSM) Bomkarna Rai, Sqn 2IC Capt (GCO) Lilbahadur Gurung, Pipe Major, SSgt Dipkumar Gurung, Sqn Comd Maj N. Couch and Senior QGO Capt (QGO) Mohanbahadur Thapa



*Photos by Mike Perring*

**HEADQUARTER SQUADRON—TRAINING WING**
**EXERCISE CYGNET COMMANDER**

This year's Regimental Battle Camp took place on the rolling downs of Salisbury Plain Training Area, a venue most suitable for an infantry exercise aimed at developing the military and leadership skills of the junior members of the Regiment.

A culture shock to many young soldiers suddenly cast afoot and totally independent on the Plain, working as sections in an infantry role. The talents of the more experienced soldiers soon came to the assistance of the weaker members when it came to establishing a harbour area, routine in defence and the discipline required to remain undetected.





Battle Camp progressed under the watchful eyes of **WO2 Geoff Ellis** the Regimental Training WO.

Sections were put through their paces on the finer points of Section Battle Drills working as fire teams with **SSgt Ian Brereton**, a period during which he must have paid for all the pyrotechnics expended.

**Sgts John Fisher** and **Andy Winter** expanded their knowledge during the house clearing phases in Imber Village resulting in only one minor casualty, that of **Sig 'Veg' Eastwood** suffering a slight sprain to his ankle after falling down a flight of stairs.

Fire and Movement lessons proved vital prior to the Close Quarter Battle range planned and built by the Instructional Staff. For the vast majority of soldiers the CQBR was a first time event but to complete it in pairs under live conditions proved to be quite an experience. This experience was further enhanced when as individuals each section member negotiated the range firing the LMG; this period proved to be a great success with the newly arrived Gurkha Signal Squadron element who had not encountered this form of field firing or the LMG before. As the training progressed the sections completed live firing section attacks showing both aggression and enthusiasm, bayonets were fixed and used, not often on the correct enemy. **Sig 'Veg' Eastwood** was once again mentioned in dispatches for his aggression and effort. **Sig Ram** was a noted star with his limitless shouts of 'bang' 'bang' when his weapon ceased to function (terminally).

The section attack was followed up by the re-org then straight into the section in defence phase.

During this phase **Sgt 'Del' Barnes RAMC** must take great credit for his ability to avoid badgers wishing to share his effects bunker out in the impact area.

**Sgt 'Del' Barnes** will be remembered forever by all for his instruction in stitching wounds and the administering of the saline drip especially by those members of the Regiment who were recipients of the drip. According to the 'law of **Cpl Jacko Jackson**' you lot line up, give me your arms now and, thus the drip was dispensed.

The NBC phase of the exercise involved a comprehensive form of defence under live conditions defending the perimeter of Imber Village. Chemical conditions were authentically created by **Sgt 'Titch' Howitson** assisted by **Sgt Pat Keating**. This phase created the difficulties encountered by a section in a defensive role fighting a battle in full NBC IPE whilst having to cope with their own resupply and relief in position, all the time under a great deal of pressure from a very determined enemy.

Still in full NBC IPE each section has tasked to negotiate an assault course created within two old houses under the guidance of **Sgt 'Deno' Poole**. Two notable soldiers, **LCpl Rock** and **Sig 'Shred' Sheard**, accomplished the course in the manner of Olympic standard gymnasts whereas the remainder gave the impression that they were as co-ordinated as jelly fish quite often hitting the ground in that manner.

Individual participants inevitably suffered the odd injury, **LCpl 'Dicky' Bird** received an injury to his leg during a section attack. The same section also left **LCpl 'Smudge' Smith** with a burnt hand as a result of his valiant efforts to pick up the LMG barrel, further minor injuries turned the echelon area into a real casualty clearing station.

The most remarkable medical incident came in the form of a young Lance Corporal who was smitten with such severe stomach pains that he was admitted to the MRS at the School of Infantry Warminster with a suspected appendicitis which turned out to be tonsillitis!

All members of the admin support team and Instructional Staff became professional range construction engineers under the watchful eyes of **WO2 Geoff Ellis** and **SSgt (SQMS) Ian Brereton**, accomplishing the near impossible by constructing ranges at night.

The exercise's aims were achieved and all participants took a turn at being a Section Commander and a 2IC.



Sig 'Veg' Eastwood and friends ready for battle



LCpl 'Shred' Sheard giving orders to Pte Warry Warr



SSgt (SQMS) Ian Brereton in a good mood

**BLANDFORD RAFT RACE**
**by Sgt Geoff Thorpe-Willett**

Being a sailor in the Regiment I was 'invited' by my Sqn Comd to enter this event. After volunteering the three crew members, **Cpl Bob Bundy, LCpls Brian Sheard** and **Dave Irwin**, we set-to to build the raft. Built from MK innertubes, cam poles and a couple of GS tables there were some doubts as to whether we could complete the 12 mile course.

With everyone aboard we set out for the start at Shillingstone and shuffled the raft on to the grid.

After a disastrous start, when **LCpl Brian Sheard** spent half his time falling into the river which gave the spectators a good laugh, we proceeded to work our way to the back of the fleet of 160 rafts. The problem was that our raft wasn't as hydrodynamic as most of the other rafts, though the deciding factors were that our fags got wet in the first five minutes and we were not as alert as we might have been.

Seven hours after starting we floated into the finish at Blandford, with a puncture, to the tumultuous applause of three spectators, two sheep and a cow with BSE!

**HQ SQN CHALLENGE PURSUIT CAMP—MAY 1990**
**by Sgt Wynn**

Once upon a time, a long long time ago, someone decided that it might be nice if the hard working, long suffering, tired soldiers of HQ Sqn, could spend some time away from their Horrid Sergeant Major doing those fun things that soldiers everywhere love to do most. Like drinking beer, wooing country maidens, lazing in the sun and dining on Cordon Bleu food.

And so after weeks of elaborate scheming and planning the privileged happy few boarded their luxury 39 seat bus and travelled away to the Staffordshire hills to partake in all of these wonderful activities, and then things started to go wrong!

**WO2 (SSM) Steve Toms**, was coming along to make sure that the boys wouldn't miss him. The unsuspecting soldiers discovered that **Cpl Steve Renouf**, the hardened PTI, had other plans! Like PT at 0630 hrs, (the O standing as we all know for 'Oh my God that's early!').

Then they discovered that the Cookhouse at Leek Camp wasn't Cordon Bleu. More Cookhouse Blues!

Next that the pleasant country strolls in the company of **Sgt Mick Mulhearn** meant tabbing a mere 14 or 15 miles a day across country that would have daunted the most hardened fell walker!

Then they discovered that **Steve Renouf** recovered really quickly from Morning PT and loved to climb frighteningly high and dangerous looking mountains; then having climbed to the top, abseil down.

Then they found that the tranquil lake was the setting for supervised drowning in unstable canoes under the direction of **Sgt Roy Jarvis** who ensured that everyone capsized into the murky waters at least once!

Then to add insult to injury **Sgt Tim Wynn** turned up at the lake with some borrowed windsurfers to show everyone how to perfect the gentle art of falling off a log!

**LCpls Dave O'Shea** and **'Ev' Rock** learned that they could windsurf if they spent more time standing up! **Cpl Les Dawson** found the passenger seat of the truck was comfy and couldn't be talked out of it! **Cpl Dave Adamson** found a very friendly black dog . . . (nuff said), and **Sgt Graham Foster** (REME) found out that a quart will not fit into a pint pot when he had to use a shoe horn to get out of a canoe!

Week 2 was a repetition of the first except that the victims had new masters. **Sig Dusty Miller** liked it so much the first week that he came back for a second week!

The final day arrived and **SSgt Ian** (1033 to his friends) **Brereton** had to account to the Camp Commandant for all the stores on camp, including those loaned to units that had left long years ago.

Oh yes, I nearly forgot to ask. Can I go again next year?

**CADET TRAINING WEEKEND**

Ex Short Play 1 was a cadet training weekend held at Blandford Camp over 5/6 May for 56 cadets accompanied by 8 staff. They arrived on Saturday morning and were welcomed by **Cpl Andy Armitage** and **LCpl Dave Millar** and issued with bivvis. After briefing and being shown around the camp they went into action.

The activities included a visit to the ranges, with the cadets firing the SLR converted to .22 organised by **Sgt Charlie Johnson** and the Asst Adjt **Lt Liz Wise**. The assault course was in the hands of two members of the Gym staff, **Cpls Willy Williams** and **Steve Renouf**; other activities included First Aid, NBC, signal equipment demo and powers of observation.

The teams took part in all the activities and although tired at the end, took part in a night navigation exercise which all but two teams managed to complete, with relative ease.

Sunday was competition day and the teams did a round robin on the various stands, namely, NBC, First Aid, observation, stripping and assembling an SLR and assembling and communicating with a PRC 320. A Devon ACF team won the competition.

The adults also had a small relay race to provide a little light entertainment for the cadets whilst waiting for the prize giving which proved to be one of the most entertaining events of the weekend.

At about 1400 hrs on Sunday the cadets dispersed. **Cpl Andy Armitage** and **LCpl Dave Millar**, the Cadet Liaison Team, now turned their sights on September when they will welcome Cadets again.



PRC 320 training

**1 SQUADRON**
**EXERCISE NIMBLE FINGER**

Ex Nimble Finger was a Squadron exercise held during the first week of May. A Troop and B Troop deployed to Browndown and Harrogate respectively.

**A TROOP**
**BROWNDOWN CAMP**

Tp Comd, **Capt Steve Felton**, came under fire from day one. His route card was blamed for the fact that the A Troop convoys circumnavigated Blandford three times before leaving Dorset. Eventually **Cpls 'Willy Williams** and **George Fisk** (now in Catterick) sorted things out and the troop arrived at Browndown Camp on time. The set up was done in slow time to allow the new members of the troop **Sig McCall** and **McLaughlin** amongst them, to get a grip of what was going on. The Satcom link was in and working thanks to **Cpl Nick Kimber**. This was soon altered when **LCpl 'Slim' Epps** arrived on shift and promptly sat on the microwave drawer.

The week continued in this vein, although A Troop claim that the detachments worked most of the time. **WO2 (FofS) Inman** contributed to the Squadron's fitness drive by sending some round a concrete post 800m away. **LCpl** (now slimmer) **Epps** went off, but eventually a search party was sent to look for him. The exercise was a success and we survived on compo!

**B TROOP**

The deployment to Harrogate was an event in itself, the overnight drive north proving to be a test of stamina and survival.

Once set up (again in slow time) and communicating (I use that term loosely) with their sister detachment at Browndown, the troop was to become the 1 Sqn equivalent of an RIT team. The ATs at Harrogate were shown around the detachments after a quick brief on the Squadron's role by **YofS Marriott**. **Sig Talbot** and **Jennings** worked the Clarke 73 mast and light station respectively and **Sig Jennings** impressed them too.

The highlight of the week came when **SSgt** (nos WO2) **Duncan** set about disciplining an individual only to discover that he was not an AT or even in the army!

**2 SQUADRON**
**EXERCISE COBB RING**

Ex Cobb Ring took place from 27 April to 13 May. It was centred on Fort Bragg in North Carolina, USA. Commanded by **Maj Mark Perry**, 35 men mainly from 2 Sqn, took part.

Fort Bragg is the home of the US Airborne Corps. It has its own dedicated airport at Pope Air Base, its most impressive feature is its size. Fort Bragg is home to over 60,000 US troops making it one of the largest military bases in the world.

The programme comprised joint military and signal training with American troops, Bravo Coy of 50th Sig Bn.

Early morning PT turned out to be just that, with reveille before 0500 hrs. The Brits more than held their own on the squadded runs and quickly picked up the words to a few 'my mate marmite' type songs. One of the more fun PT activities turned out to be 'chaos ball'. This is played on a football pitch with a football, American football and frisbee all at the same time. The game is economical with rules and relies more on brute force and enthusiasm than skill. Congratulations to **WO2 Dougie Ellis** on a good game and we wish him luck with his search for a replacement front tooth.

Military Training included a day at the ranges using each other's weapons. In reply to the US M16, M60 and M203 we field the SLR, SMG, SA80, LMG and pistol. Surprisingly enough the weapon which attracted the most interest and praise was the 'really neat and smooth' SMG. Twenty of our number managed to shoot and pass the US equivalent of our APWT on the M16.



Cpl 'Tommo' Thompson has his first wash of the exercise in the Corps washdown point



A day was spent in an imaginative military skills competition. The stands included: Obstacle Course, Rappel (abseil), Grenade Throw, Rope Bridge, Stretcher Race, Pellet Gun Assault Course, Bicycle Assault Course and Vehicle Pull. The competing teams were mixed, with British and Americans in each. In the end a tie-break was decided by a short hill run which was won by **LCpl H. Lloyd** for his team. The Assault Boat Race was won by the well disciplined crew which included **Lt John Adams** and **YofS Mick Hawley**. This was perhaps the fastest craft ever to be powered across Mott Lake.

Later that day saw the 'capture of the flag' exercise. This required the wearing of Miles equipment (this consists of Lasers fixed to the M16, and detectors worn on the body which emit an audible alarm when hit). **Cpl Tocker** deserves a special mention here. After a 20 minute firefight during which he was called upon to test his powers of stealth, marksmanship and fieldcraft he eventually managed to 'kill' one of his own men.

Four of our number were parachute trained. After a short conversion course **SSM Chris Edler, FofS Lee Wookey, Cpls Les Waite** and **Chris Hurford** found themselves' airborne'. The flight crew consisted of the US reserve forces on Summer Camp. Their experience resulted in a turbulent and queasy flight compared with which jumping was easy.

At the end of the exercise there followed two days R&R. Those who went to soak up the sun at Myrtle Beach were not disappointed and according to **Cpl Bill Butler,** 'it's even better than Bay Watch'. A small party made their way inland to the Blue Ridge Mountains. Not even the driving rain was going to stop **Sgt Ian Johnson, SSgt Bob Petrie** and the rest of the team conquering and camping out on Grandfather Mountain which at 6,000ft is the highest peak in the range.

After two weeks the exercise was over and the squadron returned home, spending an enjoyable night in Gander on the way. **Sgt Chris Ward** stayed behind, recovering from chicken pox. Apparently US hospital food is even less appetising than the NHS! The Americans had been outstandingly good hosts and we look forward to a return visit sometime in the future.



Sig Simon Marritt, Kennedy and John Camp win their heat in the Assault Boat Race

**EXERCISE BROWN BEAR**
**by LCpl Shaun Vear**

The exercise was to teach cadets from Kemp Welch School, Poole, about fieldcraft and basic signalling skills, also give practical demonstrations of line laying and the workings of an FFR. The 'Feeble Five' who were tasked with this were **Lt** (now Capt) **Neil Stevens, LCpls Shaun Vear, Billy Atwell** and **Sigs Tom Wiffen** and **Andy Wilkingson**.

All ready to go but . . . where was **Lt Stevens**? AWOL? We left for Bovington Training Area by bus without the Boss!

Saturday started more promisingly until disaster overtook us, **Capt Stevens** had arrived. So that was why he missed the bus; his third had come up! (congratulations Sir). Saturday continued with patrolling, digging in, setting up OPs, line laying plus lectures about the 16 line ULS, 321, 353, ATR, Trend and once the cadets had finished, we felt we had learned quite a lot too.

**HALF MAN—HALF BEAST**

In April the Regiment received an SOS from Zenith Film Productions Ltd requesting help in the filming of a drama series that they were producing for Anglia Television. Who better to task for providing such assistance than **Capt Neil Stevens** along with **Cpls 'Tommo' Thompson, Richard Cressy** and, our HGV driver, **George**.

Our team left Blandford on 8 May for the long drive to Settle in North Yorkshire. There we found that we had to rough it somewhat in a four star hotel for the next couple of nights. One full day was spent shooting on location at Malham Tarn where we all soon became adept at all of the cries: 'Quite Please!', 'Camera rolling. Action!' and of the course the inevitable: 'Cut! Let's do that one again from the top!'



Our intrepid team having to 'rough it' in the Falcon Manor Hotel, Settle, North Yorkshire



Cpls 'Tommo' Thompson, Richard Cressy and Capt Neil Stevens pose for the camera

Our part in all of this was to provide a para-military specialised communication team, along with a dozen or so soldiers from the local TA unit. We were to be seen trying to locate the half man, half beast, purported to be on the loose. We were filmed running around carrying lots of radio equipment, courtesy of the QM, and putting up a 12m mast. All in all it was an eventful and eye opening trip. The on-site catering was very good; duck a l'orange for lunch I recall but everything did seem, to our well trained eyes, very disorganised and ad hoc. So keep glued to your television sets towards the end of this year and look out for a drama series called 'Chimera' and you might just see a face or two that you recognise.

And what of the future? **Cpl 'Tommo' Thompson** is currently auditioning for a part in Eastenders, **Cpl Richard Cressy** has been short listed for next 'Blue Peter' presenter and **Capt Neil Stevens** has been approached by the director of 'All Creatures Great and Small'!



Inter Squadron Football Match
The Winning Team from 2 Sqn
*Back Row, L to R:* Sig Mark Kerr, Sgt Deno Poole, SSgt Pedro Petrie, Sig Jock Wells, Cpls Sid Payne and Taff Cadwgan
*Front Row, L to R:* Sgt Keith Hibbens, Sig Paul Whitehead, Tony Journet, Cpls Sooty Sutcliffe, Billy Butler and Sig Robbo Roberts

# Comms & Sy Gp (UK)

The Comms and Sy Gp (UK) contribution this month comprises an account of the recent visit to Garats Hay by **Maj Gen P. R. Davies** Comd Comms BAOR, the 'Sports Page'—including reports on athletics, soccer, cross country, table tennis, orienteering and an account of the success enjoyed by the Group Squash team in the EDist Championships. Additionally, there is a healthy contribution from our QM, **Maj Ron Brodie**, covering the recent 'Drink Drive' poster competition which was judged by the well known cartoonist **Bill Tidy**. The QM's Department and 2 Coy (Operations Platoon) provide a personality profile and **Sgt 'Zed' Zanelli** reports on Ex Knife Edge 2. Finally, we give the Comms and Sy Gp (UK) response to 8 Sig Regt's challenge on 'LE Officer Service'. At present we have 8 Royal Signals LE Officers with a combined service of 234 years. Add that to our 10 Intelligence Corps contingent who have 247 years, we boast a combined effort of 481 years. All we can say to 8 Sig Regt is 'Get some in!'.

## VISIT OF MAJOR GENERAL P. R. DAVIES—COMD COMMS BAOR

The Group was visited by **Maj Gen P. R. Davies** on 5 April. He was met on arrival at the Unit by the CO **Lt Col J. R. Berry** Int Corps before joining other members of the welcoming party consisting of—**Maj W. J. L. Fiskel MBE** (2IC), **Capt F. Mackender** (Adjt) and **WO1 (RSM) I. Thorneycroft** at Group HQ where the occasion was officially recorded by **WCpl Scott** the Unit photographer.

After an introduction to the Unit role, the General was briefed by **Capt Bob White** during which time **Lt Col Ray Boulter** and **Capt Bryan Gallagher** took the opportunity to explain current technical and equipment programmes.

Later **Gen Davies** presented the following awards:

Recognition of their work following last year's East Midlands aircraft disaster:-

BEM — **Sgt R. B. Reid**
CinC UKLF Commendation — **Capt P. Hopkins Int Corps**
— **Cpl R. A. Bell**

and last but by no means least the award of LS & GC Medals to **SSgts 'Chris' Christian** and **'Eddie' Small**.

Following the parade, which was witnessed by all Group members, the General met the families of the recipients and other Mess members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Lunch was provided by the Officers of the Group after which **Gen Davies** toured 3 Coy (Trg) where he spoke to a large number of our tradesmen undergoing either basic or upgrading courses.

Following discussions with the CO, **Gen Davies** left saying that he had found the visit both interesting and enjoyable.



*Back Row:* SSgt Christian (LS & GC), Sgt Reid (BEM) and SSgt Small (LS & GC)
*Front Row:* Maj Gen P. R. Davies, Mrs Jill Reid and Lt Col J. R. Berry



Cpl 'Muscles' Bell receiving his CinC UKLF Commendation Certificate from Maj Gen Davies

## INTER-COMPANY ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

On 25 April the Group Inter-Company Athletics Competition was held at the Loughborough University Athletics Stadium. The competition was blessed with a glorious spring afternoon which undoubtedly pleased the spectators more than the competitors.

The Group was split into three teams, 2 Coy and SPA, R and M Wings and E and A Wings. 2 Coy, after its victory in the standards competition, started off as slight favourites to win. However, it was always going to be a tight battle between them and R and M Wings. The track versus the field. R and M ran out eventual winners with a very tight strangle hold on the track events from 400m upwards.

Individuals to note were **Gdsm Taylor** who nearly caught his more senior namesake **Cpl Taylor** napping in the 800m, when he was just pipped at the post in a very fast last 100m. **LCpl Bakes** who looked very impressive in his very easy 400m victory, it is a pity that, along with any others, he will be posted before the main competition season begins. **Sgt Zanelli** who achieved an easy double in the 1,500m and 5,000m. It was also nice to see **Capt Mackender** in the 5,000m, proving that not all officers retire behind their blazers and ties on days like this! (**Capt Hughes** was heard to say in their defence 'That is not a fair comment as most of the officers in this Unit are ancient'.)

Performances to note in the field were **LCpl Hopkins**, who won both the Triple Jump and Long Jump, as well as the 100m running as a guest, **LCpl Moses** who threw a very promising 39.42m in the Javelin and **Cpl Duddy** who won the discus with a throw of 30.0m

All in all, an enjoyable afternoon of athletics. Thanks to all the officials and PT Staff who made the event such a success, also to **Lt Col** and **Mrs Berry** for presenting the mass of trophies at the end of the day. These were donated by a very generous Wilsons Hogg Robinson Ltd who sponsored the competition.

## SOCCER NOTES 1989-1990
**by WO1 J. J. Smith**

Having won the RAF Services League last year, the Group soccer team started this year's campaign with some feelings of trepidation. This was mainly due to the huge turnover of personnel during the summer and the fielding of virtually a new team. I am pleased to report however, that with two games still to play, the Group team has once again 'done a Liverpool' and finished as league champions.

Back in July 1989, it was decided to enter both the Army Major and Minor Units Cup Competitions. The feeling being that we should get a good run in the Minor Units and at least one extra game of football in the Major Units. How wrong that feeling turned out to be!

In the first round of the Minor Units we were on the receiving end of a 4—0 thumping from 8 Fd Wksps (REME). A really disappointing result which did not bode well for our Major Units attempt.

In the Major Cup Competition however, the results went as follow:-

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| First round | v | 39 Engr Regt | Win 2—1 (AET) |
| Second round | v | 3 Bn Royal Anglian | Win 4—1 |
| Third round | v | 1 Green Howards | Win 2—0 |
| Fourth round | v | 38 Engr Regt | Win 4—3 |
| Quarter final | v | 1/2 Gurkha Rifles | Win 2—1 (in replay) |
| Semi-final | v | 94 Loc Regt RA | Lost 3—4 (AET) |



A fantastic run from the team, which had Units from all over the country phoning up asking questions such as 'Who are Comms and Sy Gp?' or 'Whats a Minor Unit doing in the quarter/semi-finals of the Major Units Cup?'. Well, that run has certainly put Comms and Sy Gp (UK) on the soccer map. Whether we will ever get such a chance to reach the Army Cup Final again—only time will tell.

Finally, I would like to mention **SSgt Jock Robertson** who has put so much time and effort into the Group soccer team over the last four years. He is now posted to a sunnier climate and the soccer team would like to say a big thank you and good luck to him and his family in the future.

## ARMY WOMEN'S TABLE TENNIS

The Unit entered a team of four for this year's competition which was held in February/March this year, **WO1 Sykes, Cpls Scott, Ellis** and **LCpl Beattie**. The Inter-Unit Competition was very strong with five Districts and BAOR being represented. However, Comms & Sy Gp (UK) proved to be a very strong team with **Cpl Scott** remaining unbeaten throughout the event and the doubles pairing of **WO1 Sykes** and **Cpl Ellis** only losing one match throughout the competition. **LCpl Beattie** also turned in an outstanding singles performance only losing to the Army's number two and three ranked players. Comms & Sy won the Inter-Units with a clear victory.

In the individual events **LCpl Beattie** won the ladies singles plate with an excellent game, followed by another when she and **Cpl Scott** won the doubles trophy.

The ladies singles final was a nail biting match between **LCpl Greig** of the WRAC Centre and **Cpl Scott**, who emerged as the winner to retain both her Army singles and doubles title.

## CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

This year the Comms & Sy Gp (UK) Cross Country team took part in the Lincolnshire Tri-Services League. The competition proved to be very fierce and we finished fourth overall.

In the Eastern District Championships held in Colchester the team came runners-up which was a good result as we had lost many of our key runners, and so onto the Eastern Area Championships where we came up against some strong opposition, especially PCD RE who were still smarting from their defeat in the athletics at our hands last year. Unfortunately, they achieved just that!

A few members of the team did however qualify for the Army finals and achieved the following positions, **Sgt Zanelli** came 89th and in the WRAC race **WLCpl Burrows** came 54th and **WLCpl Beattie** came 49th.

## HOCKEY NOTES

The 1988/89 season of the WMSHL culminated in the Group Hockey Team being promoted to League Division 1. Due to the training commitment of the Unit many changes had to be made to the structure of the team throughout the 1989/90 season, this meant that it was difficult to produce the standard of play on a regular basis to match the performance of other teams in what proved to be a very competitive league. As a result we concluded the season in the wooden spoon position, for which we are relegated but only after some closely fought matches.

The cup was a different story with the team managing to put together a good cup run eventually progressing through to the semi-finals, only to be knocked out after extra time on penalty flicks by COD Donnington.

**LCpl Julie Parson** is the only regular female player in an otherwise male dominated team, also **Sgt Phil Barclay, Capt Rab Butler** and **SSgt Chris Christian** who formed the backbone of the team throughout the season. **Cliff Hooper** who was one of the only two team managers in the league to complete a full fixture list, is posted in the near future and hands over the reins to **SSgt Lawrie Abercrombie**.

## ORIENTEERING 89/90

The Group has had a year of mixed fortunes in the orienteering field (or is it forest?). The Corps Championships in November 1989 produced excellent wins from both the Men's and Women's teams against some stiff competition. **WO1 Jan Sykes, SSgt Myra Moran** and **LCpl Sue Wilson** retained the WRAC trophy and **WO1 Geordie Doughty, SSgts Jim Graham, Dave Vince** and **Sgt Ivor Moore** managed to regain their trophy from AAC Harrogate.

The Eastern District League, a combination of RAF and Army Units has been well attended throughout the 13 events that have been staged since late October. This is an open league and competing against major units is reflected in the final team placing. However, fourth out of 26 is respectable and can be built on next season. (Budding orienteering stars take note and get the posting preference in).

As this is written, we are fast approaching the UKLF/Army Championships, for which we qualified in March. The following is the event report from **Cpl Chris Mahoney**.

The venue for the 1990 Eastern/London District Championships was Sheringham in North Norfolk and was held in conjunction with day two of a civilian orienteering weekend. For anyone who thinks that East Anglia is flat, stay away from Sheringham Park and Kelling Heath.

The two teams from the Group set off at the crack of dawn to participate. The women's team of **WO1 Jan Sykes, SSgt Myra Moran, Cpl Chris Mahoney, LCpls Emman Wyllie** and **Sue Wilson** were under pressure to retain the WRAC trophy which has been theirs for the past two years.

The men's team, **WO2 Gordon Edgar, SSgts Jim Graham, Dave Vince, Sgts Dave Carvell, Ivor Moore, Phil Sandford** and **LCpl Mich Day** had their sights on the Minor Units trophy but due to strong opposition had to be content with runners-up medals.

On the other hand, the girls retained their trophy and also saw **Cpl Chris Mahoney** scoop the Womens W21 Individual prize.



The successful men's and ladies teams display their prizes after the Royal Signals Championships
*Back Row, L to R:* SSgt Jim Graham, Sgt Ivor Moore, SSgt Dave Vince and WO1 'Geordie' Doughty
*Front Row, L to R:* SSgt Myra Moran, WO1 Jan Sykes and LCpl Sue Wilson

## SQUASH TEAM

The highlight of the squash team's year was undoubtedly the recapture of the Eastern District Minor Units trophy, last won in 1987. All the coaching sessions and practice games proved worthwhile as everything came together on the day.

**LCpl Ashley Chadwick** gave us an anxious start by indulging in yet another value-for-money performance and scraping through at number 5 with a narrow 3—2 win. No such problems for **Cpl Colin Douglas** (No 4) and **Sig Ian Piears** (No 3) though. They both played




*L to R:* LCpl Chadwick, Cpl Blackadder, Capt Weaver, LCpl Piears and Cpl Douglas

some of their best squash of the season to win three games to nil and clinch the title bloodlessly.

And there's more! Team No 1 **Capt Arthur Weaver**, along with **Cpl Douglas** and **Sig Piears**, claimed three of the four semi-final places in the individual event. A Comms & Sy Gp clean sweep was guaranteed when **Capt Weaver** and **Sig Piears** made it to the final but the game itself didn't do justice to **Sig Piears'** ability. Tired after a long, hard semi-final which he finally won 3—2, he was no match for a fresh **Capt Weaver**, who had dropped only 6 points on his way to the final. **Capt Weaver** became EDist individual champion with a comfortable 3—0 victory.

The team also entered the civilian Leicestershire League and although finishing only midway in the table the experience and confidence gained from these matches was invaluable and played a large part in our success in the EDist Championships.

Consistency was provided by **Capt Weaver**, undefeated throughout the whole season and **Cpl John Blackadder**, who lost only one league match—the last one of the season, through injury. Entertainment was provided by **LCpl Chadwick** who specialised in occupying the court for as long a time as possible and special thanks from the team go to **Sgt Phil Barclay**, who took the brunt of our 'wit' as he lost match after match but still turned out to play.

**QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT**

The Group has a small but very busy Quartermaster's Department, the Quartermaster, **Maj Ron Brodie**, spends most of his time trying to get around the 'quart in a pint pot' syndrome. Garats Hay Barracks, built for a Squadron in National Service days, has not grown at the same rate as the strength of the Group has increased. Consequently, there is an ongoing battle to get our fair share of funds to rectify the situation.

The RQMS, **WO2 Adam Fleck**, is dedicated to ensuring the camp is kept up to a high standard of maintenance—he would like to spend more time on the golf course but he does get his priorities right!

We are about to say farewell to the SQMS (Accn), **SSgt Dave Vince** who leaves the Service after 22 years in August. The Department will be sorry to see him go and, he too, is reluctant to leave, though he has 'landed' an extremely good job in civvy street and we wish him all the very best for the future. He is to be replaced by **SSgt Taff Williams**, currently CQMS 2 Coy who will lose that unique title (for a Corps SSgt) on assuming appointment. Another golfer, We must try to get the QM to play!

The only other military member of the staff is 'the professional', **Sgt Andy Carber**. He is the only Stores Accountant in the Unit, and when he is not shooting for the Group or the Corps, he runs the technical side of the Department and is the 'Guru' for matters unusual!

The military is ably supported by its small civilian staff. **Mrs Wendy Clark** is the AO (with typing skills—thank goodness!) who keeps the office ticking over and raps a few fingers now and then—she also appears to be immune to the RQs colourful language! **Mr Derek Hodge** the Clothing Storeman is a ex member of the Corps and is weli known to us. He is in great demand for his artistry and has recently illustrated road safety posters, cartoons and the Group Energy Conservation submission. Our treasure in the bedding store is **Mrs Yvonne Starbuck**, who is a wizard with the sewing machine, getting many a student out of a tight corner! She has in the process, collected a considerable amount of cash for BLESMA. Our two labourers **Mr David Worth** and **Mr John Sinfield** have been with the Group for many years and have seen students come, go and return! They can turn their hands to any task and are always in demand. Finally, this roundup would not be complete without a mention for our part-time cleaner, **Mrs Val Camm** who, complete with electric bumper, keeps the place immaculate!

**2 COMPANY/OPS PL**

A quiet period for the Platoon, the only point of note being that **Sgt Steve Spencer** won the Leicestershire Police Road Safety Poster Competition, fighting off still competition to win a cheque for £50.

**FAREWELLS**

Fond farewells go to **Sgts Taff Gillespie** and **Tigger Howarth** both of whom were promoted to SSgt on successful completion of their course. They are both now posted. **SSgt Bennie Bennett** on promotion to WO2, he and his wife **Rose** are pleased to take up a new appointment in a sunnier climate. **Cpl Hart** and family are also on their way to the island in the sun, no doubt their paths will cross on some crowded beach. **Cpl Millar** appears to have received the rough end of the posting plot, but then again someone has to remain in the UK; hope the poll tax is lower in Tidworth than Loughborough.

**ARRIVALS**

A warm welcome to **SSgt Colin Horner** and his wife **Rosemarie**, hopefully they can relax after a busy tour on his last Unit. **Cpl Shaw** arrived recently from Germany after seeing sense and changing his trade from Tele Op (L) to Tele Op (Spec).

**EXERCISE KNIFE EDGE 2**

During the week 14-18 May 23 members of the Unit took part in Ex Knife Edge 2 an adventure training exercise held in the Lake District. During the week the participants had the opportunity to partake in abseiling, rock climbing, wind surfing, canoeing, hill walking, orienteering and just for good measure a spot of early morning running.

The Base Camp was an adventure training hut located in the small coastal village of Bootle, and situated in a small Artillery camp. The advance party travelled on Sunday 13 May and were joined by the first group of 'enthusiasts' on Monday lunchtime who after an acclimatisation period of 30 minutes were 'invited' to head for the hills immediately by the Yeoman and **Sgt Zed Zanelli**, who had planned a little walk on their behalf. **RS Tony Goodwin** (our resident RN 'attache') was slightly amused by the term walk when he found himself climbing on hand and knees up a near vertical slope. The Group did eventually find some down-hill paths which provided a much welcomed recovery period and finished off the afternoon with a spot of climbing—it was at this point that **LCpl Tom Jarvis**, whilst doing a good impression of spiderman, discovered that what he thought was a good firm hand hold, wasn't in fact quite as secure as he had thought, and ended up holding it in his hand.

Tuesday morning dawned, as did the remainder, with a pre-breakfast run—much to the horror of **LCpls Jackson** and **Lilburn** who, having arrived late on the Monday evening had missed the 'advanced warning'. **Lt Col Berry** and the RSM visited the Camp and leading by example tried out some of the activities for themselves. They also saw both the rock climbing group and the water-sports group on Lake Coniston, but missed the 'mountaineers' who were having a lovely time in the hills—did I hear rumours of a forced march?

On Wednesday a group attempted to climb 'Scafell', which is the highest point in the area and aptly named as someone was heard to suggest, since you need 'Scafeldin' to climb it. The first few kilometres were flat—just to get everyone warmed up for the ascent to come, did I say warmed up? Obviously too hot for **Sgt 'Zed' Zanelli** who decided to take an early bath and dived head-first into a rather fast flowing stream. Much to the amusement of the rest of the party who, rather than offer assistance to the poor unfortunate, rushed to get their cameras in an effort to secure a permanent record of the event. Their attempt, though gallant, was unfortunately futile as he managed to scramble out just in time.

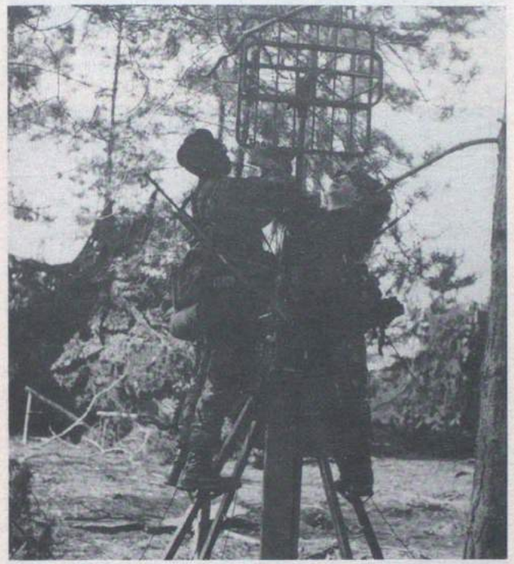
By Thursday everyone was feeling more confident with the environment and this encouraged **SSgt (YofS) Evans** to provide some 'quality' work for the teams—taking one group for a brief trot in the hills which involved a very swift ascent followed by an interesting climb through a 'scramble' known as Lords Rake. It was here that we learned that there were in fact five points of contact not three. All in all a very busy, challenging and thoroughly enjoyable week.



# 31 Sig Regt (V)
# Hammersmith

The Regiment had a successful Camp preparation weekend on 2/3 June when all the vehicles were given their final rub down ready for Ex Calm Fence which is being held on the 'Island of Leonidas' in June. Our 2IC, being a latin scholar, was under the impression that the name came from Greek mythology but there was no doubt in the rest of the Regiment's minds that the name equated with a well known chocolate shop.

The subalterns have their work cut out in breaking in our new Adjt—**Capt Graham McNeill** who has already caused a ripple of concern by mentioning the word 'extras' on more than one occasion!



Sig George Alleyne and Martin Hane
'Where the hell does this bit go?—dunno plug it in anyway and see what happens!'

**EXERCISE SOUTHERN CRAFTSMAN 90**

For the second year running our LAD has won the Southern Craftsman cup for military skills and the best repair task. The latter involved moving tactically into location, clearing the area of mines and booby traps and then repairing a Saxon, which is not a vehicle often used by 31! The 10 man team led by their intrepid OC, included **Cfn Dave Morris** and **Sgt Dave Gunter** who were the stars of the military skills events, **Cfn 'Taff' MacDonald** who kept up a stream of non stop jokes to the amusement of the team and the DS, and **Sgt 'Windy' Windham** who knew his main duty was to be the tea boy.



LAD are the proud owners of the Ex Southern Craftsman Cup for the second year running

**RECRUITING**

We welcome into the Regiment our fully fledged recruits who successfully completed their nine week gruelling training programme which included two military skills weekends which involved fighting off the 'enemy' in the guise of **WO2 Maurice Byrne, Cpl Dinger Bell** and **Pte 'Clever Trevor' Austin** who was on hand to show 31 the Regular Army's DS solution!

The following have now passed out into the Squadrons: HQ/83 Sqn: **Sig Sudhir Ahluwalia, Ptes Kate Tweedy, Catherine Hadland, Jan Dauls, Karen Marwood, Yvonne Cowan, Tracey Webb, Frances Liggins, Carol Ann Rose, Clare Horsley** and **Lesley Kerr**.

41 Sqn: **Sig Matthew Haynes, Adrian Roos, Steven Ong, Martin Whitehouse** and **Pte Mandy Terrill**.

47 Sqn: **Sig Mark Page, Warren Collins, Dave Valentine, Peter Wager, Elgan Cormican, Ptes Tonia Young** and **Kathryn Toop**.

**CADRE COURSE**

The cadre course was held in March at Crowbrough and in spite of the dulcet tones of **SSgt Eddie Gallagher** the following sailed through the week to gain the following promotions: **Ian Jeeves** and **Shirley Bassey** to Cpl, and **Mick Sinclar, Steve Shanahan, Chris Duddy, Phillip Kewish, Jonathan Blott, Steve Murdy** and not forgetting **Pte Karran Scarborough** to LCpl. Well done!

**OFFICERS MESS GUEST NIGHT**

On our annual Officers Mess Guest Dinner Night we welcomed **Mr Robertson**, The Master of the Worshipful Company of Innholders and **Maj Gen G. R. Oehlers CB** our Honorary Colonel. We dined in the recently refurbished Kensington Room at RHQ which is so spacious that in between coffee and mints we were able to watch highlights of a most thrilling football match starring none other than **Capt Frank Dempster**, the Adjutant! Before our very eyes he saved goal after goal to tremendous cheers from the Mess. Sadly, the star of the football team is leaving us in May for a tour in Germany—we wish him and **Shirley** all the best.

**HQ SQUADRON**

Recent changes to the Squadron include the departure of **Maj Tony Perkin**—being a devil for punishment he has transferred to 39 Sig Regt (V)—and **SSgt 'Taff' Thomas**. We welcome **Maj Bob Pearce** and **SSgt Gordon Hitchen**; LAD has taken delivery of a new PSI—**SSgt Eddy Rees**.

The backbone of HQ Sqn—Support 'We'll go anywhere and do anything' Troop—joined the alternative backbone—L 'We'll rescue anyone from anything' AD—in the April Squadron training weekend organised by **Capt** 'Go for it' **Fred Southey**. Saturday morning was spent touring the Aircraft Establishment at Boscombe Down, which inspired some of the party members with the desire to 'take to the sky'. The nearest they got (on Saturday at least) was a trip up the spire of Salisbury Cathedral. In the afternoon, when the rest of the country was watching the Grand National, HQ and LAD were undertaking trials of one-horsepower individual Personnel carriers in the New Forest. **Ptes Edite Gomes** and **Angela Wake** found that a soldier's ups and downs don't always coincide with equestrian undulations. **SSM Pete Lovett**, having no affinity with horses, used Shank's pony to get a closer view of the countryside. It was a toss up as to whom was the most grateful for the liquid refreshment in the evening, rumour has it that it was **LCpl Pete Denchfield** but only because of **AQMS Mick Cordingley's** spicy cooking!

Sunday was the high day—hosted by 666 Sqn AAC, Netheravon, all had a trip in the Scout helicopters ('Remember, always approach from the front with your thumb up'). **Pte Alison Stuart** took great delight in taking the rise out of **Cpls John Charles** and **Paul** 'Londist Soldier of the Year' **Burton**—even if it was only guiding the chopper down. All concerned were very grateful to 666 for the excellent day and there was a strong lobby for recruiting them for the duration of Ex Calm Fence . . .

**41 SQUADRON**

The local paper's headlines: 'Builders set to do battle with Coulsdon's TAC' only tells half the story. The drill hall is currently knee deep in dust and scaffolding and as the builders moved in the Squadron moved out. 41 is currently living in portacabins in the car park—badminton nights are not the same as they used to be and **Lt Carolyn Oxlee** has had great difficulty in finding enough space for all her emergency supplies of 'chocky bikkies'. She obviously shared her high energy tuck with **WO2 Jan White** and **LCpl Lynne Doughty** as the trio completed the orienteering course in record time to win not

only the TA UK (WRAC) Orienteering Championships but the Team Relay event as well. A special mention must go to **WO2 'Whiz' White** who was second overall in her class.

**ANNUAL DINNER**

The Annual Princess Louise of Kensington Regimental Association Dinner was held in the Kensington Room at RHQ. There are not normally any ladies at the dinner and the presence of a WRAC Sgt Maj **(WO2 Jan White)** was the topic of conversation. **Col Reg Wood** proposed the loyal toast and reminded those present that 41 PLK 1st Bn took its first casualty—**PSM Frost** of B Coy exactly 50 years ago to the day. A minute's silence was observed for those fallen in action and those who had passed away since. The evening ended on a fine note with a robust rendering of the Battalion song 'Uniform Grey'.

**PROMOTIONS**

Congratulations to brothers **Pete** and **Brian Trayner** who have been promoted to LCpl and Cpl. **Ian Mackay**'s guilty conscience almost got the better of him before he marched into the OC's office only to exit with his second stripe and a huge grin!

**47 SQUADRON**

When the rest of the Regiment went on exercise at the end of April, 47 celebrated the wedding of the year of **LCpls Dave Cumino** and **Judith Williams**.



**83 SQUADRON (V)**

The continuing warm-up to summer camp proceeded with the Squadron Commanders W/E taking the form of a day trip to France. This was in order to familiarise the Squadron personnel with the layout of a typical cross channel ferry and where the important parts of the ship were situated. Throughout the journey across the water various orienteering style exercises were held using fixed parts of the ship as reference points. The main bar was used as one for the simple reason that it was in the centre of the ship and the Officers were able to wait at this point to ensure fair play.

Unfortunately, the trip was delayed due to lack of available berths in Calais and many of the Squadron became rather tired or at least were displaying symptoms of acute tiredness by the time we arrived on foreign soil.

Descending in true Squadron style, ie spread out all over the place, we ventured into a variety of restaurants to check the local fare for future reference. **Cpl Dawson** never wants to see Frog's legs again even those of her Troop OC **Lt Guy Lester**. Sqn Comd, **Maj Mark Zaremba-Tymieniecki** reduced six snivelling snails to empty shells without using any petrol which is his usual answer for unfriendly wildlife when abroad.

Soon the Squadron met at it's rendezvous and alighted at the nearest hypermarket. **Lt Steve Mills** will never be offered a wine sample again as the waiter involved was forced to open a new case before OC A Troop had come to a decision and then bought half a bottle. The trip back was relatively uneventful as the Squadron recovered from it's orienteering activities earlier in the day.

The following morning saw all and sundry chasing across the South Downs so as to blow a few cobwebs away.

The last exercise before camp took place in the Surrey commuter belt and all was well by way of final preparation. Despite the proliferation of wood ants on the site and the sudden and unexpected arrival of RCP step-up, 83 coped well and looks forward to a successful trip to our chums across the sea.



Lt Col French, the CO, addressing some of our employers at our annual Employers reception held at the Armourers Hall on Wednesday 27 February



The Princess Louise's Kensington Regimental Colours on display at the employers reception at Armourer's Hall




LCpl Ian Jeeves, Cpl 'Ali' Matabin and Pte Gould who surpassed themselves producing the most delicious canapes for our annual Employers reception held at the Armourers Hall on Wednesday 27 February



# 32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V) Glasgow

Once again we go to print having been through a very hectic period. The most recent highlight being our Annual Camp at Fremington—Devon.

**OFFICERS' MESS**

We warmly welcome a number of newly Commissioned Officers into the Regiment. **2Lts Liz Scott-Park** and **David Dodds**—61 Sig Sqn. **2Lt Patricia Baird**—52 Sig Sqn and **2Lt Andrew Thompson**—51 Sig Sqn. In addition **2Lt Annette McCandless** has just returned from Op Raleigh in Chile and is most welcome in 69 (NIH) Sig Sqn.

**AFFILIATION**

The Regiment is now officially affiliated to HMS *Renown*, one of the Polaris Submarines based at Faslane on the Gareloch. **Lt Col Mike Anderson** dreamt up this idea with **Capt Toby Elliott RN** who commands the Submarine Sqn. We now regularly see Naval Submariners at all our weekend training camps and 16 came to our Annual Camp at Fremington together with one of the boat's Officers **Lt James MacInnes RN.**

**CHARITY**

The Regiment now helps sponsor the East Park Home for Handicapped Children here in Glasgow. The CO visited the home last year and was so struck with the care and attention shown by the staff to these unfortunate children, many of whom remain unvisited by parents. As a result of a Church Collection and Regimental Fund raising we will be presenting the home with a cheque for £634.00. The CO also intends to give the children a day out at Queen Victoria School, Dunblane where our **Padre John Silcox** will co-ordinate the events.

**ANNUAL CAMP FREMINGTON**

During May the Regiment arrived at Fremington by the sea for its Annual Camp. Some 256 took part in glorious summer weather. Scottish white skins became Scottish burnt skins as many took on the colour of cooked lobsters. The CO wanted the Camp to be challenging and fun. It certainly turned out to be so.

Week 1 saw all adventurous training including canoeing, abseiling, pot holing, land yachting, hill walking, sailing and even golfing! Congratulations to our Ops Offr **Capt Brian Gilfether** and **WO2 (SSM) Robert Campbell** for organising these.

Week 2 saw a deployment exercise involving everyone living out in bivvies and cooking their own rations. Each Squadron formed its own fighting Platoon and went round courses involving VCPs, attack/defence, patrolling, ambush drill and interrogation. Without doubt all thoroughly enjoyed it. On return to Camp we took part in an Assault Course Competition won by **2Lt Pauline D'Arcy**'s Platoon from 52 Sig Sqn and a Raft Race won by 69 (NIH) Sig Sqn on a super fast raft! We finished the Camp with a Regimental Smoker and a spit-cooked piglet as the centre piece of the event.

Much credit must go to **Capt Ruth Watson**, Assistant Ops Offr for running the exercise in the field and to the PSAO 52 Sig Sqn **Capt 'Nick' Nicholas** for finding the piglet. During the course of the Smoker some £169 was raised towards the Corps Museum Fund—well done **WO2 (RQMS) John Cullen**.

**61 (CITY OF EDINBURGH) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)**

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Alisdair MacGillivray** |
| **PSAO** | **Maj David Henry MBE** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Janet McClean** |
| **Tfc Offr** | **Capt Brian Murray** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 'Cammy' Payn** |
| **PSI** | **SSgt Bernie Meehan** |
| **SQMS (NRPS)** | **SSgt Frank Patterson** |

**COMINGS AND GOINGS**

A warm Edinburgh welcome to the following who have joined us in recent months: **2Lt Liz Scott-Park** fresh from Edinburgh and Heriot Watt University OTC. **SSgt Dave Toleman** (ex 227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)) on his last six months in the Regular Army—who knows just perhaps? **Sgt Pete Hunter** who after nearly three years out of Regular service with 8 Inf Bde HQ Sig Sqn in Londonderry has succumbed to the need for another 'fix' of Army life. **Cpl Graham Parker** (ex 3 Armd Div) and **LCpl Frazer Allan** (ex Royal Scots) have also returned to the fold.

**PROMOTIONS**

Congratulations extended to **Sgts Ian McKay, Dinesh Gandhi** and **Helen Jephcote** who have recently been promoted to SSgt.

**COURSES**

**Sig Andrew Ramsay, David Rodgers, Tom Myles** and **James Costello** all survived the rigours of their Recruit Course at Catterick in April. All hardened soldiers they are now anxious to tackle the joys of trade training.

**LCpls Terry Campbell, Lynne Gardiner, Jeanette Mitchell, Jacqueline Smith** and **Karen Gow** both terrorised and charmed their instructors during their Detachment Commanders Course with 71 Sig Regt (V) at Longmoor Camp—Well Done girls.

**COMPETITIONS**

Our girls carried away a number of prizes at the last Regimental SAM at Barry Buddon camp in February winning best WRAC team prize with **Paula 'Annie Oakley' MacLean** winning best young shot and **Sgt Elizabeth Williamson** also packing a very mean pistol to carry off best pistol shot.

**ANNUAL CAMP 1990**

The Squadron has only just returned from Regimental Annual Camp at Fremington, North Devon. For many of us it was our first experience of a whole range of adventure training escapades with canoeing, abseiling, hill walking, surfing and pot holing:

**HILL WALKING**

An energetic stroll from Combe Martin to Heddon Valley—at least some of us, all under the caring eye of **Capt Jim Sims** 69 (North Irish Horse) Sig Sqn (V). **Cpl Ian Calder**'s party enjoyed a fairly leisurely stroll of some four and a half hours with an appreciative look at both the coastline and wildlife. Their dilatory manner meant less time for cream teas and scrumpy at the Hunters Inn (the final RV). An earlier group with **RSM** 'Road Runner' **Trevor Mortlock** completed the course in just over two hours thus maximising the cream team and scrumpy element of the exercise.



Hill Walking Team—Cpl Calder's successful team *(L to R)* SQMS SSgt Frank Patterson, PSI SSgt Bernie Meehan, Capt Brian Murray, Cpl Ian Calder, Lt John McCall, Sgt Bill Williamson and 2Lt Liz Scott-Park

**CANOEING**

Under the watchful eyes of **2Lt Pauline D'Arcy** and **OCdt Tom Keely** E&HWUOTC, we were shown the trials and tribulations of surf canoeing at Saunton Sands, Devon.

**Capt Brian Murray** won the all Army Upside Down Canoe Championships (Sole entrant and has gained temporary membership to the Saunton Sands Submarine Club. He's now contemplating a degree in Marine Biology).

**Sgt Pete Hunter** demonstrated his past canoeing skills by remaining right way up most of the time.

**ABSEILING**

Showing us the ropes were **Capts Dave Roy** and old man **George Wylie** from 69 (North Irish Horse) Sig Sqn (V). Human Fly **SSgt 'Jeff' Jephcote** had a very close clinging affair with the cliff face when his metaphoric 'bottle' broke. He soon recovered with the help of **SSM 'Cammy' Payn** and **Sgt Norrie Anderson** all three breaking a different kind of bottle later in the mess.

**LAND YACHTING**

Unfortunately lack of wind prevented any great level of activity. All were exhausted watching the efforts of **Sig Young** and **Cairns** pushing off almost into the horizon to no avail. However sand, sea and sun did take its toll and theirs were not the only red faces by the end of the afternoon.

**RAFT RACE**

No Annual Camp by the sea would be complete without the obligatory raft race. Whilst the Squadron was on exercise **SQMS SSgt Frank Patterson** begged, borrowed and temporarily 'stole' all necessary materials for construction of the best built raft, securing the £50 prize on offer, it sure looked good and it floated—more than can be said of some others. Our thanks to him for his sterling efforts. Regrettably although eminently sea-worthy it proved sluggish—but reliable in performance coming third in the race proper. 69 (North Irish Horse) Sig Sqn taking the honours with their sleek Mississippi style show boat raft.



Raft Race—61 Sqn best built raft, built and commanded by SSgt Frank Patterson

**POT HOLING**

**Paul Patterson** and **Cpl Mary McLaughlan** spent an adventurous two hours underground trying their hand at Pot Holing in North Devon—all emerged safely but they're keeping mum about what went on in the dark. **Sig Wilson** remarks how 'amazing it was that such large bodies could be squeezed through such small holes'.

**EXERCISE GRAND SLAM**

The second week of camp was taken up by Ex Grand Slam—a tortuous infantry type exercise devised over some months by **Capt Ruth Watson** Asst Ops Officer. Under the command of **Lt John McCall** and **SSM 'Cammy' Payn** the Squadron was deployed to Braunton Burrows. Despite atrocious weather (monsoon season) considerable justification despite atrocious weather (monsoon season) the Squadron completed the three day exercise without casevac. **LCpl Fraser Allen** (ex Royal Scots) amply demonstrated the not inconsiderable skills of the trained infantryman and these were quickly learned to varying degrees by us all. A physically demanding exercise with VCP, OP's and just plain 'yomping'.

**Cpl Cathy Pringle WRAC** showed her mettle as a section commander, terrifying the wits out of the 'enemy' with her Rambo impression. With only two weeks service **Sgt Pete Hunter** proudly 'died' for his Squadron—at least three times. **SSgt Ian McKay** was caught by a trip flare whilst out on a midnight sortie alone—it's amazing how much the uncamouflaged skin reflects the light. All in all a very enjoyable camp although we were, nevertheless, glad to be heading home to Bonnie Scotland and the cooling breezes of 'Auld Reekie'.



Pot Holing Team *(L to R)* Sig Paul Patterson, LCpl Karen Grant, Sig Morgan Wilson, Instructor Cpl 'Geordie' Short and Cpl Mary McLaughlin



Back-room girls! Pte Jane Cameron and LCpl 'Jackie' Smith hard at work on target pulling



Regtl SAAM—Sgt 'Biff' Williamson—Best WRAC Pistol Shot Presentation by Trg Maj Brian Campbell



# 33 Sig Regt (V)
## Liverpool

**PERMANENT STAFF MOVEMENTS**

The Regiment recently bade farewell to our Adjutant, **Capt David Poole MBE**, who left us to retire from the Army on 11 May. **David** has served with this Regiment since July 1987 and will be sorely missed by all ranks for his pleasant good humour and the patience he displayed in meeting the demands of a TA environment. We wish him and his wife **Ann** all the very best for the future and hope they enjoyed their stay with us. Our new Adjutant, **Capt Robin Seawood** and his wife **Donna** have now joined us from 21 Sig Regt complete with 'Shona' the Irish wolfhound. We hope they enjoy the experience of serving with us in the TA.

We have also lost a valuable member of the permanent staff at 80 Sig Sqn (Chester). **Cpl Barry McLaughlin** who joined us in September 1988 as an additional staff member, left on 3 June on promotion to Sergeant to join 3 RHA in Colchester. **Barry** and his wife **Sue** gave great support to the other ranks of the Squadron and they will be missed for their companionship and 'Scouse' humour.

We wish them all happiness for their future and hope they enjoy life at Colchester.

**EXERCISE EXECUTIVE STRETCH**

Keeping the Army in the public eye has long been an important task for the Regulars. For the Territorial Army it is not enough merely to attract recruits, but it is vital to win the support of employers to release employees for occasional Army courses and Camps.

The National Employers Liaison Committee (NELC) was formed to help increase the knowledge of Reserve Forces amongst employers. Particular emphasis has been placed on the benefits to companies from the training and experience gained by their Reservist employees.

In support of the Merseyside County Employers Liaison Team, the Regiment ran Ex Executive Stretch over the weekend 18-20 May 90. Forty-nine middle managers from 17 local companies accepted our invitation to sample Army life in the field and on Friday evening were kitted and briefed in Liverpool for two nights in 'bashas' and a range of challenging activities.

On arrival at Halton Training Camp near Lancaster, forces of the 'Morcumbrian Army' placed the executives under arrest and confined them to a prison tent. 'Generalissimo' **Alan Gibb**, OC HQ Sqn, explained that a coup had occurred whilst the executives had been en-route to his country as advisers. Their incarceration did not last long however and they were sprung from captivity by a rough lot of partisans under the leadership of **SSgt Tony McFarlane**.

Conducting 'Partisan' Officers from 5/8 Kings, 4 Para, 75 Engr Regt, 208 Gen Hosp and two rather bemused RNR Sub Lieutenants who had been nominated only the previous evening, joined **Lt Angela Tiffin** and **2Lt Jodie White** of 59 Sqn Liverpool and the escapees were dropped off in the Forest of Bowland. After a walk and a few hours in 'bashas' the groups embarked on a circuit of challenges which they had to overcome in order to secure their freedom.

**Maj Allan Gibb, SSgt Tony McFarlane, Sgt Tony Crampton** (PSI HQ Sqn) and **LCpl Mick Caldwell** of HQ Sqn had constructed an earth-quake shattered bridge with only live electrified rails remaining.

**Maj Stan Quayle** and a supporting team from 59 Sig Sqn had devised a puzzler which required teams to syphon water from a source in a minefield, carry it by insecure means across a gorge and use it to float a canister containing information to within reach. It was soon proven that syphoning and giggling are wholly incompatible.

**Capt Gary Hearn, Sgt Phil Alford** and **Cpl John Lillico** (ACC) produced an 18 stone dummy, rope and plank and set a mountain rescue poser. There were no volunteers to replace the dummy which was hung several times and generally roughly handled.

The REME team of **Capt Jimmy Jackson, Sgt Dave Byrne** and **LCpl Boydie Boyd** presented the groups with a fault ridden, three-wheeled Landrover and 20 minutes to beat the clock.

208 Gen Hosp simulated a road traffic accident with grim reality, the District Specialist Training Team set up a double abseil into a gorge, 4 Para led the groups through a section attack and 156 Tpt Regt erected an aerial ropeway command task.

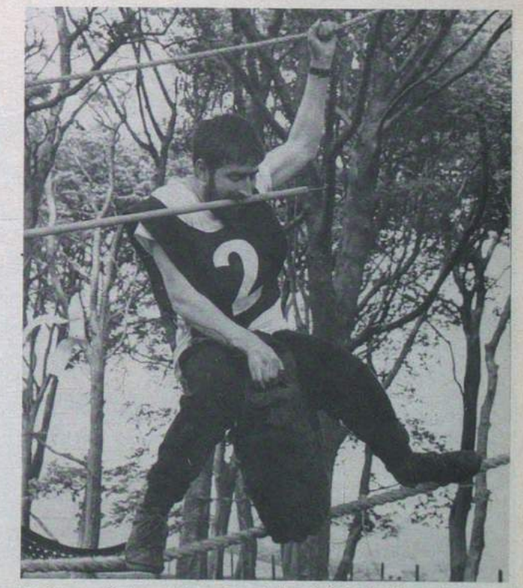
**Maj Mervyn Deighton** the 2IC made everyone scratch their heads with a tricky written appreciation during the evening, which was followed by a night driving and navigation exercise run by the RMTO **WO1 Steve Davies**.

Sunday dawned clear but cold and the groups were withdrawn into Halton Camp. After a hot breakfast they were soon warmed up by **Sgt Stan McCormack** on the assault course and **Cpls John Hopwood, Steve Dollard, LCpl Martie Oxley, Sig Les Moorcroft** and **Gerald Aryeetey** helping members of 75 Engr Regt erect and run a death slide.

59 Sqn were again in action in charge of a trailer race, the HQ Sqn team on the 30m range, **Maj Mervyn Deighton** listened to group



Sgt Phil Alford *(top left)*, (PSI 42 Sqn) keeps a wary eye on Executive Stretch contestants coping with the mountain rescue task



Mr George Redmond from Cammell-Laird Shipbuilders displaying his acrobatic skills during Executive Stretch



Executive Stretch contestants set about solving the problem of replacing a wheel on a Landrover with the usual tools

solutions to the appreciation and 156 Tpt Regt set a jerrycan shifting command task involving a JCB, Landrover, trailer and truck.

The finale was a head to head raft race which included some very odd looking craft indeed, most of which floated, but some more reminiscent of a V6 cutaway engine with crew wedged in the middle. The visiting employers saw some highly competitive performances and plenty of smiling faces.

A splendid lunch by courtesy of **Capt Mike Ellis, WO2 Ron Gawthorne** and supporting team completed the day with accompanying prizegiving and speeches. **WO2 Norman Jolliffe** provided the final touch by showing the video of the exercise on the coach during the return to Liverpool. All agreed that they had thoroughly enjoyed their weekend and are looking forward to the reunion evening in July.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**FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT**

A Festival of Transport which consisted of every known form of transport ever devised took place in Chester on 20 May. The event was organised by the Lions Club of Chester for the benefit of local charities.

Members of 80 Sig Sqn (Chester) were invited to enter a communication display and helped with PA equipment.

With a heavy training programme, assistance to Executive Stretch and Annual Camp preparations the manpower cover was rather thin. However, with the help and guidance of our PSAO, **Capt Keith Derrick** (he looks a pretty sight in combat kit) the display was formed and consisted of a Triffid vehicle, an HF Landrover and an 8/12 Generator all under camouflage.

The Team led by **Cpl Barry** 'Scouse' **McLaughlin** encountered some resistance in getting the massive camnet into position especially when **Cpl George O'Connor** wanted to put the Triffid aerial mast up first. In the end their efforts were rewarded with everything in place and the display looking most impressive.

To give spectators a 'hands on' experience a further Triffid vehicle was based at the TA Centre and an additional HF vehicle was positioned on the far side of the Festival ground. Links were then established between all elements to form a working circuit.

The display worked extremely well and attracted a lot of attention including a distraught mother who needed hot water urgently to make up a feed bottle for her baby. Not to be found wanting, up popped **Sig Pete Bland** with a kettle of boiling water and saved the day (not bad training for a Radio Relay Op).

Special mention must be made to the feeding habits of **Ptes Geeta Jesvani** and **Susan How**, who apart from working the HF net devoured at least 10 ring doughnuts in as many minutes (as they said 'You have to eat them whilst they're hot').



Members of 80 Sig Sqn Display Team at the Festival of Transport
*L to R:* Pte Jesvani, Cpl Burditt, Pte Fellows, LCpl Kitchen, Sig Bland, Cpl O'Connor, LCpl Taylor, Pte How and Cpl McLaughlin



## 34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V) Middlesbrough

**HONORARY COLONEL**

We are all very pleased and proud that our Hon Col, **Maj Gen Birtwistle CB, CBE** is to be Master of Signals.

**FREEDOM PARADE**

The highlight of the year so far has been the Regimental Freedom Parade through the Borough of Darlington on Saturday 28 April.

Led by the Regimental 2IC, **Maj D. A. Bodycombe** TD over 100 members of the Regiment paraded at the Civic Centre to be inspected by the Mayor, **Councillor J. B. Lamb** who was accompanied by the Hon Col **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle**, the CO **Lt Col M. J. Macklin** and the Chief Executive of Darlington **H. R. C. Owen Esq**. The Mayor presented the Regiment with a fine picture of Darlington and the Honorary Colonel presented the Borough with a copy of the 'Story of 50th Signal Regiment'. In his speech the Honorary Colonel drew attention to the long association of 50 Sig Regt, and the present 50 Sig Sqn with the borough and the significance of freedom in Europe at this time. The Regiment then exercised its Rights of Freedom of Entry to the town by marching from the Town Hall to the TA Centre led by the Regimental Band. The day ended with a buffet lunch accompanied by music from the Band.

The Regiment is very proud of its association with Darlington which goes back to the early 1920's when 50 Div Sig Regt moved to the town. The Freedom of a town is a privilege which all officers and men regard as a great honour.

**90 (NR) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj A. A. Maude TD R Signals (V)** |
| **PSAO** | **Capt J. M. Lemon R Signals (V)** |
| **OC O Tp** | **Capt K. Metcalfe WRAC (V)** |
| **OC K Tp** | **Lt T. Millachip WRAC (V)** |
| **OC J Tp** | **Lt J. Alexander R Signals (V)** |
| **OC L Tp** | **2Lt P. McTiernan R Signals (V)** |
| **Sqn Offr** | **2Lt C. Jones R. Signals (V)** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 J. Davison** |
| **PSI** | **SSgt M. McKenna** |

All the practice and effort since the beginning of the year paid off during the 12 Sig Bde exercise when communications went smoothly.

Congratulations to **2Lt A. M. Nichol** on completing her commissioning course at Sandhurst.

The military side has not been ignored with twice weekly keep fit sessions, map reading and weapon handling. All creating a leaner, fitter, Squadron ready for the rigours of camp later in the year.

**FAREWELL**

**Mr Sam Peberdy** an ex WO1 (RSM) in the Corps retired after over 18 years as a Cadet Quartermaster with the ACF at Brambles Farm, Middlesbrough. **Sam Peberdy** started his military service in the early 1940s and in 1950 joined the Corps with which he served in a wide variety of posts throughout the world. There can be few of the older members of the Corps who have not met him at some stage, and his service with the ACF provided the link with the younger generation. We wish him well in his retirement.



Mr Sam Peberdy is presented with a retirment gift by the CO Lt Col M. J. Macklin



The parade marches past the Mayor
*Photo: Courtesy of North of England Newspapers (Westminster Press Ltd)*

**ARMY CADET FORCE (ROYAL SIGNALS) COMPETITION**

During the weekend 27-29 April members of Brambles Farm and Normanby detachments of Cleveland Army Cadet Force took part in the Royal Signals Badged ACF Competition hosted by 11 Sig Regt.

The competition encompassed several military skills events in which eight teams from North East District took part. The cadets had received instruction from **SSgts Mick McKenna, Stu Thompson** and **Sgt Derek Thurley**. Both teams from Cleveland did extremely well, Normanby detachment won the Mercury Trophy for the communicating aspect of the competition with the Brambles Farm detachment runners-up. Overall winners were again the Normanby detachment with the Brambles Farm detachment the runners-up. The Darlington detachment and Harewood detachment also sponsored by the Regiment were third and fourth respectively, thus completing a very satisfying set of results.



Both Brambles Farm and Normanby Dets show off their trophies

**DETACHMENT SIGNALS TROPHY**

The Commandant **Col A. W. Illingworth TD JP** presented the Detachment Signals Trophy to members of the Normanby ACF Detachment. The Trophy is in recognition of the achievement of all members of the detachment involved in signal training both by qualification and regular attendance.



Cadet Gavin Russell (now LCpl) receives the trophy from Col A. W. Illingworth TD JP, Cleveland Cadet County Commandant (and an ex CO 34 Sig Regt)

**ORIENTEERING**

The Regimental orienteering team came third in the North East District Championships thus qualifying for the UKLF/Army Finals.

**SSgt Mick Stocks**, returning to the sport, did particularly well, to with the North East District TA Championship. In the UKLF/Army Finals the team all completed the course successfully and **SSgt Mick Stocks** came second overall in the UKLF/Army TA Championship.



SSgt Mick Stocks, LCpl Ian Stewart and Sgt Gil Jordan
*In front:* Cpl Graham Perkin and Sig Bruce Lee

**LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL**

On 27 April the Hon Col, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle** visited the Regiment to present LS & GC Medals to **SSgts Mark Bonham** and **Stu Thompson.**



Maj Gen Birtwistle presents the LS & GC Medal to SSgt Bonham. Also in the picture is Mrs Babs Bonham



Maj Gen Birtwistle presents the LS & GC Medal to SSgt Thompson



## 35 Sig Regt (V)
## Sutton Coldfield

**ALMOST THERE**

Preparations for Annual Camp have intensified recently in both RHQ and the outlying Squadrons; the Adjutant, **Capt Ian Dudding**, has distributed his admin instruction and is bravely holding out against any changes, the issue of the Op Order by **Maj Lance Byrne** our new Trg Maj, is almost imminent 'at least a week before we deploy' he has promised and the QM, **Capt Rod Gladwin**, has issued what he believes to be, a foolproof messing instruction to ensure accurate accounting for all field locations. Manning figures produced by the Squadrons are almost finalised; although the Chief Clerk, **Rod Shelton-Smith**, remains unconvinced as daily changes to his passenger manifests continue to hamper, frustrate and haunt him. Even a well earned break from this daunting task to play his beloved golf ended in disaster when his car suffered a major breakdown enroute to the golf course (who said a change is as good as a rest?). The Regiment is confident that the Chief will overcome his present difficulties, or should we say handicaps, and complete his paper work ably assisted and comforted by his supportive orderly room staff. Is it true that Pampas has been put out to grass?

**EXERCISE FINAL TOUCH**

During the weekend 12/13 May the Regiment deployed to RAF Cosford to participate in Ex Final Touch. This was to be our last Regimental exercise prior to deploying to BAOR and its aim was to test all levels of communication, command post procedures and other training standards which would be critical to the success or otherwise of our BAOR FTX when we would come under the close scrutiny of our Regular counterparts and formation commanders. Much to the relief of the CO, **Lt Col Brian Foxon**, the weekend was a measured success and he expressed great confidence, that in BAOR we would, as usual and expected, do our job well. In fact, communications apart, the CO was so concerned about the standards of camouflage he even managed to commandeer a glider (courtesy of RAF Cosford Gliding Club) and took a birds eye view of the exercise location. There is absolutely no truth in the rumour that he was still up there when we moved out. Prominent visitors were the TA Brigadier (designate) **Col Michael Brown** and the Honorary Colonel, **Col Mike Beatty**.

Having had a bird's eye view of the exercise, it's always interesting to obtain an opposing worm's eye view especially when those views are expressed by one of our new recruits. **Yvone Pennycook**, who as a civilian, is involved in Satellite Systems, recently joined 89 Sig Sqn (V), based in Rugby, as a potential officer.

As part of her familiarisation training she is currently undergoing training as a RR Op to prepare her for her eventual role as a Troop Offr; here is her account of her first TA exercise:

**A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE IS A!**

The weekend dawned bright and clear as I was about to venture on my first exercise with 35 Sig Regt. The previous weekend had been the recruit induction weekend which had left an indelible impression on several muscles that I didn't know existed and didn't want to become too familiar with.

On arriving at my Squadron I drew my webbing in its DIY form and promptly set about, with some assistance, putting it together. This was going to be my first time out in the field; I was nervous, it showed and I hadn't a clue . . . There was little time to reflect on my nervousness as half an hour before we were due to leave the TA Centre I was told by my Troop Staff Sergeant that I would be driving one of the Land Rovers. After a rapid familiarisation lesson I managed, much to my surprise, to get the vehicle safely to Cosford although the gearbox is now a little suspect.

By the time we arrived the camming up had already begun in earnest and I had to admit to being impressed by the overall result bar the radio mast which stood out like a sore thumb. As part of my training I'm being taught the skills of a Radio Relay Op, and whilst I understand the basic principles of the trade, as yet the penny hasn't dropped and I am still a little bewildered by it all; but then I am sure all will become clear during and after Germany. Saturday evening was devoted to important pre-camp briefings followed by a barbecue. The briefing in the cinema was perhaps not such a wise move; even I who was keen to glean all the information I could absorb, found it hard to concentrate and would have preferred 'When Harry Met Sally'. Sunday dawned after a long campside vigil and then I and many others where subject to the BAOR 'Tick' test, after which we moved on to a short NBC phase before breaking camp and headed for home.

I thoroughly enjoyed my first exercise and would like to have seen more of the other Squadrons, but then this wasn't a social visit, it reinforced what I already knew—that I still had a lot to learn! This was reinforced with a bang several miles down the M54 when to our horror we realised one of our numbers was missing. A detour at warp factor 10 at the next junction caused a drain on our fuel reserves and yes, you guessed, I ran out of fuel just yards from the TA Centre. Not an auspicious start to my TA career I thought but nevertheless a lesson learnt the only way; 'the hard way'. I am now looking forward to Annual Camp with some degree of anticipation that all will be well.



Pte Yvonne Pennycook—is she coming or going?



A cluster of Regimental Officers on Ex Final Touch

**OFFICERS MESS**

The Officers' Mess held a Regimental Dinner and Guest Night on Saturday 26 May at Cateswell House, Sutton Coldfield. Breaking with the usual tradition the Dinner adopted a French Cuisine theme with a wide selection of typical French dishes chosen by **Maj Pierre Renecle** and prepared by our Chef de Cuisine **WO2 Marcel Kearney**. A special import of French table wines was arranged by the PMC and temporary Wines Member **Maj Jon James**, sadly French waitresses were not available. Guests included the Bde Comd, **Brig Conrad Garton**, the Deputy Comd, **Col Colin Stenning** and the Honorary Colonel, **Col Mike Beatty**. This chequered evening, as we are sure our guests will agree, was a tremendous success.

**FARE THEE WELL RSM M. O'HARE**

Sadly the Regiment has bidden farewell to **WO1 (RSM) Mick O'Hare** on his retirement from the Regular Army. To mark his farewell the Officers' Mess held a dinner in his honour on Friday 27 April at Cateswell House. He was dined out by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants on Saturday 19 May at a special dinner held in their Mess at Cateswell House. We all wish **Mike** and **Marion** the very best for the future and look forward to **Mick** re-joining the Regiment as a TA Officer.



Lt Col Brian Foxon saying farewell to WO1 (RSM) Mick O'Hare

**SKILL-AT-ARMS**

The Western District Skill-at-Arms Meeting took place at Kingsbury Ranges on 19/20 May at which the Regiment entered teams from 58, 89 and 95 Sqn with superb admin support provided by HQ Sqn.

Predictably none of the Squadron teams ranked amongst the leaders in the main rifle events (we have to allow the infantry to eat their cake sometimes). However none of our teams produced performances that could be described as embarrassing and indeed they distinguished themselves against some infantry teams and all finished



Cpl Harris of 58 Sqn in jubilant mood after winning the pistol shoot



An aggressive looking team from 89 Sqn

towards the middle of the final placings and can be justifiably proud of the final result.

A far better picture was revealed when the results of the pistol competition were announced. **Cpl Harris** of 58 Sqn won the event for the second successive year and is to be congratulated on this excellent achievement.

Congratulations are also extended to **Sig Marshall** who finished fourth and **2Lt Jacobs** who finished sixth, both are serving with 89 Sqn. All promised either to repeat or improve their performances next year.

The final event of the weekend was a falling plate competition between the GOC's Western District team and a TAVR all stars team. Competing directly against each other each five man team had to run 100m to the firing point and dispose of 10 metal plates, the first to finish being the winners. After his first lesson in the use of the SA80, the CO, **Lt Col Brian Foxon**, surprised and astounded all comers by reaching the firing point and disposing of his plates before you could say 'cock, hook and look'. There is no truth in the rumour that he has asked the Chief Clerk to publish a Part I Order that his performance is to count as the BFT and APWT for next year's Training Bounty.

**89 SQUADRON (RUGBY)**
**VISIT OF MAYOR OF RUGBY**

On Tuesday 8 May the Mayor of Rugby, **Councillor Evelyn Humphreys**, visited the TA Centre during a training evening. The Mayor was treated to a grand tour of the TA Centre where she was introduced to most members of the Squadron undergoing various trade and military training activities. During the visit the Mayor was introduced to members of 7ACF who share the TA Centre with the Squadron, many of whom join the Corps either as Regular soldiers or in the TA and this is probably the first time they have been mentioned in *The Wire* Magazine. At the end of a rather enjoyable evening the Mayor joined the Officers and SNCO's for a light buffet and drinks in the Officers Club where she was presented with a Squadron plaque.



The Mayor with members of the Rugby Detachment of 7 ACF who are making their first appearance in *The Wire*



**FAREWELL TO SSM HORNE**

On Satuday 2 June the Squadron Officers and SNCO's dined out **WO2 (SSM) Bob Horne**. **Bob** has served with the Squadron for 17 years and as SSM since 1983. **Bob's** main claim to fame is that he can't tell a vehicle wash point from a Challenger Tank wash point a story that **Capt** (of cow pat fame) **Meikle** is fond of relating. **Bob** now moves on to RHQ to join the Regimental Recruit Training Team—our loss is going to be their considerable gain. We wish him all the very best for the future but feel sure he will keep in touch and serve ours and the Regiments interests well in his new appointment.



Maj Pat Bannigan saying farewell to WO2 (SSM) Bob Horne after serving 17 years with 89 Sqn

**RAFT RACE 90**

On Sunday 3 June the Squadron entered a Raft in the Wellesbourne and District Lions Club Annual Raft Race. The idea to enter the race for the first time was the brainchild of **Pte Ronnie Derrick** who was determined to put the Squadron on the map and help local charities. She quickly mustered support and the production of Mark I of the Squadron raft (which was christened 'George') began in earnest in early May with the additional help of a local soft drinks company which provided some large plastic barrels. Unfortunately on its first river trial George sank with all hands (in shallow water) and was quickly re-named 'Nautilus'.

Valuable lessons learned, work began with a vengeance on Mark II 'The Flying Ferret'. Mustering all of his undoubted mechanical and engineering skills **SSgt Charlie Walker** and his band of intrepid helpers made sure this version was sea worthy and floated. The team was now in a buoyant mood and raring to go down the River Avon. The raft race started at Wasperton and followed a 7 mile course down river to Stratford on Avon. The river course also included a number of savage weirs that had to be carefully negotiated and thankfully were. Some four hours later our intrepid, cheerful but by now exhausted team paddled over the finish line and were given a rousing reception by members of the Squadron who had travelled from Rugby to support them. Our final position was 137 out of a total of over 250 entries and we also finished fifth in our special group of large mechanical rafts, we naturally expect to do better next year! Seriously our final position didn't matter and work has now begun to collect the pledges from our large list of very kind sponsors. Finally many thanks to all the following team members: **SSgt Charlie** (Kon Tiki) **Walker**, **Sgts Mick Purdy** and **Mick Clark**, **Cpls Alan Hawes** and **Steve Thomas**, **LCpls Lynn Coleman** and **Lynn Cairney** and **Sig/Pte Ronnie Derrick**, **Tracy Windross**, **Colin Marshall** and **Simon Claydon**.



Our glorious team having just crossed the finish line

**UKLF ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Following its extraordinary success in the Wales and Western District Championships our orienteering team automatically qualified for entry into the UKLF Championships held at Aldershot on 19/20 May. All team members acquitted themselves well and the Squadron finished in fifth place. Team and individual members were: **Lt David Hooper**, **2Lt Liz Hyde**, **SSgt Dave Arnot**, **Sgts Paul Fundak**, **Mick Purdy**, **LCpl Tony Griffiths** and **Sig John Blakemore**.

**CONGRATULATORY**

Many congratulations to **Sgt Dave Butlin** on his recent marriage to **Gayle** and to **Lt Ian Barnes**, **Cpls Dave Pollock**, **Richard Harley** and **LCpl Nick Harvey** on their promotion.



Sgt Dave Butlin, his bride and Best man Cpl Alan Vowles

# 36 Sig Regt (V)
# Wanstead

**SPOTLIGHT ON THE TRAINING CELL**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Trg Maj** | **Maj A. Sugdon** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt A. K. Oakman** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt P. Thomas-Peter** |
| **Trg NCO** | **SSgt C. Jackson (WRAC)** |

The Regimental Training Cell (Blame us for everything!) has recently completed yet another round of Trade Training with **SSgt (YofS) Allan Oakman** looking forward with ever more enthusiasm, to handing over to the next fortunate YofS from the School of Signals.

The Trade Training Module was centred around the Colchester TA Centre with the newly appointed PSI, **Sgt B. J. Finnister** being indoctrinated into the ways of the TA within a few days. No mean task as most regulars tend to walk around in a shell shocked condition for the first few weeks.

The Tradeboards for all tradesmen were completed without any major problems other than the odd tear of those who failed, which thankfully were very few, much to the relief of the YofS. The tradeboard finished with a disco and buffet. A special thanks to **WO2** 'I'm only TA' **Bill Vodrey** and his team, for providing an excellent buffet and to all those who sponsored **SSgt (YofS) Allan Oakman** for the London Marathon.

We bid farewell to **Sgt Cheryl Jackson** who is posted to 71 Sig Regt (V) and wish her all the best in her new post.



Pte Arber concentrating hard during her Tradeboard exam

**FOCUS ON 54 (EA) SIG SQN (V)**
**COURAGE TROPHY COMPETITION**

Over the weekend of 17/18 March, a team from 755 Sig Tp (V) entered the London District Courage Trophy Competition involving a gruelling assault course, cross country driving, vehicle repairs, orienteering, NBC, AFV recognition and first aid tests. The team was led by **2Lt Chris Forshaw** and included **Sgt Paul Allen, LCpls Steve Weeds, Adrian King REME (V), Sig Andrew Gibson, Dominic Pond, Mark Bull** and **Pte Nicki Baker** with support from **Pte Aura Sanderson** ('Haggis') of 707 Tp. The team achieved some very good results (despite the Sqn Comd getting lost during the night nav!). The team won the shooting stand (this surpsrised both the team and the opposition!). We finished the competition 19th out of 37.

**OVER FIFTY YEARS SERVICE WITH THE TA**

Territorial Army Efficiency Medals and Long Service Clasps were the order of the day during a recent Squadron training weekend at Stanford, Norfolk. Recipients of the Efficiency Medal were **Sgt Pink**, presently Acting SSgt of 706 Tp based at Cambridge TAC and **Sgt Parker** who is employed by the RRTT and also doubles as recruiting Sgt for Bedford TAC.

**Sgt Elborn** was also presented with a 'Second Clasp' to his Efficiency Medal. He has had a very varied career since his enlistment, namely RROp, SHQ Stores, Tp Sgt and finally Sqn MT Sgt.

All presentations were made by the CO of 36 Sig Regt (V) **Lt Col Carl Conlon.**

**EXERCISE HIGH LIVING 90**

The now annual event of Ex High Living 90 took place between 10 and 13 May, the Squadron undertook a very successful Military/ Adventure Training Exercise in the Brecon Beacons area of South Wales led by **2Lt Chris Forshaw.** It included hillwalking/leadership training, climbing, abseiling, caving, canoeing, windsurfing and pony trekking. The weather was, thankfully, dry and sunny and it was possible to carry out all the planned training.

**EASTERN DISTRICT ORIENTEERING CHAMPS**

On 18 May 1990 a number of the Regiment's Orienteers set off for Cromer in darkest Norfolk for the E Dist 'O' Champs. Those taking part were **SSgt (FofS) Paul Thomas-Peter** and **Cpl Neil Keen** from London (as guest runners) and from Cambridge; **Sgt Helen MacFarlane, Cpls Louise Walker, Sue Kelly** and **LCpl Rachel Haigh,** all representing 54 Sig Sqn.

The competition was run in conjunction with a civilian event and therefore a lot of Orienteers were looking for a lot of controls in a relatively small area!

At the end of the day the girls of 54 Sig Sqn came out as runners up in the WRAC TA competition with **Cpl Louise Walker** being E Dist WRAC TA champion for the second year running, all qualifying for the UKLF Championships.



The photo shows the girls with their trophies. *L-R:* Cpls Sue Kelly, Louise Walker, LCpl Rachel Haigh and Sgt Helen MacFarlane

**755 SIG TP (V) SUPPORTING 1 COY NORFOLK ACF**

In the blistering heat of an uncharacteristic Bank Holiday weekend early in May (5/6 May) members of 755 (AMC) Sign Tp (V) led by Tp Comd **2Lt Chris Forshaw** took over Frog Hill at STANTA to support a 1 Coy Norfolk ACF Orienteering Exercise run by **SSM Brian Walsh** and the two **SI Murphys.** The weekend was a complete success, even managing to tire out the energetic Cadets and providing a rare opportunity for the Troop to handle Combat Net Radio.



2Lt Chris Forshaw presents medals to the winning team. SSM Brian Walsh in the background



# 37 Sig Regt (V)
# Bristol

**43 (WESSEX) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)**
**SHQ PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj E. A. Baird** |
| **PSAO** | **Capt P. Clarke** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 W. R. M. Cardwell BEM** |
| **PSI** | **SSgt R. C. T. Shortis** |

Changes have taken place in the Squadron over the past four months, which historically, has always been a male dominated place.

**Maj Chris Eskell** handed over command to **Maj Anne Baird** in April. She faced a mountain of files which the PSAO, **Capt Peter Clarke** had unkindly placed all over the office.

He is settling in well after a number of interviews convinced him that 24 hours a day, 7 days a week is the 'norm' with the TA. Job satisfaction is the important aspect of the PSI's lot!

The Squadron again showed the Regiment the way at the RSAAM held at Perham Down. It was a good all round performance enhanced by **Lt Chris Thompson** actually arriving, and on time! Well done the team.



AFHQ Tfc Offr Majs Mick Back, Chris Eskell and Anne Baird at Sennybridge training area discussing the merits of fresh air. (Please note Maj Back is not smoking)



Regimental SAAM Perham Down
*Rear L-R:* Cpls (Gilly) Dawkins, (James) Bond, Sgt Gerry Huxtable, Lt Chris Thompson and Sig (Seb) Coe
*Front L-R:* Ptes Kathy Reece, Margaret Shackleton, LCpl Sue Palfrey and Lin Reeve

# 39 Sig Regt(SC) (V)
# City of London

**2 SQUADRON (DUNDEE)**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Sandy Monks WRAC** |
| **2IC** | **Lt Eric Blyth** |
| **PSAO** | **Capt Bill Naismith** |
| **PSI Ops** | **Sgt Tom Briggs** |
| **SQMS (NRPS)** | **SSgt Bert Wright** |
| **PSI Tech (NRPS)** | **Sgt Ian Lumsden-Gordon** |

**By Sgt Lynda McCann**

The PSAO's announcement that it was 2 Sqn's turn to provide the *Wire* notes this time round met with mixed reactions—'Really?', 'Surely not!'. Alas, he was not deafened by the shouts of 'I'll do them' that he had hoped for. And so, the honour fell to yours truly to tackle this most enviable of tasks.

It's been quite some time since 2 Sqn featured in the *Wire*, and therefore, a command decision was taken that the period covered should be from January.

**TRAINING**

13/14 January concentrated on Bounty qualifications and included a day on the ranges at Barry Buddon—that well-loved local training area affectionately known as the armpit of the universe. The chaps were not deterred by their inhospitable surroundings however, and all those attempting APWT passed. The weekend also covered First Aid and NBC in the comfort of the TAC under the eagle eyes of **Sgts McCann** and **McCleary** respectively. As ever, the First Aid raised a few smiles, and the attempts of **LCpls Dave Wright** and **Barry McNeil** to administer EAR to a poor unsuspecting Rescuscie Annie were (to say the very least) memorable.

20/21 January was the first 'big' weekend of the year and combined a visit to the Squadron by **Lt Gen Sir John McMillan KCB, CBE, GOC Scotland,** with Training North—a weekend of concentrated



The GOC is met on his arrival at Newman House by *(left to right):* Lts Banks, Blyth, Maj Elford (Trg Maj) and Maj Monks (back to camera)



The OC pretending not to hear what LCpl Tracy Gellatly-Martin is saying to the GOC. SSgt Angie Bailey looks on with interest

trade training organised and run by the Regimental PSIs. On his arrival, the GOC was given a presentation by the OC, **Maj Sandy Monks WRAC**, on the Squadron and its role. He was then shown round the TA Centre and had the opportunity to meet and talk with the members and PSIs involved in the various trade training taking place.

24/25 February was the last chance for those still requiring First Aid and NBC testing for Bounty, and also covered preparation for Ex Farne Deep and preparation of stores in readiness for the forthcoming QM's handover. A busy weekend, which found all those in attendance gainfully employed in one way or another.

3/4 March was Ex Farne Deep, the first Regimental exercise of the year, and an ideal opportunity to put into practice what had been learned on Training North. The Troops duly assembled at the TAC on Friday night and were almost immediately deployed to Barry Buddon (Yippee!) to assist the transmitter site team with the creation of the antenna farm required to cover all locations for the exercise. Startex was very early Saturday, and so the handful of people left behind set about assembling the TRC, under the supervision and guidance of **Sgt Katie Allen**. Once the exercise was under way, all went extremely well, and by Endex all those involved felt justifiably satisfied with a job well done. The exercise also found a 2 Sqn detachment in BAOR, under the command of **Lt Eric Blyth**. **Sgt Mo Johnson** (PSI 5 Sqn) was there too, keeping an eye on proceedings. The detachment—**Sgt Bob Davidson, Cpls Davie Christie, Scott Gellatly, Lesley Pollard, LCpls Jos Lindsay, Big Linz Fotheringham, Sig Ronnie Thomson** and **Pte Marie Milne**, were heard to complain on their return that they had all been grossly overworked. This claim was disproved on production of the compulsory team photos. (Not a radio set or tent in sight, chaps!).

17/18 March—Training North revisited. Despite the mutterings of 'Wot—again?' from the Squadron, the PSIs soon found this was not by way of complaint. The Troops appreciate these weekends of intensive training and trade testing, and yet again a great amount was achieved in terms of qualifications gained.

24/25 March—Ex Bishops Rock 1, a communication exercise involving 2 and 5 Sqns. Two exercises in the space of three weeks (with a training weekend in between) found some of us wondering whether March was the only month in the year. Coming as this did hard on the heels of Ex Farne Deep (and given that this one took the form of a full tactical deployment), there were momentary doubts as to whether the manning requirements would be met. Names poured in though, and in the end over 80% of the Squadron took part (the fact that a training video was being made that weekend had absolutely nothing to do with it, nor did the fact that the PSAO promised that not one ounce of mince would be on the menu!).

The weather, which had been gloriously spring-like all week suddenly took a turn for the worse on the Friday, and by the time the Squadron deployed conditions had deteriorated even further, as in gale force winds, torrential rain and the odd snow flurry. Just for a change, the location was Barry Buddon—surely the most exposed training area in the Western Hemisphere—and infamous for the effect it has on the most lovingly erected 48ft masts. However, on this occasion, the masts amazingly held their own and stayed put against all odds. The Troops fared equally well, as did the vehicles—although at one point it was reported that the transmitter vehicle was rocking quite alarmingly! They were all back at the TAC by early Sunday afternoon, albeit somewhat wind-burned and pock marked by the horizontal hail, with senses of humour intact. (Even in the case of **LCpl Neil Martin**!)

Not to be forgotten are the people who had to stay behind at the TAC to man a radio detachment (luck of the draw and all that). Not only did they cope admirably with their given task, passing copious amounts of traffic, but they also took care of the more mundane task of restoring the TAC to its pristine pre-exercise condition, and washed down every single vehicle on its return from Costa Del Barry. As a result, **LCpl Gellatly-Martin, Ptes 'Mitch' Mitchell** and **Sharon Finnigan** are now all fully qualified B3 Floor Buffer Ops!

In addition to weekend training, Tuesday evenings are busy to the point of being frantic, with all trades beavering away at various trade training, live radio scheds (featuring various star operators each week), recruit training under the guidance of **2Lt Cathy Morris**, aided and abetted by **Sgt Willie Morris** and **Cpl Lesley Pollard**. In addition, the Squadron clerks are kept busy dealing with admin matters and ensuring that **Capt Naismith** finds a cup of coffee on his desk at least once every hour.

The next big event on the calendar is, of course Annual Camp, in June, and the OC has been kind enough to share the proposed programme of events with the Squadron. To date, the whole camp contingent for this year have volunteered their services for (a) the detachment that has to stay 'at home' for the first few days, (b) the detachment that has to go to Cyprus for the last few days, and (c) the Squadron party when they get home. The SSM and SQMS were heard discussing the likelihood of either/both of them qualifying Tele Op Tg in time for the departure of the Cyprus detachment. The general conscensus is—nae chance! The last camp along the lines of this one (ie, lots of time spent living and working in the field, occasional stops at the Barracks) was great fun, as we are all sure this one will be.

**SOCIAL, SPORTS AND OTHER SNIPPETS**

The last few months have been very quiet on the social front. A games night was held on 7 April with teams representing the Officers and SNCOs, JNCOs, Privates and Signalmen participating. To no-one's surprise, the JNCOs thundered to a resounding victory, showing yet again their supremacy at pool, darts etc, (nothing at all to do with all the practice they get).

The Officers and SNCOs' Mess held a Burns supper on 27 January which was attended by over 30 members and guests and was a memorable affair. The haggis was addressed by **Capt Naismith, 2Lt Tony Banks** was responsible for the toast to the lassies, and his observations were more than ably replied to by **Mrs Alice Fell** (wife of former **WO2 (SSM) Ray Fell**). Musical contributions came from **Lt Eric Blyth** and **Mr Neil McLaren** (an associate member). **Sgt Bob Davidson** enthralled the assembled company with the Immortal Memory and recitations came from the OC, **SSgt Brian Currie, Sgts Linda McCann, Jim McCleary** and **Willie Morris**. The proceedings were video-taped, and the edited version of this is now in the possession of almost every member of the mess. Needless to say, the communal singing was a highlight and continued into the wee sma' hours. **Mr Alan Prosser (HQSC)** was top table guest, and it is rumoured he has already booked a seat for next year, so it is assumed he found the experience a pleasant one.

Sporting Lynx, the Thursday sports and social evening, continues to go from strength to strength, with attendance regularly in the region of 20-30 Sqn members and guests. The excellent facilities available at Newman House are put to good use with a full and varied programme each week co-ordinated for the most part by **Cpl Scott Gellatly** (PMC Lynx Club). Activities include squash, volleyball, badminton, indoor football and circuit training. Weight-lifting equipment is also available, and for the less energetic, the indoor range is used for .22 rifle shooting. There are also, of course, facilities in the Lynx Club for less taxing pursuits such as pool, darts etc.

A recent addition to Squadron activities is the formation of a Highland Dancing Team. This came about through **Capt Naismith**'s involvement with the Earl Haig Committee and the organisation of the Festival of Remembrance held in the Caird Hall, Dundee each November. Tayforth UOTC, who usually provide the dancing team were unable to do so this year, and the Squadron was asked to assist. The team—**Cpls Wodney Main, Julie McMillan, Lesley Pollard, LCpls Val Pollard, Scott Pollard** (yes, there are three of them, and yes, they are related!), **Brucie Babes Singer, Big Linz Fotheringham, Ptes Marie Milne, Lesley Johnston, Sharon Finnigan, Taylor E** and **Taylor M**—meet every Wednesday evening to practise under the watchful eye of **Capt Naismith** (Non-dancing team Captain) and are reportedly doing very well. They are under the instruction of **Gillian Dick**, an internationally renowned Highland Dance instructor, and music for the practice sessions is provided by **Mr Alistair M'Hady** of the Earl Haig Committee on the bagpipes. It may be worth mentioning that the dance they have elected to perform is the broad sword dance—therefore the need for fleetness of foot is highly desirable. Hopefully, the team will perfect its performance and treat the Squadron to a sneak preview before the actual event.

And finally . . . a few promotions to mention.

Congratulations to the OC, **Maj Sandy Monks WRAC** who took over in August 1989 when **Maj Frank Smith** was spirited away by the ACIO in Dundee.

Congratulations also to **Sgts Jim McClearly, Bob Davidson** and **Willie Morris** on their fairly recent promotions. Likewise to **LCpls Neil Martin** and **Grant Gellatly-Martin** on their promotion to Cpl and to **2Lts Tony Banks** and **Cathy Morris** on their recent commissioning.

Late Item—Over the weekend of 21/22 April, the Squadron was asked to help a local unit in a FIBUA exercise by providing a few bodies to play the part of civilian population. Five intrepid females from the Squadron—**2Lt Cathy Morris, LCpl Nicky Watson, Ptes Marie Milne, Morag Hutchison** and **Alison Jenkinson** offered their services and were duly sent off to Warminster with 1/51 Highland Volunteers. Initially, their role was simply that of civilians, giving the soldiers loads of hassle. (A task the placid and reserved girls of 2 Sqn found extremely difficult!) Needless to say, the aggro was all too much for the poor chaps of 1/51, and by the time the battle commenced, the girls found their role had changed to that of a WRAC detachment helping with the defence of the village. The exercise was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and when one of the girls innocently enquired of **WO2 (SSM) Jim Sturrock** why we never do anything like that, his reply (unprintable) was heard throughout the TA Centre. No doubt, the next opportunity to take part in anything like this will be eagerly jumped at.



# 40 Sig Regt (V) Belfast

**VISIT OF UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE**

The Regiment was privileged to receive a visit from the Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, **The Earl of Arran** during a drill night on Tuesday 13 March. He arrived at 1930 hrs and was briefed on the role of the Regiment by the CO, **Lt Col Ian Henderson**. He then toured the TAC and saw the training programme. Later he visited the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and then dined with the Officers.



The Earl of Arran chats to recruits

**EXERCISE RED WINDMILL**

Ex Red Windmill, or more correctly 'Moulin Rouge', was an HQ BAOR movement control CPX supported by elements of 4 Sig Gp and 12 Sig Bde which took place in Belgium, France and Germany from 14-18 May. It acquired international status because it was the first time for 20 years that we had gone on exercise in France. It is of particular note that it fell to 12 Sig Bde units to provide communications to the channel ports of Calais and Dunkerque.

The exercise started for us on 8 May when the Training major and a small group of PSIs left the Province in an advance party to prepare the prestocked equipment in Emblem for the arrival of TA main party of the three Regiments in the Brigade. We were tasked to provide three Area Message Centres (AMC) and a Trunk Node that provided both communications for UK and French staffs at Lille, Calais and Dunkerque and interfaced with 4 Sig Gp Ptarmigan connected with HQ BR Comm Z and BAOR staffs. We had not had the opportunity to test the shots beforehand so we set off with trepidation.

Having prepared the equipment, we were joined by road parties from UK and, on the afternoon of 13 May, the main air move arrived. It was during this limited afternoon's work that the vehicles were prepared for deployment and we all got to know each other.

The following day everyone deployed to their field locations in France and (for the Trunk Node) Belgium. The first problems encountered were those of trying to communicate to Ports where the radio relay shots were obstructed by the normal paraphernalia associated with docks. We found some ingenious ways of setting antennas on towers, flat roofs, ferry-ramp cranes and other edifices to overcome the problems that confronted us. By midnight we had achieved our objectives. We will skip over **Lt Michael Fraser-Brenchley**'s convoy before reaching the border, **SSgt Maurice Stanley**'s road-sign reading prowess, and **Cpl Billy Herridge**'s knack of driving off in the mini bus with his four ton vehicle's keys thereby stranding his relief driver in a car park! We will mention that **Sig Eddie James** (Dvr Elec) makes a fearsome lineman and antenna rigger, and **Sgt Kevin Oriordan** (DTg PSI) an admirable chef de cuisine—albeit the UK compo was gratefully supplemented by more palatable parts of the French rations.

The Trunk Node was crewed by members from 12 Sig Bde including the HQ! Under the guidance of **Capt Nigel Beacom** and **WO2 (SSM) Pete Pollock** everyone got to work as a team with commendable results. The way that everyone got on so well together was, surely, not because the Trunk Node was sited in and around a pub but the professional approach of all concerned. Even though the place was more than adequately covered by PSIs, their work load was minimal and they would welcome more exercises like this! The venue and the beautiful weather combined to make it idyllic for a visit by 20 international senior officers including **Maj Gen Davies** (Comd Comms BAOR), **Brig Vivian** (Comd BR Comm Z), and our Commander, **Brig Gordon**.

We had some isolated Relays. **LCpl 'Monty' Montgomery** ran our contribution to the relay village south of Calais and **Cpl Steve Brown** the solo detachment north of Lille. The 'village' site was plagued by equipment failures but **Cpl Brown**'s task seemed to have been relatively straightforward.

The exercise was a challenge and achieved good results. It was certainly entertaining. It is interesting to relate that the French Army thought that we were Regulars too and it took some time to convince them otherwise! That is a credit to all those members of the TA who took part.

**BELFAST LORD MAYOR'S SHOW**

This year's Lord Mayor's Show saw a strong TA contingent in the parade in Belfast on Saturday 7 May. Lead by **Lt Mike Fraser-Brenchley** the Regiment took part.

The 'Life begins with the 40th' sign drew cheers from the more mature spectators.




Lord Mayor's Show—Sig James wonders where he is going

**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

Farewell to our Hon Col **Col Elliot Wilson** who gave up his appointment on 3 May after eight years with the Regiment. We wish him and **Rosie** a happy and successful future. A warm welcome is extended to our new Hon Col, **Col Sandie Cramsie** and his wife **Bridgit** and we wish them a long and happy association with the Regiment.



CO Makes a presentation to Col Elliot Wilson at his retirement dinner

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to the following who received clasps to their Territorial Efficiency Medal—**WO2 Cameron WRAC, SSgt Williamson WRAC, SSgt Jones WRAC, Sgts McMillen REME** and **Hartland** our ED PSI who was awarded the LS & GC medal.

Congratulations to **Pte Eleanor Stewart** who was top recruit at the WRAC centre, Guildford. **Eleanor** was one of the first five Larne WRAC recruits to complete the course.



WO2 Carol Cameron receives her third clasp to the TA Efficiency Medal from Comd 12 Sig Bde (V), Brig S. G. M. Gordon



SSgt Ellen Williamson WRAC receives her first clasp to the TA Efficiency Medal from Comd 12 Sig Bde (V), Brig S. G. M. Gordon



SSgt Freda Jones received her first clasp to the TA Efficiency Medal from Col WRAC TA, Col J. Blackwood TD WRAC (V)



Sgt Jimmy McMillen REME (V) received his second clasp to the TA Efficiency Medal from Comd 12 Sig Bde (V), Brig S. G. M. Gordon



Sgt Steve Hartland received his LS & GC from Comd 12 Sig Bde (V), Brig S. G. M. Gordon



Pte Eleanor Stewart proudly displays her Top Recruit Certificate



# News from Squadrons

## NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn BFPO 18

**SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **SHQ** | |
| **OC** | **Maj Peter Hryhoruk** |
| **2IC** | **1Lt Jan Verwoerd (RNLA)** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Ray Bruce** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 Bob Marshall** |
| **CClk** | **Sgt Pete O'Brien** |
| **COMMS TROOP** | |
| **SNCO IC** | **SSgt Tony Doherty** |
| **2IC** | **1Sgt Jean DuPont (BeA)** |
| **RQMS DEPARTMENT** | |
| **RQMS** | **HFW Josef Schoenmakers (GeA)** |
| **SQMS** | **Cpl Steve Howard** |
| **MT** | |
| **SNCO IC** | **Sgt Mick Arnold** |
| **2IC** | **Cpl Pete Crawford** |
| **LAD** | **Cpl Tim Boyle (REME)** |
| **TECH WORKSHOP** | |
| **SNCO IC** | **SSgt Taff Taylor** |
| **2IC** | **Sgt Paul Hubble** |

**GREETINGS AND FAREWELLS**

To start this infrequent bulletin from sunny Tongeren here in the bottom-right hand corner of Belgium, the Squadron bids a warm welcome to the new Chief Clerk, **Sgt Pete** (Northern-Man) **O'Brien**, his wife **Linda** and children **James** and **Melanie**.

Another hearty welcome is also extended to new Comms Tp arrival, **Cpl Neil McCormack**, wife **Helen** and daughter **Alison**, hope you manage to get your MFO unpacked soon!

A third recent new arrival to the Squadron is new MT Sgt, **Mick Arnold**. Welcome to him and to his wife **Debbie**. A happy tour to one and all.

Finally, a fond farewell to **Sgt Brian Rogers, Chris,** (will Tapijn Ladies Keep-fit ever be the same again?) and children **Jennifer** and **Mark**. They are bound for pastures new, not too far away at 28 Sig Regt. Good luck for the future.

The members of the Squadron have been quite rigorously involved in a wide variety of 'business' and sporting activities since the last despatch.

**NORTHAG TRIATHLON**

As in most recent years, the NORTHAG Triathlon event, hosted by the Squadron, takes a high-priority. The blisters and Regimental suntans bear witness to this!

Training commences early in the year soon after the winter exercise spree and also assists in preparation for other sporting events, such as the NORTHAG Cross Country Competition and the Princess Royal Day Mil-Skills Competition. The main task this year was for the team to beat the Belgian Army's 13 TTR and to disprove the belief that the Belgian Olympic team is based within NORTHAG!

Unfortunately, this was not to be. Once again, the Belgians took the first prize, with the Germans from 640 Radio Coy coming second and our own team finishing third. The day culminated in a traditional NASRS barbecue with the prize giving carried out by the Commander NORTHAG Sig Gp, **Col Barten** (GeA). The Colonel passed on his congratulations and thanked all competitors and Squadron organisers for making the day such a success.

**JOC SWIMMING GALA**

Another important event for the Squadron, was the JOC Swimming Competition. This was held in April at the local civilian pool in nearby Maastricht. A total of eight teams entered from the JOC community. The NASRS finished third, led by **Sgt1 Ronnie Boeser** (RNLA). Special mention must go to **SLD Elias** (RNLA), who, it appears, was born with a set of gills in place of ears.

**NORTHAG SIX-A-SIDE FOOTBALL**

Football is always a high profile activity, especially at this time. So, here with a report on the recent NORTHAG Six-a-Side Competition, is **Sgt Paul Hubble**:

We made a slow start. We went down 2—0 in the first opening game.

We managed to pull ourselves together and played a much better game against 28 Sig Regt (A) giving the former Army Champs a good run for their money, losing 2—1!

The NASRS team went from strength to strength with our best result ever, 9—0 against the HSC team. (Covert reports suggest the opposition kept tripping over their guide dogs). Our hopes of winning the cup were shattered in the semi-final when 2ATAF scored their winning third goal following a penalty area incident by one of our own players, not a Brit I hasten to add! Well done to the team for all the effort and better luck next year.

The team consisted of: **Sgt1 Ronny Boeser,** (ex-Dutch pro); **Sgts Paul Hubble, Pete O'Brien; Cpl Benny Schroyen; OG Marcus Ense; SLDs Rick Van der Ven; Van Eck and Scheepers.**

**NIJMEGEN MARCHES**

Now on to the Nijmegen Marches. Here's a despatch from our special correspondent, **SSgt Tony** 'Smouldering Feet' **Doherty**:

The silly-season is well and truly upon us again in the guise of Nijmegen March training.

The Squadron is entering a multi-national team as part of the JOC effort and can be seen regularly pounding the Limburg tarmac. Sounding nothing like a Welsh male voice choir, the boys (and girl!) cheerily while away the miles, out-singing all rival teams.

So far, two excursions to the Ardennes in the area of the towns of Coo and Spa have provided the extra challenge of steep hills, fierce dogs and the welcome hospitality provided by the local population.

**Cpl Steve Howard** has perfected an unusual and inimitable marching style which has left him with the nickname of Howard the Duck.

Logistic support is ably supplied by OIC team, **1Lt Verwoerd** and smiling **LCpl John Batts** who have yet to perfect the simple task of applying butter to bread. More practice required there.

The schedule continues with marches planned for the March de L'Armee at Diekirch, Luxembourg (2 × 40km) and at Haervejsmarch, Viborg, Denmark (2 × 45km).

**PRINCESS ROYAL DAY**

Yet another highly physical event in which the Squadron participated was the Princess Royal Day Military Skills Competiton.

Here's a recount of the day at the ranges by **Cpl Dave Oliver**:

This year's event started for our team with an impromptu map-reading demonstration which we hadn't been warned about beforehand. It must have been in preparation for the NORTHAG Orienteering Competition later on in the year!

We appeared as 'guest' entrants owing to the small number of British personnel in the Unit, and were allowed to field our own teams.

In searing heat at Haltern, the team put in a commendable amount of energy and effort, especially in the march and shoot phase. **Sgt Paul Hubble** beasted his six man team around the course in a de-hydrating sub-30 minutes. Slightly let down in the falling plate shoot—they were probably seeing double—the team fought hard and took second place.

The OC, **Maj Peter Hryhoruk** and SSM, **WO2 Ray Bruce** earned second place in the pistol shoot as well, and with **Sgt Keith Barker**'s four man team, our overall placing was sixth.

The team members were: OC, SSM, 6 Man: **Sgt Paul Hubble, 1Sgt Jean DuPont, Cpl Steve Howard, LCpls John Batts, Mark Wilson,** and **Sig Dave Rimmer**. 4 Man: **Sgt Keith Barker, Cpl Dave Oliver; LCpl John 'Travolta' Seaman** and **SLD Rick Van der Ven.**

# 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

**THE MORRISON CUP INTER UNIT ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Squadron athletics team arrived bright and early for the competition following the Bank Holiday Weekend, during which the athletes made last minute preparations and followed all the advice given by dedicated and determined coach **WO2 (FofS) Paul Gaffney**, whose attitude is; 'there's only one prize for winning!'. **Sgt 'Smudge' Smith** was the first into action, finishing third in the 5,000m. Fresh from pre-para, **Sgt Phil Green** sprinted into second place in the 200m.

The next event was won by our 'secret weapon' **LCpl Colin Anderson** who 'chucked' his javelin with some style! By lunchtime it appeared to be a two horse race between 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and Comms and Sy Gp. **LCpl Woody Woodward** entered the arena for the first of many appearances, jumping to second place in the long jump. During the Long Jump Competition **LCpl Colin Anderson** showed us how it should be done by winning the 800m by a clear length. The 100m sprint was won by **LCpl Woody Woodward** who was by now feeling at home in the competition. However the Minor Units Competition remained very close between ourselves and Comms and Sy Gp, with only a handful of events remaining. **Cpl Quentin Rose** ran a good race in the 1,500m coming second in the Minor Units Competition. Sqn Comd **Maj Mark Edwards,** converted size to power and hurled the discus, earning fourth place. Perhaps the most exciting race of all, the 4 × 400m relay certainly lived up to expectations. After a very fast first lap run by **2Lt Colin Pettifer,** we were lying in second place. **LCpl Woody Woodward** made us level with the Comms and Sy Gp team. **Cpl Stu Archer** ran the third leg taking the Squadron into the lead, after a safe handover to **LCpl Colin Anderson,** the result was a foregone conclusion. After an hour's competition **LCpl Nick Jose** easily won his high jump event with a rousing performance. With one event to go the competition was still in the balance. This did not unnerve **Sgt Phil Green** who leaped into second place in the triple jump. The final result: 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn the winners by two points, taking the title from Comms and Sy Gp after three year's domination.



LCpl Jose leads the way in the 110m hurdles



Morrison Cup Tug of War Team



The Triumphant Morrison Cup Team

*Front Row:* Sgt Phil Green, Cpl Stu Archer, Cpl Q. Rose, LCpls Woody Woodward and Nick Jose

*Back Row:* 2Lt Col Petiffer, WO2 FofS Gaffney, LCpl Foggy Fogg, Sgt Smudge Smith, LCpl Andy Anderson and Sig Sid James



**THE VISIT OF COMMANDER 2 SIGNAL BRIGADE**

**Brig C. A. Brown** visited the Squadron on 25 May. During his visit he saw the Troops preparing for exercise and presented LS & GC medals to **WO2 (FofS) Gaffney** and **SSgt McKenzie;** the presentation was made in the presence of their wives who joined them for lunch afterwards.



Brig C. A. Brown Comd 2 Sig Bde presented WO2 FofS Gaffney and SSgt SQMS McKenzie with LS & GC Medals

*L to R:* WO2 (FofS) Paul Gaffney, SSgt (SQMS) Keith McKenzie, Mrs Gayle Gaffney, Brig C. A. Brown and Mrs Pat McKenzie

**BRAVO TROOP**

**TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp OC** | **Lt Healey** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Hutchinson** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Hawkins** |
| **Tp Storeman** | **Cpl Jones** |
| **Tp Comedien** | **Cpl Murphy** |

Once again the Troop has had a busy time with the usual Brigade exercises and commitments. The Brigade concentration period proved useful for sharpening up basic soldiering skills and the long awaited conversion to the SA80, we look forward to the next training week. The Queen's Royal Review Parachute descent on Salisbury Plain went extremely well, even **Cpl Chris Brown** was heard to say that he enjoyed it and for once **Cpl Murph Murphy** was not in 'rigging line city'.

Members of the Troop who jumped were **Lt Rob Healey, Sgt Jack Hawkins, Cpls Chris Brown, Spence Cave, Jonah Jones, Murph Murphy** and **LCpl Phil Smithurst.**

**WELL DONES**

Well done to **Cpl Bernie Bernstein** for being selected for the next YofS course. **LCpl Smithurst** for completing his first Sim 45 (the next will be at night). **Lt Rob Healey** and **Cpl Murph Murphy** are to be congratulated for their part in enabling the Squadron seven-a-side rugby team to reach the Quarter Finals in the SE District Competition.

**Cpl Spence Cave** and **LCpl Phil Smithurst** deserve a mention for making it possible to field a good team in the Brigade Rigging Competition, although the away play at RAF Brize Norton is best forgotten! **Sig Ford** is mentioned for his part in representing the Squadron in the Corps Windsurfing Competition.

**HELLOS AND GOODBYES**

**Sgt John O'Driscoll** leaves the Troop for civvy street, thanks for the speeches and no doubt we shall see you soon . . . you will find us in the phone book under Army! **Cpl Shane Rook, LCpl Steve Hails** and **Sig Kenny Alexander** also leave the Army for the outside world and we wish them all the best of luck in whatever they choose to do. **LCpl 'Ollie' Oliver** leaves us for Alpha Tp and a rebro. **Sig Pearce** leaves for 3 Div . . . the plaque is on its' way.

Hellos to the Troop include **Cpl 'Chubby' Chubb** and **Cpl 'Murph' Murphy,** both of whom have settled in well.

**DETACHMENTS**

**Sgt Andy Dawson** and **Cpl Trev Bailey** soldier on in Belize, while **LCpl 'Icky' Gratrick** and **Sig 'Jase' Tinnion** also soldier on with 2 Para.

Finally Ex Winged Talon must have a mention with **LCpl Sid James, Sig Brummie Ford** and **Si Ferrer** all getting in some TALO experience before returning to Aldershot on the first available C130, possible one of the shortest deployments in Squadron history.

The Troop now looks forward with much enthusiasm to Summer Camp, Red Lanyard II and, of course, Airborne Forces Day.

**Q TROOP**

What with exercises and P Coy and jump courses we have, at times, been pushed for manpower. Still we have surmounted the problems and with over half of the Troop now para trained and, more volunteers on the way, it will not be long before the Troop is one hundred per cent 'Airborne'!

Newest members of the 'Brotherhood' are our boss, **Capt Fred Bancroft,** congratulations on being awarded your wings, Sir (an Airborne warrior if ever there was one), and **Pte Phil 'Chunky' Smithson,** well done **Phil.**

Also well done indeed to the wives of the RQMS and YofS, **Mrs Sue Clarke** and **Mrs Julie McCrindle** who recently carried out a 12,000ft freefall descent in tandem with the Red Devils Free Fall Team. Brave ladies, again well done!

**ARRIVALS**

Welcome to **Cpl Colin Rich** and his wife, **Emma Jo,** who have joined us from BAOR. Hope your tour is a pleasant one and good luck on your pre-para course **Colin.**

**DEPARTURES**

Farewells to **Cpl Dave Turner** who is off to sunny SHAPE and to **LCpl Andy Taylor** MT Sect.

The QM's Dept featured in the Royal Review with **WO2 Steve Clarke, Cpl Scouse Walsh, LCpls Dave Dewar, Tubs Sharp** and **Pte Phil Smithson** all jumping for the Queen. We would like to thank whoever caused 70 members of the LPBG to go down with sickness on the eve of the drop!

**ARNHEM VISIT**

On the first weekend of Block Leave **Capt Steve Vickery** and **Lt Rob Healey** took a small group to the battlefield of Arnhem on an 'educational' visit. The party consisted of **FofS Paul Gaffney, Cpls Robbo Robson, 'Scouse' Walsh, Spence Cave** and **LCpl Dave Dewar.**

The party spent three days visiting all the battlefield areas and were hosted by the head of the Arnhem Veteran's Society, **Jan Peterseize** and his wife. During the evening the party sampled the hospitality of the people of Arnhem and as always were extremely well received.

The visit was rewarding and some of the younger members of the Squadron now have a better understanding of their 'Airborne history'. We hope to make another visit in the Autumn.

**FOOTBALL**

The Squadron Football team has had another successful season and achieved some excellent results.

When the competition started the players performed exceptionally well and reached the final of the SE District Minor Unit Cup which we currently held.

The team prepared well for the Final with some punishing training by **WO2 (FofS) Gaffney.** We ran out to face The Princess Marina College, Arborfield, the Squadron settled down quickly and played the more attractive football. With only 10 minutes of the game left the Squadron gave away a 2—1 lead to lose 3—2, thus relinquishing our hold on the trophy for another year, but next season! (Well that's another day).



Sqn Football Team

*Back Row:* WO2 (FofS) Paul Gaffney, SSgt John Richards, LCpls Pete Broughton, Charlie Bell, Nick Jose, Cpl Matt Wigley, Sgt Brian Read and Capt Steve Vickery

*Front Row:* Sgt Jim Hanlon, LCpl Dye Kemp, Cpls Darren Hill, 'Smudge' Smith, Sig Bobby Stafford and Sgt John Black

# 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
# (209 Sig Sqn)
# Colchester

**OSCAR TROOP**

The highlights of this period included a visit by the RCDS. This involved the Troop setting up the Headquarters in our favourite local training area so that groups of very high ranking Officers from Spain could see what we do.

The next event on the calendar was the Squadron's athletics day. A combined Oscar and November Tp team saw fine performances from **LCpl 'Scouse' King** in the 5,000m and **LCpl 'Taff' Lewis** in the discus as well as many others. It was a close competition with the overall position being decided on the last event, the 4 × 400m, with first position going to Oscar/November Tp. It was an enjoyable day rounded off with a barbecue and a few beers.

After a period of mandatory training the Squadron deployed on the Porton Battle Run to test and improve everyone's favourite skills, NBC! One of the many events involved Oscar Tp having a persistent agent dropped on it and having to decontaminate and move in the hot midday sun. A very sweaty, tiring but worthwhile experience!



LCpl 'Scouse' King finishing the 5,000m

**FAREWELLS AND ARRIVALS**

There has been a large turnover within the Troop in the last few months. **Cpl Jimmy Parker** and his family move on to 7 Sig Regt, while **LCpls Shaun Martin** and **Steve Franks** leave us for Civ Div. The Troop OC **Capt Richard Quinlan** returns to Blandford for a course and is replaced by **Capt Alistair Ross** from 211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn. New arrivals include **Cpl Stan Stansfield** from 7 Sig Regt, **LCpl Chris Sindall** from 14 Sig Regt and **Sig Smudge Smith** and **Darran Wright** from training.



Capt Quinlan handing over to Capt Ross

**NOVEMBER TROOP**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp OC** | **Lt Neil Holden** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Dave Parry** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Steve Mitchell** |

In the last couple of months elements of the Troop have been involved in numerous activities. It is therefore a very rare occasion to have the whole Troop in camp at any one time.

The end of March saw most of the Troop taking part in Ex Panthers Flame at the Brigade and Battle Group Trainer in Sennelager. The exercise went well and it proved a good chance to stock up on duty frees.

April was taken up with Easter block leave and various Combined Cadet Force and Regimental Information Team tasks.

May was a busy month, starting with the Inter Troop Athletics Competition. The whole competition resting on the result of the last race, the 4 × 400m relay. Ably won by a joint Oscar/November Tp team. A day of glorious sunshine finished off with an excellent barbecue.

May also saw the Squadron Military Training week followed by a military competition won by a team made up of mainly November Tp personnel. A special mention for **Cpl Tom Murray** who scored 99% on the recognition test.

At the end of May the Troop departed for the Porton Battle Run for Ex Panthers Gas. A very worthwhile exercise enjoyed by all. More so by the Troop OC who ran the exercise.

Other Troop activities apart from CCF, RIT and RAAT tasks, have included Offshore sailing, The Corps Windsurfing Championships (better luck next year) and the Squadron Shooting team.

**DEPARTURES**

We say farewell to **LCpls Gordon Lloyd** and **Ray Hitchen** to Papa Tp. Also goodbye to **Sig Steve Sandeman** (plus new car) to 3 Div.

**ARRIVALS**

Welcome to **Sig Steve Brooks** from afar away as Papa Tp. Also hello to **Cpl Kevin Graham, LCpl Giff Giefen** and **Sig Gary Stewart** and **Carl Reid**. We hope your stay in Colchester is enjoyable.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to **SSgt Dave Parry** and **Sgt Steve Mitchell** on their respective promotions on posting.

**PAPA TROOP**

May was a busy month which started with **Sgt Tommo Thomas, Cpls Fozzie Foster, Pel Tubb** and **LCpl Gordon Lloyd** attending the unit NBC instructors course. This was a 'fun event' which led into the Squadron Military Training week, where the knowledge gained on the course could be passed on to the rest of the Squadron. To round off the month the Squadron went to the Porton Battle Run which proved to be very successful, and a lot was learned by every one, even by **Cpl Fozzie Foster** and **LCpl Gordon Lloyd** who managed to hide at Excon.

During the last few months we have lost **Sig Steve Brooks** to November Tp and gained **LCpls Ray Hitchen** and **Gordon Lloyd**. Congratulations go to **LCpl Steve Mayell** on passing his RSDCC and to **Cpl Jon Weighill** and his wife **Karen** on the birth of their daughter.



# 227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)
# BFPO 18

**FAREWELLS**

To the following: **Cpl Openshaw, SSgt Toleman, LCpl Shirley, Cpl** (now Sgt) **Wilson, Cpl Ellery, LCpl Snedden, Sgt McCreath, Cpls Latimer, Graham, LCpl Davies, SSgt (FofS) McGiveron, SSgt McIntyre, WO1 (RSM) Mold** and **Cpl Lawrence-Crockford**, and best wishes to all.

**ARRIVALS**

Welcome to **LCpl Willcox, Cpl Messruther, Sig Fox, Cpls Turner, Philpott, Sig Rolph, Cpl Selby, Sgt Carroll** and **SSgt Oakley**.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to the following parents on their recent family additions: **Sgt** and **Mrs Rogers, Cpl** and **Mrs Camplin, Sgt** and **Mrs Pearce, Cpl** and **Mrs Wrath, Sig** and **Mrs Busby, Sgt** and **Mrs Choules**. Also congratulations and all best wishes to **LCpl Morgan** on his recent marriage to **Sarah**; life is much brighter around the MT Office these days.

**SERGEANTS' MESS NEWS**

Visitors to the Mess have included Comd (BR) Comm Z, **Brig The Hon N. C. L. Vivian**, and the SOinC(A), **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook**.

**AWARD OF LS & GC MEDAL**

Congratulations to the following on the award of their LS & GC Medal; **WO2 (YofS) Baldwin, SSgt (YofS) Glasby, SSgts Weatheritt, Jones, Sgts Rogers** and **Strefford** and **Cpl Stanton** (appointed honorary Mess member for the day).

**INFLATION**

It is not surprising that Draws have been a favourite event of Mess life since the year dot. Going back over old Minutes, nearly 23 years, we find a minute signed by **WO1 (YofS) Adcock** that the sum of DG 700 be granted from GPF to offset all costs of a 1968 Draw. In 1978, one, signed by **WO1 (RSM) Hudson**, approves the sum of DG 2000, and in 1988, signed by **WO1 (RSM) Mold**, the sum was DG 4500. That's inflation for you!

In June we said farewell to **WO1 (RSM) Mold**, who leaves us for 7 Sig Regt; congratulations to **WO2 (SSM)** (now WO1 (RSM)) **'Taff' Williams** who moves across the road. We hope his golf handicap will not suffer too much.

**SSgt Dave Toleman** was dined out as he is leaving the army after 22 years service. However, by kind courtesy of KLM his father an ex WO1 Sapper arrived to surprise him. To say he was very surprised would be an understatement. All the best, **Dave** and family in civilian life.

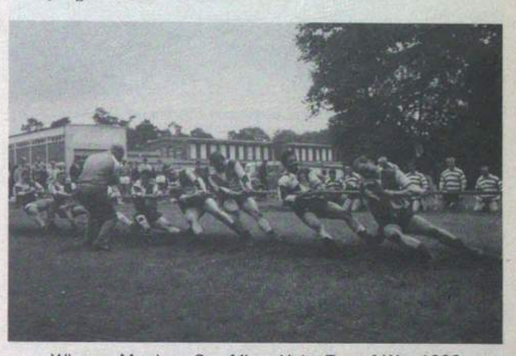
**RCZ MINOR UNITS SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

After entering a scratch team at short notice last year, we were placed joint fourth out of seven teams.

This year we made a different line of approach. **Cpl Lawrence-Crockford**, the coach, had been beasting the boys regularly since last October. This resulted in the team being runners-up, it missed the Berlin trip (BAOR Championships) by two points; never mind, we will be back next year!

**ATHLETIC AND TUG OF WAR SQUAD NEWS**

The Squadron excelled itself at the Morrison Cup 1990. Congratulations to all our athletes for their hard work and dedication. Special mention goes to **Sgt Strefford** for his coaching and training work; **LCpl Willcox** who, although unable to fit into a Squadron tracksuit, redeemed himself by winning the discus; and to **Sig Hunt** for driving the OC, and the Tug of War Team, who were trained and led by **Sig Niles**.



Winners Morrison Cup Minor Units Tug of War 1990
227 Signal Squadron (AFCENT) 'Pulling Together'
*From the front:* Cpl Angus MacPherson, Sig Malcolm Niles, Cpl Rob Wiltshire, Sig 'Mos' Morris, Ollie Olford, Cpl Keith Townsin (partly hidden), Sig Mark Gilbert, 'Piggy' Pigott and Coach Sig 'Vinney' Biggar



Athletics and Tug of War Squad 1990

**WINDSURFING REPORT**

Sadly we were the only minor unit able to enter a team in the Royal Signals Championships this year. 202 Sig Sqn were apparently concentrating on their tug of war training. The team, **WO1 (RSM) J. P. Mold, Sgt D. Shields** and **Sig N. Berry** performed excellently in light winds. They led the first day after a fine team performance. Day two saw even less wind and we were unfortunately, narrowly beaten by a Divisional team.




Windsurf team and friends

**PRINCESS ROYAL DAY 1990**
**Written by Sgt Mick McDonald**

The second Princess Royal Day competition was held at Haltern Ranges on 4 May. With last year's experience in mind, we set about our training programme as soon as we received our 'invitation' to participate.

Having selected our four man shooting team, the names of all other Squadron members were submitted to Comms Branch for selection of the March and Shoot team.

There is little doubt that lots were drawn in Comms Branch to nominate the lucky individual who would select the teams (for anyone intent on revenge, we think it was the tall one with the glasses!).

Amidst gasps of horror and sighs of relief, the teams were announced: **SSgt Tim Broomfield, Sgt Paul Choules, Cpl Dave Sangster, LCpl Dave 'Clint Thrust' Keenan, Sig Ollie (Second year running!) Oldford** and **Sig Simon Gettings**.

The Shooting Team consisted of: **WO2 (FofS) Ben Nelson, Cpl Rob Wiltshire** (welcome to AFCENT, here's your rifle), **Sig Lee Naylor** and **Neil Cawthorne.**

Following a training programme similar to last year's, we soon had both teams well practised in the shoots they would have to perform on the day. Arriving at Haltern, we found ourselves camped next to last year's winners, Berlin HQ and Sig Regt. Throughout the morning, our attempts to 'psyche out' the opposition were only partially successful as at the end of the morning's shooting, we were lying in third position behind 201 Sig Sqn and Berlin.

The speed march and falling plates competition soon shook up the final places with our team finishing fourth in the speed march and third in the falling plates.

The announcement of the final placings were inevitably tense, particularly as the top three teams were separated by a mere six points. We had to settle for second place with 546 points behind 200 Sig Sqn on 549 points.

The OC/SSM pistol shoot produced some surprises with our SSM, **WO2 Taff Williams**, achieving the highest pistol score of the day: 31/32. OC, **Maj Brian Robinson**, gave moral support!

Special congratulations to **Sig Neil Cawthorne** for getting the highest individual scores on both the pistol and SLR in the main competition.

Both teams are congratulated on their efforts which make us all the more determined to win next year.

Footnote: Congratulations to our hosts, 16 Sig Regt for their very original 'Flag Day' in aid of the Corps Museum!



## 238 (London) Sig Sqn
## Chelsea Barracks

It has been a busy period in Chelsea Barracks for the Squadron as ceremonial uniforms and battle dress have come out of the moth balls. Members of the Squadron visited 'sunny' St Martin's Plain Camp near Folkestone in early May and enjoyed the boiling hot conditions that the weather brought. Congratulations to **WPte 'Billy' Brett** and **Sig Ian Tait** for earning the awards of best Female and best Male students. **SSM 'Alun' Parry** enjoyed this military exercise as he was in danger of forgetting all about 'wary' activities when he sits behind his desk.

**Cpl Karla Rayment** organised a wonderful inter-troop seven-a-side hockey competition on Thursday 17 May. A number of 'scratch' teams were arranged and it appeared that R Troop's scratch 'B' team won under the direction of **LCpl Gill Hughes**.

All at Chelsea Barracks suffered during the Chelsea Flower Show week. It was all right if you wanted to park the car for the event, but the streets and underground were packed. The Army Benevolent Fund sent their grateful thanks to **Cpl Bev Hill, Ptes Debs Tugwell, Hardisty, Murray** and **Brett** for collecting a grand total of £996 for the fund throughout the days of the show.

The Officers and Seniors had a good dining out lunch on Friday 25 May when **Sgt Howie Richardson** and **SSgt Dougie McDonald** were dined out. **Sgt Richardson** is leaving the Army after eights years to work for the Met Police as a communication expert. **SSgt McDonald** and **Gloria** are moving back to Germany to 4 Armd Div Sig Regt and we wish them both well.

A fond farewell to **Miss Anita Holloway** who worked in SHQ as our Civil Admin officer. She leaves us after three years for pastures new in Soho! She assures us it's all to do with equipment! **Mrs Sandra Ryan** takes her place and is gradually getting to know the 'intricacies' of the Squadron!

**LS & GC—LCPL LIZ DICKINSON WRAC**

On Thursday 24 May **LCpl Dickinson** was presented with her LS & GC Medal by the GOC London District, **Maj Gen S. C. Cooper. LCpl Liz Dickinson** is a Tele Op (Data) presently working in Hounslow. She was escorted to Horse Guards by **Cpls Karla Rayment** and **Bev Hill**. They all celebrated with a slap up meal afterwards. Many members of the Squadron would like to thank **LCpl Dickinson** for inviting them to her Medal Drowning party later that evening.



*L to R:* Cpl Karla Rayment, LCpl Liz Dickinson and Cpl Bev Hill



**OSCAR TROOP**

The undoubted highlight of this period must be the first of this year's Battle Camps held in the Folkestone area, during April/May. Congratulations go to **WCpl Bev Hill** who was able to complete the exercise (in field conditions) without breaking a single finger-nail. Most improved students, male and female, on the course were **WPte Sue** (Doris) **Day** and **Sig Jason Malcolm.** The best overall student was **WPte** (Billy) **Brett**. Well done to them!

On the sporting front the Troop was third in the Inter-Troop Hockey Tournament despite a much weakened team due to work commitments! Who said there were only three teams? The WRAC teams in particular have had some notable successes in Basketball and Hockey.

Farewells to the following Troop members: **Sarah Thickett** on marriage to **Sig Bob Garlick**, and we wish them all the best in their married life; **Cpl Ian** (Boogie) **Knights, LCpl Tony Speight, Pte Natalie Defriend, Pte Lynette Jones**, on posting, and **WO2 (YofS) George Ralph, Sgt Sandy Brown, LCpl Tony** (Ted) **Heath** and **LCpl Grant** (Mac) **McNee**, all of whom went to Civvy Street and take our best wishes with them.

The Commcen personnel continue to pick up points and earn bonuses under difficult conditions. They have recently brought us messages bearing the following selection of Subject Indicator Codes:

| SIC | Meaning |
|---|---|
| JOG | Shift Physical Training Session |
| BAD | Working Environment |
| LOO | Radio Troop Office |
| FUN | Squadron Battle Camps |
| GOD | Shift Workers Rations |
| SUN | Commcen Workers Dreams |
| BUG | Problems with Equipment |
| QCO | Case for Special Consideration |
| TIP | RQMS Store |
| OPS | Slave Labour |
| RCT | Local Water Hole |
| RAT | Commcen Wildlife |
| FAG | Used in Conjunction with JOG |
| ASS | Non Shift Workers |
| MAN | Superior Being |

## 239 Sig Sqn
## Colchester

Our TOT **Capt Graham Atkinson** has 'driven' our orienteering team (with a strength of 16; 10 took part at various times) to 15th out of 28, in the District league. Rumours that the TOT and **LCpl Tracy Ross** scored the most points for good attenance are disputed but **LCpl Tim Pellett** is definitely more used to map reading on roads.

In April we stormed the Whernside Centre. The main party travelled by rail and our newest arrival—**WPte Lisa Watkin** (who is learning fast that there is life outside Wales) discovered that two lefts and a right to the station does not necessarily compute on the return trip—however she did arrive back—albeit rather late. But not as late as the OC who turned up Saturday afternoon after a 'washout' in the Corps Golf Meeting. However, reports suggest he is doing better locally!

The group was split into two sections, hill walking or climbing/ abseiling. Here are two renditions of the weekend's events by a member of each section—the first by **LCpl Tracy Ross:**

**Group 1 Members**
**SSgt Alex Sampson**
**Cpl Daz Cole**
**Cpl Ozzie Chapman**—from NFSS Stenigot
**LCpl Tracy Ross**
**Pte Keri Driscoll**
**Pte Salli Morris**

We started with a day's rock climbing and abseiling. Our instructors were **Capt Graham** (look, this could be your T2) **Atkinson** and **SSgt 'Strings' Stringer.** Most of us are inexperienced climbers so when we arrived at the location we were a little daunted by the prospect of hanging by a thread from the cliff face, but after being reassured that 'Yes, the rope will hold you' and 'No, none of the ropes has ever snapped . . . well not recently', we began the climb. We did four separate climbs one of which proved to be a bit too challenging for us girlies so we left it to the boys to show us the way. We finished the day off abseiling down the quarry then it was back to the Centre for our evening meal.

Sunday was spent hillwalking. Our instructor was **Sgt Nick** (laid back, nearly falling over) **Gibson** who told us that this was 'a gentle introduction to hillwalking'. After walking all of a quarter of a mile through Sedbergh we stopped off to stock up on sweets, crisps and cans of drink—then we set off up the hill. To say that this was a gentle introduction was stretching the truth a little, to us it felt more like an assault on Everest; but after several hours we finally made it to the finish, very foot sore and weary but after a cup of tea we were all ready to get back and have a shower and something to eat.

And now Group 2 version by **Pte Jacquie Saywell:**

**Group 2 Members**
**Cpl Marc Ewart**
**LCpl Tim Pellett**
**Sig Martin King**
**Pte Lisa Watkins**
**Pte Jacquie Saywell**

After a night's sleep listening to the squeaking and squealing of the pipes, we felt rather tired, but with a hard day ahead of hillwalking, it was a case of waking ourselves up with a cold shower. We were all issued with a ration pack, a bit better than the norm—and the sheep appreciated it.

The expedition stepped off on the right foot and then followed with a left—after parking the safety vehicle at the walks end and going back to the start in the minibus, a distance of some six miles, we set off on the upward trek. After about an hour's yomping across the hills **LCpl Tim Pellett** got a fright when he remembered that the safety vehicle's keys were safe in the minibus at the start! Lunch was eaten below one of the several peaks we encountered and after a well deserved rest we set off down the peak to a picturesque waterfall where the team posed for photos—it was at this point we bade a tearful farewell to **Cpl Marc Ewart** who decided he would run back to Sedbergh and collect the minibus.

We finally made our way back towards the road and civilisation, where we found a small inn which sold non-alcoholic drinks only, but at least the tea was nice and it did wet the whistle. **Cpl Ewart** returned before we knew it bringing with him the keys to the troublesome safety vehicle. We arrived back at Dent, hungry, cold and dying for a shower and some refreshment.

The next day was our turn at abseiling, there was a sudden silence when our task for the day came into view—an old 80ft railway bridge. Our instructor **SSgt 'Strings' Stringer** was full of the joys of spring and tried to get us all to keep smiling.

The kit was set and checked and **Cpl Marc Ewart** was elected to be the guinea pig. We all took turns and once the initial 'disco leg' had ceased and we knew the ropes were safe we started to enjoy ourselves. We took a break for lunch during which **SSgt Stringer** informed us of all the accidents that could occur. After lunch abseiling continued with **Cpl Marc Ewart** and **LCpl Tim Pellett** jumping off the bridge (roped up—of course).

With the light starting to fade we rather reluctantly returned to Dent, where the girls tucked up in bed whilst the men went to the local hostelry and farmers' disco (in a field!).

Both parties went back to Colchester by road after an overnight stop at Catterick where they met up with some old friends. The weekend was enjoyed by everyone. Our thanks go to the two members of Whernside 'DS' who were most helpful and put up with more than one stupid question from the likes of us.

Congratulations to **Cpl** now (wef 1 Jun) **Sgt Marc Ewart** on his promotion and to him and **LCpl Tim Pellett** on their success in the Colchester half marathon on 10 June. We now look forward to a busy summer and a week of military training in October.



Taking a laid back look at life are *(L to R)* Pte Keri Driscoll, LCpls Tracy Ross, Ossi Chapman, Pte Sally Morris, SSgt Alex Sampson and Sgt Nick Gibson

## 244 Sig Sqn (AS)
## RAF, Brize Norton

**SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj A. J. Hutt** |
| **2IC** | **Capt A. J. Wood** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 G. Humble** |
| **RQMS** | **WO2 C. Charlton** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 K. Pywell** |
| **Chief Clerk** | **SSgt G. Smith** |
| **A Tp Comd** | **Lt A. J. Clewlow** |
| **B Tp Comd** | **Lt G. P. Horn** |
| **C Tp Comd** | **Sgt I. Druce** |
| **D Tp Comd** | **SSgt C. Gopsill** |

**EXERCISE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

In late March TCW deployed to Cyprus for Ex Tacommex 3. This was an ACE Mobile Force type exercise, designed to practise TCW in deployment techniques and communication procedures in a Mediterranean climate and terrain. The Advance party was led by the OC, **Maj Alan Hutt** left Brize Norton on 20th to be followed by the main body a week later.

On arrival we moved our base location, Bloodhound Camp, a place whose name is derived from its former occupants—Bloodhound Missiles! The next morning all members of the detachment were subjected to the mandatory four hour Cyprus arrivals brief on the 'Do's and Don'ts'. The Medical brief given by the Royal Army Medical Corps answer to Rowan Atkinson. The Jovial Medic showed us magnified slides of all the things that were going to bite or sting us over the next two weeks. The detachment, albeit warily, proceeded to its field location.

We had three Officer cadets and a newly commissioned Royal Air Force Officer attached for the exercise. The three Pongos moved daily from detachment to detachment, to gain first hand knowledge of how the detachments function and live in the field. The 'Blue Job' **FO Elford**, on the other hand, being a more senior individual and therefore more experienced was appointed communication adviser to **Flt Lt Nicholas**, the overall 'Communication Phase' exercise director. Considering that **FO Elford** is an engineering officer, he certainly made a big impact in this, his debut in the communicating role.

Navigation in this undulating terrain (mildly put), with old maps proved a novelty but the majority of the detachment, managed to get by. I say majority because there was one amongst us who was constantly unavailable. He swears that he was never lost, but does admit to being geographically misplaced from time to time.

During the communication phase the detachment was visited by OC TCW, **Wg Cdr A. L. Lewis**, who joined us in the evenings activities.

'Lady Luck' smiled on TCW, and we found outselves with several days R & R at the end of the exercise. **Lt Adrian Clewlow** our R & R Officer organised a variety of activities such as: water skiing, windsurfing, brewery trips and three day mini cruises to Egypt and the Holy Land. The boys assembled in Bloodhound Camp for the cruise and were treated to a pre-cruise side splitter when **Sgt Kenny Barker** asked 'Do you all have your passports?' 'Passports' uttered **LCpl Rocky Bentley** in a horrified tone, 'I thought we could travel on ID Cards'. Yep, **LCpl Bentleys** cruise in search of the holy grail became a non-starter. Those who did possess their passports, reported back as having had an excellent time. As far as the wind-surfing went, only two of the detachment opted for this: **Flt Sgt** windsurfing went, only two of the detachment opted for this: **Flt Sgt Roger** 'the cabbage' **Rudling** (so named because he is more Army orientated than Army members of TCW) and **Sgt Si Owen**. On the day however, **Rog** decided that the Med hadn't achieved the desired temperature for the time of year, and left **Si** to get on with it. Rumours abound about **Sig 'Dundee' Dryden**, and the monster snake that attacked him whilst on the Bloodhound Camp Guardpost. Whilst trying not to steal his thunder, it should be pointed out that the snake was dead when he found it in the drainage ditch.

The exercise proved successful in all phases and the bonus R & R was much enjoyed. All of the guys managed a reasonable sun tan; and for those that already had one, well, where nicer to top it up than in Cyprus?



Wg Cdr Lewis and Maj Hutt going on a 'Kebab Run'



Sgt Si Owen posing off Tunnel Beach

## 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
## Bulford Camp

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Peter Neale** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Jim Richardson** |
| **QM** | **Capt Bill White** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 John McCaffery** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 John Hoyland** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 Pete Barron** |
| **Trg YofS** | **SSgt Steve Brant** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt John Parrish** |
| **C/Clk** | **SSgt (ORSQMS) Richard Warne** |

**MIKE ADMIN TROOP**

After returning from Norway, Ex Hardfall 90 and Ex Array Encounter which went smoothly and a good job was done by all, the Troop gets ready for a large re-shuffle.

All members of the Troop would like to wish a fond farewell and all the best to the following: **SSgt Duffy, Sgt Gaz Waters** and his wife **Rachel, Sgt Derrick** (Blue suede shoes) **Livesey** and his wife **Susan, Cpl Rob** (What! I missed PT again!) **Wiltshire, Cpl Graham Jackson** and his wife **Carol** and **Bump** and finally **Cpl** (Dinger) **Bell** and his wife **Iris.**

The Troop would also like to offer a warm welcome to the following new arrivals, the new Chief Clerk **SSgt Richard Warne**. The new Troop Sgt, **Sgt Dick Malt**, also **Sgt Reid, Cpls Steve Rose** and **Worth** and **LCpl Stu Brady**.

We congratulate **Sgt Paul Gardner** and **Julie** on the new arrival **Liam** and **Sig Steve Brown** and **Tracy** on their new arrival **Gemma.**



**MAIN TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Lt Alan Hill** |
| | **SSgt Steve Rook** |
| | **Sgt Bob Goode** |
| | **Sgt Biddy Baxter** |
| | **Sgt Chris Martin** |

Recently Main Tp has sufffered a major turn around of personnel. Those leaving us on posting or to 'Civvy Street' are **Cpls Steve Lawton, Mad Jock Bruce, Tony Reynolds, Taff Collinson, Si Wallis** and **Sig Chris Davey**.

Thank goodness there are some postings in, or otherwise what might happen? Welcome to **Sgt Martin, Cpls Ellwood** and **Glanville, Sig Firth** and **Duff**.

**SUPPORT TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Tp** | **Lt Munro** |
| | **SSgt Wilson** |
| | **Sgt Rogers** |
| | **Sgt Ramsay** |
| | **Sgt Pollard** |
| | **Sgt Middleton** |

**GOODBYES**

The Troop say farewell and goodluck to: **Lt Evans, Cpl May, LCpls Hogg, Smith** and **Sig Kelly**.

**NATO CHALLENGE CUP**

The NATO Challenge Cup was a ski-biathlon in Northern Norway, the scene of our previous victory. Our running and fitness had never been in doubt, beating all comers in Denmark and Turkey but shooting had been our weakness. The team was selected from over 50 volunteers. Came race day, we had 26 lean and mean Arctic Warriors. Starting fifth out of 17 teams we soon went ahead and were soon in third fastest position behind 2RRF and a Coy from an Alpini Bn. In the shoot phase we gained 113 points out of 120 from 200m, which gave us enough points to take the non-infantry trophy back to Bulford. Well done to all who took part.



The victorious NATO Challenge Cup Team with Comd AMF (L) Maj Gen Carstens

**AWT COURSE**

After completion of the AWT last year, six members of the Squadron, **Lts Hill, Evans, Sgts Pollard, Waters, Cpls Ormerod** and **Kemp** were selected to 'volunteer' for an Arctic Warfare Instructors course in Norway. The course was run by the resident AMF Infantry Bn 2 RRF supervised by the Royal Marine Mountain Leaders. It soon became clear that this was no 'attendance pass' course. Powers of leadership, ability in map reading and instructional qualities not to mention physical fitness were needed here.

The course consisted of two weeks 'Dryshod' in UK and four weeks 'Whiteshod' in Norway. The Dryshod phase was the classroom phases, being lectured and lecturing the order of the day. Success in this phase saw you on your way to Norway and Part 2 of the course. Happily we all went on to Part 2.

Tests started from the moment we reached our destination, after a 24 hr journey, until the day we finished the course.

During our time in Norway we were given various tasks to complete and we spent nine nights out in the field in bell tents, tent sheets (still as bad as they were 40 years ago), snow holes and then finally a survival night (perhaps tent sheets aren't so bad after all).

## 254 Sig Sqn (UNFICYP)
## BFPO 567

**SHQ**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj J. G. Peck** |
| **2IC** | **Capt R. P. Giles** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 W. Henderson** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt C. Alexander** |
| **CC** | **Sgt A. B. Rose** |
| **Stores Acct** | **Sgt R. Clatworthy** |
| **FSO Clk** | **Mrs J. McGhie** |
| **Typist** | **Mrs S. Hiscock** |

**FAREWELL/ARRIVAL**

SHQ bade farewell to **Sgt John Williams** and his family on their departure to Germany; our best wishes go with you. A warm welcome goes to **Sgt Richie Clatworthy** and his family; we hope you enjoy your tour.

**RADIO TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Troop** | **Lt Steve Gaunt** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Mick Halford** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Rick Whitaker** |

**ARRIVALS**

The Troop would like to welcome the following new arrivals—**Cpl Nicholson, MCpl Carbonneau, Sig Wright, Law** and **McKay**. Hope you all enjoy your tour.

**DEPARTURES**

Recent departures include—**Cpl Coombs, MCpls Poirier, Lemieux, Sig Masters, Yates** and **Povey**. Our best wishes go with you all.

The Military Skills competition, led by **Lt (Steve) Gaunt** comprised mainly Radio Troop personnel—does this prove that it is the backbone of the Squadron? The team won the competition convincingly.

After the Military Skills Competition came the Squadron exercise—Aphrodites Amble, this taxed the capacity of the Troop. Aphrodites Amble tests personnel in comradeship and leadership skills. The Troop gave a good performance. A special 'well done' to our Canadian members who, using most of the equipment for the first time completed the course successfully.

**TECH AND LINE TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Troop** | **WO2 (FofS) G. Whiteford** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt A. Broadbank** |
| **Tech Sgt** | **Sgt S. Norris** |
| **Line Sgt's** | **Sgt P. Jennings** |
| **IC Crimps** | **Sgt A. Norrie** |

Farewell, thanks and goodluck to **Sgt Pete Hancock** and family who have departed to 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and to **LCpl Lucky Luckhurst** who returns to 262 Sig Sqn. A warm welcome to **Sgt Si Norris** and his wife **Anna** and to **LCpls Colin Mackay** and **Lambie Lamb**—have a good tour.



The Troop after hearing the good news that the Foreman's tour has been extended and that he had agreed to buy a celebratory drink

Congratulations to **Sgts Glen Renshaw** and **Ade Broadbank** on passing the Foreman's qualifying examination; good luck for the future.

**BREWERY TRIP**

A visit to the Star Go Carting Track. (**LCpl Frank Roux** was the overall winner—watch out A Senna) was combined with a visit to the Keo breweries which everyone enjoyed and remained on best behaviour.

**APHRODITES AMBLE**

Yet again Tech and Line Troop performed well on this half yearly three day exercise comprising an APWT, NBC, basic signalling skills and a two day march. **Cpl Stu Phillips** and his section won the march phase with **Cpl Billy Creighton**'s section winning the overall competition.

**COMMCEN TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Troop** | **WO2 (YofS) D. MacTaggart** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt L. Thornton-Granville** |
| **Day Cpl** | **Cpl S. Gill** |
| **A Shift Cpl** | **Cpl G. Horabin** |
| **B Shift Cpl** | **Cpl J. Hall** |
| **C Shift Cpl** | **Cpl K. Niblock** |

**ARRIVALS—DEPARTURES**

We would like to welcome: **WO2 (YofS) MacTaggart** his wife **Maggie** and their children, **Cpls Jerry Hall** and **'Scouse' Horabin, LCpl Dave Green** and **Sig Ray Hayes, Mike Stoneman** and **Jase Bridges.**

Farewells to: **LCpls John Murray** and **Pops** 'Det Comd' **Popowicz** and **Sig Dave Yarrow, Nige Brewin, Keith Hunt** and **Paddy Lucas.**

A very special farewell from everyone in the Troop goes to **WO1 (YofS) Nick Hammett,** his wife **Sue** and the boys, who are leaving sunny Cyprus after a two and a half year holiday in the sun. Congratulations on your commissioning; we all wish you and your family well in BAOR.

The Troop has been kept quite busy over the past few months. Aphrodites Amble, proved to be quite difficult due to the heat and the arduous mountains which we had to climb—well that was **Cpls Jerry Hall** and **Stevie Gills** excuse anyway when both their sections failed to finish the course—perhaps a few tips from Julie Andrews might help you to climb the mountains!



Cpl Creighton and section boarding the landing craft at the end of the march phase

On the sporting front we played the Canadians at Cricket and Baseball for the monthly Colonial Shield. It was a close match; we won by nine runs. The 'Golden Duck' award was won by **Pops** 'No coordination' **Popowicz**—Well Done!

The Baseball, was a Canadian runaway, of course, or was it a stampede?—can we Brits borrow your coach?

# Don't be disappointed!

**Matter for publication *must* reach the editor six weeks before the publication date, ie by 15 August for the October issue and 15 October for the December issue. 15 December for the February issue, These are the latest dates and copy arriving earlier will be helpful.**



## 259 Sig Sqn
## BFPO 53

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Lynn Relph** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Mike Kennedy** |
| **QM** | **Maj Colin French** |
| **OC Episkopi Tp** | **Capt Frank Running** |
| **OC Airfield Tp** | **Lt Tim Craven** |
| **OC Mountain Tp** | **Lt Murray Coleman** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Tim Wallis** |
| **Chief Clerk** | **SSgt Neil March** |

**CHANGEOVER OF 2IC**

The end of March marked the departure of the 2IC, **Capt Mick Fogg** and his wife **Joan** who left us for the more temperate climate of Lippstadt. We wish both **Mick** and **Joan** a happy and successful tour with 22 Sig Regt. The new 2IC, **Capt Mike Kennedy** arrived in April accompanied by his wife **Ingeborg** and the 'White Porsche'. This cryptic reference to a Porsche will not need any clarification for the members of **Mike**'s last Unit, 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt; they may however, be interested to hear of an incident which occurred on his travels to Brize Norton. **Mike**'s journey from Herford was uneventful until he reached the penultimate roundabout in Oxford where he was hit in the rear by another car—**Mike**'s irritation was not helped when it transpired that the driver of the other vehicle was a Greek Cypriot! However, the vehicle only suffered a scratch on the paintwork. But the other vehicle was quite badly damaged. According to the 2IC it's all down to quality! Mishaps aside we wish **Mike** and **Ingeborg** a pleasant stay in Cyprus.

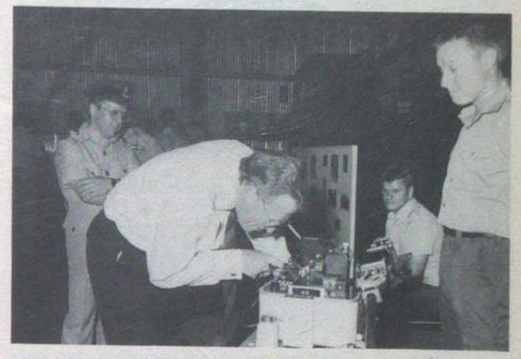
**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

We welcome **SSgt George Myerscough** (Mr Crisp), **Cpl Dai Treeby** and his wife **Jacqueline, Cpl Paul Silver** and **Sylke** and **Cpl Dave Slater** on detachment from CPD. Congratulations to **'Taff'** and **Jackie Ingleson** on the birth of their daughter **Jessie.**

We say farewell to **Sgt Tim Nicholas** and **Marie,** thanks for all your help; Airfield Tp won't be the same again!

**VISITS**

In April the **Rt Hon Tom King MP,** the Secretary of State for Defence paid a flying visit to the Sovereign Base Areas. During his visit he showed his Fibre Optic jointing skills during a visit to a display laid on by Airfield Tp.



The photograph shows Cpl Jock Stenhouse on the 100pr copper cable demonstration and Cpl 'BJ' Forbes-Wilson supervising Mr Tom King on a Fibre Optic splicing unit. The Secretary of State for Defence remarked that though he had done this before it was his first successful splice, and thanked Airfield Tp for their display. Wg Cdr Phil Cutts looks on



Airfield Troop—January 1990
*Back Row:* LCpl Campbell, Sig Rigby, LCpl Goodhand, Sig Gascoigne, Lawlor, Share, Rapson and Hamilton
*Middle Row:* LCpl Mattson, Sig Turner, Wringe, LCpl Jenkins, Sig Maylett, Lougher, LCpl Roberts, Sig Johnfinn, Cpl Kelly and LCpl Campbell
*Front Row:* Sgt John, SSgts Fullwood, Phillips, Lt Craven, WO2 Waites, Sgts Pinsent and Atkinson

In April we were also pleased to host a visit to Airfield Tp at Akrotiri by **Mr Dennis Watson** and his family. **Dennis** who was spending a holiday in Cyprus, had served as a Line Technician with 4 Air Formation Sig Regt at Akrotiri in 1958. He recalled having worked in the exchange building close to the runway and talked about the original telephone exchange he helped to build over 30 years ago. **Dennis**'s reiminiscences of life in Akrotiri during his service gave us a first hand account of the history of the period—he remarked that life in the Royal Signals appeared to be as busy now as it was in his day! After a tour of the Airfield **Dennis** and his family were entertained to a buffet lunch in the Cable Pit Club, where the Sqn Comd, **Maj Lynn Relph**, presented him with a Squadron plaque.



Maj Lynn Relph presenting Mr Dennis Watson with a Squadron plaque
Also shown are Mrs Watson and son, with Lt Tim Craven, WO2 (FofS) Terry Waites and SSgt Nick Phillips

**SPORTING SUCCESS**
**ORIENTEERING**

The end of BF Cyprus Orienteering season was marked with the 1990 British Forces Cyprus Combined Services Orienteering Championships which were held this year on Mount Olympus on 17/18 May.



Sgt Pip Piper, SSgt Dave Alexander and Sgt Dave Bradford have been presented with the relay cup by the Deputy Commander British Forces Cyprus Air Commodore R. P. O'Brien

With the League team for the season consisting of **Sgt Dave Bradford** only and having finished the season in 10th place, not too much was to be expected. However, the posting in of **SSgt (FofS) Dave Alexander, Sgt Pip Piper** and **LCpl John Brennan** a new team was ready to go.

The first day left the team in fifth place with the top three team runners remaining for the relay event. The team now settled in and took a first place in the event leaving it in third place overall. We hope to go from strength to strength next year.

**RUGBY**

Seven Corps soldiers represented the Army, (Cyprus) Rugby side. The annual match against the RAF was a most enjoyable, well fought game, that saw the Army win by a comfortable 21—7. Airfield Tp members were **WO2 Terry Waites, Cpl Dai Treeby** and **Sig Taff Lougher** who all played well.



Cyprus Army 259 Sig Sqn Members who played for the Army (Cyprus) Team
*Back:* WO2 (FofS) Waites and Cpl Treeby
*Front:* LCpl Jones and Sig Lawlor

**AIRFIELD TROOP**
**SOCIAL EVENTS**

A Games Night between the Troop and Electronic Engineering Flight (RAF) was an excellent evening. Good work on the bottle walking and nails in the log game produced a win for Airfield Tp. A return match is eagerly awaited. A similar night against 12 Sig Unit at Salt Lake produced a win for them, so its 1—1 Army v RAF.

The onset of summer has resulted in the barbecue kit being dusted off and the coals being lit. In April a birthday party disco for **Catherine Waites** and **Elfy Bradford** both 21 again! Our local CYTA engineers attended and thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. Our thanks go to **Cpls BJ, Dai Treeby** and **Jock Stenhouse** for organising a grand evening.



# 262 Sig Sqn
# BFPO 58

A few lines from a small and sometimes forgotten Unit FSS Cape Greco on the South Eastern tip of Cyprus. Our Unit consists of:

**THE DAYSIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Acting Station Comd** | **Sgt Keith Tillman** |
| **Station Supervisor** | **Sgt Gary 'Gaz' Corrigan** |
| **ED/SQMS** | **Sgt John Williams** |
| **Driver** | **LCpl Clark Stanley Jones** |

**THE SHIFTYS**

**Sgts Tony Sparks, Steve 'Costas Mehmet' King, Russ Dodd, Cpls Roy Ward, Al Hughes, Ian Munford** and **Mark Patterson**.

**THE WOODHOUSES (RPC DOG HANDLERS)**

**Cpl Graham Lindon**, IC Dog Section; **LCpls Martin Caudell; Tom 'Geordie' Luther; Stevie Hogg** and **David 'Jack' Frost** and Shadow and Trojan.

**THE CIVVIES**

**Tracy Roberts**, Cape Clerk/IC Brew Up; **Chris**, Driver and **Pedros** Cleaner.

**HELLOS AND GOODBYES**

Welcome to **Sgts John** and **Annette Williams** from 11 Sig Regt, **Cpl Mark** and **Suzanne Patterson** from 22 Sig Regt, **LCpl Clark** and **Alice Stanley Jones** from 3 Inf Bde Sig Sqn, **Cpl Graham** and **Debbie Lindon** from AYSC Sutton Coldfield and **LCpl Steve** and **Julie Hogg** from Northern Ireland.

Farewell to **SSgt (FofS) Andy** and **Evelyn Hockley** to UK. **LCpl Steve** and **Carol Appleton** on transfer to Royal Engineers. **Cpl Ian** and **Tina Minford** to 8 Sig Regt and **LCpl Martin** and **Ellen Caudell** to RAOC West Midlands.

**TROODOS SKI TRIP**

Some bright spark suggested we go on a ski trip. So one cold Thursday morning seven members of the newly formed Forward Scatter Station Downhill Ski Team (Cyprus) headed off up the mountain. The fact that only two of the people in the party had ever skied before, and we are the only Scatter Station, did not deter us! On the way up the mountain we were encouraged by **Cpl Roy Ward**'s comments 'I've watched Ski Sunday so it can't be that difficult'.

Once kitted out we headed for Sun Valley One Ski Slope. The competition for the first wipe out was won by **LCpl 'Jack' Frost**, who managed to fall about 3ft from the car park on a flat piece of ground.

On to the ski lift where in the space of a few minutes we had **LCpl Martin Caudell** pushing **Cpl Roy Ward** off and ending up going up the lift as if he was water skiing. Then **LCpl 'Jack' Frost** fell off the lift, skied into a tree, over a spade and down some steps into the ski lift operators hut, much to the amusement of the local Cypriots!

After a few hours we all managed to stay on our skis for more than a few yards. Lesson of the day was the discovery that **SSgt (FofS) Andy Hockley** is the only person we have ever seen ski down hill in slow motion!

**CAPE COMMENTS**

**LCpl Jack Frost** on buying a new car—'I can't tell you what make or model it is, but it's red so it must be fast.' (Later found out to be a Toyota Corolla).

**LCpl Geordie Luther** on gate duty—'If I haven't been told you're coming you can't come in, even if you are a Major General!'

**Sgt Keith Tillman** (the old man of the Cape). It is said he got his T2 for work at Rorkes drift during the Zulu War!

**Sgt Steve** 'Costas Mehmet' **King**, he is our Cyprus liaison rep due to the fact that he most resembles a local.

**EXERCISE TRACKMASTER 90**
**by LCpl Dave McInnes**

Ex Trackmaster 90 took pace on 20-21 April at Bloodhound Camp, Episkopi. Trackmaster is a British Army Motoring Association rally which tests both navigational ability and driving endurance of two member crews taking part. The rally starts at Episkopi, covers the ground in and around Mount Troodos and ends back in Episkopi (hopefully!). This year 262 Sig Sqn entered three teams; **Sgts 'Olly' Garhard** and **'Gaz' Rhodes; Cpl 'Al' Dummer** and **LCpl Rick Hogan; Cpl Steve Ellis** and **LCpl Dave 'Mac' McInnes**.

The rally was held in four stages: Inspection, theoretical tests, driving/navigational skills and finally a cross-country special. Stage 3 started at 2100 hrs, by which time we had become very bored and were



*L to R:* Cpl Dummer, LCpl McInnes, Cpl Ellis and Sgt Garhard
*Kneeling:* LCpl Hogan and Sgt Rhodes

beginning to feel tired. First off from the Squadron, **Sgts Garhard** and **Rhodes** at a tremendous pace in their souped up ½ ton. Halfway round they lost their lights (or so they said) and had difficulty with their vehicle power (there wasn't any!). Next away was **Cpl Al Dummer** and **LCpl Rick Hogan**. Because **'Al'** had competed last year his crew had to enter the 'A' class. After a very good first half they arrived at the halfway point with time to spare. Last but, not least, were **Cpl Steve Ellis** and **LCpl Dave McInnes**, driver supreme and map reader extraordinaire respectively. After being 10 minutes late in picking up the race information and marking up the maps (we were on the space invader at the time!) they finally got away. The objective was to navigate a course picking up markers and checkpoint numbers on the way. In addition there were speed traps, hidden secret checks, quiet zones and the odd donkey or two to contend with. On arrival in Episkopi race cards were handed in for scrutiny and then we managed to grab some hours sleep before entering stage 4. This stage was split into three sections in which crews had to negotiate gates over a cross-country course. The idea was not to touch any of the markers or stop. Of the three crews from the Squadron only **Cpl Steve Ellis** and **LCpl Dave McInnes** went clear on all three sections, subsequently winning the stage overall. Presentation of the prizes was made by CBFC **Maj Gen Friedberger CBE**. The Squadron's hand was as follows:-

| | |
|---|---|
| **Cpl Al Dummer** and **LCpl Rick Hogan** | Winners Class 'A' |
| | Third Team |
| | Third Special Stage |
| **Cpl Steve Ellis** and **LCpl Dave McInnes** | Runner-up Class 'B' |
| | Winners Special Stage |
| **Sgt Olly Garhard** and **Sgt Gaz Rhodes** | Third Team |

I'm sure you will all agree, that it was not a bad day's work.

Thanks must go to all concerned at rally control, especially the Master Driver **WO1 Dave Walker RCT** who organised the whole event. Here's to next year and even better results!

**VISIT OF BRIGADIER G. K. RAMSEY MBE ADC**

**Brig G. K. Ramsey MBE ADC** Director WRAC visited us on 16 May. A tight schedule of gruelling appointments over three days took the Director from one end of the island to the other where she met nearby every member of the WRAC in Cyprus.

**Brig Ramsey** visited Dhekelia Garrison on 16 May 1990 where she met **Col Champion**, the Garrison Commander. She visited 23 Postal and Courier Squadron Royal Engineers and then came to visit us. She



Brig G. K. Ramsey, SSM WO2 Dave Thomas, Maj Wendy Le Gassick, Capt Nick Naylor and Lt S. P. Byrne

was welcomed to the Squadron by the Sqn Comd **Capt Nick Naylor** and **WO2 (SSM) Dave Thomas.**

The Director lunched with WRAC personnel at the Bitsa Bar on the beach. It was a wonderful opportunity for members of the WRAC to meet their Director in an informal way and they lost no time in seeking information on the wider employment of women in the Army, maternity leave and uniform as well as more personal problems that can arise with postings etc.

**ALL ISLAND ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Squadron team of **WO1 (FofS) Pete Martin, WO2** (now a veteran) **(SSM) Dave Thomas, Sgt John Williams** and **Cpl Mick Garbett** have competed in the All Island league this season. The team has done exceptionally well with several wins on difficult, hilly, hot and fiercely contested courses.

The championships on 17-18 May took place in the Troodos Mountains. Day one being an individual event and day two a relay event.

Both courses were difficult with plenty of climbing and an added hazard of large boulders to wreck ankles and feet which were well tested.

**PRIZES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **WO1 Martin** | League Winner |
| **WO2 Thomas** | Individual Third Place |
| | Individual First Vet |
| **Cpl Garbett** | League Third Place (Team Captain) |

**TEAM**
League Winners
First Army Team
Overall Championship Winners



*L to R:* WO1 (FofS) Pete Martin, WO2 (SSM) Dave Thomas, Cpl Mick Garbett and Sgt John Williams

## — News from Troops —

### 602 Sig Tp
### Bicester

The photograph shows SC Course 1/90 at week 9 of their 26 week course, with some of their equipment. All the students are volunteers for 602 Sig Tp (SC) but only **SSgt Hope** and his grin know what is in store for them.



*Rear L to R:* Pte Rawson, Sig Winstanley, Pte Hinchliffe, Sig Mackintosh, Pte Flaherty and Sig McDonald
*Front L to R:* Sig Foster, Cpl Voak (Instr), SSgt Hope (Ch Instr), LCpl Mackintosh (Instr) and Cpl Bower



### 633 Sig Tp
### BFPO 12

**HELLOS AND FAREWELLS**

We would like to say a fond farewell to **Capt Paul Pople**, who will be sadly missed and would like to welcome the new OC **Lt Simon Payne**. As the turnover here in Belize is too large to name everyone, we say hello and welcome and goodbye and best wishes to all concerned.

**MET**

Twelve budding 'John Waynes' left Airport Camp to try horse riding with the Mountain Equestrian Trails (MET) **Cpl** 'Doormouse' **Epps** and **Sig** 'Rip Van Winkle' **Emmett** managed to sleep in the 4 tonner for the whole of the three and a half hour journey to the MET. We soon found out that learning to ride through jungle trails is no joke. During this break we managed to do some swimming only to find out that saddle sores and cold water do not mix (Ouch). All in all a good day was had by all. We now look forward to the next trip being organised by **Diddy** 'The Cat' **Didcock.**

**WEST INDIES GUARD SHIP**

This month saw two operators, **LCpl Jim Hawkins** and **Sig 'CJ' Ball**, detached to HMS *Newcastle* commonly known as WIGS. They returned the favour by sending us two of their operators for a four day period. Our Ops were delivered on board by Puma and winch rope to the deck of WIGS as it sailed South.

They set up the Radio link and then proceeded to find their kit and the bar. They were lavishly entertained by their hosts. We reciprocated at the weekend when 15 of the ship's crew were invited to the Sunspot club for drinks and a barbecue.



At the local gas station



Saddle sores and cold water don't mix



### RSIT
### BFPO 44

The time has come for us once more to put pen to paper to chronicle the goings on in everybody's favourite team.

**HELLOS, GOODBYES AND CONGRATS**

We start with farewell to that much loved, tired old technician, **Lt Col Dai Brown**. After many years service, he has left us, on retirement, to take up an RO post at Hannover—a new ear for his copious war stories. It has been said that his favourite subject is talking. All our good wishes for the future go to **Dai** and **Gisela**, enjoy happy retirement. The onus of command, for this merry band of men, now falls heavily on the shoulders of **Maj Nick Lynn** who joins us with his wife **Aileen** from HQ 4 Sig Gp. A hearty welcome is extended to them both from all team members and their wives.

Congratulations go out to **Sgt Ian McNaughton** and his wife **Christine** on the birth of their son **Craig**—any excuse to miss another inspection visit. Similar congrats also go out to **Sgt Pete** (Deep Pocket) **Wallace** and his wife **Astrid** on the birth of their son **Jeffrey**, perhaps we will get a beer out of him!

The year began, some say 'all too early' with fond farewells to our wives, (sighs of relief were also heard), as three of the four divisions' inspections came in quick succession. It is nice to see that we are as welcome as ever when we arrive in a Unit.

Two of our stalwarts are **Sgts Steve** (I've got the courses DCI) **Hayward** and **Dave** (What? More leave) **Gill** who between them have managed to miss nearly every inspection but were on hand for the team photograph—perhaps there is a moral here.

PS. In response to certain allegations in previous issues about 'Grolsch stained overalls', RSIT would like it known that we never spill our beer.



*Standing L to R:* Sgts Andy Baldwin, Bob Lee, Ian McNaughton, Trev Taylor, Pete Wallace, Dave Gill and Steve Hayward
*Seated L to R:* Mrs Ruth Maffia, Lt Col Dai Brown (Civvy) and WO2 (FofS) Dave Taylor
*Missing:* Sgt Mark (Space Kadette) Egan, and all sports trophies

## Association News

# THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

# MINUTES OF THE FORTY FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT CATTERICK GARRISON ON 24 JUNE 1990

**PRESENT**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE** | Chairman |
| **Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon** | General Secretary |
| **Maj G. Schofield MBE** | Assistant General Secretary |
| **Miss J. L. Wade** | Administrative Officer |

**IN ATTENDANCE**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB, MBE, DL** | Master of Signals and President |
| **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB, MBE** | Colonel Commandant |
| **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB, CBE, DSO** | Past Master of Signals |
| **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE** | Chairman Corps Finance Committee |
| **Maj Gen D. R. Horsfield OBE** | Past Colonel Commandant |
| **Brig M. W. H. Roberts OBE** | Commander Training Group Royal Signals |

And some 104 members of the Association.

**APPOLIGIES FOR ABSENCE**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Lt Col R. L. Murray OBE** | Vice Chairman |

In his opening remarks, the Chairman thanked the members for their attendance, and recorded his pleasure at seeing 35 Branch Standards on Parade including the new Standard for the Cambridge Branch.

The Chairman welcomed **Brig M. W. H. Roberts OBE**, Commander Training Group Royal Signals at his first Catterick Reunion, and on behalf of members thanked him for all that had been done to make the Reunion such a success.

The Chairman then drew attention to the fact that **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB, MBE, DL** is to retire as Master of Signals in November 1990. For more than a decade **Maj Gen Badcock** has played a leading role in the affairs of the Association, formerly as the Chairman of the Royal Signals Association and as the Master of Signals. The Chairman wishes to place on record, at this the last Annual General Meeting before the Master of Signals retires, the Association's thanks for his generosity, sense of fun, interest in individuals and for the example that he has set over the years. He wished him a happy retirement and looked forward to meeting him at future Corps events.

The Chairman also wished to record his thanks to the Regiment Headquarters Staff including the serving and retired officers and soldiers of the welfare committee. He welcomed in particular **Miss Jacqueline Wade** the new Association Administrative Officer.

The minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting held on 2 July 1989 were approved subject to the correction made by the representative from the Newcastle Branch about his proposal that a 'National Standard' should be made available for Regiments of the Corps rather than for Association Branches. The Chairman would refer the matter to the Signal Officer in Chief for his consideration.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 44TH MEETING**

The Chairman was pleased that **Brig Good's** health was much improved since the last meeting, and that he was able to watch the Arena events from his car. The Association wishes him well for the future.

**CHAIRMANS REPORT**

**Financial Affairs**

The Association accumulated funds on 31 December 1989 were £1,006,805 representing an increase of £112,609 over the accumulated funds on 31 December 1988. £80,000 of this increase is as a result of selling stocks and shares to produce funds for the Association share of the purchase of Whernside.

The market value of stocks and shares increased from £1,154,544 at the end of 1988 to £1,239,159 at the end of 1989.

The main source of income is from the serving Corps which contributed £251,242 in 1989. The Signal Officer in Chief and the serving Corps are thanked for continuing to provide this very generous support.

**Welfare**

Expenditure on welfare and benevolence during 1989 was:-

| | |
|---|---|
| 721 Grants | 96,001 |
| 18 Nursing Home Fees | 12,859 |
| 8 School Fees | 8,600 |
| 26 Holiday Grants | 3,167 |
| 343 Christmas Grants | 3,430 |
| 2 Pensions | 560 |

With some £422 spent on miscellaneous items, the total expenditure on welfare and benevolence amounted to £125,099. Support from the Army Benevolent Fund continues as does the help given by SSAFA in identifying problems and administering grants.

Other grants made during 1989 were:-

| | |
|---|---|
| ABF | 42,000 |
| Christmas Grants (NI FI Namibia) | 3,810 |
| Royal Star and Garter Home | 600 |
| Union Jack Club | 250 |
| Queen Victoria School | 400 |
| Bournemouth War Memorial Homes | 500 |
| Funeral Expenses etc | 466 |
| | 48,026 |

**Wire Subsidy**

The subsidy for the production of *The Wire* last year was £39,147 (£41,601).

**Reunions**

The subsidy for Reunions in 1989 was £13,075 (£12,619).

**The Corps Memorial**

All that remains to complete the Corps Memorial is the fixing of bronze plates to the surrounding walls, which will show campaigns in which members of the Corps have died.

**The New Museum Appeal**

1990 has been designated 'Museum Appeal Year' and all efforts of the Serving Corps are being directed towards fund raising.

The Central Committee has accordingly decided that the Association's principal effort would best be deferred until 1991, and there is to be a Grand Draw/Sweepstake co-ordinated by **Maj R. G. Aitken** (Shropshire) and **Mr T. Smith** (Leeds). This does not prevent individual Branches from organising local fund raising events.

**Whernside**

The Adventure Training Centre at Whernside has proved to be popular with the Corps at large and its finances are in good shape. The Colonel in Chief will be visiting on 3 August 1990.

**Reorganisation of Branches**

The reorganisation of the Association Areas to conform with the Serving Corps Area Recruiting Scheme is well underway and a number of Area Vice Chairmen have been appointed. This reorganisation will improve liaison between the Association and the Serving Corps to their mutual benefit.

**ACCOUNTS**

The audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 1989 were *noted* and a copy of the Balance sheet and Income and Expenditure account is shown at the end of these minutes.

**AMENDMENTS TO ASSOCIATION RULES**

As a result of the reorganisation of Branches into the Area Scheme and the introduction of an additional area, the necessary amendments to Association Rules were *approved*.

**ELECTION AND RE-ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The meeting *approved* the election and re-election of members of the Central Committee as follows:-

| | |
|---|---|
| **Mr D. Tupper** | New Area 4 Representative |
| **Maj R. G. Aitken** | Re-election as Area 2 Representative |
| **Mr H. Johnson** | Extension as Area 3 Representative for a further year. |
| **Lt Col R. L. Murray OBE** | Re-election as Vice Chairman for a fourth year. |
| **Brig G. J. Curl** | Vice Chairman (Wales). |
| **Brig M. W. H. Roberts OBE** | Commander Training Group Royal Signals (Ex Officio). |
| **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB, MBE** | Chairman and Treasurer. |

The Chairman then handed over the meeting to **Maj Gen Alexander**.

The new Chairman announced the composition of a Working Group to consider how the Corps would celebrate its 75th Anniversary in 1995 as follows:-

| | |
|---|---|
| **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB, MBE** | Chairman |
| **Brig S. G. M. Gordon** | Representing SOinC(A) |
| **Col P. N. Henwood TD (V)** | Representing the TA |
| **Brig M. Topple CBE** | Representing the Retired Corps |
| **Maj R. G. Aitken** | Representing the Association |

The main event being considered by the Working Group would be a Festival in the Royal Albert Hall in London on Saturday 24 June 1995 and there are to be other functions in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

The Chairman would keep members informed on progress and called for ideas and suggestions to be passed to **Maj Aitken**.

**FUTURE EVENTS**

The meeting *noted* the following future events:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Central Committee Meeting | 7 November 1990 |
| Field of Remembrance | 8 November 1990 |
| Corps Carol Service (London) | 18 December 1990 |
| Central Committee Meeting | 12 April 1991 |
| Branch Representatives Meeting | 13 April 1991 |
| Blandford Reunion | 19 May 1991 |
| Freedom of Richmond | 28 June 1991 |
| Catterick Reunion | 29/30 June 1991 |

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Standard Bearers at Reunions**

**Mr A. A. Hawke**, Secretary of the Bournemouth Branch expressed his concern at the recent changes in the marshalling of Standards, particularly at Blandford; and recommended that Standard Bearers should March Past in column so that members may see the details of their Standards.

**Maj Gen Birtwistle** stated that the decision to make changes was recommended by the Central Committee but agreed with **Mr Hawkes** recommendations on the form of the March Past by Standard Bearers which would be implemented for future reunions.

**Reception at 10 Downing Street—11 September 1990**

The Assistant General Secretary outlined the planned reception being given by the Prime Minister on 11 September 1990, to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the events of 1915 and the 50th Anniversary of 1940. There was difficulty in identifying members from 1915 and information from Branches was called for as a matter of some urgency.

(After meeting note—two members who may be able to attend have been identified but one or two more in reserve would be welcome.)

**ADDRESS GIVEN BY BRIG M. W. H. ROBERTS OBE, ON BEHALF OF THE SIGNAL OFFICER IN CHIEF (ARMY)**

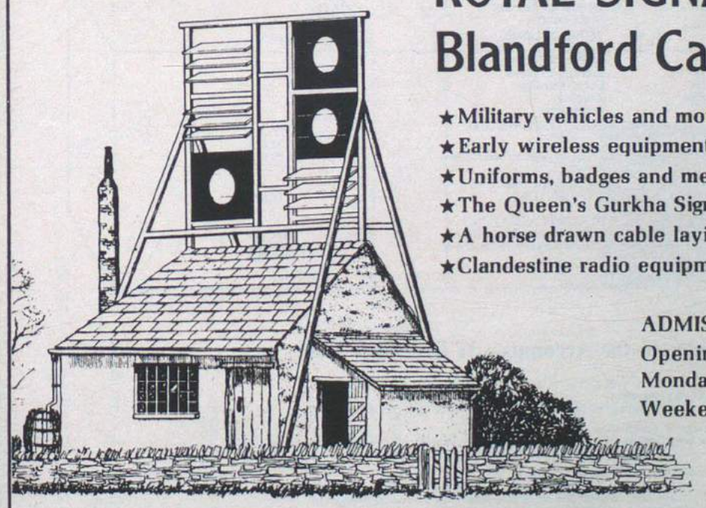
The meeting *noted* an address given by **Brig M. W. H. Roberts OBE** on behalf of the Signal Officer in Chief (Army).

**CONCLUSION**

In closing the meeting, **Maj Gen Alexander** paid a warm tribute to **Maj Gen Birtwistle** for his untiring efforts as Chairman of the Association and wished to record, on behalf of all members the very real gratitude for all that he had done and their good wishes in his appointment as Master of Signals.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Annual General Meeting will be held in Catterick Garrison on 30 June 1991.

ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM
Blandford Camp, Dorset

★Military vehicles and motorcycles.
★Early wireless equipment.
★Uniforms, badges and medals.
★The Queen's Gurkha Signal display.
★A horse drawn cable laying wagon.
★Clandestine radio equipment from World War II.

ADMISSION FREE
Opening hours :
Monday to Friday 0830 - 1700 hours
Weekend by appointment

Artist's impression of the early 19th Century Admiralty shutter telegraph relay station built on the site of Blandford Camp 1806-1825

# ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

## BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 1989

| 1988 | | | 1989 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | INVESTMENTS AT COST | | |
| 774,017 | | Listed | 677,164 | |
| 5 | | Unlisted | 5 | |
| — | | Investment in Whernside Centre | 162,547 | |
| | 774,022 | | | 839,716 |
| | 5,180 | Loans | | 3,087 |
| | | CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| 10,457 | | Sundry debtors | 67,058 | |
| 13,081 | | Income tax recoverable | 14,908 | |
| 105,017 | | Cash | 96,529 | |
| 128,555 | | | 178,495 | |
| | | CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| (13,561) | | Sundry creditors | (14,493) | |
| | 114,994 | NET CURRENT ASSETS | | 164,002 |
| | 894,196 | | | 1,006,805 |
| | | Represented by: | | |
| | £894,196 | ACCUMULATED FUND | | £1,006,805 |

**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 give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Fund at 31 December 1989 and of the excess of income over expenditure for the year then ended.

Price Waterhouse
Chartered Accountants

9 May 1990

## Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31 December 1989

| 1988 | | | 1989 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | INCOME | | |
| 247,120 | | Receipts for Corps Funds | 251,242 | |
| 22,977 | | Subscriptions and Donations | 12,048 | |
| 70,673 | | Investment Income (gross) | 80,124 | |
| 8,229 | | Interest on Deposits | 16,881 | |
| — | | Other Income | 30 | |
| | 348,999 | TOTAL INCOME | | 360,325 |
| | | EXPENDITURE | | |
| 35,843 | | Running Expenses | 34,313 | |
| 124,796 | | Corps Activities | 107,198 | |
| 12,619 | | Reunions | 13,075 | |
| 167,331 | | Benevolence | 173,136 | |
| | 340,589 | TOTAL EXPENDITURE | | 327,722 |
| | 8,410 | | | 32,603 |
| | 29,698 | Profit on Sale of Investments | | 80,006 |
| | 38,108 | EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE | | 112,609 |
| | | ACCUMULATED FUND | | |
| | 856,088 | Brought forward 1 January | | 894,196 |
| | £894,196 | Carried forward 31 December | | £1,006,805 |

## Notes to the Accounts—31 December 1989

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of preparation
The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

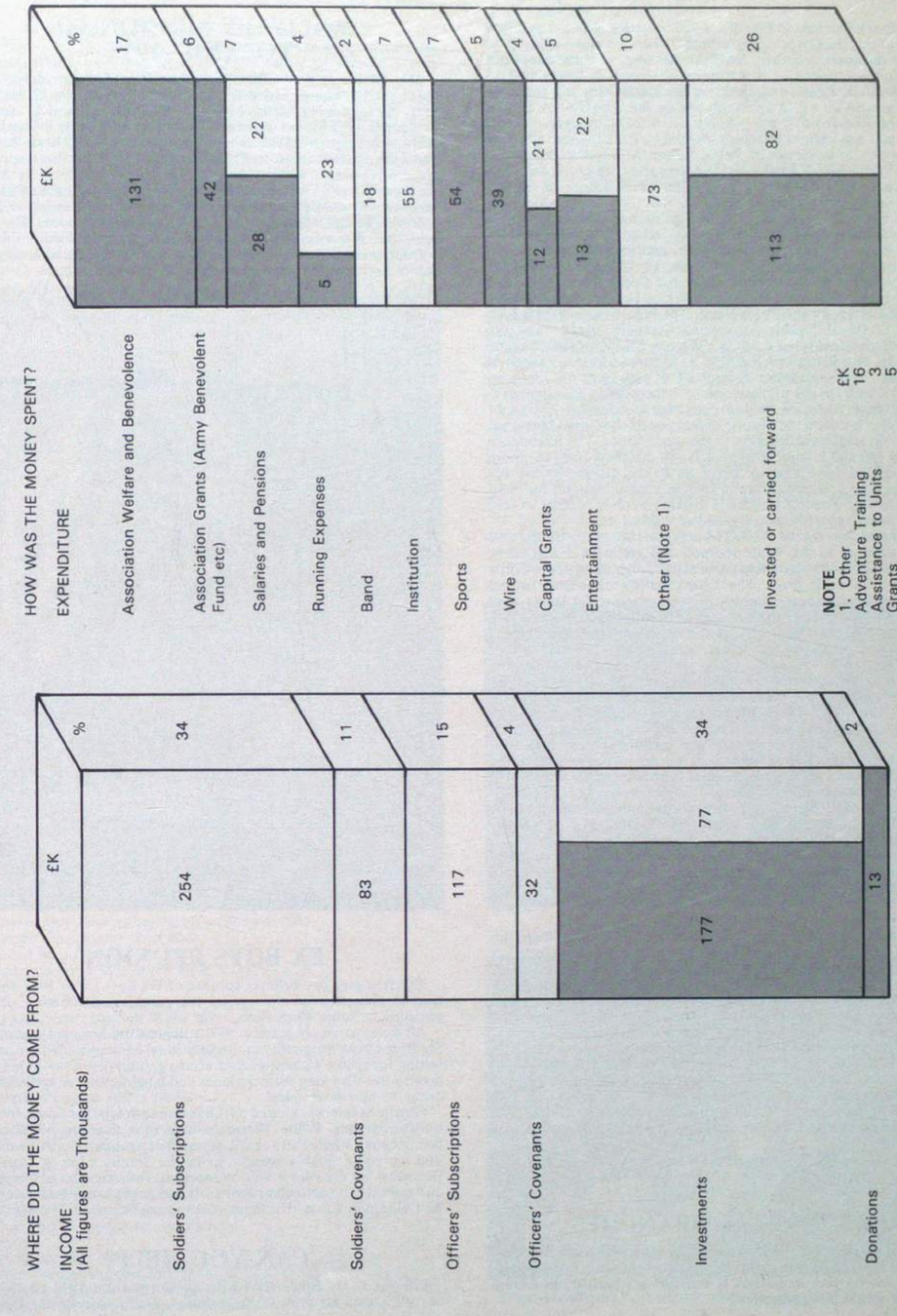
(b) Change of presentation
The layout of the accounts has been changed to provide a clearer presentation for the users. The previous year comparison figures have been re-stated.

(c) 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 interest income includes imputed tax credits.

(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.



## CORPS AND ASSOCIATION FUNDS—1989



The Annual Reunions in Blandford and Catterick were as usual well attended in this the Corps' 70th Birthday/Year and much enjoyed by the many members and their families who support these important Corps family occasions.

The Blandford Reunion was held on Sunday 20 May and well over 500 were present on a pleasant warm Spring day. The Church Service held in the Blandford Corps Church attracted a number of local residents and Association Members who paid tribute to those who had given so much in the service of their Country. An excellent lunch was provided in the Junior Ranks dining room after pre-lunch drinks in the Sergeants' and Junior NCOs' Messes. The School of Signals arranged many interesting displays of the training provided for Officers, Foreman and Yeoman of Signals and the advances in communication and information systems technology; ranging from satellites to 'chips'. The amateur radio station Benbow 3 was as popular as ever with association members. The day was rounded off by the Blue Helmets dropping in under the Command of **Capt Jan McKee WRAC**, the ever professional White Helmets and a fitting Playing of Retreat by the Corps Band. The Finale was a March Past by some 12 Royal Signals Association Standard Bearers and the Master of Signals **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB, MBE, DL** took the salute at his last Blandford Reunion as Master. The Association is grateful to the Commander School of Signals and all ranks in Blandford Camp for the organisation of a successful and happy day.

The Catterick Reunion, held on Saturday and Sunday 23 and 24 June this year included the historic dedication of the Corps Memorial which was an important addition to the celebrations. The attendance was nearly 950 and a number of association members from the more distant outposts were able to arrive on Friday thanks to the co-operation of the Training Group in finding accommodation for them for an extra day. The fete and arena displays were as popular as ever and very much enjoyed by young and old alike.

It seems that the original White Helmets have become a regular and welcome addition to the White Helmets and get more daring every year. The Playing of Retreat was particularly poignant with the Corps Memorial as a back drop. The Corps Band's choice of music, and marching were of an extremely high standard. **Capt David Wall** and his musicians can be justifiably proud of the high esteem in which they are held by the Corps and by the Army at large. The evening entertainment followed the usual pattern and a number of acquaintances were renewed albeit at the expense of a full night's sleep. Nevertheless the following day the Church Service in Le Cateau gymnasium was filled to capacity. The sermon was given by Bishop **The Rt Rev H. R. Darby BA** who had the congregation's undivided attention with his lighthearted and amusing oratory which conveyed many appropriate lessons and recaptured old memories. Although he said that he had been asked to keep his address short, the congregation would not have been upset if he had continued. He will long be remembered with affection and respect. Following the Church Service was a short but moving dedication of the Corps memorial conducted by the Bishop, The Master of Signals and Commander Training Group. The Chairman Royal Signals Association, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE** and **In Pensioner D. H. Young BEM** fittingly laid a wreath at the conclusion of the short ceremony. Members of the Association, preceded by 35 Standard Bearers then marched past the Corps Memorial to pay their respects and then past the Master of Signals who took the salute.

The Annual General Meeting followed in the Le Cateau gymnasium and **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB, MBE** was unanimously elected as Chairman. Before handing over, the present Chairman **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE** paid tribute to the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB, MBE, DL**, who is held in high esteem and regarded with affection by the Association. **Maj Gen Alexander CB, MBE** in turn thanked the departing Chairman for his unselfish efforts on behalf of the Association during his tenure.

This was undoubtedly a very special reunion and a fitting way of celebrating the Corps 70th Birthday. The Association is most grateful to the Commander Training Group and all ranks in Catterick Garrison for their generous and unstinting support and efforts to make this important and popular Corps event a resounding and happy success.

*Photographs of the Catterick Reunion and dedication of the Corps memorial are in the centre pages of this issued—Ed.*

## CALLING ALL BRANCHES

**Your association has 57 Branches and nine affiliated Branches throughout the United Kingdom. We like to hear your news. Please keep in touch via your magazine. If activities are limited, an annual news letter would be appreciated.**

## MILITARY MISSION TO POLAND—1939

**Maj (Retd) J. Daw BEM,** President West London Branch was among those who attended the Blandford Reunion on 22 May this year. As a member of the Military Mission to Poland in August/September 1939 he was especially pleased to meet **Ernie Peacock** who had also been involved in that venture. **Cpl** (later WO2) **Ernie Peacock** had been selected to go to Poland because of his accurate and high speed performance with a morse key. Now an In-Pensioner he assured the Association's Chairman, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE** that he could still manage a good 20 words per minute! Readers will find reference to this Mission in the recently published book 'The Vital Link' which is available from the Museum at Blandford.

Our photograph shows **Ernie Peacock** with **Maj Daw**. It was **Maj Daw**'s first meeting with an ex member of the Mission.



## EX BOYS REUNION

The first ever (we believe) reunion of Ex Boys (circa 1942-46) was held at Catterick on the eve of the Association Reunion. It was attended by some 40 ex Boys.

All were extremely grateful to the Regimental Sergeant Major of 8 Sig Regt whose hospitality in the Sergeants' Mess provided the perfect setting for such a gathering. And what a gathering it was—going back down some very long memory lanes and laughter that as time went on began to hurt your sides!

**George Severs** was elected as the future secretary for this event; and notwithstanding **Willie Watson's** insistence that we all move to Scarborough where there are plenty of cheap properties on the market and we could hold a weekly do in the Jimmy Club at Burniston Barracks; we are sure it will be repeated. Anyone who is interested, and missed this particular reunion should get in touch with **George** at 22 Dallington Close, Hersham, Walton-on-Thames KT12 4JG.

## CAN YOU HELP?

**020 Sgt C. J. Jones** served in the Corps from 1944 to 1970. If anyone knows his present whereabouts, kindly write to the Editor.



## GUERNSEY BRANCH

Some 30 members and guests enjoyed an excellent dinner at the Cobo Bay Hotel on 30 March. After the meal **Alvaro Salazar** and **Tom Freeman** gave a talk, illustrated by slides, about a journey across Canada from Toronto to Vancouver Island.

The Branch was very pleased to welcome 33 members from West London, Reading, The Cotswolds, Southampton, Dorset and Salisbury Branches, and serving member **Sgt Andrew McCathie** (242 Sqn) to participate in the celebrations held to mark the 45th anniversary of the Island's liberation from occupation by German Troops.

On Monday 7 May, the visitors attended a 'Vin D'Honneur' reception organised by island authorities at the St Peter Port leisure centre and on Liberation Day itself, 9 May, joined our members in the Church Parade held in the town in the morning. This was followed by an appearance in the cavalcade which marched along the front headed by horses and the band of the Blues and Royals to salute **HRH Princess Alexandra** who viewed the parade. Branch member **John Montague** was instrumental in inspiring and organising the impressive contingent of veterans in the parade.

Tuesday 8 May saw members entertain their guests at a reception at the Royal British Legion's headquarters. Our Chairman **John Rudkin** delivered a speech of welcome and reviewed Branch activities. **Alan Foot**, Chairman Reading Branch, replied with a message of thanks from the Visitors, one of whom was **Robbie Robbins**, President of Salisbury Branch, who joined the Corps as a sapper at the age of 16 years.

Also present was **Reg Arnold**, who was a member of Force 135 when it accepted the German surrender on 9 May 1945. **Reg** told a moving story of how he came ashore from an LCT and of giving their rations to the near-starving islanders. Initially their main signals role was to transmit messages via Cherbourg to Units in the UK and also to Guernsey Islanders who had been evacuated in 1940 and who had had no contact with their relatives for five years.

Guernseyman **Stan Falla** also struck a nostalgic note. **Stan** joined the Corps in 1938 and served in Egypt, but later contracted a serious illness and was returned to UK. After convalescence, he served with Western Command in Chester as a wireless operator and at 0300 hrs one morning in 1943, when traffic had ceased, he scribbled his thoughts on a message pad in poems:

**WAITING**

*All those who have never seen*
*That glorious island home of ours*
*Could not possibly comprehend*
*What it means to us her sons*

*At present living far and wide*
*In every corner of the world*
*That picture is ever in our eyes*
*The loveliest island of the realm*

*That the day will come we are most sure*
*When we can go sailing home again*
*To greet all loved ones waiting there*
*Who suffered cruelty for the cause*

*Homes may have gone friends may have died*
*During that rule of Nazi hate*
*But as we sail in on the tide*
*Once more a happy home we'll make*

*That sight is all I want to see*
*Of Guernsey standing in the sea*
*Looking glorious in the sun*
*Then we'll know that we have won*

**MEMORIES**

*Memories of an island home*
*It matters not how far we roam*
*Come drifing back as from afar*
*Our memories door is still ajar*

*Memories of those lovely bays*
*With flowering cliffs down to the sea*
*Memories of some marvellous days*
*That once belonged to you and me*

*Memories that come flooding still*
*When we are worried sometimes ill*
*Memories that we will always hold*
*A great deal more than precious gold*

*Memories that we wish were real*
*Into ones thoughts will always steal*
*But we know they will be facts*
*When we beat our enemies back*

*Our island then once more will be*
*That home we have so longed to see*
*Those long and dreary days, months, years*
*Will vanish quickly with our fears*

## SHROPSHIRE BRANCH

This past year has seen the Branch holding its own in terms of members, and at the end of last year we were delighted to welcome **Ex WO1 Bob Keen** (late of Birmingham OTC) and **Ex WO1 Tony Davis** (late School of Signals) as new members. Both have now settled in the area and we look forward to them attending Branch meetings.

Once again, our Entertainments Member, **Colin McMillan**, selected an excellent venue for our Annual Ladies Dinner Night. It was a really pleasant evening as our photographs show.

**Maj Nick Carter** and his wife **Louise** have just celebrated 50 years of marriage. **Nick** is one of the stalwarts of the Branch, and a past President and Chairman. We wish **Nick** and **Louise** many more years of happiness together.

The Royal Signals Association Grand National Draw was held again this year, the winners were:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1st | — Ticket No 01417 **Sig Hill**, Comms & Sy UK | £150 |
| 2nd | — Ticket No 13429 **LCpl Haltam**, Comms & Sy UK | £ 75 |
| 3rd | — Ticket No 00500 **Sig Scott**, 11 Sig Regt | £ 25 |
| 4th | — Ticket No 02335 **Capt Harrison WRAC**, 238 Sig Sqn | £ 10 |

A big thank you to all those people who supported this excellent cause, which has enabled us to donate the sum of £250 to the Corps Benevolent Fund.

If you weren't lucky this year why not try again next year; you never know it could be your lucky year.



Members enjoy an evening out



Charlie Williams and friends enjoying our Ladies Dinner Night



Maj Nick Carter and his wife Louise celebrate 50 years of marriage

## WEST LONDON BRANCH

**Report by Capt Jane Knight**

On a fine Sunday in early June the West London Branch gathered for a buffet luncheon, enhanced by a Trio from the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall. It was a happy occasion as we were entertaining the Reading Branch who hosted us to a buffet supper a few months earlier.

The luncheon followed a day on which a party of members went to London to see the rehearsal by the Welsh Guards of Trooping their Colour on Horseguards Parade. All were impressed by the splendour of the occasion.

In May more than 20 members spent a week in Guernsey, parading on the 45th Anniversary of the Liberation. We were entertained by the Guernsey Branch to a Social Evening, and by other organisations on the Island. Liberation Day ended with a Retreat Ceremony by the Band of the Blues and Royals with their magnificent Drum Horse 'Leonidas', followed by a fine firework display. Our thanks to go the President, **Mr John Rudkin**, the Secretary, **Mr Len Barbe** and members of the Guernsey Branch for helping to make the visit so enjoyable.

## 602 Signal Troop (SC) Association of Friends

**602 Sig Tp (SC)**

**From: Ken Purnell, Chairman**

On the 21 April 1990 the Association of Friends held its fourth reunion dinner and AGM at the Star Hotel, Worcester. Sixty five members and wives sat down to an excellent meal. After the toasts we held our AGM with all members being informed of the latest developments which had taken place over the past year. Some of the points discussed were that we now have our own AOF tie and a scarf for the ladies both at £5 each. Everyone present commented on the nice designs. We sold over 20 ties plus many scarves on the night; anyone wishing to purchase either an AOF tie or scarf please contact our Secretary.

One piece of very good news that I was pleased to announce was that two days before the dinner I was informed by the Assistant General Secretary of the Royal Signals Association that our application by 602 Sig Tp (SC) Association of Friends to join the family of the Royal Signals Association officially as an affiliated member had been granted at the 93rd Meeting of the Central Committee of the Royal Signals Association. Now as an Affiliated member of the RSA it was proposed by **Mr Sam Kennard** that we should have our own Standard. There was a unanimous approval to investigate the price of the Standard! The only thing we do not have to worry about is who is going to carry it . . . Well done **Sam** for volunteering!

Another proposal made by **Mr Sam Kennard** was that we should go back to our roots and have a 'mini' reunion in Kenya, yes, that is right, I did say Kenya. **Sam** assured the meeting that our President **Lt Col Bill Lidster** has promised some help. **Sam** told us that he has a very good contact in Kenya who can arrange hotel accommodation and tours, all at a very good price. Approximately six couples have already put their name down to go. So our motto now must be . . . Join, 602(SC) and see the world—join 602 AOF and see even more of it! Anyone wishing to make the trip please apply to our Secretary.

At the last count, after the dinner, our total paid up membership is a total of 71 which, by any standard, is an excellent membership. A list giving names, address, and telephone number is now being compiled and will be available by the time this article is in print. Any ex Troop or serving/ex Troop members who wishes to join our organisation please contact our Secretary for further details. Please note that you do not have to have been an operator to become a member. Within our membership are ex OCs and ex Storeman and everyone is welcome.

Some of the ladies who accompanied their husbands at the dinner were in fact, ex members of the Troop so became members in their own right that night. They told the Secretary in no uncertain manner that they wanted all correspondence addressed to them independent of their husbands! Well done Ladies! We now look forward to a first lady member serving on the Committee and putting their views forward on behalf of the ladies.

We welcomed two new members to the Committee—both volunteers, of course. They are **Mr Pat Gratten** and **Mr John (JB) Priestley** and **Angie Tivenan** who also volunteered to be our Secretary/Note taker at our meetings. It was lovely to see **Angie** at our dinner this year as over the past year she has been in and out of hospital and given all her friends a scare or two. Well done **Angie** keep up the good work.

Next year's venue for the annual dinner will, it is hoped, be in the Southend-on-Sea area and is being organised by **Mr Pat Gratten**. If anyone living in the area has any ideas for this event or wishes to help please get in touch with **Pat** on (0702) 466602.

Our Secretary's address is: **Mr Dave Smedley**, 5 Old Rectory Close, Powick, Worcester, Worcestershire WR2 4OU. Telephone: (0905) 831705.

## SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE SIGNAL COMPANY—BELFAST

The Supplementary Reserve Signal Company formed in Belfast before the war was manned by Post Office Engineers, with one exception—a school master. After Dunkirk, some members of the company were posted to the Middle East, others to 83rd HAA Bde Sig Coy, part of 10th Army, and saw service with Persia and Iraq Force. The photograph which was taken in the Company store, shows **Sgmn Hayes** looking after some official and unofficial stores! It was taken at Royal Air Force Station, Habbayniah. Ex **LSgt R. S. Musgrave**, whom we are indebted for the picture, was also a member of the Company, and is a life member of the Association. He served from 1939 to 1946.





## — Sport —

## MORRISON CUP—BAOR 1990

The Morrison Cup (BAOR) was held this year at the athletics stadium, Sennelager Training Centre on 7 and 8 June. 7 Sig Regt were once again the hosts, with **Maj David Sullivan** and his 'team' from 4 Sqn organising and setting up the event. All their hard work paid off, with the competition running very smoothly throughout the two days, despite the particularly wet and windy weather that descended upon Sennelager. The weather enabled the Regt PRI Shop to make high profits on the sales of umbrellas but unfortunately it also meant that the Blue Helmets Parachute Display Team were unable to 'drop in' for lunch on the second day.

The competition itself brought out some highly talented athletes from units within BAOR and by the end of the two days there were four new Morrison Cup records set. **Sig Powell**, from 21 Sig Regt, beat his own 1989 record by over 2½m in the Major Units javelin competition; **LCpl Marshall**, from 21 Sig Regt, also beat his own 1988 record in the Major Units shot event; **Pte Williams**, from 202 Sig Sqn, set a new record in the Minor Units high jump competition and, finally, **Cpl Weeks**, from 206 Sig Sqn, ran a very exciting race to set a new record in the Minor Units 200m event.

In addition to the athletics, the Tug of War competition also took place. 7 Sig Regt, having won the 560kg and 600kg BAOR Tug of War Championships the previous day, then went on to win both the Major Units Tug of War and the overall Morrison Cup Tug of War competition.

The Major Units competition proved to be a runaway win for 21 Sig Regt, which won virtually every event; however, the Minor Units competition had a much closer finish, with 201 Sig Sqn eventually beating 202 Sig Sqn to become the Minor Units winners. The final presentations of the Morrison Cup 90 meeting were made by **Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander OBE**, who had taken up his appointment as Comd Comms BAOR only a few days previously.

A summary of the results for the Morrison Cup 90 are as follows:-

**Major Units Winners**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pole Valut | **Cpl Jarvis** | 21 Sig Regt | 3.70m |
| Shot | **LCpl Marshall** | 21 Sig Regt | 13.37m (New Morrison Cup Record) |
| 5,000m | **Sgt Bailey** | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt | 15 min 9 sec |
| Long Jump | **Cpl Pearson** | 21 Sig Regt | 6.27m |
| 800m | **Sgt Pollard** | 21 Sig Regt | 1 min 57.2 sec |
| Hammer | **Sgt Yates** | 21 Sig Regt | 40.84m |
| Triple Jump | **Cpl Pearson** | 21 Sig Regt | 13.47m |
| 3,000m S/C | **Sgt Martin** | 21 Sig Regt | 9 min 45.1 sec |
| 400m | **LCpl Key** | 21 Sig Regt | 51.04 sec |
| 100m | **LCpl Alleyne** | 21 Sig Regt | 11.25 sec |
| Discus | **LCpl Mathews** | 21 Sig Regt | 36.67m |
| 400m Hurdles | **Sig Renwick** | 21 Sig Regt | 57.99 sec |
| Javelin | **Sig Powell** | 21 Sig Regt | 56.90m (New Morrison Cup Record) |
| 200m | **LCpl Cain** | 21 Sig Regt | 22.90 sec |
| 110m Hurdles | **LCpl Key** | 21 Sig Regt | 16.16 sec |
| 1,500m | **Sgt Bailey** | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt | 4 min 15.3 sec |
| 4 × 100m Relay | | 21 Sig Regt | 43.95 sec |
| 4 × 400m Relay | | 21 Sig Regt | 3 min 28.1 sec |
| High Jump | **Capt Sharp** | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt | 1.81m |

Major Units Competition: Winners: 21 Sig Regt
Runners Up: 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt

**Minor Units Winners**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Triple Jump | **WO2 Pemberton** | 212 Sig Sqn | 12.09m |
| 5,000m | **Cpl Castle** | 202 Sig Sqn | 16.52m |
| Javelin | **Cpl Cummings** | 204 Sig Sqn | 45.26m |
| 800m | **LCpl Raybould** | 201 Sig Sqn | 2 min 9.1 sec |
| 400m | **Cpl Browning** | 202 Sig Sqn | 54.04 sec |
| High Jump | **Pte Williams** | 202 Sig Sqn | 1.85m (New Morrison Cup Record) |
| 100m | **LCpl Francis** | 211 Sig Sqn | 11.47 sec |
| 400m Hurdles | **Dvr Boardman** | 201 Sig Sqn | 60.41 sec |
| Discus | **LCpl Wilcox** | 227 Sig Sqn | 30.45m |
| Shot | **Sig Haines** | 211 Sig Sqn | 11.70m |
| Long Jump | **Sig Lowery** | 201 Sig Sqn | 6.01m |
| 200m | **Cpl Weeks** | 206 Sig Sqn | 23 sec (New Morrison Cup Record) |
| 1,500m | **SSgt Barday** | 201 Sig Sqn | 4 min 18.9 sec |
| 4 × 400m Relay | | 201 Sig Sqn | 3 min 38.2 sec |

Minor Units Competition: Winners: 201 Sig Sqn
Runners Up: 202 Sig Sqn

**Tug of War**
Minor Units: 227 Sig Sqn
Major Units: 7 Sig Regt
Overall Winners: 7 Sig Regt



The Team from 7 Sig Regt, which won the Major Units and the Morrison Cup Tug of War competitions
*Back Row L to R:* Capt Brian Greenwood, Sig Rob Cruickshank, LCpls Eddy Edwards, Gordon Cowan, 'PT' Patterson-Turner, Cpl Roy Carter, LCpls Steve Hazelwood and Jimmy Gooch
*Front Row L to R:* LCpls 'Taff' Thomas, Sig Jim Mason, SSgt Mick Scull, LCpl Keith Parsons, Cpl Paddy Simpson and Sig 'Taffy' O'Connor



7 Sig Regt team in action
*L to R:* Cpl Roy Carter, LCpl Eddy Edwards, Sig Rob Cruickshank, LCpls 'Taff' Thomas, Keith Parsons and Gordon Cowan

## 21 SIG REGT—ARMY INTER UNIT TEAM SQUASH CHAMPIONS 1989/90

**Match Report by Capt W. V. Miles—Corps Squash Secretary**

The final of the Inter Unit Team Squash Competition between 21 Sig Regt and 39 Engr Regt took place at Winchester on Saturday 7 April 1990. For only the second time in the history of the competition a Signal Regiment had reached the final, the previous team being 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in 1978 when **Capt Neil Stewart** and yours truly were the only two Signallers in the team. History also shows that very few winning teams have consisted of players all from the same Corps and therefore to have five Signallers competing as one team, although not unique, was very satisfying. On this occasion the Sapper team, could also boast that their team was also a one cap badged outfit. The match itself turned out to be an excellent competitive final where strengths and weaknesses in both teams were put to the test.

**SSgt Alex Hamilton**, one of the Corp's best ever all rounders playing at number five, gave the Regiment a good start in defeating his opponent in three straight sets. He proved far too strong and fit and this result was never in serious doubt. 'Not bad for an over 40 year old' he said to his team mates suggesting it was their turn to do their bit.

**Cpl Roy Gradwell**, playing at number three came up against an opponent who is recognised as future Army A team standard, **LCpl Bell** the current under 25 year old Army Champion. This game produced some excellent rallies but under constant pressure **Roy Gradwell**'s game lacked the continuity and accuracy required at this level. He eventually lost in three straight sets.

**Sgt Tom Pollard** the current Army number two playing at one for the Regiment had a stern test against another Army player **Capt Collins**. The match went to five sets with his opponent digging in deep and producing squash of the highest standard. **Sgt Tom Pollard** seemed to lack the polish and final touch to his game that on another day would have had his opponent reeling well before the fifth but **Tom**'s superb fitness and constant pressure eventually paid dividends. **Tom** eased his team manager's blood pressure by comfortably winning the final set 9—2.

Playing at four **Capt Mike Stapleton** came up against another very fit young Sapper **LCpl Moores**. This match also produced some very good rallies but yet again it was the final shot that proved the downfall of the Signaller. On many occasions **Mike** had his opponent stranded only to produce a poorly executed decisive shot. At this level and with such a talented opponent an accurate game is essential; **Mike**'s fitness and obvious talent gave the spectators excellent value but his opponent on the day provided too many winners in his eventual 3—1 victory.

Two games all, and confronting one another at two for each respective Regiment were two Army A team players, **LCpl Dave Gallagher** and **Cpl Nigel Hissey**. This match was played at a level in the highest traditions of sport, both producing quality, humour and sportmanship. Arguably the most improved squash player in the Army this year **LCpl Davy Gallagher** reached the seemingly unreachable potential winner on too many occasions which kept his opponent running when he should have been serving for the next point. In a hard fought match it was perhaps fitting that **Dave** should seal the victory for his Regiment by emphatically defeating his opponent 3—0. **Maj Ken Davies-Stewart** the team manager finally sat down; victory at last.

This was an excellent team performance by 21 Sig Regt as winning Army Cups is never an easy task; winning this trophy will also be welcome news to **Capt John Newman**, who over the past three years has done so much for both the Corps and players in helping to raise the standards of the game. One more to go **John**, the Army Inter Corps in the forthcoming season. We have the team to do it.

**RESULTS**

| Corps | RE | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Pollard** | **Collins** | 9—2 | 6—9 | 3—9 | 9—6 | 9—2 |
| **Gallagher** | **Hissey** | 9—6 | 10—9 | 9—4 | | |
| **Gradwell** | **Bell** | 2—9 | 1—9 | 3—9 | | |
| **Stapleton** | **Moores** | 3—9 | 6—9 | 9—1 | 6—9 | |
| **Hamilton** | **Sauberlich** | 9—3 | 9—3 | 9—0 | | |

21 Sig Regt 3—39 Engr Regt 2

## TENNIS

**INTER CORPS TENNIS WINTER LEAGUE WINNERS**

**Report by Capt W. V. Miles—Hon Sec, Corps Tennis**

The inaugural Inter Corps Winter League fixtures were completed in March this year. Although designed to keep players ticking over, this event, consisting of two doubles pairs per team, proved to be a competitive worthwhile fixture. All matches were played at the Army indoor courts at Aldershot, therefore, weather was never a problem. In winning this league the Corps tennis team has proved that we have a team of strength with a combination of both young and old producing good standard tennis.

**Final Table**

| | RAMC | RE | RA | RAOC | REME | RAEC | RAPC | RCT | ACC | RSIGS | WRAC | APTC | POINTS | GAMES FOR | GAMES AGAINST |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RAMC | — | 4 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 15 | 57 | 30 |
| RE | 4 | — | V | V | V | 2 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 12 | 39 | 24 |
| RA | V | V | — | V | V | V | V | V | V | V | V | V | 0 | 0 | 72 |
| RAOC | 1 | V | V | — | 1 | 3 | 1 | V | 3 | 0 | 4 | V | 3 | 13 | 39 |
| REME | 0 | V | 8 | 7 | — | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 14 | 48 | 31 |
| RAEC | 6 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 7 | — | 2 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 8 | 15 | 54 | 31 |
| RAPC | 3 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 6 | — | 3 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 14 | 57 | 31 |
| RCT | 4 | 2 | 8 | V | 3 | 1 | 5 | — | 7 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 11 | 47 | 33 |
| ACC | 2 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 1 | — | 3 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 40 | 46 |
| RSIGS | 6 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 5 | — | 7 | 8 | 21 | 71 | 17 |
| WRAC | 0 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | — | 2 | 3 | 20 | 69 |
| APTC | 4 | 2 | 8 | V | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 6 | — | 6 | 28 | 51 |

V = Void/Not Played.

The following players contributed to the success: **Maj N. Moore, Capts G. Mason, W. Miles, Sgts R. Vincent, D. Richardson, LCpls D. Hall, D. Petty** and **Sig M. Dowsett.**





The windsurfing season is now well under way and already there is much to report. Plans laid in the New Year for new Corps equipment are beginning to bear fruit. By the time you read this, stage one of the replacement programme will be complete. This will see six new 'Bic Bamba' boards complete with race rigs purchased with the aid of a UKLF Welfare Grant. At the end of this season six of the 1987 'Bic Beebops' will be sold off and stage two early in 1991 will see a second buy of a further six Bambas and the remaining Beebops sold. This will provide the Corps in UK with a nucleus of top quality equipment with which to spearhead its' challenge to top the UK Inter-Corps league. Additionally the new boards will serve as an excellent base for Inter-Unit team racing at Corps Championships.

Already two Corps Championships events have been held.

**CORPS BAOR CHAMPIONSHIP**

9/10 April at the Dummersee provided excellent conditions with winds varying between 2-4 and seasonal extremes of temperature. Thirty five individuals and nine Unit teams competed in the separate Major and Minor Unit team events. The detailed results were:-

**INDIVIDUAL**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Overall Champion | **Maj Jo Fletcher** | 202 Sig Sqn |
| Runner-up | **Sgt Andy Elliott** | 21 Sig Regt |
| Heavyweight Champion | **Maj Jo Fletcher** | 202 Sig Sqn |
| Runner-up | **Cpl Barry Raine** | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Lightweight Champion | **Sgt Andy Elliott** | 21 Sig Regt |
| Runner-up | **Capt Mike Stapleton** | 21 Sig Regt |
| Novice Champion | **LCpl Douggie Liggins** | 7 Sig Regt |
| Veteran Champion | **WO1 (RSM) John Mold** | 227 Sig Sqn |
| Lady Champion | **Mrs Jenny Fletcher** | 202 Sig Sqn |

**TEAM**

| | |
|---|---|
| Major Unit | 21 Sig Regt |
| Minor Unit | 202 Sig Sqn |

**CORPS CHAMPIONSHIP**

3-5 May at Browndown Camp, Lee-on-Solent should have provided excellent seasonal wind for this championship which were once again held in Stokes Bay off the beach at Browndown. In the event, uncharacteristically, the sun shone brightly throughout with record temperatures for May! This fine weather regrettably meant only light winds with most days not seeing any racing until the sea breeze obliged around mid-day. Nevertheless some five individual and three team races were completed which included some fiercely fought sailing and exciting starts. Happily a new attendance record was achieved with 51 individual competitors and 12 team entries helping to make this the best supported Corps windsurfing event ever. It would have been better to include some action-packed photos showing just how thrilling this sport can be, but alas the wind did not produce the goods:

Detailed results were:-

**INDIVIDUAL**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Overall and Lightweight Champion | **Maj Jo Fletcher** | 202 Sig Sqn |
| Runner-up | **Capt Mike Stapleton** | 21 Sig Regt |
| Heavyweight Champion | **Cpl Sammy Anderson** | 15 Sig Regt |
| Runner-up | **Sgt Dave Maw** | 8 Sig Regt |
| Novice-Lightweight | **Sig Mick Eades** | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Heavyweight Champion | **LCpl Douggie Liggins** | 7 Sig Regt |
| Veteran Champion | **Capt Bill White** | 249 Sig Sqn |
| Guest Champion | **LCpl Mel Brookes RE** | 7 Sig Regt |

**TEAM**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Winners | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt | 35¾ pts |
| Second | 227 Sig Sqn | 48 pts |
| Third | 8 Sig Regt | 54¾ pts |

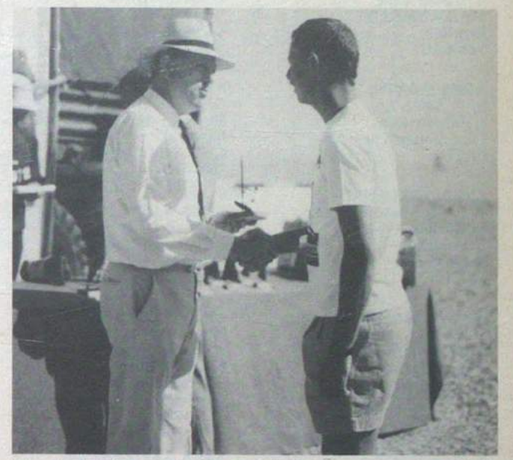
On the first day of the Corps Championships it was fitting to have the outgoing Rear Commodore perform the duties of Officer of the Day. The occasion also provided a suitable opportunity for the Corps windsurfing fraternity to record their thanks and make a small presentation to **Lt Col John Doody**. His good offices and hard work throughout the two and a half years tenure have seen the sport go from strength to strength. A hearty welcome to **Lt Col Charles Kemp** who replaces him in the hot seat.

Encouragingly both the championships saw many new people competing and this healthy situation can only augur well for the future. Before closing this report a brief look forward to future events:-

**UK** Corps UK Browndown 6-8 September
**BAOR** Inter-Corps Dummersee 17-18 September
Inter Services Dummersee 1-2 October

Details of these events as well as any general queries can be answered by:-

**UK—Capt Dave Gilchrist** Tidworth Mil 2403
**BAOR—Capt Phil Daisey** Korbecke Mil 393



The Yacht Club Commodore, Col W. Roper presents Maj Jo Fletcher with the Individual Champion trophy



The Yacht Club Commodore, Col W. Roper presents Sig Mick Eades with the Lightweight Novice trophy



Jockeying for position on the start line of the third individual race

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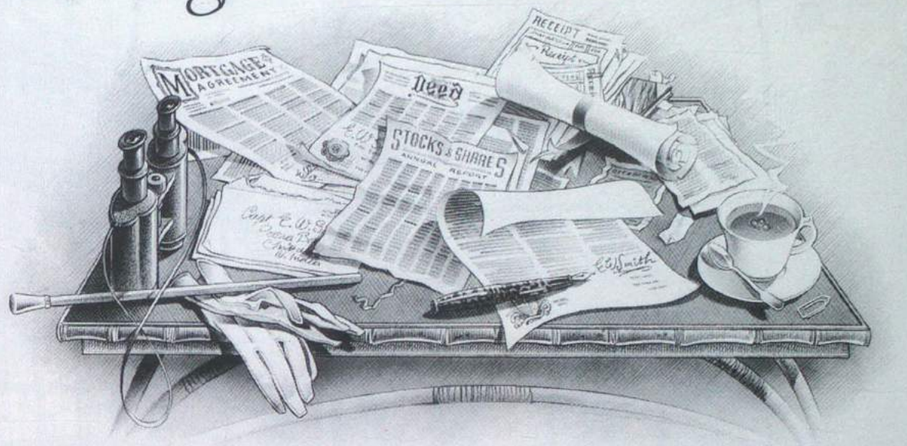


In 1758, Lord Ligonier created the post of Regimental Agent.

It was first filled by Richard Cox, who was appointed Agent to the first Regiment of Foot Guards (the Grenadiers as we now know them).

Lord Ligonier had chosen wisely. For Cox proved to be a born business manager.

By the time he died in 1803, the Cox name was a firmly established one.

And by 1815 the family firm had been appointed agents to the entire Household Brigade, most of the cavalry and infantry regiments, the Royal Artillery and the Royal Wagon Train.

The name Cox & Co. was adopted in 1834.

It soon became renowned throughout the Empire gaining the affectionate nickname of 'Uncle Cox'.

In the Great War, 'Uncle Cox' never closed. At the height of the conflict 50,000 cheques a day were being cleared and over 250,000 officers were on the books.

After the War, business boomed. In 1922, Cox & Co. bought out Henry S. King & Co. to become Cox's & King's. And in 1923 Cox's & King's was acquired by Lloyds Bank.

Links were quickly forged with the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy.

So at last a banking service was available to every arm of the Armed Forces.

It still is today. At Cox's & King's, Lloyds Bank have a team of experienced financial advisers ready to meet your particular needs as an Officer.

Those needs may have changed a little since the days of Richard Cox.

Our level of commitment, however, has not. And after more than 200 years, our expertise is second to none.

For further information, visit or write to us at 7 Pall Mall, London SW1.

Volunteers only, of course.

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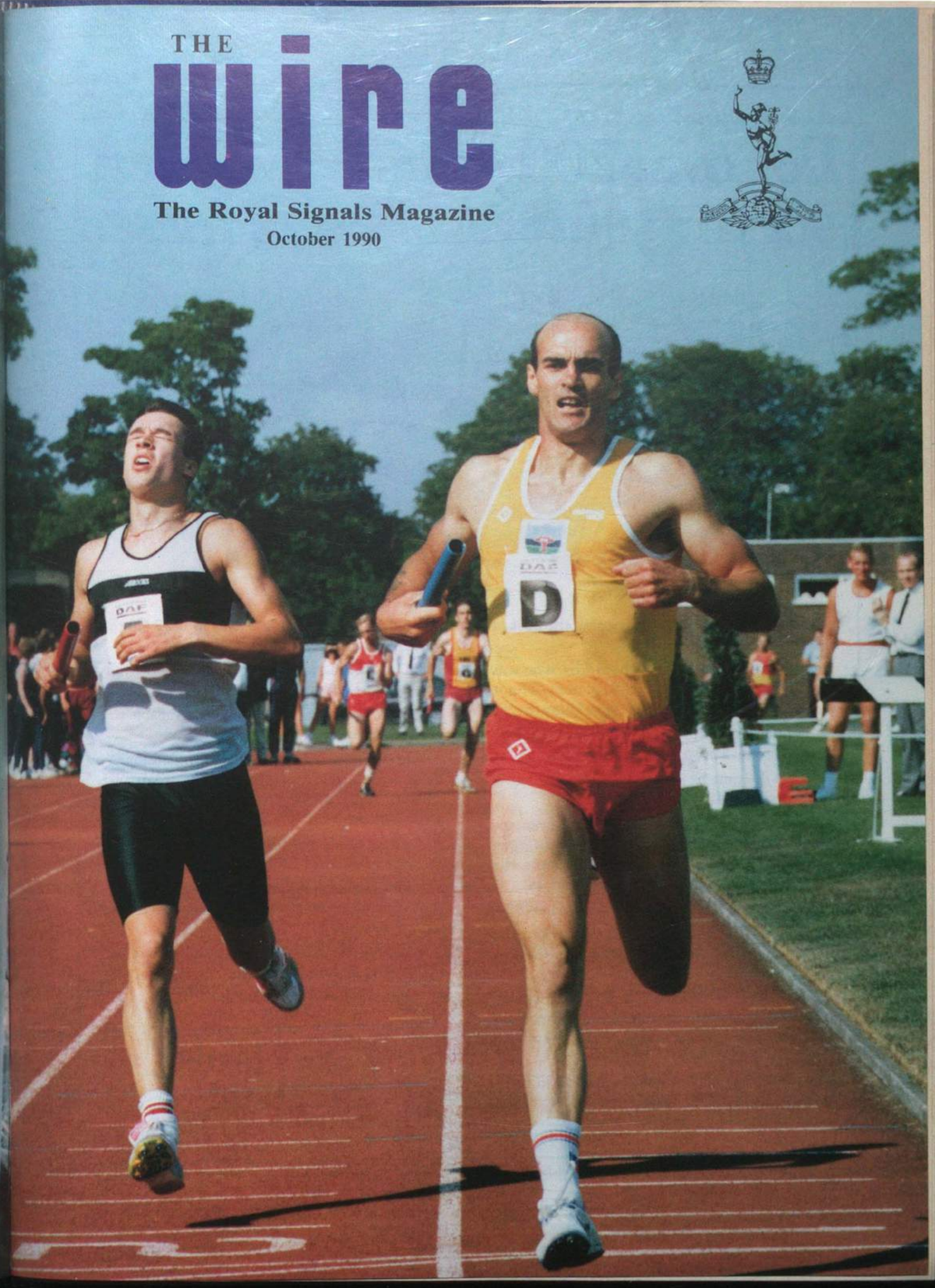
# THE wire

The Royal Signals Magazine

October 1990



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The Royal Signals Magazine

October 1990 Vol. 44 No: 5

# The Wire

All correspondence and matter for publication in **The Wire** should be addressed to **The Wire**
Royal Signals Association,
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Royal Signals Association

**Editor Lt Col K. E. P. Andrews MBE**
**Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs**

**The Wire is a member of the Association of Service Newspapers**


## CHANGES IN *THE WIRE*

Readers will find that some changes have been made in the format of *The Wire* in this issue. The changes result from a decision to place all news concerning the Royal Signals Association in one section; so news of Branch activities, Reunions, Receipts to the Benevolent Fund and Deaths and Obituaries appear all together at the back of each issue.

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**SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FORM—PAGE 540**


OUR COVER PICTURES

The front cover shows SSgt Neil Killen clinching the 4 × 400m Relay event for 21 Sig Regt at the Army Athletics Championships held at Aldershot on 20 July (see Page 431 for a full report).
The back cover is a view of the Corps Yacht *Petasus III* during cruising trials in the Solent under Skipper Capt Mark Castle-Smith and Principal Helm Maj Vaughan Smedley.

## CONTRIBUTIONS FOR *THE WIRE*

***From the Editor***

Some readers will be disappointed by the non appearance of contributions from several Regiments and Squadrons in this issue of *The Wire*. Some 10 contributions arrived in the Editors Office after the due date (15 August 1990) and were returned to the Unit, no doubt to the annoyance of those who had taken the trouble to compile them. I am sorry that this has been done but we cannot hold up the contributions which have arrived on time to edit and process those which arrive late. This is not a matter affecting the convenience or otherwise of the editorial staff (ie the editor and the assistant editor) but one which affects the timely publication of *The Wire*. Our printers arrange slots in their work schedule to typeset, print and despatch *The Wire;* if we miss one of these *The Wire* goes to the back of the queue or is dealt with whenever it can be fitted in.

I cannot stress too strongly that contributions should be sent by first class post. Some of those received for this issue had been in the second class post for 10 days! Others were despatched first class post but after the date they were due here eg despatched 16 August, received 17 August—but still too late.

We often receive calls from correspondents who have recently taken over responsibility for *Wire* notes, about dates for contributions etc. To ease their lot a 'crib sheet' of advice is printed overleaf.

## DETAILED GUIDANCE FOR COMPILATION OF *WIRE* NOTES

These notes are intended to help contributors in compiling their contributions for *The Wire*. The composition of the magazine is done on modern computerised equipment, mistakes are correctable, but at a cost. We recently paid £400 on one issue for author's, ie Units', corrections. The editors do their best to correct any mistakes in spelling or grammar before sending copy to the printers but we are not clairvoyant and rely totally on the contributor to ensure that people's ranks, names and initials are correct. It is better to have them correct on the contribution rather than to make a subsequent correction at proof reading stage. A minor correction, eg to a rank or name, can cost up to £5. If we have an error on each page of a 96 page issue it can cost nearly £500 to correct.

The following are tips which are intended to be helpful. Remember that if contributions come in a reasonably standard form it helps the compositors. If in doubt follow the format in *The Wire* as published. This is intended to help you to make the best of your notes.

### CHECK LIST

Classified material **must not** be included in contributions.

Contributions should be **typed** with **double spacing**—the girls who do the typesetting are slowed up if lines are too close together. Number the sheets consecutively.

Where possible, Units should coordinate contributions from Squadrons, Troops, etc. This helps to make contributions concise and in many instances helps to avoid repetition.

Despatch contributions to arrive by the **15th of even numbered months**; eg February (second month) for publication in the next even numbered month, eg April. There is a growing tendency for contributions to arrive later than this date, eg up to the 22nd of the month. Make sure that copy and galley corrections are sent by **First Class mail** and that the envelope is correctly addressed. We frequently receive contributions sent by Second Class mail, or without a post code resulting in delay, or sent to our old address (in Chelsea), or to Regent Street and to the wrong numbers in Regency Street **(correct address 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD). The post code is essential so please use it.**

When we send out galleys for you to check, please ensure that they are dealt with at once. We have about a week to 10 days in which to insert corrections in galleys. After that, corrections at the page-proof stage, (when *The Wire* is virtually finished) cost much more to make.

**Use Capital letters for the following; Initial** letter of a sentence, names of people, towns, countries, titles of Units, competitions, barracks or ranks. **Acronyms** and **some abbreviations**, eg VDU (visual display unit), HQ, RSM or NICS (NATO Integrated Communication System) **but** commcen (communication centre).

If in doubt look at a copy of *The Wire.*

Elsewhere, use capitals with discretion, eg Corporals' Mess, Cpl Jones but 'all the corporals'. When referring to the Regiment, Squadron, etc use a capital letter, but use lower case for non specifics, eg 'the regiments in the garrison'.

### ATTRIBUTION

Accounts of expeditions, etc. We need to know who the author is so that we can give credit and the reader knows who the 'I' or 'we' in the article is or are.

### PHOTOGRAPHS

We use colour on the cover of *The Wire.* If you have a suitable subject make sure that you send us a good clear colour print. The printers can accept colour transparencies. Otherwise, we prefer glossy clear black and white prints. We can accept colour photos but in our experience these tend to come out rather dark when printed in black and white. Many of the photos we receive are rejected because the subject is insufficiently lit making it difficult to pick out from its background.

Fill the viewfinder when taking photos. The 'far-away' look does not make good copy.

Do not write captions on the backs of photos. Captions are typeset in one place by the printer and photos are processed separately. Captions should be typed on a separate sheet and numbers used to refer to the photos.

Please do not use felt tip to write on the backs of photos. Much of the paper used for prints these days is resin bonded and we have had several disasters when the felt tip which is still wet smudges onto the surface of the photo underneath. Ball point pen lightly used to number the photo is the best solution.

Make sure the photos are properly protected and remember that paper clips and pins can damage photos when in the post.



## — From our "In" Tray —

## AN OUTSTANDING SEASON FOR AN OUTSTANDING TEAM
## 21 SIGNAL REGIMENT ATHLETICS

After far too long an absence, 21 Sig Regt has regained the coveted title of Army Champions for 1990—Victory! This was undoubtedly the highlight of a truly outstanding and memorable season where sporting excellence at Unit, Army, Combined Service and International level has greatly enhanced the good name of the Corps. The title of Army Athletics Champions was last won by the Regiment in an unbeaten series of seven successive victories, in 1977, and for once 13 proved to be lucky.

Aldershot, on 20 July, was in sweltering heat and seemed a far cry from the cold winter days in Germany when the groundwork for the season was laid. The 'sun-on-the-back' training camp in Portugal in March also seemed way in the past, although it reminded the athletes that they had old scores to settle and provided a sense of urgency at the start of a busy season. The year's competitions started in earnest with victory in the Morrison Cup, and the team qualified for the BAOR finals by winning the RCZ Championships without dropping a single point. At the BAOR finals at Sennelager we had to face the powerful 50 Missile Regt RA who were the current Army Champions. The team was briefed and mentally prepared for a hard fight that never materialised and the Regiment won by 47 points in one of the most convincing and decisive victories ever seen in a major Army Championship.

Arriving at Aldershot for the Army Finals with two fine wins behind them the team was confident but knew that 50 Missile Regt could do better than they had done at Sennelager. They would not give up their Army crown without a fight and, on what was a scorcher of a day, the Gunners surpassed the bookies' predictions. Just before lunchtime 21 Regt had been going very well but a couple of unexpected slips and a series of strong Gunner performances started to rock the boat. At about 1430 hrs the Gunners came within a few points of the Regiment.

**Cpls Viv Henry** and **George Farrell** were both injured and the sprinting responsibility fell to **LCpl Danny Cain** who, quick as ever from the blocks, ran superbly in both the individual events and later in the relay. He was well supported by **Cpl** (now Sgt) **Jamie Alleyne** who seems to get better each season. At 400m **Cpls Vince Key** and **Eric Francis** ran strongly but the Gunners were still fighting hard and gaining steady points with some sterling individual efforts. In a tight situation it was essential that we did not permit any of the other competing Units, such as the ever present 1 PWO, to 'split' the Gunners from us on their strong events, and also on our strong events to put the maximum number of places between ourselves and the Gunners. Tactical battles for the minor placings became intense. The hurdles events were dominated by the Regiment with **SSgt Neil Killen**, particularly strong in the second half, winning the 110m, and then taking the 400m. He was strongly supported by the ever improving BAOR Champion **Cpl Tim Tomkinson** and **Sig Paul Renwick**. In the longer track events we made up for the severe lack of class which hampered the team in 1989. In 1990 **Sgts Al Poulson** (APTC, ex-Corps) and **Tom Pollard** featured strongly in the 800m and 1,500m whilst under the personal drive in training of **Sgt Geoff Martin**, the long distance teams of **LCpl Wayne Braysford** and **Cpl Mark Chivers** produced outstanding performances behind Gunner runners of near international calibre, such as **WO2 Mal Edwards** (again APTC—late Corps!). The improvement of **Braysford** and **Chivers** were revelations which in themselves removed the difference between the two teams in 1989 and virtually ensured a Signals victory. The 1990-91 Cross Country season looks very promising.

Off the track the Regiment was very strong with **LCpl Macka McSween** dominating the high and long jump, well backed up by **Cpls Paul Hanlon** and **Eli Pearson** who secured victory in the triple jump. **Cpl Andy Ingham** vaulted well but the deafening sound of ice tapping on glass from the nearby hospitality tent clearly disturbed **Cpl Kevin Jarvis**' concentration, for he almost failed in the pole vault at his opening height: 30 minutes later he did exactly that in the high jump! Athletics can have its ups and downs which is why the whole team must expect reverses and train to overcome the disappointment of temporary setbacks in individual events.

On paper 50 Missile Regt was potentially stronger than the Regimental team, as selected and in the throwing events we did extremely well to limit the possible damage. **Cpl Masher Marshall** and **SSgt Neil Killen** (with a personal best) did as expected in the shot. The discus and hammer are best described as ripe for improvement this winter and it was left to **Sig John Powell** and **Cpl Dave Gallagher** to take full honours in the javelin. **Cpls Tremay Dobson, Charlie Mathews, Pete Curtis** and **Dave Yates** are big men who can move quickly and they can look forward to a successful 1991. **John Powell** on the other hand has arrived! He has come from virtually nowhere in 1986 to BAOR and Army Individual Champion in 1990 which shows exactly what can be done by encouraging, and providing an opportunity for, local talent.

At the end of the afternoon, the crisis point at 1430 hrs, had been forgotten and the team could almost have afforded to come last in each of the relays and still win—but for good measure they won both and in style. With **Cpl Viv Henry** not available the sprint relay team had to be shuffled but still had, through **Cain, Alleyne, Key** and



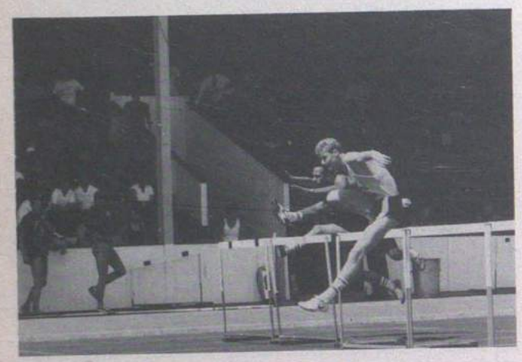
21 Sig Regt — Army Athletics Champions 1990

**Hanlon** too much basic speed and baton technique for the Gunners. The 4 × 400m was a fine race, the Gunners chased us to the line and it was a most fitting way to end the match. Although never once taking the lead, the Gunners were always hard on our heels and there was no question of any signaller with a long lead easing back. However a persistent 5m advantage and solid handovers between **Paul Renwick, Garff Dale** and **Eric Francis** at last produced a broad smile on the face of **Neil Killen** as he crossed the line for relay and team victory. It was good to see **Renwick** and **Dale**, from the 1986 team, doing so well four years later.

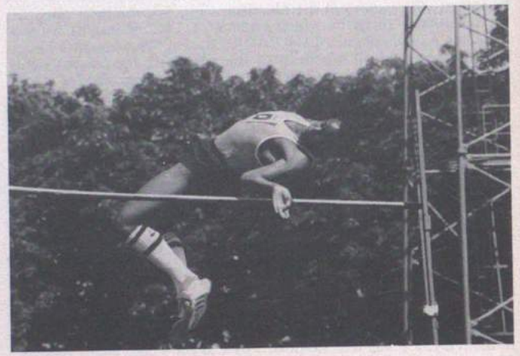
The prize winning ceremonies, at which **Gen Sir Charles Huxtable** the Commander-in-Chief UKLF presented the prizes went quickly, and then even more quickly **Capt Andy Hickling** the Team Manager went in the water jump—twice.

This has been an outstanding season for the Regiment—both the athletes and all those who have supported them loyally in the full round of Unit chores. It was the latter who had to take on the extra administrative burden whilst the athletes prepared for battle. For those who have never met 'Team Athletics', it is a strange device of fortune whereby the team effort is not simply the sum of potential individual effort. One small disaster, such as a dropped baton or three 'no throws', can mean all the difference between first and second place. In team sports such as rugby, all 15 battle together providing strong closely knit mutual support to the main team thrust. When an athlete steps out onto the track he is alone in a large stadium, every move is studied by friend and foe and there are no hiding places until the event is finished. There is little anyone else can do from the outside, the athlete is on his own and only he can lift his performance. It is that need to win, which drives such men forward in the depths of winter, to improve the performance consistently to the point where they can confidently tackle the opposition in the summer.

Team changes will inevitably follow promotions, postings and injury making the search for young talent a vital element of the 1990/91 Winter preparation. We must strive to show that 1990 has been a plateau and not a peak.



Cpl Tim Tompkinson—BAOR Champion



Cpl Trevor McSween—Up up and away at 1.98m

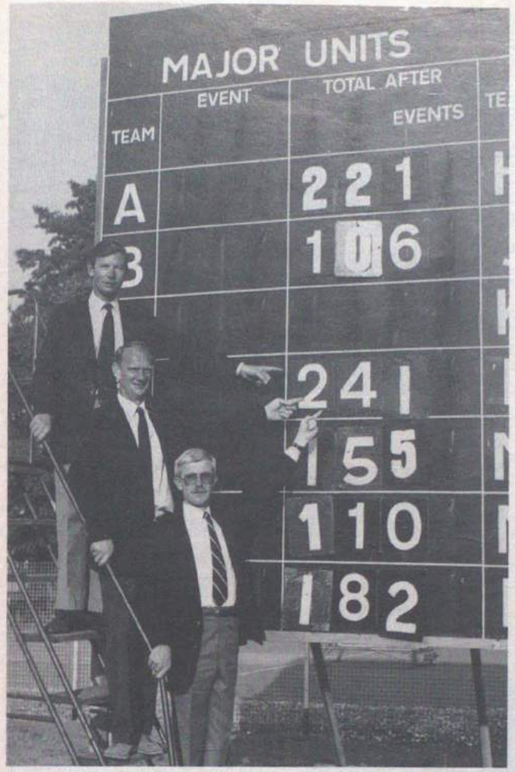


LCpl Eric Francis takes the 400m



Sgt Al Poulson receives the Challenge Shield from Gen Sir Charles Huxtable






CO, 2IC and RSM—Points on the board



Cpl Dave Gallagher—First in the 'B' String Javelin



Cpl Wayne Braysford—Second in the 3,000m Steeplechase



Cpl Andy Ingham Pole Vaults to Victory

# OFFICER RECRUITING LIAISON ORGANISATION
# A SIX-MONTHLY REVIEW

The start of a new decade saw a change at the head of the Royal Signals recruiting organisation. **Maj Ian Mackenzie** left the post of ORLO to head for an MDA at Shrivenham. Now it is said that all officers at RMCS either get married or crash their car. We are happy to report that having crashed his car when he went there to a gain a degree many years ago, he has recently announced his engagement to **Capt Sue Kingham WRAC**.

In his place, fresh from the post of Adjutant at 14 Sig Regt, came **Maj Alan Madsen**, his wife **Capt Sue Madsen WRAC** and the dog Cara. The other members of the team are **Capts Ian Whitehall** and **Deborah Wheatley-Price. Capt Ian Standen** left after completing the schools tour to go back to school himself on JCSC.

**WO2 (SSM) Hyde** has left for greater things as RSM at 35 Signal Regiment (V) and **WO2 (SSM) Halstead** arrives shortly along with **Capt Alan Blackwell. Lt Col (Retd) Mike Burridge, LCpls Morrice** and **Lloyd** and our two hard working clerks **Marie** and **Linda** complete the team.

For those who like statistics, the team has made 77 school visits, done 18 UOTC presentations, 10 CCF central camps, 13 Pre-RCB briefings, 38 familiarisation visits and made contact with 656 potential officers in the year April 1989-1990.

There are also several other events in the recruiting calendar including a national UOTC competition—Ex Lightning Strike, the UOTC BAOR tour and the UOTC PSI's conference. A short report follows on each.

## EXERCISE LIGHTNING STRIKE
## ABERDEEN'S FIRST-TIME TRIUMPH IN TOUGH TRAINING TOURNEY

For the first time, a Scottish team beat the best of Britian's part-time university soldiers in a gruelling all-day test of military skills on Saturday 10 March at Blandford, Dorset. The annual event was arranged by Regular and Territorial Army members of the Royal Signals.

Aberdeen University's B team, comprising five men and one women, took the laurels in Ex Lightning Strike in a hard-fought finish with Cardiff, proving yet again the Welsh university's will to win. Cardiff won in the first year of the competition, 1986, and again two year's later. Bristol beat all comers in the intervening years. This year, jockeying for the national prizes, were 25 all-volunteer teams totalling 150 undergraduates and students from University Officer Training Corps representing Edinburgh to the East Midlands, Bristol to Belfast. And it wasn't easy, either for the competitors or the organisers.

The six-mile event-strewn route included each squad fast marching between ten separate tasks and culminated in a total of three runs for the Aberdeen team over the Blandford School of Signals' assault course carrying equipment amid artificial smoke and the crack and flash of simulated shell bursts.

At each task, performed at speed after the minimum instruction, teams were tested in military and signalling skills from survival techniques to first aid, from rigging vehicles and trailers in readiness to be air-lifted by helicopter to erecting 12m high communication masts. Each job called for instant coordination and team work. Teams averaged two women in each, one of whom often took command.

## TEAMS SURVIVE THE SAS TASK

Survival skills, for example, were tutored and tested by members of the Regular and Territorial Armies' Special Air Service (SAS) as part of a scenario where the teams were dumped in a wood after an air crash.

Teams travelled to their overnight location on the Friday night, were briefed at 0630 hrs the following morning and two hours later began their nine-hour round of tasks. After the prize giving by the SOinC, **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook**, whatever energy remained was absorbed at a special dinner and disco party which lasted until 0200 hrs.




The UOTC PSIs Convention

*Rear (left to right):* SSgt Griffiths (Liverpool (DES)), WO2 (SSM)s Macrorie (Belfast), Sunley (Cardiff), Jameson (Glasgow), Tepielow (Exeter) and Mockford (Oxford)

*Centre (left to right):* WO2 (SSM)s Hyde (OC Stat), Walker (Southampton), Little (Liverpool) and Bennett (Aberdeen), SSgt Tait (Bristol), WO2 (SSM)s Clifford (Cambridge), Buxton (Leeds) and Halstead (OC Stat(DES))

*Front (left to right):* WO1 (RSM) Marsh (Bristol), Capt I. R. Whitehall (AORLO), Maj A. J. Madsen (ORLO), Brig T. H. Wheawell (DSOinC), Col R. D. K. Thompson (Regt Col), Capt D. J. Wheatley Price (WORLO) and WO1 (RSM) Campbell (Birmingham)



And if that seems a punishing schedule, life for the organisers was just as tough. Territorial Army (TA) signallers had travelled to Dorset from places as far apart as Liverpool and Eastern England. Setting up for the event often meant working into the early hours of Saturday morning.

Britain's all-volunteer University Officer Training Corps (UOTC) is part of the TA. Members are drawn from universities, polytechnics or colleges and UOTC units comprise officer cadets, UOTC junior under officers or army officer undergraduates sponsored by the Army. The minimum commitment is 15 days annual continuous training, often abroad, and 15, two-hour training periods each year.

Entry into the UOTC is not easy. Members are under training and deciding whether to become Regular Army or TA officers. They also develop a range of skills which help in their military and civilian lives. Cadets in the 19 UOTCs throughout the UK, which range from 100-400 members each, report that they gain in comradeship, leadership, self-reliance and also that they learn a lot about themselves.

Women form around one-third of each UOTC. They are expected to perform the same tasks as the men, including the command of detachments. In Dorset, during Ex Lightning Strike, they often led the men and they could be heard urging on their teams and berating their 6ft 2ins male colleagues when the work wasn't done properly or completed on time.

The UOTC is an equal opportunity organisation—and hell hath no fury like a lady UOTC leader scorned!

## UOTC BAOR TOUR

Eighteen officer cadets from as far apart as Exeter, Tayforth, Aberystwyth and Aberdeen, gathered at Blandford on 18 March in preparation for the BAOR tour 19-26 March 1990. The aim of the tour was to give officer cadets at UOTCs with an interest in the Corps the opportunity to see a variety of units in Germany and a flavour of Corps life. The tour started at 14 Sig Regt, a visit to Belsen, a chance to fire SA80 and a review of the variety of equipment used in electronic warfare.

Herford was next on the agenda where the tour was first hosted by 7 Sig Regt. The programme began with an introduction to the Regiment by the CO, **Lt Col Hussey** followed by some hands on experience with both Ptarmigan and APCs. The subalterns arranged an entertaining evening for the visitors including an impromptu radio control car rally competition.

**Lt Col Raper MBE** welcomed the officer cadets to 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and two subalterns **Lts Tony Picknell** and **Paul Vingoe** provided a lively and amusing sketch of life as a subaltern in the Regiment. Lunch coincided with the farewell visit of Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen P. R. Davies** who spoke to each officer cadet. The highlight of the visit to Herford was the opportunity to experience the destructive power of a panzer when a car gets in its way. The driver who had the best crushing experience was awarded a bottle of champagne.

From 1 (BR) Corps, the tour proceeded to the RCZ and 16 and 21 Sig Regts. A packed programme at 21 Sig Regt included a team race over two miles, an assault course, putting up an 8m mast and a visit to the RAF Battle flight. A highly competitive evening courtesy of **Capt Charlie Miller,** was spent at a 'scalextrics championships' where **OCdt Alistair Brumage** was judged the winner.

Unfortunately a visit to Roetgen and Monschau came to an end half way down the autobahn due to transport problems but throughout the tour the cadets made the most of every opportunity to sample everything on offer. The tour was very popular with all the officer cadets and many thanks to all Regiments who hosted the tour.

## PSI'S CONVENTION

The annual UOTC Royal Signals PSI's convention was held at Blandford from 30 May-1 June 1990. The convention was opened with an audio-visual display and a talk on recruiting from the Regimental Colonel.

Recruiting formed a large part of the programme with updates on current policy, regulations and requirements. The DSOinC, **Brig T. H. Wheawell ADC** visited and gave a lecture on future developments in the Corps.

The PSIs also attended presentations on Namibia and the National Data Net and had plenty of time to exchange ideas and experiences for training programmes and assistance from regular and TA units.

## AND FINALLY . . .

Well, summer time is a 'quieter' period for ORLO in that there are no schools or university visits but the team is busy sending potential officers on attachments, and planning and preparing for the new season.

Life is not all work in ORLO and it has to be mentioned that **Capt Ian Whitehall** has managed to escape long enough from his busy desk to play rugby for the Army. **Capt Deborah Wheatley Price** is successfully getting away to play tennis and we all now know the dates of the British fly-fishing season, courtesy of **Maj Alan Madsen**!

Finally, a belated welcome to **Col R. D. K. Thompson OBE** who took over as Regimental Colonel at the end of 1989.



Assault Course—the final race of Ex Lightning Strike



No time to hang around—on the final race of Ex Lightning Strike

## 38 Sig Regt (V) Aids Portlands Training College

Portland Training College was founded to retrain physically disabled people for new jobs and over 6,000 students have passed through its doors since 1950, more than 1,500 of them being ex-Servicemen and women. The College now presents a 'ladder of opportunity' the rungs of which include a foundation unit, a further education department, the only residential YTS scheme in the UK, vocational training in business studies, technical studies and horticulture, plus its own Sheltered Workshops producing a wide range of goods including electronic aids for the deaf, glass engraving and printing. Our aim is simple—'to minimise disability and maximise ability'. The current rate of success in placing vocational students into real jobs against open competition stands at 86% and it recently won a National Training Award for excellence as well as the Patron's Special Award for coming top in the class for innovative development in training methods. The current Director is **Colonel Peter Davis**, late of the Corps, whose last appointment before retirement was AAG AG11 (now PB11).

The 8 June this year was a red letter occasion for Portland when **Her Majesty The Queen**, accompanied by **HRH The Duke of Edinburgh**, spent the whole day at the College, laid the foundation stone for a new student residence costing £1.8m, distributed trophies to prizewinners and participated in a Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate 40 years of work on behalf of disabled people.

It was a wonderful occasion—only made possible through willing technical expertise and physical help from the Corps. Some 20 soldiers of 38 Sig Regt (V), provided from 87 Sig Sqn (V) in Nottingham, worked extremely hard in a tight schedule to transform a hugh marquee from a college assembly hall for 500 people into a dining room fit for a Queen plus 400 guests and then back again into a cathedral for a congregation of 800—all on the wettest day in that glorious month of June! Nothing dampened the spirits of the students, staff or guests and all would have been impossible without the tremendous contribution of the team led by **Staff Sergeant Gater** and **Sergeant Pearson**.

241 Sig Sqn led by their Foreman of Signals, **WO2 Pete Bruce**, provided a public address system of outstanding quality to four separate locations on the 49 acre campus which meant that the many supporters unable to squeeze into the marquee were able to share in this unique occasion. 'Thank you to **Col Mike Galloway OBE** of 2 Sig Gp and **Lt Col (Retd) Mike Petheram** of HQ West Dist for their valued help.

It was a particularly proud day for **Peter Davis**, and all his staff and students join in thanking the representatives of the Royal Corps of Signals whose professionalism and willing support contributed so much to a memorable event. Through *The Wire* we express our grateful and sincere thanks to the Commanding Officers, **Lt Col Paul Acda** and **Maj Eric Webster**, and all their soldiers involved in helping us to get 'Through' and also hope that the friendship between the Corps and the College, exemplified also by the fact that we have been adopted by Kohima Troop of 11 Sig Regt, will remain special to us all. A warm welcome always awaits members of the Services whether visiting or because you may need our help. We also thank The Royal Signals Association for their generous donation in our Ruby Anniversary year.



The arrival of HM The Queen at Portland Training College on 8 June 1990. Mr John Pratt (Chairman) introducing Col Peter Davis (fourth from right) Director of the College

## OPERATION RALEIGH—CHILE 1990

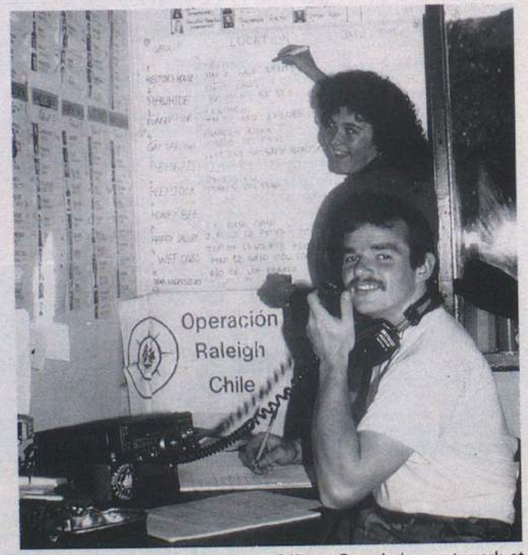
by LCpl Ritchie

Since 1984 Operation Raleigh has been involved in expeditions all over the world, involving some 7,000 venturers from over 40 countries. Operation Raleigh's aim is to develop the self confidence and leadership potential of young people by placing them in mentally and physically challenging situations. The expeditions involve the venturers in community, scientific and conservation projects. The only qualifications required of a venturer is to be between 17 and 24 years of age and to raise £2,000 towards his expenses. Having suffered a 'gruelling' interview in London, I then had to sit out and wait to see if I had been accepted. This came on the last day of work prior to Chirstmas leave and when the thumbs up was given I had three hours to organise the next three months of my life. The bank manager confirmed my 'small' loan of £1,500, to cover flights, food and accommodation and to buy essential equipment required for the varying climates in Chile. I then packed my sun hat and mosquito repellent and departed, not knowing exactly what I was to face during the next three months.

As a member of staff on expedition in Southern Chile, I was appointed the 'Communication Officer'. There were a total of 30 members of staff ranging from doctors and nurses to engineers and boat handlers. After our arrival in Santiago we headed down South to the expedition HQ in Coyhaique. Our first week was taken up with preparation of stores and equipment for the arrival of the venturers, some 120 hailing from UK, Japan, Singapore, Australia and Chile.

After the welcoming 'Barbi' and Cerveza (Beer), it was down to work and one week's acclimatisation training at Lago Elesalde near the HQ. During this time the venturers picked up the various skills they required for their particular project. These skills included climbing and abseiling, boat and canoe handling, river crossing and how to be a lumberjack in two easy swings. My job was to teach the venturers basic voice procedure and familiarise them with the PRC 320, the only link with civilisation some of them would have for the next two months. Once the training was over and yet another 'Barbi' bit the dust the expedition began in earnest. I was flown down to Punta Arenas, the southernmost city in the world and then went by road to the 'Torres Del Paine' National Park, where I would remain for the next month.

In the park we set up the expedition's Southern HQ in an old Conaf (forestry commission) house, where I would spend the next month with **Neil** the QM, **Paul** our interpreter and **Chris** our boss. Due to low funding there was a lot of work to be carried out in the park and each of the three Raleigh groups had a different project.




LCpl Ritchie and the Operations Officer, Pamela busy at work at the expedition HQ in Coyhaique during one of the daily radio schedules



The first of these was the construction of a 30m suspension bridge across a river high in the Torres mountain range. The bridge was essential for Conaf workers and visitors to the park who provide essential money for the upkeep of the park. This was carried out and completed by 12 venturers and two members of the staff whose callsign was 'Big Log' due to their use of local materials for the construction of the bridge.

The second project was carried out by 'Chopper' which had to cut a path through bamboo, bushes and trees again to allow Conaf and visitors access to the spectacular glaciers and ice caps which are scattered around the park. This was again completed successfully after many days were spent initially humping rations and equipment to the path site.

The third project was adventurous and the venturers were put through their paces ice climbing on the Grey Glacier and a group of six conquered the highest peak in the park, once climbed by Sir Edmund Hillary.

During my time in the park I manned the radio and took two daily radio schedules but my best experiences came when I was visiting the project sites, either rectifying radio faults or delivering some morale boosting chocolate and mail. On completion of Phase 1 I flew back up to the expedition HQ where I remained for the duration of Phase 2. This provided some worthwhile community projects including the building of a children's playground, the construction of a bridge and pier in a fishing community and the building of a town plaza which are much needed in remote communities. Phase 2 also provided a challenging and at times dangerous project. It involved finding a path through to a virtually unexplored lake system, which in the first phase ended with four people close to drowning after their inflatable was ripped to shreds in rapids. They were then lifted to safety after spending three days without food or shelter. However, the second group to face the challenge was successful in cutting a path through, thus providing access for scientists on future expeditions to carry out valuable studies.

## SIG STUART FIRTH

Our photograph shows **Sig Stuart Firth** receiving a cash award from **Col R. M. Stewart OBE, TD, DL**, (late Royal Signals (V)), High Sheriff of Cleveland. The award was for public spirited behaviour in support of the police. It was an extraordinary coincidence and a 'million-to-one chance' that **Col Stewart**'s first such award ceremony since his Appointment should include a serving member of the Corps. (**Sig Firth** is currently serving with 249 Sig Sqn.)



Sig Stuart Firth receiving his award from Col R. M. Stewart

## GENERAL MORRISON'S MEDALS



Mrs S. E. Brockway, the niece of the late Maj Gen A. E. Morrison CB, OBE, donates his medals to the Corps Museum. The medals were accepted on behalf of the Museum Committee by Brig R. F. Baly, and also present were Mrs Brockway's husband *(left)*, and Dr Peter Thwaites, Deputy Director of the Museum *(right)*

## CORPS SHOOTING

Corps teams and individuals continued to give a good account of themselves at the RASAM 1990 and in the Bisley Centenary Meeting of the National Rifle Association in July.

The following were selected to represent the Corps in the Methuen Cup match at Bisley during the RASAM: **Maj Hoole** 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn; **Lt (QGO) Krishna Gurung** QG Signals; **Sgt Navindra Gurung** QG Signals; **Cpl Yamkumar Gurung** QG Signals; **LCpl Meynell** 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and **Sig Tekbahadur Gurung** QG Signals.

Reserve was **Sgt Hellewell** of 7 Sig Regt.

The team won the REME Trophy and the Woolwich Bowl.

With the exception of **Cpl Yamkumar Gurung** the team represented the Corps at the NRA Bisley Centenary Meeting which followed RASAM and achieved the following results.

SMG Team match—First
Hythe match—Third (16 entries)
Brinsmead—Third (19 entries)
Mappin—Fifth (21 entries)
Canada—Fourth (21 entries)
Hamilton-Leigh—Sixth equal (28 entries)
Inter Unit Championship—Third (13 entries)

Individual Service Rifle Championship **Lt (QGO) Krishna Gurung** second, **Sig Tekbahadur Gurung** eighth, **Sgt Navindra** ninth (352 entries). **Maj Hoole** Reserve for Army Pistol VIII which won the Whitehead Cup by 27 points from the Royal Air Force.

**Lt Krishna Gurung, Sgt Navindra Gurung, Sig Nirmal Gurung** and **Sig Pritnarayan Rai** were selected for the Army SMG VIII which won the Inter Services SMG match.

## OWA

**PRESIDENTS DINNER**

The next President's Dinner will be held at Welbeck College on Saturday 24 November 1990.

The dress will be Mess Kit for serving officers and Black Tie for retired officers. The cost will be approximately £12. Limited accommodation is available on request.

Applications, including a contact address and telephone number, should be sent to: The Adjutant, Welbeck College, Worksop, Notts S80 3LN or by telephoning: Worksop (0909) 476326 Ext 30.

Applications should arrive at least two weeks prior to the Dinner.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The next OWA Annual General Meeting will be held at Welbeck College immediately after morning chapel on Sunday 25 November 1990.

## NI MINOR UNITS CRICKET FINAL

**THE CLOSEST GAME OF CRICKET EVER?**

After a long haul to the final, the Squadron arrived in Lisburn to play against RMP Lisburn. The weather was not the glorious sunshine that we had hoped for, but on reflection, practice throughout the Derry monsoon season probably left us best prepared (except for **Sgt Gerry Garnett**, who missed out on 'Man of the match', but picked up 'Miss wet T shirt' as a consolation prize).

Lisburn won the toss and put the Squadron in to bat; a wise decision—we lost the first three wickets for 10 runs. Some steadiness at the wicket was required, and it was produced by **LCpl Taff Jones** (11), **Cpl Sammy Ahmed** (18), and **Sgt Gerry Garnett** (19). With **Cpls Terry Stidwell** and **Andy Forbes** scoring a few quick singles. The innings ended on a respectable 99 all out. A quick wicket taken by **Maj Paul Wilkin** in the first over raised our confidence, but the RMP moved inexorably on, and as what little light there was began to draw in, their score stood at 79 for 5 with 4 overs remaining—a couple of quick wickets were needed. Come the hour, come the man; **Cpl Sammy Ahmed** was thrown the ball by our Captain, **Sgt 'Pip' Porter**, and told to knock the stumps out. He took a deep breath, summoned up his remaining energy, lined himself up . . . and saw them knock 16 runs off his over—nice going **Sammy**!—we'll let you know when we need you in future. So, 95 for 5 with 3 overs to go—5 runs to win. **Maj Paul Wilkin** was called to see what he could do—and he did, grabbing two wickets for the loss of a single run, including an instinctive catch which put him seriously in the running for the goalie's shirt in next season's soccer. Two overs to go, four runs needed, three wickets left. **Cpl Andy Forbes**, white faced with the knowledge that he'd have to walk back to Londonderry if he screwed up, thundered in. Six balls later, he'd taken two wickets for two runs. It was all on the last over. RMP Lisburn needed two runs to win and had one wicket left. **Maj Paul Wilkin** was called up for the last effort. His first ball hissed down the wicket and was glanced by the batsman away for a sneaky single.

Heads dropped around the pitch; all this way just for a draw! (or worse—that was only the first ball). **Paul** turned and launched the second: no score, the third went the same way. He threw the fourth as hard as he could and was rewarded with the sight of the middle stump landing 40 yards away. RMP Lisburn were all out—for 99. The teams walked off the pitch, no-one sure who had won. The umpires huddled and then called over the secretary. Scorecards were called for. Eventually a decision was reached, though both sides had reached 99 all out, the Squadron had managed to remain at the wicket for one ball longer than the opposition, and the game and trophy were ours. Celebrations all round, and the opportunity to go forward to the Army minor units quarter final in England. A great game both to watch and play in.

**RESULT**

| 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn | RMP Lisburn |
|---|---|
| 99 All Out 29.5 overs | 99 All Out 29.4 overs |
| **Sgt Gerry Garnett** 19 | **Maj Paul Wilkin** 4 for 18 |
| **Cpl Sammy Ahmed** 18 | **LCpl Dave Radford** 2 for 13 |
| **LCpl Taff Jones** 11 | **Cpl Andy Forbes** 2 for 17 |
| **Cpl Andy Forbes** 10 | **Cpl Paul Walker** 2 for 20 |



The Squadron Team—NI Minor Units Cricket Winners


# FINANCIAL PLANNING

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| | |
|---|---|
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| 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 |

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## — Movements —

### OFFICERS

AUGUST 1990

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| Lt Col H. M. Adams | HQ 2 Sig Bde |
| Lt Col K. Ryding | 8 Sig Regt |
| Maj J. R. Jasiok | HQ BAOR |
| Maj I. D. Hope | DGEME (AE) |
| Maj C. B. Keegan | 21 Sig Regt |
| Maj B. McAneny | 9 Sig Regt |
| Maj J. McIntyre | 11 Sig Regt |
| Maj K. K. W. Parsons | HQ NI |
| Maj M. N. Robinson | 22 Sig Regt |
| Maj I. W. R. Seraph | 15 Sig Regt |
| Maj J. N. Turner | AA Coll Harrogate |
| Maj B. Young | 11 Sig Regt |
| Capt R. W. Badger | 16 Sig Regt |
| Capt P. A. Brown | 13 Sig Regt |
| Capt A. H. Campbell-Black | QG Sig Regt |
| Capt S. D. Farrow | Sangcom |
| Capt H. M. Flint | 11 Sig Regt (HS) |
| Capt C. R. King | 11 Sig Regt (HS) |
| Capt G. A. Letori | 8 Sig Regt |
| Capt D. J. Luckett | 15 Sig Regt |
| Capt F. P. Roberts | 15 Sig Regt |
| Capt N. M. Romans | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Lt M. C. Burke | 7 Sig Regt |
| Lt G. Deans | 7 Sig Regt |
| Lt P. W. King | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Lt P. L. Turner | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Lt N. A. Walker | 259 Sig Sqn |

SEPTEMBER 1990

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| Lt Col H. H. Ham | 21 Sig Regt |
| Lt Col S. G. Hughes | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Lt Col J. H. Richardson | HQ BAOR |
| Lt Col G. M. S. Shipley | 15 Sig Regt |
| Lt Col A. G. Whiddett | 39 Sig Regt (V) |
| Maj G. D. Corbet | MOD (DSS(A)) |
| Maj W. P. Crowley | 264 Sig Sqn |
| Maj P. J. Filby | 22 Sig Regt |
| Maj J. A. MacFarlane | 4 Armd Div Hq and Sig Regt |
| Maj M. J. McKinlay | PPG JFHQ |
| Maj M. Nicol | 30 Sig Regt |
| Maj P. Robertshaw | 8 Sig Regt |
| Maj M. S. Wallis | HQ DAAC |
| Capt A. J. Allman | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Capt B. P. Avison | School of Signals |
| Capt N. Blavins | 8 Sig Regt |
| Capt I. K. Bucklow | School of Signals |
| Capt R. F. Clay | 13 Sig Regt |
| Capt R. J. Kinnaird | 11 Sig Regt (Depot) |
| Capt S. J. Long | 608 Sig Tp |
| Capt D. G. Macaulay | School of Signals |
| Capt A. N. Morphet | HQ Verden Garr |
| Capt G. Neal | 243 Sig Sqn |
| Capt N. A. W. Pope | School of Signals |
| Capt C. J. Thackray | School of Signals |
| Capt P. J. Watt | Britcon Unficyp |
| Capt G. A. Y. West | 14 Sig Regt |
| Lt M. S. Coleman | 14 Sig Regt |
| Lt R. B. Forrest | 11 Sig Regt |
| Lt C. J. McIntosh | 9 Sig Regt |
| Lt M. C. Roberts | 249 Sig Sqn |
| 2Lt G. E. Bennett | RMCS |
| 2Lt O. D. Bryant | RMCS |
| 2Lt G. W. Fletcher | RMCS |
| 2Lt D. J. Foulkes | RMCS |
| 2Lt M. F. Graham | 11 Sig Regt |
| 2Lt I. C. Gray | RMCS |
| 2Lt H. F. M. Hughes | RMCS |
| 2Lt J. J. J. Marsh | 11 Sig Regt |
| 2Lt G. M. Pullen | RMCS |
| 2Lt D. J. M. Quinn | RMCS |
| 2Lt P. S. Wilkinson | RMAS |
| 2Lt C. M. Wood | RMCS |
| 2Lt M. D. Wood | RMAS |

### WOs and SNCOs

AUGUST 1990

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| WO1 N. B. Dean | 39 Sig Regt (V) |
| WO1 A. T. Kidd | HQ 11 Sig Bde |
| AWO1 P. R. Lang | 225 Sig Sqn |
| WO2 (FofS) S. P. Cadywould | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| WO2 (FofS) A. F. Cashen | REME Data Centre |
| WO2 D. McAllister | 16 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (FofS) H. C. Morrison | 16 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (FofS) B. J. S. Nelson | SHAPE Sig Gp |
| WO2 M. G. O'Callaghan | School of Signals |
| WO2 D. Thomas | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| WO2 (YofS) P. G. White | 7 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (FofS) C. Wilkie | 8 Sig Regt |
| WO2 S. T. Wise | 30 Sig Regt |
| AWO2 J. K. C. Easterbrook | HQ BAOR |
| AWO2 A. Marshall | 14 Sig Regt |
| SSgt (FofS) G. E. Annetts | 30 Sig Regt |
| SSgt M. P. Brown | 656 Sig Tp |
| SSgt A. B. Doherty | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| SSgt C. J. Dubique | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| SSgt W. H. Dyson | 633 Sig Tp |
| SSgt (YofS) P. C. Halfpenny | 7 Sig Regt |
| SSgt W. R. J. McIntyre | 55 Sig Sqn (V) |
| SSgt D. W. Mills | 16 Sig Regt |
| SSgt K. M. Munnelly | 16 Sig Regt |
| SSgt (YofS) K. O. Ratcliff | 14 Sig Regt |
| SSgt G. G. A. Reith | 7 Sig Regt |
| SSgt C. R. Riddell | 25 CTT Edinburgh |
| SSgt P. B. Rosslee | ACDS (OR) Land Systems |
| SSgt M. J. Stringer | 249 Sig Sqn |
| SSgt S. R. Talbot | 642 Sig Tp |
| SSgt B. G. Tanner | 11 Sig Regt |
| SSgt (FofS) J. Thomson | 7 Sig Regt |
| SSgt P. Warhurst | 15 Sig Regt |
| SSgt P. Williams | 28 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt P. E. Bashford | 21 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt M. Cole | 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| ASSgt J. B. Duckworth | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| ASSgt J. R. Gray | Northag Air Sp Radio Sqn |
| ASSgt C. L. Johnson | 15 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt D. L. King | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| ASSgt R. W. Oakley | 227 Sig Sqn |
| ASSgt D. Paterson | 38 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt B. Adams | 22 Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. Applegarth | QG Sig Regt |
| Sgt D. Armstrong | 1 DERR |
| Sgt M. D. Bamford | 633 Sig Tp |
| Sgt D. Beggs | 1 RS |
| Sgt T. H. Brackenbury | 28 Sig Regt |
| Sgt B. R. Cable | School of Signals |
| Sgt F. C. Campbell | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. Doherty | School of Signals |
| Sgt K. P. Flagg | 640 Sig Tp |
| Sgt M. P. Hodkinson | 633 Sig Tp |
| Sgt D. P. Iverson | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt N. C. James | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. Johnson | 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Sgt L. Kelly | School of Signals |
| Sgt I. D. Laws | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. G. Layton | 31 CTT Crickhowell |
| Sgt M. B. Lyons | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt R. G. Maddock | Comms and Sy Gp |
| Sgt D. R. Mountain | 9 Sig Regt |
| Sgt I. H. Pennell | 15 Sig Regt |
| Sgt D. G. Perch | 251 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt P. T. Price | 7 Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. S. Richardson | 32 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt S. J. Roberts | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt R. Rutherford | School of Signals |
| Sgt D. H. Smith | QG Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. D. Spilling | 15 Sig Regt |
| Sgt R. Sykes | 633 Sig Tp |
| Sgt P. R. Walsh | 19 Fd Regt RA |
| Sgt A. T. Waterston | ACIO Glasgow |
| Sgt N. Watton | 225 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt J. J. Wayman | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. M. Wright | 40 Sig Regt (V) |
| ASgt T. W. Abbott | School of Signals |
| ASgt D. Almond | School of Signals |
| ASgt M. A. Baxter | 249 Sig Sqn |
| ASgt M. K. B. Bernstein | School of Signals |
| ASgt M. Cosgrove | 3 Para |
| ASgt D. B. Edlin | HQ 1 (BR) Corps |
| ASgt J. M. W. Ewart | School of Signals |
| ASgt K. V. Fowler | School of Signals |
| ASgt M. W. Harris | School of Signals |
| ASgt J. J. Hitchens | 7 Sig Regt |
| ASgt T. C. Hopkins | School of Signals |
| ASgt R. D. Inglesant | 27 Fd Regt RA |
| ASgt J. R. Knight | School of Signals |
| ASgt R. Messenger | JCUFI |
| ASgt D. W. Oliver | School of Signals |
| ASgt A. R. Rathmell | School of Signals |
| ASgt A. Redman | School of Signals |
| ASgt P. A. Rose | School of Signals |
| ASgt S. W. Slater | School of Signals |
| ASgt K. Stacey | School of Signals |
| ASgt P. P. Storrs | 9 Sig Regt |
| ASgt G. Smurthwaite | 8 Sig Regt |
| ASgt M. H. Swiffen | School of Signals |
| ASgt D. Thornton | School of Signals |
| ASgt G. Tomlinson | School of Signals |

SEPTEMBER 1990

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| AWO1 J. R. Bathe | 37 Sig Regt (V) |
| AWO1 C. D. Pugh | 15 Sig Regt |
| AWO1 P. M. Reynolds | 22 Sig Regt |
| AWO1 J. Sharkey | HQ 11 Sig Bde |
| AWO1 (YofS) J. R. Tyreman | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| WO2 (YofS) R. P. Dean | 240 Sig Sqn |
| WO2 (FofS) J. Mayson | 28 Sig Regt |
| WO2 D. J. Whiting | 21 Sig Regt |
| AWO2 (YofS) G. L. Benson | RMAS |
| AWO2 I. W. Brereton | 14 Sig Regt |
| AWO2 (YofS) M. A. Fielding | RMAS |
| AWO2 D. McCluskey | 7 Sig Regt |
| AWO2 (YofS) A. K. Oakman | School of Signals |
| AWO2 J. G. O'Donnell | HQ 2 Sig Bde |
| AWO2 P. W. J. Staynings | 7 Sig Regt |
| AWO2 (YofS) W. J. Thompson | 30 Sig Regt |
| SSgt T. Anderson | 15 Sig Regt |
| SSgt (FofS) H. Barclay | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| SSgt D. Bradley | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| SSgt D. W. Forbes | BR Contingent UNFICYP |
| SSgt S. L. Jones | HQ AFNORTH |

# NOTICES

## CORPS DATES

## CORPS DINNER EVENING

The Corps Warrant Officers' and SNCO's Dinner Evening is to be held on Thursday 1 November in the HQ Sergeants' mess, Helles Bks, Catterick, Dinner table allocation is three per major and two per minor unit, depending on response with overnight accommodation available. Individuals wishing to attend and not in receipt of the letter sent out in April, are to contact **WO1 (RSM) G. Douglas**, 11 Sig Regt, Tel: Catterick Mil 3704.

## THE INSTITUTION LONDON LECTURE—29 NOVEMBER 1990

This will be given by Mr C. N. Donnelly TD, BA Sovietologist-in-Residence at HQ NATO. The title of the lecture is: **Russia in Revolution 1990** and will deal with the implications for both East and West of **Mr Gorbachev**'s policies.

The lecture will take place in the London International Press Centre, 76 Shoe Lane at 1800 hrs on Thursday 29 November 1990. Application for tickets for the lecture and if desired supper afterwards should be made to RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, SW1P 4AD.

## A CAROL SERVICE AT ST STEPHEN WITH ST JOHN, ROCHESTER ROW, WESTMINSTER

An evening service of Lessons and Carols, is to take place in the Parish Church at St Stephen with St John, Westminster, on Tuesday 18 December 1990 at 1800 hrs.

It is hoped that members of the Corps and their families especially those serving in London TA Regiments, Association Branches, Chelsea Pensioners and Yeoman Warders, will attend this Service in the Corps affiliated London Church. Light refreshments will be available in the nearby Church Hall after the Service for all those who are able to stay.

Those wishing to attend the Service are asked to inform Regimental Headquarters so that seats may be reserved and the refreshments ordered. Since the overall capacity of the Church is only 350, allocations will be made on a first come, first served, basis.

## CORPS CAROL SERVICE

We shall be raising a choir to lead the singing at the Corps Carol Service, as we did last year. Sight-reading ability is highly desirable as there will be only one full rehearsal on the afternoon of the Carol Service. Music will shortly be available and choristers are asked to study it before the final rehearsal. Aspiring singers, including boys voices, should contact **Maj John Chambers**, AT1b, First Avenue House, London WC1V 6HB. Telephone: Lacon 071-430 7495.

## CORPS GLIDING CLAIMS 1990

Limited financial assistance is available to Royal Signals glider and hang glider pilots to offset costs incurred during the 1990 season. Any pilot wishing to make a claim is to contact (by latest 5 November 1990): **Maj A. O. Harkins**, Secretary Corps Gliding, 243 Sig Sqn, Ward Barracks, Bulford Camp, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 9NA. Tel: Bulford Mil Ex: 2622.

## EDITOR

The editor of *The Wire* is due to retire from the post in March of 1991. He is also responsible for editing the Journal of the Royal Signals Institution.

The appointment is established as a part-time RO3 post and the pay is supplemented from Corps funds. The candidate would be a retired, or about to retire, officer of the Corps living within a 40 mile radius of London. Further details may be obtained from the Regimental Secretary, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Tel: London District 8241 or STD 071-873-6351.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

**NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF (NRPS) TERRITORIAL ARMY (TA)—NRPS (TA) STAFF CLERK HEADQUARTERS 12 SIG BDE (V)**

There is a vacancy for NRPS Staff Clerk for employment with Headquarters 12 Sig Bde (V) located at Duke of York's HQ, Kings Road, Chelsea, London, with immediate effect.

Terms and Conditions of Service are set out in TA Regulations 1978, Chapter 6, Part 4. The successful applicant will be required to enlist in the TA for an initial term of three years. The upper age limit is 55 years and the normal retiring age is 60.

The post carries the rank of Corporal (TA) with an annual salary of:-

On appointment, Class 2—£12,238.45 (including London Allowance).

On appointment, Class 1—£12,953.85 (including London Allowance).

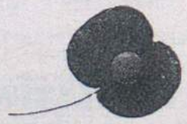
Applicants should ideally have served in the Regular Army in a clerical post, should have a thorough knowledge of military procedures and documentation and should be able to type. A current UK Driving Licence will be an advantage. The successful applicant will be required to deputise for the Chief Clerk. A person who has previously filled an Orderly Room Sergeant's Post would be most suitable.

Applications giving details of experience and service, date of birth and the names and addresses of two referees should be sent to: COS, HQ 12 Sig Bde (V), Duke of York's HQ, Kings Road, Chelsea, London SW3 4SF.

**MOD CIVILIAN VACANCIES**

Applications are invited from ex-military personnel and their families wishing to join the MOD civilian staff. Vacancies continually arise in Central London and Outer London for Patrolmen, Storekeepers, Communications and Electrical Technicians, Drivers, Clerical and other posts.

Interested parties should contact: **Steve Morgans** or **Peter Ashton** on 081-854 2242 Ext: 3574.



## POPPY APPEAL

Collectors are urgently needed. House-to-house collections start on 29 October. Street collections are on Friday 9 and Saturday 10 November. If you are willing to give your time, even for an hour—please dial—100 and ask for 'Freephone Poppy Appeal'.

**Remembrance Day is on Sunday 11 November**



# LETTERS

**From: Maj (Retd) W. A. Lavers**

Dear Sir,

I have read with great interest and disappointment the letter written by **Col L. W. Wright TD, DL** under the heading 'Calais 50 Years On'. Unfortunately I had no knowledge that such a function had been planned. I thought Calais had been forgotten in all the media coverage of Dunkirk. I would have liked to have been the 111th survivor present.

I should be pleased to hear from any other Calais survivors.

Yours faithfully,
**Bill Lavers**

8 Clay Hill Road
Burghfield Common
Reading RG7 3HE

**From: W. Reeves**

Dear Sir,

The original copies of *'The Wire'*, brought out in 1920 were on, what I should say would be three sheets of foolscap folded over and it became a little book. It was, if I remember, hand written and reproduced in some form or other but nevertheless one drew ones pay and one 'drew' a *'Wire'* which meant to say sixpence: out of 14 bob that was a lot of money. The present *'Wire'* of course, is a great credit to everybody and a wonderful magazine but I can still remember those first ones.

I wonder if you would do me a favour? On 27 January 1920, I joined the Royal Engineers, as I believed, but having been checked over on another occasion because I was in civvy street, in those days a cinema projectionist, I was sent off to Bedford and then allocated to Signals but I still wore an RE badge and my number was 623758. Now, at the same time I met up with a chap at Bedford. He came from Cattdown, Plymouth. His name—**Smith**—uncommon we'll agree!—**Frederick Charles** and we travelled down to Maresfield together. And further than that we travelled the whole of India, or rather three quarters of India together, for five and a half years.

I wonder if there are any more of the old ones about like myself? I've only met one fellow and that was when I was recalled for the last war.

Yours faithfully
**W. Reeves**

48 Rugby Road
Milverton CV32 6DG

**From: Brig Gen E. W. H. Huntley**

Dear Sir,

I was recently sent a copy of *The Wire*, upon re-joining the RSA. It was indeed a great pleasure to browse through it's contents, as the last time I had possession of *'The Wire'* was in 1954, just prior to my emigrating to Canada upon my enlistment into the Royal Canadian Signals. I was serving with 3 Sqn 43rd Wessex Inf Div Sigs in theTA Centre at Station Road, Filton, where I was the SQMS. In those days, we looked upon *The Wire* as a good source of information especially regarding postings and promotions (excerpts from the old Blue Book). I was rather surprised to see, that there is little space allocated to 'Letters to the Editor' and I hope that what follows, will be accepted, not as criticism but as observations.

I looked in vain for mention of Units of which I had been a member, however, some I realise have changed names and probably have been incorporated with others under new ones. Similarly I noticed that in some instances Div signs have been modified somewhat (and not for the better I think) and are now used as Brigade signs. Eg The very delicate animal known as the Jerboa, chosen by Mrs Wavell during the early stages of WW2 when the 7th Mobile Div, was about to change it's name to the 7th Armd Div and was looking for something to indicate it's desert worthiness. It was then worn on our Topees, the flash being red in colour and about 5in by 2.5in with a white circle about 2.25in in diameter and in it's centre was a delightful little red Jerboa. We later wore the white circle and the Jerboa on the top of our sleeves. We were and are, most proud of that Jerboa, certainly not the monstrosities now being used as Brigade signs. In those days 7th Armd Bde, was known as the Light Armd Bde being equipped with light tanks (7th Hussars etc). The 4th Armd Bde, was the Heavy Armd Bde being equipped with heavy tanks with the 11th Hussars it's Recce Regt. **Brig 'Blood' Caunter** was the Commander of the Heavy Bde.

On page 213 of the April issue, there are two photographs on which a **LCpl Ronald Hill** appears. The top one refers to a 'Gin Palace' being the first to enter certain towns in Holland and Belgium. It also mentions that the vehicle carries the Maple Leaf Emblem on the Mudguard. The fellows all appear to be wearing the large beret (almost a Balmoral) which was only issued to the British Troops. I was also in those towns mentioned in the captions. Now whether or not that detachment was first, I'm not in a position to say, however, the Canadian Troops were in that area of Belgium and Holland and remained there until the Walcheren Islands and the Scheldt were cleared. At that time, those Canadians served under 1 Corps, (the Spearhead Corps) which in turn came under command of the Canadian Army. The use of the Maple leaf on the vehicle would lead me to believe that it is a Canadian vehicle or the leaf was being used incorrectly.

During this time, my detachment provided communications for the Military Hospital, in Antwerp, and Roosendale, I believe either the 30 ADS or the 25 FDS (one being Canadian and the other British), but as my detachment landed at 0630 hrs on D-Day we were equipped with a White Half Tracked vehicle (soft top). We used a 19 LP and a 19 HP. We were fortunate in that we had a modified Half Track which was equipped with a penthouse, a canvas structure which we erected if, and when we had time. This was meant to house any staff members who wished to use it.

I must admit that the expression 'Gin Palace' as used in the caption was, and still is, used here in Canada, but the history isn't correct. Back in 1937-39 we had four sizes of Wireless vehicle in Egypt. They were, the Austin seven which when stuck in the sand, was actually picked up by it's crew and moved to harder ground. The 8cwt Morris, (called a Bug), mine was 376 026, with the No 1 set, later the No 11 set. Then there was a 15cwt with a box on the back and this was called a Van and housed the No 7 Transmitter and the No 2 receiver and later the No 9 set and later still the No 52 set, then there was the 3 ton vehicle usually either a Guy or Thorneycroft. This carried the No 3 transmitter it's own generator and the No 2 Receiver. This was a very large vehicle with the sets between the driving compartment and the passengers. The rear compartment was lined down both sides with very soft leather covered seats. There was storage space, under the seats and the floor boards. The name Gin Palace arose as it was often used by members of Staff as their personal club during manoeuvres or schemes, and except for the operator on duty, the crew were not allowed inside. So the present day Gin Palace was in fact the old Bread Van, by the way, in those days, other than the 8cwt Morris trucks, most vehicles didn't have windshields or overhead cover for the driver, instead there were canvas shields which could be drawn up. Whichever truck we were appointed to became our home, for once hostilities started we carried everything we owned with us in those vehicles.

Yours faithfully
**E. W. H. Huntley**

58 Langton Road
London
Ontario Canada N5V 2M1

**From: Col R. D. K. Thompson**—Regimental Colonel

Dear Sir,

This has been a first class year for Corps Cross Country and Athletics culminating in the splendid victory for 21 Sig Regt (Air Support) in the Army Team Challenge Athletics Championships in July. Such success, however, has not come without a few ill informed detractors. Some of the words that have followed the Sebastian Coes and Steve Ovetts of this world have also, in a backhanded way, been equally unfairly applied to some of our own athletes. People who should know much better have talked about the self important attitudes of athletes in placing the individual and his own personal wishes above all else. This, of course, is far from the truth but it does require a little understanding.

What has to be remembered is that athletics is different, it is a one-on-one situation—the athlete is competing against himself and against the rest. The needs for indestructible confidence, total self belief and self control (what Commander would be without such qualities) are paramount. The problem is that whilst these characteristics manifest themselves to those in the field of athletics as single minded and admirable dedication to this challenge—the ends justifying the means—to those sitting in the Stand or fringing the Hospitality Tent, they appear as selfishness or even blinkered arrogance. Nothing could be further from the truth and as an example the Army Challenge Final is the culmination of many years of training on cold wet nights in Winter, as well as the 'free' afternoons on the warm Summer days. The build-up has been lengthy and very hard, yet the results of those dedicated years of intense physical preparation have to be released in a matter of moments or minutes. The physical edge has got to be better than excellent—it is a time when only the athletes' very best will do. It must be remembered that when an athlete competes, he exposes his full personality—he puts his faith in his own physical preparation—failure is unthinkable. Mistakes might occur—but never to you.

To add to the physical challenge it is important to consider the mental dimension. Athletes must retain the ability to hide (or ignore) injury, camouflage the loss of form, 'psyche out' the opposition with a stunning opening gambit and believe blindly that they will perform well on the day. They must be prepared mentally for the oppositions' less than scrupulous 'war of words' and above all, under verbal provocation, stay calm. Individual success breeds team success; failure, comparative or not, especially by a 'star', rushes like a forest fire through the team which no amount of 'stiff upper lip' and table thumping, such as might be expected from a rugby team captain, can resolve. The athlete, like the Commander, must keep his nerve.

The only road to success is dedicated training, rock solid personal confidence, quiet contemplation before the fray and a total and utter belief in your own preparation and ability. In short, total commitment to those few minutes when centimetres and hundreths of a second count. On 20 July 1990, 21 Sig Regt (Air Support) had the people with those supreme qualities who could watch this challenge—they were without doubt the Best and I was extremely proud of each and every one of them.

Yours faithfully
**Roger Thompson**
RHQ Royal Signals

## THE ROYAL SIGNALS 1991 CALENDAR

To promote the good name of Royal Signals in the Army, within our own family circles and also outside in the commercial world, the Corps has decided to publish its own high quality full colour calendar for 1991.



### BUY THE CALENDAR AND SUPPORT YOUR CORPS

This calendar which has been printed to a high standard will illustrate many of the finest traditions and achievements of the Corps in operational, training, sporting and social situations. With one page per month it will feature many of the capabilities which have made our Corps famous, and which we would therefore proudly wish to share with our colleagues and friends. For example, electronic warfare, Ptarmigan, the White Helmets, the Queens Gurkha Signals and winning Army Sporting Championships.

The Royal Signals 1991 Calendar, which will be available in late October 1990 has a space daily for jotting appointments and is intended to grace any wall in the office, the crew room, or at home. It will make an excellent Christmas Gift or Christmas Draw Prize and at £4.50 (13.00DM) is a modest price to pay for a present which will be appreciated for 365 days of the year. This is, in Army terms, a unique undertaking and an excellent way of expressing to your colleagues, family and friends your pride in Royal Signals.

Who would have a wall without one—at Home and Away?

### CALENDAR ORDER FORM

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56 Regency Street
London SW1P 4AD

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## ROYAL SIGNALS DIARY 1991 NOW AVAILABLE AT MUSEUM SHOP BLANDFORD CAMP

The 1991 Corps Diary is now available for sale. It is of a similar pattern to last year. The outer Cover (6in × 3½in) is in Blue Elkatex with two Gilt corner Mounts and a matching ribbon Marker. The Diary is 'a Fortnight to View' and includes a Forward Planner, Memoranda and Telephone index, European Holidays 1991, Three Year Calendar, Main Ferry Crossing Routes, Vintage Wine Chart, Intercity Routes and much more. The cost of the Diary is £2.20 including postage and packing. Bulk orders are welcome and will receive 10% Discount, (minimum order of 50 for Discount).

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# REPORT FROM ULSTER

XV

**15 Sig Regt**
**BFPO 801**



The Corps Band entertaining the Lisburn Garrison Playgroup

**VISIT OF THE CORPS BAND**

The Regiment played host to a large number of visitors when the Retreat Ceremony was performed by the Corps Band during its recent visit. The Mayor of Belfast was the guest of honour at the Ceremony and at the cocktail party which followed.

The Corps Band was under the direction of its Director **Capt D. E. Wall**.

**VISIT OF THE SOINC AND MASTER OF SIGNALS**

The Regiment was honoured by a visit from the SOinC and a farewell visit from the Master of Signals.

During their very short stay the SOinC visited 225 Sig Sqn and the Master of Signals witnessed military training, including the shooting phase of the McKelvie Trophy by 233 Sig Sqn.

At the conclusion of the visit LS & GC Medals were presented by the Master of Signals to **SSgts Stu Price** and **Bill Brockie** Int Corps. The Master of Signals was also a recipient. Not a medal this time but a blackthorn stick presented by the RSM on behalf of all ranks of the Corps in the Province.

**NORTHERN IRELAND INTER UNIT ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS AND MORRISON CUP**

Despite very limited training facilities and even more limited time for training the Regiment was well represented in the Northern Ireland Athletic Championships. Good results were achieved by both 225 Sig Sqn and 233 Sig Sqn, notably **Sgt Billy McCreath** winner of the 800m and 1,500m, **Sgt Fez Newell** winner of the 100m hurdles, and **Cpl Rick Gorman** winner of pole vault.

The Women's Services Championships also saw success for **LCpl Ward** in the 400m and **Cpl Proctor** in the javelin.

The final result saw 233 Sig Sqn as Minor Units Champions with 225 Sig Sqn in third place. These Championships provided an excellent trial for selecting a Regimental team to enter the Morrison Cup (UK) for the first time and, despite the obvious difficulties in releasing personnel from tasks, the team finished in fourth place. The Championships produced some particularly gritty performances in the 800m, pole vault and javelin.

**225 SIGNAL SQUADRON**

There is a rumour going around that the Sqn Comd, **Maj Hugh Bardell**, did get married in March, despite the fact that the Mess staff still seem to be looking after him!

**ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES**

We say farewell to several members of the Squadron. The Admin Officer **Capt Andrea Perks** leaves on posting to Hong Kong. **Cpl Frith** vanished on his T1 course. **Sgt Julie Donald** seems to have set a trend by entering the civilian world with **Cpls Lacey, Fear, LCpl Glennie** and **Sig Carson** close behind. D Tp says farewell to **WO2 Mick Hill, SSgt Bill Brockie** and **Sgt 'Badger' Sutherland** who all move to warmer climates. E Tp says a fond goodbye to **SSgt Mick** (no pain-no gain) **Hartley** en route to arduous climbs at Loughborough. **LCpl Andy Glennie** departs this green and pleasant land for a life of luxury in the civilian world.

The Squadron welcomes **WO2 Bruce Campbell, SSgts 'Tigger' Howarth, Stu York, Mike Keech, Sgts Marton Pascoe, Alan Holyoak, Cpls Barry Stokes, Damien Smith, 'Dickie' Dickinson** and **LCpl Chris Youles**. We also welcome into the fold **Sgt Jock McCreath** and his wife, **Sgt Nigel Parry, Bob Hailstones, Cpl Travers, LCpls Gary Willson, Foster, Rowlinson-Bates** and **Kerr Morgan**.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations go to **SSgt Mick Reehal** on his marrgage to **Doreen** and to **LCpl Chris Atkinson** on his marriage. Our best wishes go to **Sgt Paul Skeith** and wife **Julie** on the birth of baby son **Daniel**.

Many congratulations to **Cpls Bryan Mason** and **Ickie Kenyon** on their recent promotion. Regular readers and cricket enthusiasts will be pleased to know that at long last **Cpl Steve Draycott** is now a Sergeant, many congratulations. Congratulations to **Sgt Jeff Land** and **'Chaz' Chesters** on their recent promotion. Our sincere thanks go to M&RO Glasgow for finally promoting the Squadron 'Mr Andy' **Cpl 'Wally' Wallace** which is truly well deserved.

**SPORTS**

The Squadron won the NI Mercury Sports Trophy. The competition consists of four sporting events, hockey, volleyball, soccer and rugby. Undoubtedly **Sgt Troy Phillips**'s hat-trick in the final made sure that we won the trophy. The Squadron also participated in the NI Athletics Championships in which they came fourth. Congratulations go to **Sgt Jock McCreath** who won the 150m, **Cpl Lorna Proctor** on being runner-up in the javelin and the Men's Relay Team for coming second.



WCpl Proctor receiving the Howes Cup (Hockey) from Lt Col S. M. Siddall, Comd Comms NI and CO 15 Sig Regt

The Squadron now has a hard core of golfers who regularly avail themselves of the excellent courses that the province has to offer. The first competition of the season, the '225 Open Masters Invitation' saw **WO1 Turner** just outpace **Maj Bardell** to the winners enclosure; both left the rest of the field a long way behind.

A precedent has now been set and the Squadron hopes this is just the start of a run of wins in regular competitions and inter-unit matches.

**GOLF TROOP**

For the first time in its history Tech workshops has now got its full complement.

Congratulations go to **Sgts Chris Gill, Taff Evans** and **Andy Knight** for selection for a Foremans' course. We say goodbye to JA or is that AJ? **(Sgt Ridley)** who sets out to pass on his skills in the English language to Germany.

Two of the Troop have now become fully mobile with 'Big Jeff' **(Cpl Jefferson)** passing his driving test, and **Sgt 'Gee-Gee' Makin**

admitting that he is a devoted member of the local Saddle Club.

The past few months have seen the Troop Stock Car Racing Team in fine form again with another six bangs on the road. A special mention must go to **John Smith** for solving the traffic congestion problem by parking his car under a lorry and to **Chris Gill** for his amazing stunt driving in the ditch!

Unfortunately our number one driver **Nigel Frith** (known affectionately as UGMA) has left us to go on his T1 but the MT is teaching another two Techs to drive so I'm sure the troop will maintain its good name and keep the REME in full time occupation. Other departures are **Chris Greaves** and **Steve Lacey** into the big wide world and **Sean Nicholls**, a fine young mare whose racing career seems to have been cut short with a hoof problem, who has had several months rest at Woolwich Stables and is now off to 13 Sig Regt.

On the sports scene we put up a valiant effort in the Squadron Winter Shield Competition, eventually finishing third, thanks to a stirring victory in the rugby. Following this success **AJ Ridley**, a keen sportsman, has put up the Squadron's inter troop darts trophy which we held for the last year and aim to retain.

**GARDENING CORNER**

The Squadron has also been very busy on the horticultural side of life, mainly with the SSM's pride and joy, the Squadron garden. We must surely have the nicest garden in the Province. Well done all our early morning gardeners!

**233 SIGNAL SQUADRON**
**TECH TROOP**
**GOODBYES AND WELCOMES**

We say farewell to **WO2 (FofS) Billy Hughes** who thinks he has left for pastures green in civvy street. We wish him and his family all the best in the future. Farewells also to **Sgt Dave Ball** (FofS Course), **Cpls 'Glan' Davies, Pete Simcock, Jane Stallard, John Sutton** and **Pete Ruff**; thanks for all the hard work. Also Bye Bye to **Sgt 'Fez' Newell**, off to civvy street. We welcome the new FofS **Taff Griffiths** and his family and to **SSgt Nev Flintham** and family. Also welcome to **Cpls Neil Trengrove, 'Pep' Peplow, 'Paddy' Brown, 'Jacko' Jackson** and family, **'Dad' Steen, Eric Sykes, LCpl 'Ginge' Ginger** and **Sig Eccles**. We hope your tour is rewarding.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

The troop wish to congratulate **WO2 (FofS) Hughes** on his award of the LS & GC Medal.



Mrs Kath Hughes, WO2 (FofS) Billy Hughes and Maj Gen D. P. Thomson, Comd LFNI

**RADIO SECTION**

Radio Section has seen several new faces posted in recently, **Sgt Ken Turley** arrived to take over the running of the workshops, **Cpl 'Jonah' Jones, LCpls 'Griff' Griffiths** and **John Barlow** preceded him by a few days making the section up to strength.

With so many new faces things have been hectic (why do new people always bring new brooms with them?), but as usual we struggled through with the aid of a few 'happy hours'. The 'old hands' have been as keen as ever to show the lads 'Pub Alley'.

**BRINTON**

Under the able guidance of **SSgt Dave** (Hong Kong Passport) **Smith** six selected Tele Tech Systems are employed to ensure the Brinton System throughout the Province is efficiently maintained.

**INSTALLATION**

**SSgt Steve** (Manpower) **Gillham** has the dubious task of ensuring any installation involving the Brinton System is carried out with the maximum use of available materials, manpower and initiative. An inexhaustible enthusiasm for working in the dark and a will to save money is essential to qualify as section head.

**DC WORKSHOPS**

The remainder of the initial manpower total mentioned is employed in a variety of tasks. One or two of the tasks are maximum participation in organised Garrison events such as Guards, Quick Reaction Force details, and orderly duties. The repair of any unserviceable technical equipment such as Trends etc and any kit from other units which may come under the guise of local repair. Members also take part in Section, Troop, Squadron and Regimental social activities.

Troop activities which seem to have evolved rather than been organised are:-

Spot the R&I/FATSO storeman and earn yourself a PCB, a fuse and a pat on the back.

Spot the Rigger without bags under his eyes and be sent to Coventry for gossiping.

Spot the 'borrowed' DC Workshop item and earn yourself a few staff 'Brownie Points'.

Spot the FRT volunteer and pass on his name.

The lads and lasses of the workshop would like to enter the following in the Quote of the Quarter Competition:

'It wasn't me who blew it up Staff, I haven't done anything all day.'

'Sorry Staff, I only locked up my toolbox, someone else must have filled it up and shut it.'

The following words have been erased, no, obliterated from the Workshop Dictionary: manning, experience, no, can not, please, thank you, later, impossible, not again, label, volunteer, weekend, and finally yes. There are a few more words that are in the process of being deleted but we are waiting for some of the toxic liquid Tipp-Ex.

Congratulations to all the non-amalgamated Tech Troop personnel who participated in the winning of the McKelvie Trophies for shooting, squash, football and tennis hopefully more success to come.

Finally some hello's and goodbye's.

The section is due to lose **Cpls Jones** and **Faizey** to Romeo Tp (don't forget to claim your disturbance allowance). **Cpl Jones** is marrying **Clare**, the troop wishes them all the best for the future.

Finally a special mention to **SSgt Steve Gillham** who has been so busy that his golfing handicap is now down to 16.

**WORKSHOPS—A MAJOR WORK OF FICTION BY SSGT NEV FLINTHAM**

The time has arrived for the Regimentally refurbished DC Workshop Tech Troop personnel to put pen to paper and enlighten fellow readers the vital operational role carried out by this small body of 34 to 42 men and women (depending on the time of year).

Ably led by **SSgt Flintham** DC Workshops personnel are employed in the following roles:

**FORWARD REPAIR TEAMS**

Two teams of two are based at each of the three Province Brigade HQs on a 24 hour a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year basis, whenever possible each team is changed on a four weekly cycle.

**COMMS OPS TECHS**

As previously mentioned 15 Sig Regt Comms Ops Cell is now in running order to provide technical assistance. Three SNCO Tele Tech Systems are provided on a monthly basis to work shifts alongside the Systems Operators.

Cheerio from all 37 present members of the Workshops to **Sgt Rick Norman** and wife, **Cpl** 'Round-about' **Dillon** and family, **Cpls Glan Davies, Mick Simcock** and his wife, **WCpl Jane** (keep in touch) **Stallard** and **Cpl John Sutton**.

Welcome to the section **Sgt 'Crin' Crinnion** (Paul), **Cpl Graham Jackson** and **Carol** (congratulations on the birth of your daughter) **Cpls Brown, Peplow, Trengrove, Steen, Tuck** and family for the second time. Cheerio to **Cpl 'Tush' Tushingham** have fun on your T1 and lastly welcome again to **LCpls 'Smudge' Smith, Ginger** and **Sig Nigel Eccles**.



**ROMEO TROOP**

The Troop continues to fulfil its Province wide role. The appeal of the Troop is obvious as most members extend their tour and even then are reluctant to leave. Even the prospect of a periodic two week detachment does little to dampen enthusiasm: take note those looking for a job with a difference.

The Troop has seen a few comings and goings over the last few months and would like to record its appreciation and thanks to a number of worthy members who have left. Firstly **Sgt Chris Jacobs** who is now sunning himself in Gibraltar after three years of not doing so. He is no doubt making the most of it. Our Troop SSgt **Stu Price** left us for Comms Branch, all of 100m away. That'll teach him to change trade! We also say farewell to two of our Troop characters, **Sgt Ian Richardson** to the TA in Scotland (the butchers shop in Ballynahinch will never be the same) and **Sgt Eric Sykes** to Belize. Hard luck **Eric** but think what would have happened if you'd been more familiar with the RSM! To you both, thanks for your efforts here.

## 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## BFPO 809

**SHQ**

Personalities come and go, but work goes on forever. So said our Admin Oficer. **Capt John Wilson**, on departure from the Squadron; we wish him every success in the future. We have also said farewell to **LCpl Rolfe** who has managed to wangle a one way ticket to Cyprus. We welcome the following **Capt Brian Tock** of the RAOC and his wife **Allison** and **LCpl** 'happy' **Hill, Sig** 'Yorkie' Chapman and **Pte** 'Ms' **Campbell** our news clerks. Last but not least our typist **Allison**, without whose ability to decipher our scrawl, we would not be in print.

**SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING**
**3 BRIGADE TEAM**
**Lt Gregory**
**SSgt Sloane** (Team Captain)
**LCpls Robers** and **Townsend**
**Sig Burdus, Feasey** and **Bridges**

The Royal Signals Northern Ireland Skill-at-Arms Meeting took place on Friday 27 July at Ballykinler ranges on a very damp and overcast day.



SSgt Sloane, LCpls Roberts, Townsend, Echelby, Sig Feasey, Bridge and Burdus



SSgt Sloane receiving the SA80 shield from Comd Comms Lt Col Siddall

The Competition started with a kit inspection by **WO2 Pete Hennigan** of 11 UDR, all went well for 3 Bde due to the new 1157 courtesy of **Maj Wally Lockwood**.

The next phase of the competition was a five mile march that had to be completed in 45 minutes, 39 Bde gained maximum points at this event due to a very gutsy run around the flat Ballykinler ranges.

The Shooting Competition started with the pistol match which was a very close contest between 39 Bde and 3 Bde, on this occasion 3 Bde came out on top. There was some fine shooting by **Lt** (now Capt) **Gregory** of 3 Bde and **Lt Fensom** of 39 Bde resulting in a shoot off narrowly won by **Lt Gregory**. For 3 Bde there were good results by **Sig Burdus** and **LCpl Townsend**.

We moved from the 25m range to the converted gallery range where the modified Henry Whitehead Rifle Match was being run by **SSgt Andy Fullwood** of 3 Bde.

Due to the recent introduction of the SA80, this was not a high scoring match but yet again 3 Bde took the overall team competition closely followed by 39 Bde. The younger members of the 3 Bde team producing some consistent shooting with the SA80.

The Commander Comms, **Lt Col Siddall** presented the prizes, the winner was the 39 Bde team, due to its efforts on the march phase. The runners-up were 3 Bde taking both shooting trophies with consistent team shooting throughout the day.

**RESULTS**

First: 39 Bde Sig Sqn; Second: 3 Bde Sig Sqn; Third: 8 Bde Sig Sqn; Fourth: 225 Sig Sqn; Fifth: HQ Sqn 15 Sig Regt and Sixth: 233 Sig Sqn.

March and Shoot: 39 Bde Sig Sqn; Pistol Match: 3 Bde Sig Sqn and SA80 Rifle Match: 3 Bde Sig Sqn.



LCpl Townsend wondering where his lungs have gone

**EXERCISE MINI MANX**

Ex Mini Manx was a weekend adventure training exercise in the Isle of Man. The aim of this exercise was to send a group of soldiers from 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn on short break away from the Province. This consisted of three days rambling, the start and finish point being the principal town of Douglas.

Ex Mini Manx 1 started with its eager explorers undaunted by the task ahead setting sail from Belfast Harbour on a ship that did not look as though it was sea worthy. Nevertheless, the journey was completed in four and a half hours and we arrived in Douglas at 1830 hrs on a very sunny evening.

We slipped out of Douglas unnoticed by the crowds and with high spirits set out for Ballasalla, a distance of 13km, this was completed in two hours due to **Sgt Martin Hoodless** and **Cpl** 'Bamber' **Gascoyne**'s concern that the pubs would close before we arrived. Our first camp site was chosem by **LCpl John Chivers** showing a healthy respect for the very hostile Manx cattle.

The second day started with a hearty breakfast of porridge and biscuits, before sallying forth. Our trek took us via the Millenium Way, over local inland and coastal tracks to the fishing port of Peel, a distance of 19km, we stopped at Glenmaye for a well earned rest, liquid refreshment and a very welcome ploughmans lunch.

At the end of a very hot and satisfying day we pitched camp at a site in Peel; the shower facilities were very welcome. After explaining to **Cpl Gascoyne**, that boil in the bag 'means' boil in the bag, a pleasant meal of chicken casserole was had by all.

Sunday morning started with **SSgt Nigel Sloane** administering minor repairs to various bodies in the party. We left the facilities of Peel camp site for our final destination, Douglas. We followed the heritage trail from Peel to Crosby, where we stopped for lunch and to admire the local scenery. We followed the world famous TT Race track on the last lap of our journey to Douglas, this being within easy striking distance of the ferry terminal.

On Monday we broke camp at 0600 hrs on a blustery morning and departed for the ferry. During our return voyage we pondered over the success of our weekend walk; it was a departure from Province-life enjoyed by all. Team Leader: **SSgt Nigel Sloane**; Team: **Sgt Martin Hoodless, Cpl** 'Bamber' **Gascoyne** and **LCpl John Chivers**.


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SSgt Nigel Sloane and LCpl John Chivers having a hearty breakfast of porridge and biscuits

**NEWS FROM SYSCON**

Summer has arrived in Armagh, the heat is on in Syscon, pity the air conditioning isn't.

Our intrepid sporting heroes continue to impress with newly promoted **LCpl 'Biffa' Cullen** (congratulations), **Sig 'Scouse' Dixon** and **LCpl 'Magoggles' McGowan** playing for the Squadron football team winning 5—1 against our neighbouring Unit 2 UDR, and the Squadron jetski, windsurfing and water ski equipment being put to good use by **Cpl Ruddock** who only requires a box of Black Magic to complete the picture.

**Cpl Al Hanlon** assisted in the running of the March and Shoot Competition, unfortunately our team member **Sig 'Scouse' Dixon** sustained an ankle injury and could not compete (the boys from the black stuff aren't what they used to be). This timely injury also excused him from a foot patrol/comms trial which meant that **Cpl Neil Duncan** had to stand in for him, ably assisted by **Sig Fred Gee** a part time, apprentice Syscon Op.

Night rations have improved greatly thanks to **LCpl Jon Collins'** wife **Lynne**. Whilst on the subject of pads, we would like to congratulate **LCpl Neil McMillan** and wife **Ruby** on the birth of their son **Peter**.

**TM SECTION**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **FofS** | **WO2 Bob Walton BEM** |
| **Radio Tech** | **Sgt Martin Hoodless** |
| **Line/rigging** | **Sgt Chris Rumney** |
| **BT LO** | **SSgt Andy Fullwood** |

August saw the merging of TM and Comms Troops, TM Section having a final 'Bash' with **Cpl Robbo** 'Denzo' **Robson** from QM's Dept providing most of the evening's entertainment. With the workshop now almost totally rebuilt by **LCpl Taff Swithenbank** and **LCpl Tony Artigan** we are now just about ready to set off again to the far flung corners of the Brigade TAOR. With the Troop stores now a day's hike away in the confines of the old Communication Tp. **Sgt Chris Braid** and **Cpl** 'Bing' **Crosby** are up to their necks in strange looking clamps and brackets belonging to the riggers, **Cpl** 'Bamber' **Gascoyne** and **LCpls Chris Braund** and **Maddi Maddison**.

The radio techs led by **Sgt Martin Hoodless** seem to be over their recent spate of mechanical mishaps with **Cpls Martin Farmer** and **'Notty' Noble** getting around the Province at a slower speed of warp factor six.

TM Section would like to offer a warm welcome to **Cpl Ian Glover** fresh from his T1 Course and **LCpl Al Townsend**, and to wish him the best of luck in his forthcoming marriage to **Yvonne**. We also, however, have to say a fond farewell to **Cpl Joe Killen** and wish him luck in 242 Sig Sqn.



# 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn BFPO 807

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj David McDowall** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Jake Thackray** |
| **AO** | **Maj Lew Godfrey 15/19H** |
| **OC Comms Tp** | **Lt Mike McGinty** |
| **RSM** | **WO1 (RSM) Pete Whitehouse** |
| **RQMS** | **WO2 (RQMS) Bob Taylor** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (YofS) Paul Forryan** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 (FofS) Jim Abernethy** |
| **MTWO** | **WO2 (MTWO) Stan Duncan RCT** |
| **Chief Clerk** | **SSgt John O'Donnell** |
| **SSgt Radio** | **SSgt Kev Bailey** |
| **SSgt Tels** | **SSgt Kev Bickerstaffe** |
| **SSgt Comms** | **SSgt 'Chick' McCue** |
| **SQMS** | **CSgt Reg Varney R Anglian** |

**THE VIEW FROM SHQ**

Well, it's amazing how two years can just fly by, isn't it? It only seems, well, two years ago, come to think of it, when newly-promoted **RSM 'Dixie' Dean** came striding through the gates of Ebrington Barracks, to get a grip of the Squadron. And now he's gone away to tell war stories to his heart's content to the TA at London District. He didn't get away completely Scot free, however. He almost had to conquer his fear of heights on the Ebrington Barracks mast in order to retrieve his ferry ticket; his interrogation of the riggers enabled him to get out of it. He leaves with all our best wishes, and we thank both him and **Bridget** for their strenuous efforts on behalf of the Squadron in the last two years.

We welcome **WO1 (RSM) Pete Whitehouse** from Cyprus (that tan is already starting to fade, believe me), who has introduced himself to the remedial PT 'fat boys' with a certain style.

**WO2 (MTWO) Pete Mulvihill** has left us for England, and is replaced by **WO2 (MTWO) Stan Duncan**. He has recently seen service with the TA, so there should be no problems adapting to this environment. Comms Tp offers a big welcome to **SSgt 'Chick' McCue**, his OC, **Lt Mike McGinty**, was last seen heading for the Officers' Mess with a big smile on his face and the cry 'Cheers Staff, all the handover stuff's in my desk, somewhere' echoing around the camp.

Another few good sports results form the main part of our notes this month; more success for our shooting team, and an excellent win in the NI minor units cricket cup. Otherwise, we've been well busy with in house competitions (the superstars) and other 'funnies' (the 'musical extravaganza'). At the time of writing we're enjoying what can only be described as a drought. Talking of which, that's where this intro has to stop—the OC's nowhere to be seen, so I'm going to slide off and catch some rays—my last 'Wire' notes finished—sniff!



WO1 (RSM) 'Dixie' Dean hands over to WO1 (RSM) Pete Whitehouse

**MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA**

Don't try and impress us with your 'Urban Jungle' T shirt, your video of the Pink Floyd concert at the Berlin Wall or the bruises you collected from Madonna's minders in Hyde Park—we know about rock concerts, all right? In fact, we've done 'em to death. We're fully in the picture when it comes to organisation (and crowd control, car parking, merchandising, advertising, catering, lighting, radio tie-ins, pyrotechnics, backstage passes, video recording, sound levels, medical cover, security . . . Yeah). We've done it all. It all started (as such things often do) with an edict which emanated from the Commander's monthly conference: 'And yea, it shall come to pass, that in the days of high summer (or what passes for it over here) that there shall be an 'entertainment' for all ranks of the Brigade (less those on stage, naturally) and their families, and it shall happen in Ballykelly and it shall be really good or else.'

Conferences were set up, discussions entered into. First idea out of the hat: 'let's have a Beating of Retreat'. No, let's not. Its, well, a bit dull. Second idea: 'let's have a warehouse party, like those on the mainland, except the police won't be able to bust it up, 'cause this is NI, and we are the law'. Er, no, let's not do that either, because it's a bit naughty.

As ever, a sensible compromise was reached: we'd combine the two, so that there could be a nice part with lots of bandsmen and famous tunes that everyone could sing along to and clap politely, followed by a wacky, zany kind of thing with raucous music and beers and kebabs and dancing till we dropped (hey, that's us all right, we're just wild eyed loners on the gates of hell with two units of alcohol inside us—call us rebels, we just don't care). And so planning began. All the Brigade units were involved, but the Squadron was up there masterminding the whole thing (well, sort of: the OC, **Maj David McDowall**, had said that whatever happened, it wasn't going to be his unit that let the side down and didn't participate fully, and he wasn't going in front of the Brigade Commander to explain that away for anybody, so we'd just better get involved or else—I suppose that's what's called the awesome loneliness of command).

What appeared a relatively simple task to us (well, we regularly achieve communications for 8 UDR, don't we? we can do anything) rapidly achieved titanic proportions: it soon became clear that this particular event couldn't be sorted out by the usual judicious positioning of a PA system and the Squadron barbecue tent. **Sgt Rick Shepherd**, the cigar-chewing, dodgy car selling impresario of the Sqn Club went off in search of big name bands who wouldn't mind coming out to the last place God made to appear in front of a thousand or so beery squaddies for the princely sum of less than five hundred quid including VAT (for some reason Michael Jackson, Madonna and New Kids on the Block suddenly became unavailable). **WO1 (RSM) Dixie Dean** started 'phoning his nefarious contacts at SSVC and CSE to sort out the other acts, and began negotiating for a bit of lighting and sound kit (we were going to use the disco unit from the Squadron club, until it was pointed out that whereas 200 watts might be OK in a room almost as big as the OC's office, it wasn't going to quite cut the mustard in a hangar that dwarfs the Albert Hall—we eventually settled on a 6kw system). **Sgt Stevie Maycock** and the boys from the Line/Rigging Section (**Cpl Billy McKelvie, Sig Delbert Wilkins** and **Brian Whyte** amongst others) set to building the backstage decorations (whose stupid idea was it to blow up 2000 balloons and string them up in an arctic-cam net?), and the techs, **Sgt Phil McMullen** to the fore, built a temporary Ops room with full facilities. **Capt Jake Thackray**, skulking in his room in the Mess and thinking he'd got away with it, discovered that in fact he had 'EASY' scrawled across his forehead and the plum job was his—stage manager, OIC hangar and MC for the night.

Despite the usual problems endemic in such a project (no money, no time, etc) everything was somehow sorted out by the big day; the tents were up, the stage built, the bands rehearsed, the portable loos plumbed in, the lot. To cap it all, the sun was actually shining. The crowds started piling in at about 1800 hrs, and by the time the band of The Scots Guards struck up the fanfare about 600 or 700 soldiers, families and civvies had found somewhere to park and sussed out the beer tents.

The band concert, in the open air due to the absence of rain, consisted of the bands of The Scots Guards, The Royal Hampshire Regiment, and The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, accompanied by pipes and drums from the 6 and 8 Bn The Ulster Defence Regt. Their show lasted about an hour, after which the Commander, **Brig J. W. Parker OBE**, welcomed all our guests, drawing attention to the charitable aspect of the evening (well, we weren't doing it for nothing—SSAFA was the beneficiary of all monies earned). After that, things got busy. Our 'extravaganza control cell'—**Lt Mike McGinty, Cpls Carl Budding** and **Andy Corlett**—were kept busy with lost children and minor injuries, **Sig 'Active' Edge** stoked up the backstage barbecue, and the OC helped the CSE dancers on with their costumes. We knew things were going to turn out all right when, despite his atrocious efforts on stage, the 2IC was not bottled to death by 50 or 60 Kingsmen—after that the beer flowed, the groups played and everyone just chilled out (hey, I can speak the language). Unfortunately, there's always someone who has to clear up afterwards, and as the revellers were being ferried home by about six 'green teams' we lucky few began the awesome task of clearing up after the crowds.

A success—was the common view, and we can't wait to do it all again, say in 1993, when we are all well and truly posted out. We raised about £6,000 for SSAFA and we can all feel justly proud of our efforts.

**THE ABACUS SUPERSTARS COMPETITION**

This year's competition, the second since its inception, was a far more open one than the last (when the previous OC, **Maj Jeremy Ellis**, doubtless spurred on by the hundred quid prize money, managed to win every event). After a gruelling series of preliminary tests (to sort out the men from the boys), which included BFT, CFT and gym exercises, the final competitors were as follows: **Majs John Gunns RE, David Hayes** 7GR (guest), **Capt Jake Thackray, Lt Mike McGinty, WO2 Pete Mulvihill, Sgt Paul Johnson, Sig Bob Goldsmith** and **Pte 'DJ Sven' Dixon**.

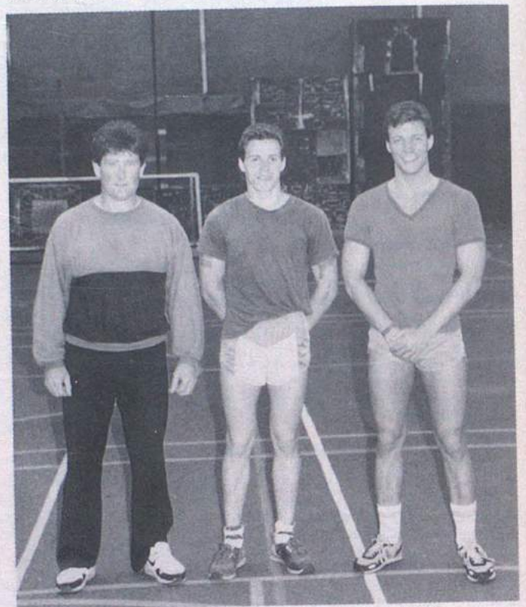
The magnificent eight gathered at Ballykelly on a bright early summer morning to decide which of them could display the most prowess over a range of sporting skills (or, more likely, which of them had bribed the RSM to falsify their results). Each competitor had to choose one event to drop, and unsurprisingly the first, a straight four mile run around the airfield, found least takers, with four of the 'iron men' deciding that they'd rather conserve their energy and cop some zeds. The four runners departed, to reappear 25 minutes later with **Sig Bob Goldsmith** holding a commanding lead. Despite a strong late challenge from **Maj David Hayes**, he breasted the tape comfortably ahead of the rest of the field. The next event, shooting on the 25m range, had been affected by the moratorium on 9mm shooting. As a result, high scores were the order of the day, as each competitor (no-one dropped this one) blasted away with 7.62mm at 25m. This event had been thought to be a bit of a lottery, but that man **Goldsmith** surprised all by coming out on top again with an excellent score of 197 out of 200—at the end of two events, he had two top scores, and it was looking once again like a one horse race.

The third event of the day consisted of a cycle race, in pairs, around the airfield. Those who'd avoided the run, thinking this one would be by far the easier of the two, were in for a bit of a shock. The RSM, **WO1 'Dixie' Dean**, had discarded the Tour De France racers that we were all expecting and proudly presented the alternative; two sleek, gleaming, 'obviously built for speed' . . . sit up and beg QM sports store specials, last used at Dunkirk (to be honest it could have been Arras . . . or Agincourt). All who took part in this event will remember its effect on their nether regions for the rest of their lives, although several were heard to comment that they'd rather have had the saddles removed to spur them to even greater efforts. **Pte 'DJ Sven' Dixon**, in his first competition cycle (probably his first time on a bike as well), discovered that 26in wheels do not allow 89in legs to operate at full efficiency—he could have walked round faster. The scores had by now evened out (mainly because **Goldsmith** didn't compete), and after unwisely stuffing themselves full of sarnies and coffee, everyone wandered over to the assault course.

At first sight, this next event looked like a killer—18 different obstacles: wire, water, ropes, walls—it had the lot. We soon discovered that since the course had been built for the US Air Force in 1943, the odd (17, actually) obstacle was considered unsafe, and we would have to run round it. Eventually it became clear to all that what we were talking about here was a 250m sprint with a water jump in the middle—the athletes perked up again. This time, however, **Lt Mike McGinty**, with skills giving ample evidence of their owner's recent passage through RMAS, nipped in to gain maximum points. The last event of that day, the swimming medley (which thankfully did not include butterfly—the stroke that all soldiers can manage really professionally for about four yards before gently subsiding to the bottom of the pool) was won (and, if I may say, in great style) by the 2IC, **Capt Jake Thackray**. The day ended with **Sig Bob Goldsmith** in a strong but not unassailable lead.

Two days later, with aches and pains just beginning to reach maximum effect, the seven (**Maj David Hayes**, wisely perhaps, chose not to appear) weary competitors shambled into Ebrington Barrack's magnificent gymnasium, built in the days when all good sporting venues were constructed in canvas. Word of the closeness of the competition had spread like wildfire, and an expectant crowd (**WO2 Pete Mulvihill's** wife, **Sue**) had gathered to watch the nail biting climax. Unfortunately she'd been misinformed; nail biting was not one of the categories, but press ups, squat thrusts, dips, sit ups and bench press all were.

Again, each category was closely contested, but as the final event drew near, it was clear that only **Sig Bob Goldsmith** and **Lt Mike McGinty** were in with a chance of winning. Their final positions were decided by a difference of only one bench press, with **Sig Bob Goldsmith** just coming out on top, to win the competition. A similar fight for third place was taking place between **WO2 Pete Mulvihill** and **Capt Jake Thackray**—this too was eventually decided by one repetition—**WO2 Pete Mulvihill** walking (limping more like—with a pronounced stoop as well) to collect the prize. A well fought competition which certainly spurred on many of the Squadron to begin training for next year. First **Sig Bob Goldsmith**; Second **Lt Mike McGinty** and Third **WO2 Pete Mulvihill**.



The Abacus 'Superstars' Competition 1990
*Left to right:* Third WO2 Pete Mulvihill, First Sig Bob Goldsmith and 2Lt Mike McGinty

**THE SQUADRON SHOOTING TEAM**
**MORE SUCCESS**

We went to the Corps SAAM.
We walked away with loads of prizes.



The OC, Maj David McDowall, demonstrates to Sgt Vic Bates the maximum effective range for 9mm shooting





## – News from Headquarters –

### Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

*(See centre pages for a pictorial record of Graduation Day, 3 August 1990).*

**SWIMMING AND WATER POLO—A SUCCESSFUL SEASON**

1990 proved an outstanding year for the College Swimming and Water Polo squad.

The losses sustained after graduation in 1989 were more than made up for by the new intakes. From this we were able to build upon the foundation already laid by those members having been in the College for one year. The results were quite exceptional and are:-

Army Junior Swimming Champions
Army Junior Water Polo Champions
Triangular Games Swimming Champions
Triangular Games Water Polo Champions
Army Junior Individual Championships—6 Gold, 4 Silver and 3 Bronze (from 9 events).

The entire squad was selected to represent the Junior Army versus the Junior Royal Navy and having beaten the Navy in the Swimming Competition proved far too strong in the Water Polo, winning by the handsome margin of 11 goals to 1. They were duly awarded their Army Colours by the President of the Army Swimming Union, **Maj Gen J. F. J. Johnstone CBE**.

The team as a reward for its efforts was able to visit 16 Sig Regt by kind permission of the Commanding Officer. Here the successes did not stop and during a hectic week the team beat 16 Sig Regt, 40 AESG and 21 Sig Regt and then, playing as a guest team in the RCZ Championships, did well to lose by an 8—6 margin against an 'RCZ Select' side.

As if that was not enough no less than five Apprentices represented the full Royal Signals Corps Team in their annual fixture versus the RAF Signals, and three members of the squad competed in the swimming phase of 'Race the Sun' sponsored by 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt and exceeding all expectations easily came out on top by a considerable margin. Congratulations to all on a truly remarkable season!



The College Swimming and Water Polo Squad 1990.
*Front (left to right):* Mr Williams (Coach), ATs Sgt Birchall, Brass, Sgt Christie, Col Burke, ATs Robins, Sgt MacKenzie, Combe and Sgt Freeman (water polo coach)
*Standing (left to right):* ATs Greenwood, Coope, Whitehouse, North, Capt Wallace (Manager), ATs Woodman, Wrenn, Honeywood, Groom, Barnes and ATLCpl Shackelton

**PENNEY SQUADRON**
**PUPIL WORK EXPERIENCE COURSE**

On Monday 24 June the College was invaded by 37 schoolboys from the North East, mainly Sunderland and South Shields. They had come for a week to look at Army life. Their programme was full of variety to give them a broad picture of the military today. Activities undertaken included: map reading, orienteering, drill, rifle shooting, PT, command tasks, use of radio and a patrol race.

As most of them had never been away from home before, the chores of bed making and personal administration became major tasks; happily they managed to grasp these by the end of the week. In general the boys worked well in all activities and some showed potential for future recruiting, especially one 15 year old who at 6ft 3in caught the eye of **WO2 (CSM) Swain** Gren Gds.

The week culminated in a Patrol Race Competition where the boys carried out command tasks and then a timed run around the College, negotiating various obstacles en route. The boys departed at the end of the week having enjoyed their brief time at the College.

**PENNEY SQUADRON 88C GRADUATION AWARDS**

Farewell to all the apprentices from 88C who graduated on Friday 3 August and a special mention to the prize-winners:-

**AT SSM Elderbrant** 'Master of Signals Prize' for the best all round Apprentice Tradesman.

**AT LCpl O'Neill** awarded both the 'Signal Officer-in-Chief's Prize' for the most outstanding tradesman and the 'Royal Signals Corps Committee Prize' for the best Apprentice Telecommunications Operator (Special).

**AT Cpl Alderson** awarded the 'Royal Signals Corps Committee Prize' for the best Apprentice Telecommunications Operator (Linguist).

**AT LCpl Tharby** awarded the 'City and Guilds Prize' for the Operator who has made the most progress in his City and Guilds studies.

**AT Hazelwood** awarded the 'Royal Signals Corps Committee Prize' for the best Apprentice Telecommunications Operator (Telegraph).

**SCOTT SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Gus Boag** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Rick Mather** |
| **OC Rct Tp** | **Lt Andy Duncan** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Pete Jackson** |
| **SSgt** | **SSgt Paul Collins** |
| **A Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Chalkie Atkins** |
| **B Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Danny O'Brien** |
| **C Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Jim Harris** |
| **Rct Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Chippy Wood** |

**COLLEGE PACE STICKING COMPETITION**

Congratulations to the Squadron Pace-Sticking team for winning the College Competition. Special mention to **Sgt O'Brien** for being judged the best individual.



College Pace Stick Champions
*(Left to right):* Sgts Harris, O'Brien, WO2 (SSM) Sprat and Sgt Tharme

**FAREWELL**

**SSgt Paul Collins** leaves the Squadron after two and a half years sterling service—the question on everyone's lips is 'will he manage the extra 50 yard walk to work in the morning?'—he moves on to become SQMS of External Leadership Tp.

**SSgt Collins** would like it to be known that, yes, it was him on the front cover of the June *Wire*, and a signed copy is on offer to the winner of the **SSgt Collins'** 'Spot the XR3i Competition'—the Harrogate thieves strike again!

## GRADUATION OF INTAKE 88C

By the time of publication intake 88C will have graduated from the College and gone on to Adult Service. We hope they found their Graduation a day to remember and all the staff wish them safe and successful careers. At 50 strong, names are too numerous to mention but **AT RSM Davis** and **AT SSM Dunstone** deserve our congratulations for the high standards they have attained. Other names worth a note are the prize winners: **AT Boscowan**—Technician Wing Prize for the best academic achievement; **AT Sgt Dowd**—Director of Army Education Prize; **AT Sgt Saul**—Best Apprentice Technician; **AT Jones**—Racal award for the best performance in advance technology; **P/Maj Scott** and **AT Sgt Dowd**—Joint winners of the band trophy and **AT Box**—Sports prize for the best all round performance in sport.

## PRESENTATION TO GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

Scott Squadron presented a cheque for £1,250.00, raised by a mass climb of Helvellyn in the Lake District, to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. The money will be used to buy and train a dog—called 'Scott'. All in the Squadron will watch his apprenticeship closely. Best of luck for Basic Recruit Training Scott!



Scott Sqn Guide Dogs for the Blind presentation cheque

## COMMEX TROOP

'So I said to my friend **Freddy** 'Communication for your golf classic?—No problem even at half term!'.

'As if on cue, **Willie Thorne** agreed to play too'.

As can be seen from the photograph, members of Commex Tp willingly provided the communications for the charity celebrity golf tournament held at the Harrogate Golf Club and arranged by Freddy Trueman.



Freddy Trueman Charity Golf Classic comms team
*(Left to right):* Cpl Kirkham, Sgts Extance, Lovett, Cpl Old, Freddy Trueman, WO2 (YofS) Ruthven, Cpls Breen, Donaldson and Sig Webb

## STOP PRESS

Congratulations to OC Rct Tp **Lt Andy Duncan** and **Miss Claire Murphy** on their engagement. We hope **Claire** sees more of **Andy** than we have for the last few months, as he has been away running a Cadet training team in Newcastle and the only contact we have had with him has been via an answering machine. Apparently it was a case of 'If you'd care to marry me darling, please leave a message after the tone . . . .'

## SAILING

### EXERCISE SEA LEGS I

**by AT Steadman and AT LCpl Hyde**

The sailing season started again in mid March. This was because we were still repairing/overhauling the boats in March.

It was about now that the plans for some offshore sailing started drifting our way. It involved missing our summer half term leave but the sailing was to be in Southern England, where it was known to be warm. Time passed until about four weeks before the event was to take place, **Maj Pugh** (OC Offshore Sailing) asked who was interested in going and nearly everyone said yes. A couple of weeks later we got the 'Admin Instruction'. A mad panic ensued to get three different sets of a week's kit into a small holdall, which had to hold everything from sea-sickness pills to a blazer and tie.

The day that we were to go finally arrived. We piled on to the train at Harrogate bound for Portsmouth Harbour. From Portsmouth we got on the water for the very first time for the week (a ferry to Gosport). A 10 minute walk from the ferry terminal and we had arrived at what was to be our home for the next seven days—three pieces of floating GRP called Piper, Attacker and the Corps boat Skywave. Home was a space measuring 5ft tapering to 2ft 6in big enough for one man. The only problem, two men had to go there!

After the safety lecture we got under sail pottering around Portsmouth harbour. The following day we set sail for Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight. It was on the way there I realised the size of the sails. The jib (the small sail at the front) was about 5m high by 3m wide, and this was the smallest sail. The Genoa which is a large jib was enormous by comparison. Then there was the main sail which was as big again as the Genoa. Then we were told to change the jib in a force 4 wind!

On arrival at Yarmouth we discovered that we were to stay the night tied between two bits of wood sticking out of the water. Here we also witnessed the naming ceremony of the new Corps yacht Petasus III. To celebrate the occasion there were a few drinks in the George Hotel. Afterwards in the early hours of the following morning the initiative test of how to reach our boats over 200m away across the dark water awaited us. Answer—in a rubber inflatable dinghy, but this was easier said than done.

The week got better and better as it went on and perhaps the best days sailing was the day we sailed Piper to Chichester harbour and discovered the first man-made marina on the South Coast. This was Birdham Pool which had been a tide mill in the 18th and 19th centuries and was developed into a marina in the 1930s.

Finally our money ran out, with the exception of **AT Govier** who had a habit of winning jackpot prizes: well over £200 in fact. In all, the week turned out to be a great success and is to be repeated during the summer leave period with the continuing saga of Ex Sea Legs II.

(Afternote: the authors of the article went on to become the Army Junior Individual Dinghy Champions in July).



The Corps yacht *Skywave* under spinnaker in the West Solent





Capt Tim Pender-Johns and a back view of mate, Maj David Pugh on Piper as she was being 'locked out' of Birdham Pool

## ARMY CANOE SPRINT AND MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS

As the team minibus left the M50 in search of a Shell garage **AT** 'Sunburn king' **Wilson** took control of the map and tried to find the way to Hereford. Many miles later and with no fuel it was a question of walking to the nearest garage. Eventually the team arrived in Monmouth and started to erect the Vango tents within the confines of Vauxhall Training Camp. Clearly **AT Philips** still has much to learn from EL Tp about campcraft. Meanwhile, **AT Grant** tucked into his fifth hamburger from the barbecue totally oblivious to anything else. 'When does my race start?' asked **AT Coomber** after his nth personal briefing. The cream of the College had travelled to South Wales to take part in the Army Canoe and Sprint Marathon Championships.

Over the next two days the team produced some excellent results to win 11 medals:-

**Sprint**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Jnr Cl 5 250m | First | **AT Dupree** |
| | Third | **AT Philips** |
| Jnr Cl 5 500m | Second | **AT Badger** |
| | Third | **AT Hickenbotham** |
| Jnr Cl 3 500m | First | **AT Pennicott** |
| Jnr Cl 4 500m | Second | **ATs Grant** and **Pennicott** |

**Marathon**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Jnr Cl 5 | First | **AT Hickenbotham** |
| | Third | **AT Philips** |
| Jnr Cl 4 | First | **ATs Badger** and **Coomber** |
| Jnr Cl 3 | Third | **AT Rossall** |

and there was success too for **Maj Heritage** and **Mr Miles** who finished second in the Senior Cl 4 event.

Final note to all following traffic: beware low flying touring doubles!

## BRADLEY SQUADRON TOILING FOR COINING

Toiling for coining was eventually the name for the Squadron Charity event after a great deal of others such as Jobs for the Boys and Quid for a Quickie had been submitted. The Squadron was employed in three ways: one team worked for British Rail under **Lt Guy** 'Casey Jones' **Ashton**; the second assaulted Harrogate in groups of three on a bob a job scheme; whilst the last group sent four men to Leeds on a task and set up a 16 man QRF at the College to undertake duty jobs. The Leeds Job was done at Cameron Lion works and involved painting white lines on a car park together with a disabled sign competition which was won by **JL SSM Bremner**. The task was set up by **Mr Bill Saunders** of the Corps of Commissionaires and contributed £200 to the charity funds. The British Rail task raised £1,500 donated by the Area Passenger Manager, **Mrs Heidi Motrum**. Meanwhile, the bob-a-jobbers raised just under £1,000 to bring the total for Toiling for Coining to over £2,600.

The money is due to go to BLESMA and Guide Dogs for the Blind amongst other charities.

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## School of Signals
## Blandford Camp
## Dorset

Young officers leave the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst for a short attachment to a Regiment/Squadron before coming to the School of Signals for their Troop Commanders Course. The latest course to arrive is No 18.

### TROOP COMMANDERS



No 18 Royal Signals Tp Commanders Course 18 June-24 October 1990
*Back Row (left to right):* 2Lts N. J. Brown (Nikki), C. N. Cooper (Charlie), A. J. Parsons (Andy) and C. B. Pettifer (Colin)
*Front Row (left to right):* 2Lts J. E. R. Smith (Justin), M. Staples (Maria), A. E. Talbot (Andy) and D. G. Taylor (Daniel)

### FOREMAN OF SIGNALS COURSES




No 58 Foreman of Signals Course 3 January 1989-10 August 1990
*Back Row Left to Right:* Sgts P. R. Booth, P. R. Crawley, M. J. Hardy, R. A. Lane, N. K. McKie, I. McNelly and I. R. Melville
*Front Row Left to Right:* Sgts K. J. Moir, R. Nicol, J. M. Osborne, A. J. Rickman, W. Simpson, N. T. Stirk and I. M. J. Stringer





The Summer term in I Wing has seen three Foreman of Signals courses running at once, Course No 58 completing its sixth and final term, Course No 59 completing its third term and Course No 60 completing its first term.

No 58 Foreman of Signals Course has now completed the last phase of its training, the Final Project Presentations and all are eager to take up their new appointments as Foremen of Signals in their Units. The postings range from Hong Kong to Northern Ireland.




No 59 Foreman of Signals Course 4 September 1989-19 April 1991
*Back Row Left to Right:* Sgts A. G. Burns, P. A. Court, I. D. Flippance, R. P. Hodgkinson, M. F. J. Jackson, B. L. MacAndrew and A. P. Owen
*Front Row Left to Right:* Sgts A. H. Phillips, R. P. Pullan, V. G. Ramsdale, J. A. Rose, C. P. Shead, A. T. W. Steele and S. Steven




No 60 Foreman of Signals Course 30 April 1990-20 December 1991
*Back Row Left to Right:* Sgts M. D. Aubrey, D. C. Ball, P. A. J. Cox, K. Dodd, M. R. Edwards, G. J. Haslam, S. L. Hutchinson and I. N. Langman
*Front Row Left to Right:* Sgts P. H. Lowe, J. R. Skelton, A. F. Soward, P. T. Sweeney, D. B. Warwick, K. T. Wilson and A. Woodley

## IEE/IEEIE FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

The course completed a first at the School of Signals by presenting the best two of their Final Projects to the IEE and IEEIE in the Princess Mary Hall on 1 August 1990. The aim of the evening was to raise the image of the military technician engineer in our society and at the same time acknowledge and reward the tremendous efforts the course put into their Final Projects. Both the selected teams put on presentations of a very high standard which fully achieved the aim of the evening by impressing all the audience with their technical depth and very professional presentation. **Sgts Mckie and McNelly** won the first prize of £50 and are seen here receiving the cheque from **Mr Lewis** the Chairman of the Southern Section of the IEE.

As well as the awards to the best project presentation the IEEIE awarded £100 to the student who had the best results in the BTEC Higher Diploma studies. The winner **Sgt Nicol** is seen here receiving his cheque from **Mr J. Fredericks.**



Mr D. Lewis presents Sgts McKie and NcNelly with a cheque for £50—Best Project Presentation



Mr J. Fredericks presents Sgt R. Nicol with a cheque for £100—Best Student Award in HND Studies

## TM TROOP

**TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj E. Holland** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt (Art Tels) Chris Horsfall** |
| | **SSgt Stew Hawey** |
| | **SSgt Colin McIntosh** |

Contrary to popular belief, life in TM Tp is, to say the least, hectic at the best of times. Rumour has it that we have Sports Afternoons Monday to Friday, obviously they know something we don't . . .

The last six months or so has seen many comings and goings in the Troop. Those joining us have been: **Cpl Rodge Southwick** who has come from 16 Sig Regt with what he calls 'a short stop-over' in Catterick. Ask no questions, eh **Rodge**? **Sig 'Paddy' Clarke** joined the Troop in March fresh-faced from his Tele Mech course at 8 Sig Regt and is ever-eager to fix your phone as long as you're willing to put on the kettle. If not . . . forget it! **Cpl Steve Young** arrived in April wondering why he had passed his T1 and wasn't a Sergeant yet! Then someone mentioned EPC's. 'EP what?' said **Steve**. Seriously, well done **Stevie**, and hopefully you'll have that third stripe by the time you read this. Other newcomers were **Cpls Tim Banting** from 13 Sig Regt, **Mick Wilkinson** from 16 Sig Regt and **LCpl Steve Wilson. Steve**'s just escaped from 8 Sig Regt on his T3 and **Mick**'s simply dying to get back there on his T1! The Troop says goodbye to **Sgt Stan Mullery** as he goes to Civvy Street. All the best **Stan.**

The highlights of the summer were **Stu Hawey**'s 40th Birthday—'What a Do!'. Needless to say a very well celebrated occasion. **Stu**'s still waiting for life to really begin—Hang in there **Stu!**

Troop activities have included one superb Barbecue and a Beach outing during the height of the July heatwave. A good time was had by all. Not forgetting Public Address jobs for such events as the Morrison Cup, Retreat Ceremony and the Summer Fete. PT has been attended with some enthusiasm though much to **Taff Cummings** dismay and despite some pretty original medical excuses. Notwithstanding the above, the Regiment does keep us ticking over with kit to fix.

## 18 TROOP COMMANDERS COURSE EQUESTRIAN COMPETITION

As an extra mural activity, all members of the Troop Commanders Course take six equitation lessons and compete in a competition at the Leigh Equestrian Centre. The latest competition took place on Monday 6 August 1990.

**2Lt Nikki Brown** remained on board and **2Lt Dan Taylor** showed excellent technique in the sitting trot. In fact all the horses behaved well and all the competitors remained mounted during the manoeuvres and jumps. Unfortunately, this reduced much of the fun for the audience which included **Col** and **Mrs Bill Backhouse**. After deliberation the stable girls declared **2Lt Charlie Cooper** the Best All Round Horseman just ahead of **2Lt Andy Parsons**. Everyone received rosettes and a special mention must go to **2Lts Andy Talbot** and **Justin Smith** as the Most Improved Horseman.

## BLANDFORD CAMP DONKEY DERBY AND SUMMER FETE

The School of Signals held a Donkey Derby and Summer Fete on Saturday 14 July to raise funds for local charities and the Royal Signals New Museum Project. I Wing organised and ran the Donkey Derby and sulkey trap races, with Blandford Lions Club funding the hire of donkeys and equipment. The fete comprised some 30 events and was organised by a task force led by **Lt Cols Dick Drew** and **Neil Donaldson**, COs respectively of the School and 30 Sig Regt, the fete raised around £2,000. **Buster Merryfield** alias 'Uncle Albert', star of television's Only Fools and Horses put in a guest appearance at the fete.

## EXERCISE HIGH POINT 2

Summer camp for 1 Sqn, School of Signals once again held in North Wales at Capel Curig Training Camp, an excellent adventurous training area boasting tremendous facilities for rock climbing/abseiling, hill walking, caving, canoeing, dinghy sailing and windsurfing. Other activities included golf, fishing, orienteering and motorcycling. Activities started proper on Monday morning and ran every day finishing late on Friday afternoon. Watersports were amongst the most popular activities of the week due mainly to the



non-stop sunshine but the lack of strenuous exercise associated with the other activities was probably the main reason.

Sailing and Windsurfing got off to a slow start due to the lack of wind, this presented a problem for the instructors **Sgt Tim Wynn** and **Cpl Paul Downie**, and most of the first day was spent using training simulators. The simple solution to this problem was of course to use the vast amount of hot air generated by **LCpl Stan Kelly**, however no one thought of this until later in the week when **Sgt Tim Wynn** was heard to say 'how come someone so small can make so much noise'. Rumour has it that the cavers used **Stan**'s mouth as a simulator but **Stan** strongly denied this.

Windsurfer of the week was definitely **SSgt Paul Marshall** who had to be surgically removed from the board on Friday, he also won the the Ugliest Swimming Trunks Competition of the week prize by sporting a particularly disgusting pair of knitted trunks obviously borrowed from his great-grandfather. (Scribes note: The Tp Sgt takes note of this comment). Caving was a new activity this year and did not go down too well with **Cpl Simon Oldman** who had a genuine fear of the dark, deep, bottomless pits but overcoming this fear for a short time earned him the caving prize simply because of the bottle he displayed and needed to carry out this activity, our sincere thanks go to **WO2 Edler** and **SSgt (FofS) Wookie** for introducing this new activity to the Summer Camp.

Pathfinder **LCpl Eddie Yates** showed off his orienteering skills with a breathtaking display in the art of 'getting lost', eventually having to shout for help. Instructor **Cpl Neil Brockett** guided him in with shouted instructions much to the amusement of those around him. Motor cycling was very popular, however, **Cpl Gerdes** the instructor hurt a thumb whilst demonstrating the course he had set and the more nervous amongst us forgot their first aid training and produced a mild guffaw at his predicament. Balancing skills were absolutely vital to complete the obstacle course with only real successes being **Sig Lee Crampton, Cpl John Greenwood** and **LCpl Ian Davenport** who managed to negotiate the see-saw without falling off. Well done.

Golf played a major part of the evenings activities and was enjoyed by nearly twenty per cent of the Squadron who took part, especially the OC, **Maj Falla** who managed to keep a modest amount of Stableford points very secret to avoid a handicap slashing, however it almost drove **WO1 (YofS) Harry Elkin** to sell his clubs and take up fishing.

Summer Camp was a great success and special thanks must go to all the organisers and instructors for setting it up and for their special skills and talents which made the whole thing possible. We would also like to thank our two cooks **Cpl Harry Palmer** and **LCpl Giz Fricker** for keeping the hungry hordes fed and watered.

One of the most rewarding projects was possibly the boat trek in search of the endangered 'Huemules' deer. The Raleigh group worked in conjunction with Conaf and the World Wildlife Fund to find the breeding grounds of the deer and to gain an estimation on numbers. **Cpl Chris Brown** on 5 AB Bde led one of the groups and was himself successful in spotting the rear end of a deer as it caught sight of his 'Airborne' sweatshirt . . .

Once again my best experiences came when I was in the field re-supplying the groups. Due to my age I have now missed out on the opportunity to go on Raleigh as a venturer but nevertheless as a paying member of the staff it was undoubtedly an unforgettable experience in a beautiful country. I have learned much about myself, people and life and recommend you to 'face the challenge'.

## FIELD TRUNK SYSTEMS GROUP—ADVENTURE TRAINING EXERCISE CHANNEL DELIGHT

Despite the summer term being the busiest of the year, **Maj Andrew Symonds** was determined that the group was to get away for a much deserved break, hence Ex Channel Wanderer was born. **Capt Castle-Smith** decided that here was an opportunity too good to miss and managed to persuade the boss that two weeks was definitely better than one! Particularly as he was going to be the skipper! The Corps yacht *'Petasus III'* was booked, sunglasses and suntan cream bought. Gloom and despondency were the order of the day for the weeks leading up to the first trip, high winds and rain were sweeping over Blandford and there was no sign of a let-up. However, on the day the clouds cleared and the sun shone, almost non stop for our trip to Gosport and the next two weeks. Although morale dropped slightly as we discovered that 'Petasus' was not available, it soon rose again as we took over a replacement boat, 'Skywave' and sailed for Lymington. After a nights' rest the crew decided to become adventurous and make for St Peter Port, Guernsey. This trip of about 80 miles set the scene for the next two weeks with light winds coming directly from where we wanted to go and blistering sunshine. After sampling the night delights of Guernsey, which close at 2230 hrs on the dot, we toured the island of Sark and then slowly made our way to Dartmouth where the crew change for leg 2 was to take place.

Dartmouth, although completely swamped with tourists, made up for it with good restaurants and pubs. Dartmouth also came up with the prize for the most original name for an estate agent—'Letcher and Scorer'!

The changeover complete, we again made for the Channel Islands, with two fanatical fishermen on board. For the next week we had mackerel, raw, fried, grilled, made into fishcakes, you name it we had mackerel cooked in every conceivable way! Unfortunately all good things come to an end and we made our way back to Gosport to hand back the boat. Next day the weather broke and the sun disappeared, someone had been on our side!



The crew hard at work in gale force winds on the way to Sark

## INDEPENDENCE DAY FAMILY BARBECUE

Our US Liaison Officer, **Maj Ed Shaffer** organised a family barbecue on Sunday 1 July to celebrate Americas' Independence Day. In addition to the excellent barbecue, he organised games for everyone which included water balloon toss, sack races, three legged races and the old favourite the egg and spoon race. For the gladiators, he had an athletic competition which involved softball, volleyball and badminton. A thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all who attended this event.




The Comdt, Brig R. F. Baly with Maj Ed Shaffer

## CORPORAL MARTIN STACKWOOD

It is with great sadness that the School of Signals reports the death of **Martin Stackwood** as a result of a long illness on 19 August 1990. **Martin** enlisted into the Corps on 28 April 1985. After training as a Terminal Equipment Technician, he was posted to 16 Sig Regt. He was subsequently returned to the UK in October 1987 due to ill-health and he joined the School of Signals Cadre. Despite his illness, **Martin** remained a cheerful and popular member of the Unit and he will be sorely missed by his friends throughout the Corps. Our sincere condolences go to his wife **Sue** and all members of his family in Attleborough, Norfolk.

## Ministry of Defence Sangcom Team Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

**THE TEAM**

MOD Sangcom Project Team serves as a procurement agency, technical advisors, training advisors and military advisors to the Signal Corps of the Saudi Arabian National Guard. The Team is commanded by **Col Brian Belton** and consists of 11 Corps members, four civil servants and 14 locally engaged staff.



The Team—July 1990

*Front Row:* Mr M. Upton, Lt Col J. A. Wraith, Col B. L. Belton, Lt Col D. W. Dobson and Mr C. Comper
*Middle Row:* Mr P. Muscat, Majs B. McAneny, L. C. Lightfoot, L. Rix, A. J. Ward and Mr P. Van Praag
*Back Row:* WO1 (FofS) D. Brisco, Mr I. Hadfield, WO2 (YofS) G. Robinson and WO2 (FofS) P. White

**THE KINGDOM**

The team's headquarters is located in the capital city of Riyadh which never ceases to surprise the new arrival with its two million inhabitants and its mixture of ancient desert traditions and high tech buildings and way of life. 1,000km to the west of Riyadh lies the ancient port city of Jeddah on the shores of the Red Sea. It is here that you will find our man in the west **Maj Mick Rattray**. It is also in this region that you will find the two holy cities of Mecca and Medina which witness the annual Hadj pilgrimage of some two million Muslim pilgrims from all over the world. It is also to here that the Royal Court moves during the very hot summer months for the cool breeze of the Red Sea. Five hundred kilometers to the east of Riyadh is the Arabian Gulf and the sprawling coastal city of Al Khobar which is home for our man in the east **Maj Richard Howes**. The eastern region contains most of the oil and the large industrial ports of Dammam and Jubail.

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE SECTION**

The O and M Section is based in Riyadh and is commanded by **Lt Col Jack Wraith** who is also the Deputy Commander. The work of the section is carried out by: SO2 OR **Maj Andy Ward**, SO2 Coord **Maj Les Lightfoot**, SO2 Tfc **Maj Les Rix**, SCO **Mr Paul Muscat**, FofS Comms **WO1 Dougie Brisco** and **FofS Maint WO2 Peter White**.

**OPERATIONS AND TRAINING SECTION**

The Ops/Trg Section is also based in Riyadh and is commanded by **Lt Col David Dobson** and assisted by **Maj Brian McAneny** and **WO2 (YofS) Geoff Robinson**. Their main responsibility is training advisers at the luxurious Signal School.

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION SECTION**

The F and A Section is unique in that it contains no military and is headed by **Mr Michael Upton** supported by **Mr Chris Comper, Mr Ian Hadfield, Mrs Lorrain Warr** and **Mrs Simone Dovey**.



They Also Serve . . .
*Left to Right:* Mrs Claire Comper, Mrs Judy Dobson, Mrs Chris Rix, Mrs Lorrain Warr, Mrs Alison Ward, Mrs Gil Van Praag, Mrs Sue Brisco, Mrs Angela Upton, Mrs Peggy Lightfoot, Mrs Margaret Wraith, Mrs Carole McAneny and Richard Ward



At Work . . .
WO1 (FofS) Dougie Brisco helps two members of the Saudi Arabian National Guard with their first works on a recent exercise





## 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt BFPO 32

### LANCE CORPORAL MARTIN CREIGHTON

It is with regret that we report the death of **'Kit' Creighton** on 18 July after a short illness. He will be missed by his many friends in 2 and 207 Sig Sqns. His personality and lively character made him well known throughout the Unit and we all extend our deepest sympathy to his family at this sad time.

**1 ARMOURED DIVISION HQ AND SIGNAL REGIMENT FREEDOM PARADE**

On Tuesday 10 July the Regiment exercised its right to march through the streets of Verden with swords drawn and bayonets fixed. The Band of the Queens Royal Irish Hussars led the parade and there was a large turn-out from the British and German communities to witness the occasion. The Garrison Commander **Brig I. G. C. Durie OBE** took the salute and was accompanied on the dias by the **Burgermeister Herr Dr Friedrichs OBE**, who retired that day after 24 years in office.



The CO, Lt J. E. F. Kirby and the RSM, WO1 B. J. Dalton on the Saluting Dais



Members of the Regiment on the Freedom Parade

**SSAFA FAYRE**

The SSAFA Fayre took place this year in Caithness Barracks and despite fears about the weather, the sun shone for most of the day and approx DM 6,000 was raised. The money will be used by SSAFA locally to benefit members of the Regiment and their families.

**1 SQUADRON**

SCT Tp has a new name, SHQ Tp. The Troop was on SLM(C) in Kerr Barracks in Lohne (near Herford) for the final tests on Ptarmigan. After completion of SLM(C) we all got ready for Ex June Triangle and Ex Summer Sales.

Meanwhile Eagle Tp enjoyed itself more on SLM(C) fixing vehicles. **Sig 'Sevy' Seville** managed to wreck both ends of a generator remote cable. Many thanks to the powerman during Ex Summer Sales who saved the generators just in time for us to watch England play in the World Cup. Again Eagle Tp was holding the Corps since they were the last one back in camp after Endex was called. The Troop would like to say farewell to **SSgt 'Rocky' Warhurst** who is posted.

The month of June saw a new arrival in Golf Tp. **Sgt Hymas** posted from 11 Sig Regt is the new Troop Recce Sergeant. So far, he has already wrecked his recce landrover, blaming the vehicle! Also, **Capt Girard** scored a perfect 10 for his backward flip while playing 'Zip-Boing' (a game for highly intelligent individuals). There were other distinction in the Troop; **Cpl Sammy Johnstone** for evading SLM(C); **Sig Mouse Richards** for his inability to look at a compass and read what it said. The Troop would like to say farewell to **SSgt Jeff Dawson** and his wife **Julie**.

Finally Hawk Tp was in 'Grande Forme' with their wheels. They managed to blow up three tyres in the same day during Ex Summer Sales. The stars were **Sig Martin Gratton, LCpls Sid Coles,** and **Bobby Barnes**. Also **Sig T. P. Hoare** with an eye to amassing a fortune and **LCpl Si Clark** found a new way to increase the width of a Radio Relay truck, by adding an inch of paint to it.
Relay truck, by adding an inch of paint to it.

The Troop would like to say farewell to **Sgt Mark May** and his wife **Caroline** who are posted to Maidstone.

**2 SQUADRON**

From 25 May to 8 June, 14 soldiers from the Squadron plus six from the Bde Sig Sqns took part in pre BATUS training with 4 RTR Battle Group on SLTA. The soldiers were needed because B Coy 1 Para did not have any AFV drivers. The fortnight was spent on tactics, from platoon up to full scale battle group attacks. All 20 drivers, as well as **Lt Kes Russell** and **Sgt Lofty Brint,** gained driving experience, both cross country and battened down. They will be deploying to Canada in August for Ex Med Man 5.

In June we had Ex June Triangle a two day crash out exercise to test the Regiment and Staff before Ex Summer Sales. Summer Sales turned out to be slower than had been expected for the first week, however the second week was more testing for both the Staff and the lads.

In July we organised Ex Second Salvo. This was a two day exercise in which the Squadron hosted Alleyns school CCF and the wives from the Regiment. AFV cross country driving and helicopter familiarisation. This was repeated on the second day for the wives. Both days were a success and owe much to **SSM Combers** organisation.



Ex Second Salvo—OC 2 Sqn Maj Geoff Cary is 'in command' at last with his wife Ann at the tiller



Mrs Tracey Marsh fires SA80 under expert guidance from Sgt Colin Milne and Cpl Andy Kennedy

**HELLOS AND GOODBYES**
**SHQ TROOP**

Goodbyes firstly, since he is not going too far away, to **SSM Mick Comber** and wife **Lisa**. **Mick** is moving across to the training wing in HQ Sqn and henceforth wishes to be known as 'Q Comber'. Next to go was **SSgt Mick Tucker** who will be raising his anchor for the last time (at 1 Div) and sailing away to NI. Good luck **Mick** and family for the future. Finally on the goodbyes it's 'out to you' **SSgt (YofS) Benson** and 'Brandy' (oh, and **Rosemary**) who are off to Sandhurst. Good luck for the future.

Now the hellos: **WO2 (SSM) Andy Reed**, wife **Linda** and trio of children, welcome to the Squadron. Next is **SSgt (YofS) Andy Trask** and **Sarah**, congratulations on passing the course. If you ever finish reading the handover notes then you will realise that it's quite a job you have taken over. Posted into the MT section are **Sig Craig Coombes** and wife **Gill** and **Sig Craig Barran**. Last but not least its welcome to **LCpl Graham Norris** (who hasn't a wife—yet) posted to the tech workshop from basic training.

**PAPA TROOP**

Sadly through this period the Troop has said farewell to **Sgt Perch, LCpls McHugh, McClean, Radcliffe** and **Sig Goddard**. We would however like to welcome **LCpls Meadowcroft** and **Armstrong** and **Sig Robinson, Hutchinson, Davies, Parsons** and **Middleton** on their arrival in the Troop.

Also congratulations to **LCpls Baynham, Trafford** and **Thompson** on their promotion, and to **Cpl George Best** on his selection for future promotion to Sergeant.

**ROVER TROOP**

Firstly goodbye to **Cpl Mark Tivey** and **Caroline** and son **Liam** on posting to 30 Sig Regt and his promotion to Sergeant. Welcome to **Cpl Mark Whiting** and clan and **Sig Chris Davey** from 249 Sig Sqn.

Congratulations to **Cpl Pete Gibbs** on his promotion and to **Cpl Mark Whiting** on his selection for promotion to Sergeant.

**OSCAR TROOP**

The final goodbyes are to **Cpl Taff Burn** and his family who are off to the street called 'civvy' and to **LCpl** 'Dobbo' **Dobson** who is off to NI, have a safe tour.

**TENNIS**

Once again the Regiment has enjoyed a very successful tennis season. Despite the poor weather and non-availability of players, all matches in the Divisional competition were played on time.

Monday 16 July saw the finalists 1 Regt AAC and 1 ADSR, meet at Verden. It was always going to be a very close match and this proved to be the case. 1 AAC took an early lead, winning both singles matches. This meant that to retain the trophy 1 ADSR had to win the three remaining doubles matches.

After a long, hard and competitive afternoon's tennis, the lead was gradually reduced and eventually the last doubles pairing of **Maj Gavin Templeton** and RQMS **Om Chhetri** won their match and the competition.

Congratulations go to 1 Regt AAC for their part in an extremely competitive and hard fought final.

Prizes were presented by **Mrs Kim Kirby**. The following represented the Regiment and go forward to the BAOR semi-finals against 1 (BR) Corps: **Maj Gavin Templeton** RA, **Capt Mick Ledwards, WO2 Om Chhetri, SSgt Dave Rogers** and **Cpl George Best**.

Footnote: Unfortunately the team lost to a very good 1 (BR) Corps side in the semi-final. Good luck to them in the final.

**KAPE TOUR**
**by Lt Guy Owen**

In April of this year a team of 14 soldiers led by **Lt Guy Owen** travelled to North West District on the Regiments KAPE tour. Most of the members were from the Regiment but we were joined by **WCpl Lynne Hewings** from 28 Sig Regt. The tour started well with a sea-crossing from Rotterdam to Hull, and everyone took advantage of the free five-course buffet supplied by North Sea Ferries. Fortunately the LSL's had been unable to accomodate us, which just goes to show that there is a definite advantage in arranging sea-crossings at the last minute!

The first week was spent at the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate. An old stamping-ground for many of the team, this proved ideally situated for team training and the all-important 'scrounging' of equipment, especially from RSIT.

The main aim of the tour was to promote soldier-recruiting in the counties of Lancashire and Merseyside. Consequently our visits were mainly to schools, our target being the Fourth Form. (Fifth Formers were far too busy with exams and in any case had mostly decided on their future careers).

The first week of the tour was spent visiting schools in and around Blackburn, Burnley, Accrington and Leyland. Townley High School, Burnley was the venue for the first display. Here the schoolchildren showed a great deal of enthusiasm, but the teachers started to get a bit worried when their pupils returned to lessons wearing excessive amounts of cam-cream! It was quite a relief at the end of the first day to get back to the comforts of the Bon Hotel, Preston—our accommodation for the first week.

At one school **Cpl Daz Booker** made the mistake of telling one of the pupils that he'd once appeared on TV. Within seconds there was a queue of schoolgirls all wanting his autograph. Whether this did much for Royal Signals recruiting I can't say, but it certainly did a lot for **Cpl Booker**'s ego. **Cpl Dave Stewart**'s showpiece was to bench-press drums of HF quad, whereas **Cpl Mark Sala** went for the somewhat easier option of making bracelets for the girls out of strips of D10.

The second week involved touring schools in the Liverpool area. **LCpl 'Mick' Dooney** (on loan from 33 Sig Regt (V)) was an invaluable source of local knowledge, and occasionally even acted as translator when the local accents got too strong! Rumours of the Liverpool schools being so rough that they were patrolled by armed guards proved unfounded—guards were unnecessary with all the barbed wire and minefields!

Seriously though, wherever we went we were made thoroughly welcome by teachers and pupils alike. We returned to Germany in the knowledge that many more school-leavers will at least be considering the Army, and in particular Royal Signals, as a future career. The success of the tour was due to the professionalism and enthusiasm exhibited by all members of the team, and the valuable assistance we received from the Army Careers Offices in Preston and Liverpool.

**3 SQUADRON**

These will be the last *Wire* notes for a while. The remaining two Troops are to be handed to 1 and 2 Sqns. There are many farewells, **Maj Paul Towers** has now taken over the post of SO2 Comms. **WO2 (SSM) Ian Kirkpatrick** has left us for 22 Sig Regt. He has served well seeing out four Squadron Commanders. Thank you also to his wife **Angie** who has helped run the wives club during her stay here. **SSgt (YofS) George Greig** will be leaving the Regiment on promotion, to 201 Sig Sqn in Hohne. Congratulations also to **Sgt Dave King** who is off to 3 Division also on promotion. We have also had a recent arrival **Cpl Peter Prater** who has arrived from Harrogate. Our congratulations to him and **Cpl Chris Gleadow** on their selection for promotion to Sergeant.

The Squadron has not been totally inactive however. **Cpl Richard Cove** successfully passed his flying grading selection to the Army Air Corps and has started already on the Pilots Course at Middle Wallop. **Cpl Paul Cooper, LCpl Scouse Littler, Sig Tony Annettes** and **Al** (Nasty) **Nuttall** all completed a sailing course at Nienburg. **LCpl Dave Friend** was a member of the Regimental Bisley Shooting team. On top of all this we have taken part in several exercises including Summer Sales and Lucky Strike.

The Squadron is off Adventure Training in Bavaria. It disbanded on 29 July 1990. 3 Sqn is gone but not forgotten!



## 201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 30

**201 (22 ARMOURED BRIGADE) SIGNAL SQUADRON**

The warmer weather and longer days allowed the gladiators within the Squadron to flex their muscles, with some notable successes, in various sporting events. In athletics the Squadron were runners up in the Page Trophy competition. We were also runners up, by one point, in the 7 and 22 Brigade Championships. **Dvr Stan Boardman** won the 400m hurdles by an impressive margin, **Maj Stephen Andrews** (the Brigade DCOS) won the 5,000m, **Sig Steve Lowery** won both the triple jump and **SSgt Pat Barclay** won the 1,500m. **Pte Pete Graham** came second in the 100m.

Having come second in two competitions the athletics team approached the Morrison Cup with confidence and determination. We finished the first day in sixth place but were confident that we had a strong second day to come. Day two began well with **LCpl Jason Raybould** storming away to a tactically brilliant 800m victory. After some valuable points by **Sig Reggie Perrin** in the high jump the Squadron gradually began to emerge as one of the leading minor Units. **Dvr Stan Boardman, Sig Steve Lowery** and **SSgt Pat Barclay** all won their events to put us clear in second place. With only the 4 × 400m relay to run the Squadron was eight points behind 202 Sig Sqn which had to finish at least fifth to win the competition. The Squadron team of **Cpl Spike Forbes, LCpl Jason Raybould, Sig Gippo Gipson** and **Dvr Stan Boardman** ran a magnificent race to win. Unfortunately 202 Sig Sqn was disqualified in the relay event and this gave us victory in the overall competition. We acknowledge, however, that had they not been disqualified in the relay 202 Sig Sqn would have won the Morrison Cup. We thank 202 Sig Sqn for their stiff opposition and wish them well in the BAOR and Army Athletics Championships.




Morrison Cup Minor Unit Champions 1990

The Divisional Athletics was held at Verden during Ex Summer Sales. At dawn on 20 June the team left the exercise area for Verden. With no time for final training and preparation the team was severely disadvantaged. Nevertheless, the Squadron finished in third place behind two very strong Armoured Field Ambulance teams. There were three excellent victories: **Dvr Stan Boardman** gave the team a flying start by winning the 400m hurdles, **SSgt Pavaroti Showell** won the shot and the 4 × 400m relay team proved its invincibility in Minor Unit Competition. Overall the Squadron performed exceptionally well in all three athletics events this year.

**SWIMMING**

The swimming team also sampled the taste of victory. In the Brigade Championships **Sig Benny Benn** won the 50m backstroke and **Maj Jim Baxter** (Brigade COS), **Maj Andy Forster** (OC Sqn) and **Cpl Kaffa Townsend** all came second in their individual races. We were two points clear with the relays to go. We came second to 111 Pro Coy RMP in the medley relay and this put us even. Everything depended on the final race, the 4 × 50m freestyle relay. **Cpl Paul Taylor, Sig Andy Beaty** and **Lt Mike Rogers** all swam well but 111 Pro Coy were 5 yards ahead when **Cpl 'Kaffa' Townsend** dived in for the final length. He swam magnificently and just beat the 111 Pro Coy swimmer to give us victory in the race and the competition. In the Divisional Championships we were two points clear with the relay to go. Sadly we were disqualified in the freestyle relay and failed to quality for the BAOR Championships.



The Squadron swimming team win the 7 and 22 Armd Bde Championships

**EXERCISE DECI AXON**

There was also time for adventurous training in the form of Ex Deci Axon. In June **Lt Simon Hutchinson** and **Sgt Tim Wells**, led an expedition to Corsica. The team had two major problems. First, one of the landrovers broke down. This forced three of the team to travel to Genoa, Italy, by train to catch the ferry, but there was no ferry for 24 hours. Eventually, 56 hours after departure the team arrived at its destination in Corsica. The next eight days were spent climbing, abseiling, trekking and camping on the infamous GR20 route. On the second day **Lt Simon Hutchinson**, whilst showing off his climbing skills, broke his foot and spent the rest of the exercise sunbathing on the beach. Special praise must go to **LCpl Nick** (Fanny Craddock) **Basford** who kept our mess tins topped up with lean cuisine throughout the exercise. In summary, Ex Deci Axon was a very rewarding and enjoyable two week adventure training expedition. The other members of the group were **Sgt Mark Rouse, Cpls Dickie Dickenson, Dave** (The Box) **Lambert** RAOC, **Wally Pollitt** and **Sig Millie Milsom**.



Ex Dexi Axon
*Left to right:* Sig Millie Milson, Cpls Dickie Dickinson, Wally Pollitt, Sgts Mark Rouse, Tim Wells, Cpl Dave Lambert, Lt Simon Hutchinson and LCpl Nick Basford

**BATTLEFIELD TOUR**

In between exercises and sport five members of the Squadron were fortunate enough to attend the 22 Armd Bde Battlefield tour of Arnhem and Nijmegen. The tour was organised by **Brig Walker**, the Brigade Commander, who assembled a very distinguished team of experts including **Col G. S. Powell MC, Col J. L. Waddy OBE, Kol C. Wilhelm** (Dutch Resistance), **Maj W. J. M. Duyts** and **Dr A.**

Gruneweg. The Squadron was represented by **WO2 (SSM) Rod Whateley, SSgt Steve Simpson, Sgt Frank Campbell, Cpl Steve Brett** and **LCpl Mark Bowker**. They were taken through the battle stage by stage including the situation at the time and the various political factors which affected the decisions on the ground. They learnt a lot about tactics and what can go wrong during a battle when the command and control system fails. Many valuable lessons were learnt. Our thanks go to **Brig Walker** and the Brigade Staff for arranging such an interesting and enjoyable battlefield tour.

## 207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 37

**SQUADRON SUMMER CAMP**

This year's summer camp was held between 8-14 July 1990, in Bavaria.

**Sgt 'Trapper' Suman** led the trekkers across cloud blanketed mountains, day in day out, with an enthusiasm the envy of many a mountain goat, or dare I say chamois leather! Throughout the week many potential instructors were identified, not least **Sig Botwright** if not only for his high speed 'Tabbing' ability!

**LCpl** 'Spider' **Spink** and **Cpl** 'Ferret' **Cox** led the climbing activities throughout the week with varying degrees of success. **Lt** 'Am I there yet?' **Mulholland**'s theatrical fall at the bottom of one climb, resulted in him hobbling for the rest of the week. Then **Sig** 'Follow Through' **Jones** (SF) climbing ability astounded everyone.

The most entertaining activity of the week was the water-skiing event. This was very much a new discipline to almost all but with the aid of some expert tuition by **LCpl 'Tony' Knowles** most people succeeded in at least one or two spectacular nose dives. After numerous unsuccessful attempts at skiing, 'body surfing' was introduced by **Sig Peers**. However, the limelight was stolen by **Sgt** 'Moby' **Bailey**, with a high speed aqua-plane along the length of the lake which sent the crowd wild. The week was rounded off with an evening's barbeque for everyone.

**WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS**

**A TROOP**

Hello to **Cpl Bamber** and family, we hope you enjoy your stay with 207 Sig Sqn. Also welcome to **Sig Clarke** straight from the factory, eyes down, look in, this is the sharp end.

Farewell to messers **Cunningham, Pallet, Westerman** and **Donovan** and congratulations to **Cpl Jones** on his selection for promotion on posting.

**B TROOP**

Hello to **LCpl Knowles** from Herford and what, no goodbye? Unheard of!

**STOP PRESS**

Welcome **2Lt Marc Mountford** to the Squadron, who assumes command of A Troop. We hope he enjoys his stay.

**MOVING?**

**Have you told RHQ? Your *Wire* will be sent to your old address unless you tell us of a change.**

**DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS**

New arrivals in the Squadron over the past few months are **Sgt Scouse Ellam RAOC, Cpl Ronnie Lucas** and **Capt Neil Griffiths** the new Squadron 2IC. We extend a warm welcome to them and their families and hope that they enjoy their time in 201 Sig Sqn. We said farewell to **Sgt Kev Ludkin** RPC, **Sgt Paul Cook** RAOC, **Cpl Dickie Dickinson, LCpls Goody Goodman** and **Asterix Gaul**. We thank them for their support during their time in the Squadron and wish them well in their new postings. Finally congratulations go to **Margaret** and **SSgt (FofS) Jay Allen** on the birth of their daughter **Elizabeth Victoria** on 25 April.

## 212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 36

**TM TROOP**

Here's a quick dramatic update on the promotion scene since last time. Everybody pretty much the same, ie **LCpl** 'Abbo' **Abbott** still **LCpl Abbott, LCpl 'Kyle' Barker** still **LCpl Barker** but **LCpl 'Murph' Murphy** is now **Cpl Murphy** Ta Dah!

Three people in the workshop have not got new cars but **Sgt** 'Graham' **Beech** has probably got himself into the Guinness Book of Records by crashing his only four hours after getting it on the road.

**LCpl 'Kyle' Barker** went on the Royal Signals leadership course and did well.

On a lighter note—good luck to **Cpl** 'Humph' **Jeffery** who is on Loire Diamond at the moment. Six weeks canoeing in the South of France can't be bad.

**PAPA TROOP**

The Troop has just come to the end of a busy period culminating in Ex Summer Sales. We are now holding the fort while most of Oscar Tp are off swanning in France.

We are fortunate this month in receiving a number of new arrivals. **Sig 'Kev' Baber** and **'Ian' Hepplewhite** who are fresh out of 8 Sig Regt as well as **LCpl 'Mark' Coulson** and his wife **Jane** who have come from 28 Sig Regt.

During all this the Troop Commander **Lt 'Rob' Meinertzhagen** got married and has been swanning with his wife **Kim** in the Carribean. Unfortunately **Cpl** 'Commander' **Walters** plans for a guard of honour wearing coveralls and carrying broomsticks never came off.

Finally **SSgt 'Kev' Jones** was desperate for a mention before he goes on his usual six months summer leave.

**OSCAR TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp OC** | **Lt Burke** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Bray** |
| **Tp MT Rep/Storeman** | **Cpl Morgan** |

This is a time of great change within the Troop. Losing **Lt** 'Rip' **Burke, Cpls Scouse Connolly** and **Tony Taylor** on posting, but gaining **Sig Irving, Finch** and **Peebles**. Farewell to the old, welcome to the new.

The Troop has been in a variety of activities, from exercises to Summer Camp. Special mention for **Sig** 'Herbie' **Hancock** who, whilst on Summer Camp, perfected the 'Bat Swing' rope technique 50ft up a cliff face. Hang in there **Herbie**. Finally, congratulations go to **Cpls Taff Millard** and **Craig Morgan** for coming off the board. Well earned lads.

**CYCLING**

The Osnabruck Garrison team (mostly 212 Sig Sqn) hosted the latest round of the BAOR Wednesday Cycling League with a 10 mile time trial on 4 July. The course was extremely flat and fast leading to some very quick times. In the Squadron **WO2 (YofS) 'Bob' Pemberton** came seventh with a time of 26 mins 5 secs and **Lt Rob Meinertzhagen** came eighth with a time of 26 mins 34 secs.

The highlight of this months cycling however was the 100km BAOR Road Race Championships held at RAF Laarbruch on 8 July. The race started in drizzle but fortunately the weather did improve although it was still quite windy. Final placings for the Squadron were **WO2 Bob Pemberton** in sixth and **Lt Rob Meinertzhagen** in ninth place.



## 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
## York

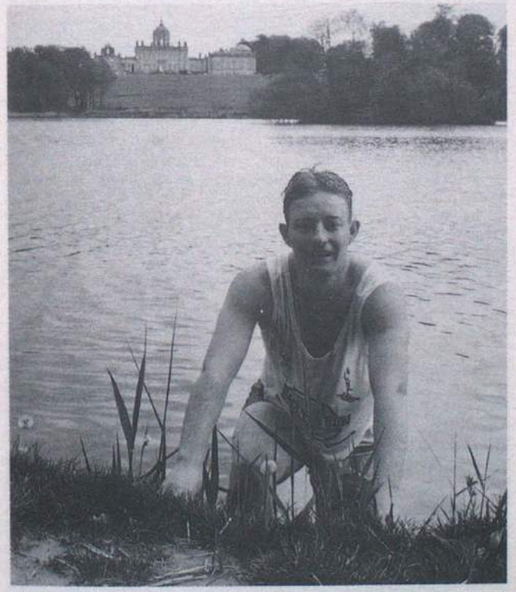
**RACE THE SUN 90**

Will the water be cold? How much lead can I give my team over the others? These were just two of the questions the competitors asked themselves at 0445 hrs on a cold, grey and misty 10 May as they prepared themselves for the start of Race the Sun 90, a charity sponsored exercise.

It was a multi-discipline relay race covering 128 miles of the steepest, wildest and most rugged terrain that the North Yorkshire Moors can offer. It covered canoeing, road and mountain cycling, runs up to half marathon distance, a swim across the Great Lake at Castle Howard, bergan marches, fell and hill runs and orienteering.

The Army Apprentices College, Harrogate were early leaders and after only four disciplines had been accomplished they had established a three minute lead. This was due mainly to some expert canoeing by **SSgt Truby, AT Weaver** and **AT Stringett**. 8 Sig Regt, under the leadership of **WO1 (YofS) Taylor** began to apply pressure and by the end of Leg 8—the mountain bike race—had established a lead of 19 minutes over their nearest rivals, 1 Sqn, 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt. Leg 13, the dreaded swim across the Great Lake in the beautiful setting of Castle Howard, produced some excellent efforts despite the temperature of the water. By the end of Leg 14—the run and canoe—8 Sig Regt had maintained their lead of 19 minutes, despite a tremendous effort by **Cpl Sinclair, LCpls Welsh** and **Henderson**.

With two legs to go all eyes were on 8 Sig Regt who were in pole position with two teams hot on their tail. A good run by **Capt Complin, Sig Lester** and **Wood** for 1 Sqn, 2 Inf Div in Leg 16 saw them overtake the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate but not the leaders. 8 Sig Regt held on to their lead and crossed the finish line at 1858 hrs, some 14 hrs 13 mins after the start. Closely behind in second place came 1 Sqn, 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt. The final team placings are as follows: 1—8 Sig Regt; 2—1 Sqn, 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt; 3—Army Apprentice College, Harrogate; 4—1 PWO; 5—2 Sqn, 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt; 6—11 Sig Regt; 7—3 Wg RAF Regt; 8—HQ Sqn, 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt; 9—210 Sig Sqn; 10—Depot King's Div; 11—HQ 2 Inf Div and 12—Liverpool UOTC.



The monster from the deep, Cpl Elford, emerges from the Castle Howard Lake



Cpls Rutter, Steward, LCpl Avery and Emma Richards, one of the children who will benefit from the funds raised

**RHQ**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **CO** | **Lt Col S. G. Hughes** |
| **2IC** | **Maj P. Richards** |
| **Adjt** | **Capt P. J. Holliday** |
| **Asst Adjt** | **Lt L. A. M. Smith WRAC** |
| **RSM** | **WO1 G. Ellis** |
| **Supt Clk** | **WO1 J. A. Pape** |

The deployment on Ex Summer Sales went without too many hitches. **Cpl John Barclay** had some good news a couple of days before we deployed. **LCpl Geoff Reynolds** had broken his arm and could no longer drive the 2IC. He was banished to the RCP in **Cpl Barclay**'s place and where did **Cpl Barclay** go? He stayed in York! Did **Cpl Barclay** have anything to do with **LCpl Reynolds'** injury we wondered?

We bade farewell to **Lt Col Griffin, Capt Juliet Moore, WO1 (RSM) Gerry Hegarty** and **SSgt 'Mac' MacDonald**. In their places we welcomed **Lt Col Hughes, Lt Laura Smith, WO1 (RSM) Geoff Ellis** and **WO1 (SC) John Pape**.

**1 SQUADRON**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Sqn** | **Maj Terry Canham** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Ken Clark** |
| **OC A Tp** | **Lt Damian Hampton-Chubb** |
| **OC B Tp** | **Capt Matt Hanson** |
| **OC 15 Bde Sig Tp** | **Capt David Hix** |
| **OC 49 Bde Sig Tp** | **Capt Graham Complin** |

**15 INFANTRY BRIDAGE SIGNAL TROOP**

On 6 July, 2 Inf Div Sig Regt, or more precisely 15 Bde Sig Tp, departed on its annual pilgrimage to the North of England with the aim of enlightening the public about the Army. It was no mean feat that the team left on time. Some vehicles only came off exercise a few days prior to the KAPE deployment. **SSgt** (No Bull . . .) **Snaith** and the team worked long hours to bring the vehicles up to the required standard. The paintwork was redone and the wing mirrors were so clean you could see your face in them!

UK Fd Army Comd, **Lt Gen Sir David Ramsbotham KCB, CBE** heard about the team and managed to pop in and have a look around. **LCpl Hodgson** tried interesting him in a career as a lineman but he declined the offer. **Sig Hobson** is now . . .?

What better way of describing what happened next than taking a look at a few entries in the diary of **LCpl** (Pepys) **Thompson**.

**CRIMDON DENE**

No one turned up except two sea gulls, so the team had time to relax. Especially **SSgt Andy** (The Snake) **Snaith** and **Sig** (Jono) **Johnson** who spent a fair amount of time in the local amusement arcade. **SSgt Snaith** was practising for his retirement.

**MIDDLESBROUGH CENTRE**

The local population did not know what had hit them when at 0730 hrs the 12in × 12in poles started clanking over the pavement. The day went smoothly and a steady flow of civvies moved from truck to truck in total bewilderment as to what was going on. Was World War 3 imminent? **Cpl Tayne** and **Sig** (Maddog) **Murdoch** managed to slip away and purchase a football from a local store, in preparation for the teams' sea-side visit.

**SCHOOL VISIT MIDDLESBROUGH**

We arrived at the school and set up before the pupils arrived for lessons. 0915 hrs came and an enthusiastic crowd came hurtling towards the set up. We all ran for cover, but it was too late! Everything that was not bolted down disappeared, even an attempt at the 3.5 KVAs exhaust was made.

**WASHINGTON SCHOOL**

The pupils discovered that there is a lot more to line laying than meets the eye after visiting the line wagon run by **LCpl** (Volts) **Hodgson** and **Sig** (I've Got a Lovely Crest) **Chapman**.

**SEA-SIDE TRIP**

The quietest day of the tour which left plenty of time for some sun bathing.

**LAMBTON PARK (DURHAM)**

An end to the KAPE tour. **Brig Roberts,** Comd Trg Gp, Catterick Garrison paid us a visit. **LCpl** (Tomo) **Thompson** managed to hide himself away at the start of the show and was not seen again until it was all over.



Using the latest, inverted, time lapse photography. This picture shows LCpl Thompson operating in his Radio Relay vehicle

**2 SQUADRON**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Sqn** | **Maj Tony Rock** |
| **2IC Sqn** | **Capt Ray Duffy** |
| **OC Oscar Tp** | **Lt Gavin Grant** |
| **OC Radio Tp** | **Lt Andy Walker** |

**PAPA TROOP**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp Comd** | **Lt Grant Hume** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **WO2 Pete Jackson** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Geoff Hunter** |

The Troop has been involved in a number of major exercises. Ex Spring Tide involved deploying in a new role as an Alternate Headquarters. 'Sleepy Hollow', as it became known, was a wonderful place to be. After a comfortable three days in a riding school we were banished to Catterick Moors for our sins.

**LCpl Tighe** decided enough was enough and promptly dislocated his shoulder, a feeble excuse for leaving us! Few visitors ventured our way until in the dark hours of a bleak morning there was a great sound of twisting metal. The TOT (High Jumper) **Capt Pete Bradley** had arrived, disorientated by finding us and suffering from sentry challenge syndrome, he drove into an invisible iron gate. No visitors came after him.



We returned to York to prepare for the mammoth 120 mile relay race 'Race the Sun'. Team training and plenty of exercise enabled the Squadron team to complete the course in 16 hours and gain a marvellous fifth place. Next year we return, One Squadron!

Summer Camp, Ex Welsh Wonder II reared its head and we moved to sunny Wales on the annual trip to Rhyl. The Troop was as enthusiastic as ever up to the last. **LCpl Paterson** was determined to have a very good time. **Sig Daley** extolled the virtues of pure genius and **Cpl** (Surfer) **Travis** finally managed to sail off into the Welsh Mountains.

After a week spent cajoling, windsurfing, canoeing and abseiling **SSgt Pete** (GUL Wetsuits) **Jackson** managed to get us all on to the windsurfers and out on the lake.

Having left Wales as quietly as possible we returned to York. Germany is now on all our minds, SLMC and Ex Summer Sales, and then the highlight of 1990; we re role as airmobile! A fond farewell to our Staffy **SSgt Pete Jackson** who, after being promoted has been banished to Harrogate Apprentices College. All the best **Pete**!

Inter-Squadron Athletics was a momentous event for 2 Sqn, and we beat all the challenges head on. **Capt Pete Bradley** was as high as ever, winning the high jump. Someone piped up: 'He has jumped so high he has met the Foreman'. Only joking **SSgt** (FofS)—hope we got the kit—Airmobile **Baldwin**!

**RADIO TROOP**
**EXERCISE QUAY SIDE**

Summer camp this year started on a Saturday afternoon when we boarded the coach to the Start Point—Sowerby Bridge Boat Yard. Once everything was loaded and we had attended the boat owners brief the groups went their separate ways. Group one, led by **SSgt Paul James,** was first to its boat.

After carefully negotiating the first couple of locks, the lock crew led by **LCpl Andy Plowman** soon got the hang of it and 'The Durham' passed through them in half the time first anticipated. Our first overnight stop was Elland, mooring up conveniently outside the 'Barge and Barrel'!

Sunday started with one of **Cpl** 'Shuggy' **McVicars** monstrous breakfasts. Then it was full steam ahead. Throughout the day we passed through many more locks, giving all the group 'hands on experience' at lock handling. After lunch in Mirfield, **LCpl Phil Burton** proceeded to cast off, leaving the crew on shore and had to do an about turn to pick them up! That evening was spent in Wakefield. **Sig Rod Harris** and **Addy Adamson** volunteered to guard the boat whilst the rest of the 'motley crew' sampled the city centre's delights!

Day three saw a later start as there was not so much distance to cover to the next stop which was Castleford. The somewhat magnetic attraction of long boats for public houses meant a liquid luncheon. As we were at the changeover point early, it gave us the chance to travel further than anticipated. So, in the direction of Selby it was, for an hour or so before returning to Castleford for the night.

Tuesday saw the change from water to land after a brief reunion with the other group. Overnight we moved to our first campsite south of Featherstone. After a briefing from the 'When I was in the Paras' Camp Warden, we sampled **Cpl 'Taff' Roderick**'s gourmet efforts before a night spent under canvas.

Wednesday morning saw the move to Greensprings Campsite, Barnsley. Once we had set up the bashas, transport was provided to the Metrodome Pleasure Park in Barnsley, where everyone enjoyed a day in the Waterworld. We eventually managed to leave, after dragging **Cpl** 'Norrie' **Crook** from the water slides!

Friday saw the end of our Summer Camp. A good time was had by all. Many thanks to **Sgt Paul Walsh** and **Cpl 'Norrie' Crook** for the organisation.




Radio Tp on Board 'The Durham'





49 Inf Bde Sig Tp pose after their Tp Competition at the Krypton Factor Assault Course at Holcombe Moor
The 'Winners'
*(Left to right):* LCpl George Evans, Sgt Alan Higgins, SSgt Pete O'Connor, Cpl Geordie Houghton and LCpl Taff Hennessay



The Line Gang

**THE LINE GANG**

'The Line Gang' picture was given to the Regiment by **Mr Dick Whalley**. It is of members of 16th Fd Regt Sig Sec in 1944. We have names of some of the members and we would very much like to find out the names of the rest.

The names we have are as follows:-

Back row (left to right): ?, McQuade, ? and Geordie Fry.
Middle row: Cpl 'Buck' Taylor, ? and Sgt Sanger.
Front row: ?

If you have any information regarding the identity of the remainder please contact the Assistant Adjutant 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt on (0904) 659811 Ext: 2248.

# 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
# BFPO 114

**A PICTORIAL RECORD**

A picture is worth a thousand words, or so they say. Here is a selection of photographs showing us at work rest and play.

We begin with Ex Summer Sales and swiftly move to Ex Firm Base which was held at Vogelsang.

Competition is the next theme showing swimming, cricket and the march and shoot day. We were placed second in the swimming and cricket and overall first in the march and shoot. Well done to all for a fine Squadron performance.

Finally a bit of fun at the Mohnesee with the Regimental Raft Race which we won. We also won the best made raft, congratulations to all concerned for a fun day out.



Somewhere in Germany LCpl Greaves receiving his compo pizza from our ACC Chef Pte Redburn

**1 SQUADRON GOES TO WAR**

Let me introduce myself and confuse you totally—I am **2Lt Anne Marie Rowson**, permanently employed with the Royal Military Police but currently employed as a Troop Officer with 1 Sqn, 3rd Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. I'll explain—the first part of my career dictates that I must have a job which allows direct command of Troops and since I obviously could not be an infantry platoon commander, the WRAC posted me to 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt as an Assistant Adjutant—but all was not as it seemed—read on.

It was that time of year again so it seemed, time to drag out the warry green kit and get into Infantry mode again. Well that's all very well when you have a month's warning but what about when you've just arrived in a new posting armed with tight skirts and high heels ready to be an Assistant Adjutant only to be told that you're taking your Troop out to the ulu for a week on their annual camp! What Troop? I asked! It was only when I had recovered from the shock and the fact that all my kit was safely locked away in my MFO boxes somewhere in the English Channel that I realised that this was an excellent chance to see my new Troop and indeed the whole Squadron in their fighting glory.

The exercise began with an extremely warlike move into a patrol harbour followed by preparations for their first night out. Bashas were put up meticulously but inevitably there were several drowned rats in the morning including one young **2Lt Dave Naden** whose bivvie bag leaked for the first time. Night patrols followed as the platoons worked hard to gather information about an abducted journalist—Miss Volvo Car!

The theme of terrorism ran throughout the whole camp and integrated into this were the various ranges and mandatory training normally associated with annual camps. One of the highlights of the camp for me was to join my new Troop down on the ranges to fire the 66mm using Heat rounds. After some expert tuition from **SSM McMahon** I scored a direct hit much to the amazement of the watching Troops. An extremely inventive and testing NBC stand was prepared and run by **SSgt Stachini**, requiring the Troops to work hard both mentally and physically—probably the best NBC stand I have ever seen! Perhaps the most exhilarating part of the camp for the Troops were the helicopter rides, **LCpl Fuller** and **Sig Anderson** never stopped smiling the whole time, although they could have been laughing at me turning green!



WO2 (SSM) McMahon teaching 2Lt Rowson WRAC RMP how to fire the 66mm Heat



Sig Kirby about to assault P1 range at Vogelsang

The Squadron completed the assault course and the CFT effortlessly which is more than can be said for me. Following more patrols, the platoons managed to locate the enemy and the exercise culminated in all three platoons carrying out a night attack in a spectacular setting. After an initial recce, each platoon moved through the valley encountering and dealing with various pockets of enemy resistance until they finally came across the enemy stronghold. I acted as the guide for the recce sections and I must admit that there were times when I thought that the enemy had gone home and left me! **Sgt Lewis** must be congratulated for taking his recce patrol through two enemy positions without their noticing him, despite my jumping up and down and making as much noise as possible. All the platoon attacks were excellent and the sheer physical effort that was exerted by all of the Troops was enormous and very impressive to watch.

The camp finished with a barbecue where the two new Troop OC's were welcomed by their Troops in a similar soggy fashion. Congratulations to everybody who took part in the battlecamp and from an outsider's point of view, 1 Sqn has every reason to be proud of itself and I am extremely happy to have joined them.

**2 SQUADRON**
**SHQ**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Thurston** |
| **2IC** | **Capt O'Connor** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Haslam** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt Jonas** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt Campbell** |
| **SQMS** | **Sgt Fisher** |
| **MT** | **Sgt Murray** |
| **Clerk** | **Mrs Sochon** |

Well, this is the current crew of Squadron managers who regularly disappear into dark and murky rooms for mammoth 'O Groups'. Emerging tired and ragged, deep into the silent hours, they wander the corridors murmuring such things as 'manning', 'satisfied soldiers' and 'where the hell did I put those 2066s?'.



The old 2IC, **Capt** 'Curley' **Goff** departed to take up a command post at 'Waitrose'—'if you're passing, don't shoplift here!' was his parting shot at a lively farewell. We wish him well in his new career. The old—well, not that old—OC, **Maj Mike Rough** left us for the hallowed halls of Staff College to be replaced by **Maj Richard Thurston** (leave the name alone, we've heard them all!).

As for postings into SHQ, **Capt** 'Shergar' **O'Connor** has reappeared to finish his posting at 3 Div from various courses, donned his flak jacket for the Div Recce job and after much surgery to remove shrapnel from Summer Sales, has settled into the 2IC slot. At least he's around now! **Yeoman Bob Jonas** arrived not long ago to a clean and empty desk but immediately vanished under Brazilian rainforests of paperwork—what shortage of stationery?—and emerged to go home a month later. We're setting up a basha by his desk and feeding him plenty of good, wholesome compo with the promise that he can put in a leave pass to go back to his quarter (he loves it really!).

**Staff John Burgess**, having successfully passed his RQ course, has left us on promotion to 15 Sig Regt. Congratulations **John** on the promotion and thanks for all the hard work moving 3 Sqn up from the Annex, and a year later, back down on amalgamation with 2 Sqn. Keep working on the golf!

**Staff Payne** has now escaped the frying pan of SQMS (A) but has fallen into the boiling vat of OC N Tp and is close to a full head of silver locks.

Congratulations to **SSM Billy Haslam** on his forthcoming return, on promotion, to 5 AB Bde as RSM—we hope the knees hold out. Look out 5 AB, incoming . . .!

And, at last, welcome to the fastest shorthand in the west, our clerk, **Aileen Sochon** who is a source of lasting amazement at the speed with which she deals with the typing. Welcome indeed.

Anyway, we've had the normal run of exercises which went as they always do, the Staff College Demo was a ball and other little happenings that the Troops will mention later. So let's see what they have to say . . .

**NOVEMBER TROOP**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Sgt** 'Don't worry, it'll be done' **Payne** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt** 'Where is he now?' **Haresign** |

Welcome to Planet Earth, readers. As tradition dictates, these notes are being flung together in between 1,001 other tasks and although time for change is looming, November Tp continues to battle on flat out.

HQ Line Cell—namely Messrs **Cpl Kev Smith, LCpl Pole McGrath, Sig** 'Hats' **Taberer** and 'Killer' **Smith**—have laid miles of line in all HQs on both major exercises. 'Not unusual' I hear you say but their dedication and humour never ceases to amaze us. Actually it's the humour that never ceases!

The Power Crew led by **LCpl** 'Tug' **Wilson** and ably supported by **Sig** 'Tracker' **Griffiths** and the new boy 'No Name' **Hobbs** have all had shocks at some stage over this period.

**Cpl Arthur Smart** has taken on the mammoth task of storeman and has soon got to grips with all that paperwork. He's certainly worth his weight in gold (or was it Pils?).

We continue to supply bods to remote parts of the world, none of whom ever seem to want to return. 'Hurry up out there, it's our turn next!'.

Back at Soest, **LCpl Geordie Ahmed**, when not on guard, is still looking after the maintenance of all the B vehicles and considering that we only have 'umpteen-thousand' Bedfords, it's amazing that he can still smile. **Cpl 'USA' Allen** spends all his time dreaming of his future career as an American, **Sig** 'Basher' **Bates** is learning how not to totally destroy a 4-wheeled drive (what a success story, that is!) and the remainder, too many to mention, don't worry you're not forgotten.

**GOODBYES**

Goodbyes, then, to **2Lt Andy Thomson** who goes off to University, **Cpl Kev Smith** leaves us for 8 Sig Regt, **Sig Griffiths** to 21 Sig Regt, **Mack McLaughlin** to be a civvie, **Cpl Allen** to the far side of the Atlantic and **LCpl Wilson** to 16 Sig Regt.

**HELLO**

Hello to our new boy from 30 Sig Regt, **Sig Eggy Cleghorn**.

**SUMMER GAMES**

This year's Regimental Summer Games were all held on the same day and comprised softball, basketball, badminton, table tennis and volleyball. It's our excuse that, as the events were played concurrently, we lost stars from some sports who would have won several events if the timings of fixtures had varied.

As it was, they were all played in good spirit, with 2 Sqn managing to win the volleyball (thrashing everyone actually) and being pipped into second place in the basketball—much gnashing of teeth from the



SSgt Stachini vacating the Soest pool having been thrown in by the swimming squad

OC. It was later found, in the RMS's office, that 2 Sqn had been given one point rather than first position at the Volleyball, but with our 2IC refusing to relinquish the trophy, the RSM eventually had to agree that we were, in fact, the victors.

Although not strictly part of the Summer Games, it must be mentioned that the Squadron again trounced all-comers in the Regimental Inter-Squadron Swimming Competition held in Soest—don't worry boys, the RSM isn't going to get this trophy. We now look forward to the winter games when we'll see what prizes we can carve from the rest of the Regiment.

**CCF CAMP—ST MARTIN'S PLAIN**
**TEAM**

Moosebusters: **2Lt Howard Hughes, SSgt (YofS) Andy Campbell, WCpl Cindy Gawthorpe WRAC, LCpl Chris Swithenbank, Sig Paul Bradley, Craig Dudley** and **Gav Smillie**.

The team, having managed to leave Ex Summer Sales a whole two hours early, collected together, quickly completed the vehicle loading and departed for their LSL across to UK.



SSgt (YofS) Campbell explaining the Trend Teleprinter on the Rear link to Soest, to cadets from Taunton School

The trip was uneventful except in that **Sig Smillie** managed to lose both his beret and underpants—a subsequent board of enquiry failed to establish why he was wearing his underpants on his head anyway!—he says he didn't pack them but we don't believe him.

On arrival in Folkestone, the team waited patiently for **YofS Campbell** to appear with the keys for the deluxe accommodation, and once settled in, we quickly set up the Command Post Display for instruction starting first thing the following day. The instruction carried on for the next two weeks with two schools each day learning about the following:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Command Post Comms: (Rear link to Soest) | **YofS Campbell** |
| Antenna/mast erection: | **Sig Smillie** |
| VHF/HF manpack radios: | **Sig Bradley/Dudley** |
| Basic voice procedure: | **LCpl Swithenbank** |
| Photos/PR/Coffee and Rolls: | **WCpl Gawthorpe** |

The cadets showed great interest in all we had to offer and the camp was well appreciated, judging by the letter of thanks to the Regiment (are we blowing our own trumpet here?).

The local night life was fairly quiet but a few quiet drinks sufficed. We did, however, get away on a Sunday to Hastings for a round of windswept crazy golf and a madcap 'formula one' go-cart race. The day was somewhat marred when one of our cars was broken into and a quantity of valuable items were stolen. That car must have been the size of the 'Atlantic Conveyor' looking at the theft report!

The end of the camp came on in a rush of searching for a ferry to get us back to Germany—no-one believes that we fought to get back!—and we returned on Saturday 14 July for work on Monday.

**QUOTES OF THE TRIP**

Little Girl: 'Can you think of any advantages for women in the Army?'

'X': 'Yes, you don't have to shave!'

MOD Policeman: 'Excuse me Sir, what are you doing?'

'X': 'Good Afterbule Constinoon, I'm counting to 500 in tens because I'm playing hide and seek!'

There are more but we daren't print them!

**LCpl 'Hippy' Smithurst** has gone to 3 Inf Bde with all his designer shirts that hurt the eyes. On the arrivals side, **Sig Scott, Hirst, Sell, Roberts** and **McAtear** suddenly descended on us from training for their first look at armoured vehicles, which are all probably older than their grandfathers. They must be installing volume controls on Signalmen now as these boys have yet to say something . . . anything!



The team with Brig Baly

**OSCAR TROOP**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **2Lt Howard** 'the buck inevitably stops here' **Hughes** |
| **SSgt** | **SSgt** 'I've only got two words to say to you . . .' **Beattie** |
| **Sgt** | **Sgt** 'Joseph and his technicolour suits' **Weavers** |

Maintenance, maintenance, guard duty, maintenance and the Troop keeps trucking along (or is that tracking?). Well, Summer Sales certainly tickled the old chuckle bone! We were saved the problems of a long, arduous move out by the use of low-loaders which then stopped for a mandatory break less than a kilometre from the DOP, leaving the Div Recce team bouncing around Hameln asking 'has anyone seen some panzers?'.

The first six days being static meant that a 'relaxed mode' and a 'sleeps routine' was easily adopted by most within the Div Main HQ. After three days it was obvious that several members of the Troop had been overcome by sleeping sickness, most noticably **Sig Bentley** who even started to look like a sleeping bag. It was observed that there was a good chance that he would emerge as a butterfly by endex!

While the Div Staff beavered away in their cells, an endless procession of 'norgies' wound their way into the complex, adding inches to the biceps of **LCpl Caulfield** and **Sig Roberts**. Plans are underway to pipe tea and coffee directly from the cookhouse!

With bated breath, we waited for the movement phase to begin and at last we set off, tracking into the sunset. Several moves later and with some very kind weather (for a change) we tracked back into Korbecke to turn round and prepare for the Battlecamp at Costa-del-Vogelsang.

**HAPPENINGS**

There are so many arrivals and departures that we can mention only a few. Good luck to **Janet** and **Cpl Bishop** on their posting to 210 Sig Sqn. Well done for the success of the promotions board. **Sig 'Gav' Smillie** is off to 264 Sig Sqn—good luck on the course. **Sig 'Benney' Yates** has escaped to HQ Sqn and **Sgts McGoff** and **Stoddart** have left to pursue new careers outside the Army.



**PAPA TROOP**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Lt Paul Prince** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Paul (Ben) Neves** |

We have said farewell to **SSgt Ray Spencer** and wife **Debbie** followed soon after by **Sgt Lee** and **Helen Keily**, all of whom have left a social vacuum. Good luck to you at your new posts. We also say cheerio to **LCpls Taff Burke, Tony Caulfield** and to **Sig 'Taff' Waters** who are deserting to Oscar Tp—they'll need all the help they can get!

Welcome to **Sgt Ben Neves** and his wife **Shân**, and **Sig Firth** and **Garton** new from the factory.

We've been exceptionally busy during the past few months (please believe me!) and things look busier for the autumn exercise period with Hicons, Locons and Midcons to be built. Still, we struggle on with the normal humourous remarks about 'What leave?' and 'I wanna go home!'.

The only comment about Vogelsang was 'who planned an exercise so close to the World Cup Match?'. The lads coped with this problem exceedingly well—have you ever seen so many weird antennae and civvy aerials up in one location?

**SQUADRON OPEN DAY**

Sunday 29 July saw the fruition of weeks of planning and organising for our Open Day by **Cpls Alger** and **Cryer**. Somehow they managed to procure, free of charge, both a disco and a bouncy castle! The obvious centre of attraction (if you don't believe us, speak to 'Tabs' **Taberer**) was a beer tent—a mandatory requirement (is that in SOinC's PDs?) and punishment stocks which were filled by a succession of SHQ personalities—next time make sure the sponges are softer. The .22 air rifle gallery, neatly situated inside a 4 ton Bedford, saw plenty of youngsters competing for prizes as did the junior and adult 'Beat the Goalie' contests. The 'Bottle on a String' stall quietly collected a mound of money but, to this day, no-one knows how they were supposed to have played that game!

The barbecue manned by various people including some visiting Potential Officers, amassed a small fortune and the raffle succeeded in raking in yet more of the folding stuff.

**LCpl 'Popeye' Ellis** took people on rides in a 436 and ended the day, with the winner of the raffle prize, **Miss Lorraine Hewitt**, butting, crushing and finally flattening a car owned by **2Lt 'Howard' Hughes**—yes, he did agree to it, I think!

On a muggy but overcast day, the event was a total success—with a proportion of the profits going to the Corps Museum fund—and again our thanks to **Cpls Alger** and **Cryer** for organising such a superb day.

**ROMEO TROOP**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Sgt Elliot** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **What Tp Sgt?** |
| **Rest** | **The Boys** |

**GOODBYES**

There has been a fair turnover in personnel over the recent months. We've said farewell to **Mark** and **Petra Jordan**, now settled in at 202 Sig Sqn; **Paddy** and **Alison Glanville** left us for Bulford (at least it's nearer home!); **Bri Heslop**—look out for the snakes; **John** (Chalkie) and **Pat White**—you got there at last; **Bill** and **Rachel Church** to Yorkie land; **Terry Blakeley** to 14 Sig Regt and beyond; and finally, to our three 'Mr' men, **Jim Boddy, Rob Nairn** and **Gary 'Dolly' Staff**—the leaving presents will be in the post as soon as you've sent your contributions.

**HELLOS**

Warm welcomes to **Curt Curtis** and **Stella**, to **'Wibbs' Wibberley** who reached us after an escape from 1 Sqn, **Pat** and **Tina Kenny, 'Shep'** and **Donna Shepherd, 'Phil' Phillips, Scouse Craine** and **Zebedee McAtear**. Get stuck in lads and enjoy it.

**HAPPENINGS**

Since Flying Falcon the Troop has had only minor taskings, but that exercise saw **Cpl Paul Phoenix** taken down from the shelf to help out with numbers and promptly tip his one tonner over into the prone position. This event saw the re-emergence of the 'Chunter' book as a departing gesture from **'Paddy' Glanville**. We are now looking ahead to a full Autumn with a multitude of taskings, both major and minor, which will certainly clear out the cobwebs. Ex Summer Sales happened but we will now deal with the Regimental Battlecamp.

**VOGELSANG**

The Squadron deployed to Vogelsang on Sunday 8 June just in time to watch Germany beat Argentina in the World Cup Final.

The first three days were spent on a variety of ranges; anti tank, section in defence and platoon in support to name but a few. Basic fieldcraft, mandatory tests and helicopter drills were carried out as



background activities and thanks to the RAF we had the use of two Chinook helicopters for a morning's tactical flying practising section mounting and dismounting drills. A lot was learned and achieved especially for the younger and newer lads within the Squadron.

Phase two of Battle Camp saw us deploying (on the Wednesday) into the field to Droverheide training area north of Vogelsang. This was for a 36 hour 'out of area, hostage evacuation' exercise. The biggest problem on the training area was that the ground did not relate to the map and this caused a few minor problems which were quickly overcome. The lads were kept continually on the go with a variety of tasks ranging from recces to fighting patrols and culminating in a company assault. Suffice to say all hostages were recovered safely.

The Squadron returned to peacetime location on Friday morning, tired and dirty, but having achieved a lot in what was a very enjoyable and successful battle camp.



Sig Potts barely hanging on. Sgt Brent waiting



The Commanding Officer presenting LCpl Mitchell with the winners trophy. Also in the picture 2Lt Baker

**HICKLING TROPHY**

Congratulations to **Sig 'Alfie' Elliot** on winning the best soldier 'Hickling' trophy. It was a well deserved achievement and a popular choice within the Squadron.



*'HMS Ark Royal'* going round one of the markers



The CO, Lt Col J. R. B. Cook presenting Sgt Brent with the raft race trophy. The CO was assisted by one of our 3 Div veterans Lt Col (Retd) Hoskyns who was the Adjutant during the Normandy Landings

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## 204 (4 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 17

**HELLOS AND GOODBYES**

Welcome to **Lt Justin Hodges, WO2 (SSM) Pete McElwee, Melanie** and baby **Sam, Sgt Sid Elliot, LCpl Steve Cooper, Sig Humphries, Barny Balmforth** and **Alf Ramsay**. Congratulations to **Sig Colin Brotherston** and **Lena** on the arrival of their first son, **Lee**. The Squadron has bidden farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Jim Saveall, LCpl McMahon, Sig Chris Gerry** and **'Simmo' Simpson.**

Lastly special thanks and best wishes for the future to **SSgt Brian Tanner BEM** on his posting to Colchester for his last six months service. **Brian** has contributed so much, making life in Munster all the more enjoyable for many past and present members of the Squadron, we all wish him well.

**LIFE IN A BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON**

For those readers who have not had the pleasure of serving in a Bde Sig Sqn, or who may have just forgotten how varied life really is, here is a short resume of life in Munster.

**EXERCISE SUMMER SALES 90**

Ex Summer Sales 90 saw a much enlarged excon at Ravelin Camp constructed, with the assistance of 39 Fd Sqn RE, by 204 Sig Sqn. Immediately following a slack period, with just First and Second Line inspections, RSIT and the Staff College Demo to keep the boys occupied, the Squadron deployed to set up the Control Headquarters. Two weeks later, after laying 51kms of cable, connecting 95 subsets (in addition to 22 'Panzers' and 12 B staff Vehicles) **SSgt (FofS) John Hiorns** and **SSgt 'Robbo' Robinson** were allowed a weekend off before welcoming the 'Staff', and making a few 'small' alterations to one or two cells. Despite the Herculean efforts of the Line team, and the incredible patience of the Techs, it would not have been possible to mount the exercise without the valuable assistance of detachments from 16, 22 and 28 Sig Regts.



LCpl Gaz Tanner and Sig Brummy Cox look into some routine cable maintenance. LCpl Taff Phillips looks on, unconvinced!

**EXERCISE FIRM BASE**

As the last numbers pulled out of Ravelin Camp, and the teardown of excon began, **SSgt Robbo Robinson** was whisked off to Vogelsang to prepare for the annual Battle Camp. He was followed days later by those members of the Squadron who could be spared from clearing the 51km of HF Quad for a weeks military training. In addition to GPMG, 66mm and grenade throwing ranges there was also time for helicopter familiarisation.



Sgt Carl Robinson and Cpl Keith Bagguley lend a helping hand at the 10ft wall

**REGIMENTAL MARCH AND SHOOT**

A hastily cobbled together B team joined the Squadron's A team, made up of the selection of 'Beatties Bruisers' fresh from their pre Sardinia fitness training—to take on the Regiments finest in the annual challenge. The weeks of training paid off for the A team who were pressed hard by **SSgt Baz Egans** B team, only to be pipped at the post by the B team.



The victorious Squadron march and shoot teams



**CULTURAL TRAINING**

Despite a heavy exercise programme the Squadron had the chance to carry out some cultural training, sampling the delights of Hollands finest Brewery, The Grolsch Brewery in Enschede. Once on the coach and on our way the 'Amber Nectar' started flowing. The visit began with a presentation on how to make (and water down) your own beer (a concept the 'Q' found hard to grasp) and the history of beer from the very earliest brew to the latest. The Squadron was then split into three groups for the guided tour of the brewery. Once in the fermentation area, all the singlies were feeling so at home that **Sig J. Lockrose** was asking for accommodation for the coming season.

The visit ended with a presentation to the SSM to mark the end of his tour in the Squadron, and his return to 5 Civilian Div after 22 years service.

The Squadron wish both him and **Pam** the very best of luck for the future.

**ACROSS TRUST**

On Wednesday 11 July TM Tp accompanied by **Lt Chris McIntosh** escorted members of the Across Trust around Arnhem Open Air Museum and Oosterbeek Airborne Museum. The visitors had varying physical disabilities but this did not stop them or TM Tp from having a very enjoyable day. The day finished in the Squadron Bar and after a meal and several drinks, we all parted friends, looking forward to next year's visit. The Across Trust is a charity which aims to foster greater relationships between the physically handicapped and non disabled members of society.

**RSYC(G) SAIL TRAINING WEEK**
**YACHT: 'MALLARD' HALLBERG RASSY 29**
**Regimental Team**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Skipper:** | **Sgt Craig Avey-Hebditch** | **1 Sqn** |
| **Mate:** | **Cpl Paul Phoenix** | **HQ Sqn** |
| | **Cpl Mick Clarkson** | **2 Sqn** |
| | **Sig John Elliott** | **1 Sqn** |
| | **Sig Dave McNeill** | **1 Sqn** |

After 10 days of very close racing in the Baltic, the Regimental team returned victorious from the British Kiel Yacht Club having won the regatta overall and also the **Sgt Don Shaw** memorial trophy, awarded this year for the winners of the long passage race.

The route to the winning post was not an easy one, and on two occasions **Cpl Mick** 'monkey' **Clarkson** had to climb to the top of the mast whilst racing, to free jammed foresail hanks.

A few nervous moments were spent by all the crew, after the navigator, **Cpl Paul Phoenix**, navigated us across some quite shallow water, the depth below the keel reducing to just 60cms at one point during a race.

**Sig Dave McNeill** will not forget Sonderborg quickly as he had a birds-eye view of the harbour when he was winched to the mast-head to clean the tri-color light and take a photograph, however, he got his own back on the skipper by dropping the skipper's camera into Sonderborg harbour.

A highly successful regatta for the team and for the Corps, thanks go to the BKYC who always provide excellent service to us part-timers, thanks also go to the organiser, **Capt Paul Cross**, 14 Sig Regt, who once again organised and ran a very enjoyable regatta, his hard work is much appreciated.

**Results**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Overall Winners | — | 3 Armd Div Sig Regt |
| Runners Up (Cannon Cito) | — | 207 Sig Sqn |
| Overall Winning Skipper Dickson Telescope | — | **Sgt Craig Avey-Hebditch** |
| **Sgt Don Shaw** Memorial Trophy (Long Passage Race) | — | 3 Armd Div Sig Regt |
| Mermaid Cup (Arhus Bay Series) | — | HQ BAOR Skipper—**Capt Steve Herstell** |

## 206 (6 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 106

**206 SIGNAL SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj J. E. Thomas MBE** |
| **2IC** | **Capt R. N. Cary** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Allen** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (YofS) Crosby** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt (FofS) Newsome** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) Treen** |
| **OC A Tp** | **Lt N. Selby** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Boulton** |
| **B Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Martin** |

**EXERCISE RHINO HORN**

This year's Battlecamp was held in the Haltern Training Area during the last week of April. The Squadron was divided into three platoons, under the able commands of **Capt Stringer, Lt Selby** and **SSgt Newsome.** While the Directing Staff languished in the holiday camp atmosphere of the Ponderosa Hut, the platoons set up harbour areas in the nearby woods. Had the weather been anything but absolutely perfect, there would probably have been many more complaints than there were over this elitist separatism! It was left up to **SSgt Boulton** to hold the daily ceremony of drawing a line in the ground to mark out the border between the privileged and the peasants.

From their harbour areas, the platoons deployed daily to their various activities which included the usual military subjects: range work, weapon handling, battle drills and the rest. The dry weather meant that severe ammunition restrictions were imposed by the range control though these did not prevent one section from setting the ATk Range on fire. Night-time activities were characterised by 2 Platoon's inability to map read its way to a single one of the pre-arranged sites. Despite this there were still several bloodthirsty inter-platoon battles which always ended in 'We won! . . . No, we did!' arguments. There was also time for an inter-platoon sports competition which was won by 2 Platoon.

On the final day, those members of the Squadron who were not involved in Princess Royal Day took part in a Clay Pigeon shoot organised for us by **WO1 Reed** at the local club. There were several surprises in store for those who had never tried this type of shooting before, especially **Sig Garry Parker** who managed three hits with his first three shots. This encouraged competition and the final winner of the day was **LCpl Paul Beckett** (open to debate!).

The coach trip back gave all combatants a chance to catch up on missed sleep after a vigorous week's training.



LCpl Laidlaw being taught the art of killing clay pigeons

## EXERCISE RHINO'S TRIANGLE

**Report by WO2 (YofS) Crosby**

Ex Rhino's Triangle was the name given to 206 Sig Sqn's expedition to Andorra from 14-28 May. Under the leadership of **WO2 (YofS) Crosby**, the aim of the expedition was to circumnavigate Andorra on foot. Other members of the expedition were: **Maj John Thomas, SSgt Jeff Treen, Cpls Jono Blood, John McBride, LCpls Seb Wiles, Binny Binnington, Paul Beckett, Mark Baker, Squirrel Tyrell, Cfn Tom Bowes** and **Sig Anderson**.

For the record, Andorra is a small tax-free state nestling in the Pyrenees between Spain and France. It measures only 30km east/west and 15-20km north/south.

Everyone was ready for the Monday morning departure, including **Sig 'Beaky' Beckett** who had had to hurry back to the UK the week before to get his passport renewed. Some people will do anything to avoid two weeks of work. The weather was glorious as the expedition set off in two custom-painted Landrovers (nicknamed 'Beaky' and 'Binny'). Twenty-three hours later (and considerably more tired) we arrived in Andorra and prepared for the next day's walk.

We left **LCpl 'Squirrel' Tyrell** on 16 May with the task of getting two Landrovers and a trailer to Canillo (12km) and set off north into France. The intention was to 'path hop' in order to make the going easier. Unfortunately the paths did not materialise and it fell to **Maj 'Path-finder' Thomas** to navigate us along the best route. When the heavens opened at about 1700 hrs it was time to pitch camp. This gave us all a chance to ponder in amazement the **Crosby/Thomas** Spacepacker, the **Treen** one-man **Phoenix**, the **Wiles/Bowes/Binnington** Wendy-House and the **Beckett/Baker/McBride** Mansion.

On Thursday 17 May we made good progress at first until a map-reading error was made (Not your fault, Sir). After much debate, six members of the expedition had to be left at an RV awaiting Landrover assistance, whilst the remaining three pushed on to make the next day's RV. Two hours later the **Thomas/Crosby/McBride** trio discovered their error as the path came to an abrupt end. Much back-tracking had to be done before the overnight stop was reached.

On Friday 18 May the 1000 hr RV with the Landrover (food resupply!) was eventually made at 1500 hrs. We then headed back to Canillo where we were re-united with the rest.

With the original plan now in pieces it was back to the drawing board and Saturday became R & R Day.

On Sunday the weather began to impose its personality on the expedition with regular thunderstorms. The plan was therefore to spend the next four days in the south of Andorra moving from east to west. A gentle, contour-following walk found us south of the border town La Pasa de Casa.

Monday 21 May. It snowed and froze overnight. Despite this we kept on moving led by **SSgt Jeff Treen** whose little legs kept on disappearing into snow drifts. However, once over the cols the descent was much easier as demonstrated by **LCpl Seb Wiles** on his karrimat.

The last three days of this phase were much the same as we meandered our way through the mountainous countryside and scrambled over snowy cols. We finally came down out of the snowline on our descent into L'Esgorot to meet the Landrovers and civilisation.

On Friday 25 May we decided against the west side which rose to 3,000m as we were not equipped for snow climbing. Instead we set off on a day's walk which was cut short by torrential rain. We knew then that we had had enough.

By choosing May for our expedition, we were very much pre-season in Andorra and so we were able to enjoy the solitude of the mountains despite the often inclement weather. The expedition was very enjoyable and we consider it to have been a success though next time I think we will go in August.



LCpl Mark Baker leading the second group along the ridge line



WO2 (YofS) Terry Crosby and Cpl John McBride crossing a col

## MINI WORLD CUP COMPETITION

Every year around the first weekend in June the Mini World Cup Football Competition takes place in the Dutch town of Hengelo. It is organised by **Mr John de Jonge** from the FC Achilles Club who has run this competition for the last 18 years. Every year it attracts teams from all over Europe and Scandinavia and this year, for the first time, there were three teams from Czechoslovakia. Hengelo is a very friendly and accommodating town and the whole weekend is a very festive affair.

On the first day 206 was in a group comprising three Dutch and one American team. All games lasted 30 minutes which was probably just as well for the team who were looking a bit under the weather. It must have been something they ate. The result at the end of the day was four Draws despite the one Dutch team being made up of 6ft 6in giants sharing a single brain cell. **LCpl Terry 'Psycho' Walton** and **LCpl Paul 'Beaky' Beckett** held the midfield against all comers while **Cpl Paul 'The Sloth' Davies** pulled off some excellent saves when the opposing forwards managed to get through the minefield of Psycho and Beaky.

Our four points saw 206 in third position at the start of day two, only one point behind the leaders. This meant that the team was drawn for the Consolation Cup together with one German and two more Dutch teams. The Man of the Day was undoubtedly **Sig 'Alf' Garnett** whose brilliant footshuffle enabled him to score the equaliser against the German team. The results at the end of day two: three more draws. This left only a penalty shootout with a Dutch Team for a place in the last eight. Unfortunately, despite some brilliant efforts on the part of the Sloth, the Dutch won the day and 206 were knocked out of the competition.

Notwithstanding the disappointment, the team was in good spirits on the way back to Soest and is looking forward to competing again next year.



*Back row (left to right):* LCpl John Ashman, Sig Genny Wade, LCpl Taff Davies, Cpl 'Sloth' Davis, LCpls 'Psycho' Walton, 'Beaky' Beckett and 'Binny' Binnington
*Front row (left to right):* Sgt Ian Kemp, Cpl 'Shaky' Laidlaw, Sig Warburton, Dave Anderson, Alf Garnett and Norm Addisson
*Not shown:* SSgt (FofS) Jeff Newsome (Behind Camera)



# 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt BFPO 15

These notes are a choice blend of military training, in the form of Ex Summer Sales and a battle camp, tales of derring-do on the high seas and rock faces, numerous and varied sporting exploits and finally a Wives Battle Camp. The essential details about comings and goings are here and the whole section is graced by our talented cartoonists (thoughtfully in black and white to enable the drawings to be coloured in!). In the interests of maintaining readership figures only limited reference to SLMC, ORT and Ex G G ('Gunners Galore'?) have escaped the editorial 'Tippex'.

### HQ SQN

### RHQ

It's been hectic of late with a great number of comings and goings.

Firstly the Documents Inspection. An awful lot of hard work and long hours were put in which resulted in an excellent grading.

A farewell is extended to **Capt Don 'lemon' Macaulay** (did he work here?) who is off to the School of Signals for some gardening leave (laying barbed wire we believe) before starting the TEM course. A farewell also goes to **WO1 (Supt Clk) John Pape**; he will be missed by all of us. **Cpl Mariella Lloyd** has also moved on, retiring to 4 Sig Gp to join her husband in the Sergeants' Mess. **LCpl Bob** 'a job' **Ellison** has gone to 200 Sig Sqn, and in his stead **LCpl 'Trickie Dickie' Hanley** has returned to us.

Recent arrivals are **Cpl Jill Portis**, who replaced **Cpl Lloyd. WPtes Linda Harvie** and **Clare Smith** have joined us from training and are working on documents and P20's respectively. Recently arrived from 22 Sig Regt is **Cpl Glyn** (pull up a sandbag) **Lovelock** who has made an immediate impression, especially on the block. **Sig Jim Gray, Steve Hall** and **Chappy Chapman** are also recent arrivals. **Sig Gray** has been sent to 1 Sqn, **Sig Hall** and **Chapman** to documents and **Cpl Mark Garfield** is in the process of taking over.

The new Supt Clk **WO1 John Boyd** has come to us from 16 Sig Regt on deserved promotion (honest) and is now filling the 'hot seat'.

Finally, our 'beloved' Movs Clk, **LCpl Willy** 'I used to be a Scottish Infantryman' **Leggatt** is leaving us.

### QM(T)

**QM Maj Brian Young (Des: Capt John Walker MBE)**
**RQMS WO2 Bill Kelly**
**Sgt Mark Blakeley**
**Sgt Tony Simpson**
**Cpl Adiy West**
**Cpl Billy Knox**
**LCpl 'Charlie' Charlton**
**Sig McPherson**
**Mrs Joan Melling**
**Mrs Liz Morton**
**Mrs Jill Morris**

Early this year **Cpl Adiy West** of the QM(T) Dept returned from Ex Flying Falcon to take part in the 24th River Aller Swim organised by the Deutches Liebens Rettung Gemeinschaft (DLRG), in aid of charity.

The event took place in Celle with over 500 swimmers in various forms of carnival dress. The swim was started by the Mayor of Celle to the cheers of several hundred spectators.

At the 4km point, as dusk was approaching, the DLRG greeted all swimmers with Gluhwein and a flaming torch which had to be carried for the last kilometer of the swim. It made a most impressive sight watching the bearers of hundreds of torches stretching down the river, with much support from the local population.

On completion of the swim all participants were hosted by 14 Sig Regt and presented with a certificate in recognition of their efforts.

**Cpl Adiy West** raised over DM1,000 for the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children and the Herford Garrison Sub-Aqua Club.

In July we said farewell to **Maj Brian** 'Buttons' **Young** and his wife **Judith**. This was their second tour in 4 Div and he now leaves us for 11 Sig Regt as OC 2 Sqn. A warm welcome is extended to his successor, **Capt John Walker MBE** and his wife **Unni. John** has been in 4 Div before, as a Troop SSgt with 3 Sqn and one of the brigades as well as 2IC 3 Sqn. He is obviously no stranger to the unit, but some people must be wondering what he has done wrong!

We also welcome **Sig McPherson** straight from the factory and we hope he settles in quickly, and enjoys his stay in Herford.



The QM(T) 'Empire'
*Back row (left to right):* Sig McPherson, Cpls West, Knox, Sgts Blakeley, Simpson and LCpl Charlton
*Front row (left to right):* Mrs Melling, WO2 (RQMS) Kelly, Maj (QM) Young, Mrs Morton and Mrs Morris

**Sgt Tony Simpson** and his wife **Ailsa** have at last arrived from 14 Sig Regt. **Tony** replaces **Sgt Gavin Barclay** who left us in January on transfer to the RAOC. **Cpl Adiy West** has been carrying out the duties of the MSA Sgt since he left but now takes a drop in pay, shame. Not for long he shouts, congratulations to **Adiy** on his selection for promotion to Sgt on the last board.

Finally the exercises as seen by the editor of the Div Rear's daily journalistic relief, The Rear End, went something like this:

N Troop of 3 Sqn was faced with a burning question as they deployed for Summer Sales: with all the hilarity of Ex Flying Falcon could they keep it up? Luckily they made it through without loss and rumour has it that **Vince** has found his boots; he had to, 'Big' **Mark Rowley** has got the Squadron trainers now!

Sightings on the exercise included a victorious SSM's volleyball team, a Bridgeogram for Comd Med's birthday (only two days late!), **Cpl Al Sallis** trying to attract the helicopters with breadcrumbs and the REME trying to demolish **Capt Williams'** 'Wendy House' with a four tonner.

The Squadron received a visit from **Brig P. Symes** AQ 1 (BR) Corps. He was impressed by the cookhouse but we are not so sure about the Wavell—he should have seen it in its normal role as the Globe Cinema! Is it true that any potential WPI Ops now have to pass an exam on 'Blackadder' scripts before gaining their coveted 'shiny seat' award?

During the exercise Rear HQ created daily relief through a rag called the 'Rear End'. This carried a regular feature which, it is reputed, kept the Div Comd fully abreast of the battle situation; a short extract is reproduced below:

### THE FEAST OF SUMSALES

Long ago on the planet 'Tarm-egan' the great 'Lord Tonee' decided to lead his tribe the 'Seagnarls' on a long expedition to celebrate the feast of Sumsales.

The journey was long and arduous and was broken into many legs. At each stop the 'Seagnarls' had to hide from the great orb's rays using 'Urcam'.

At each step the Lord Tonee would visit his tribe and check that the urcam did not billow as this could attract the attention of the Wizard 'Genmac' who was leader of all tribes on Tarm-egan.

In order to stay in touch the seagnarls would harness the great power of Tarm-egan and use it to spread the word over great distances, this was under the control of 'Barf' the Osc. 'Whole Maan' was responsible for keeping the Lord Tonee in touch with the rest of the tribe, but after an early 'Confwrong' his power began to diminish . . .

The loss of Whole Maan's power caused great consternation among the Seagnarls at Mainey so they went to 'Ar-see-pee' to get help from 'Malsin' and 'Peegos' the providers. But Malsin and Peegos could not help and summoned 'Oclad' and 'Teeotee' with a bolt from the blue, who attempted to restore Whole Maans power.

Meanwhile on another part of the planet Tarm-egan at a place called 'Re-ah' a strange invasion was taking place. Another tribe, the 'Deev-starf', led by 'Dee-kos the Great' was taking over at Re-ah. The Deev-starf were found to congregate in the place of the eats and sleeps, causing great alarm to 'Ron-da' the waiter. The Deev-starf themselves were plagued by a form of life called 'Cla-arks', whose job in life seemed to be to supply the Deev-starf with copious quantities of coffee and paper. When not in the place of the eats and sleeps the

Deev-starf could be seen scurrying from urcam to urcam asking the Seagnarls a multitude of questions about the power of Tarm-egan.

Back at Mainey all was not well and Whole Maans power was not yet restored, so Lord Tonee ordered the High Priest 'Shaundex Salman' to make a sacrifice to the Gods by throwing the tribal 'Ted-ee' far into the sky. This in itself caused the tribal elders to become uneasy and the master of arms 'Don-sir' was sent to settle them. He achieved this by appearing from nowhere and focussing their minds on urcam and 'Sentrees' (a lonely wandering soul) until they forgot about the tribal Ted-ee.

Whilst this was occuring, 'Bar-will' the tribal elder at Re-ah was rushing around looking for a new location—But would he succeed? . . .

Cast in order of appearance:

| | |
|---|---|
| Lord Tonee | **Lt Col A. J. Raper MBE** |
| Wizard Genmac | **Maj Gen J. J. G. Mackenzie OBE** |
| Barf the Osc | **Maj R. D. Barfoot**, OC 1 Sqn |
| Whole-maan | **Maj M. S. Holman**, OC 2 Sqn |
| Malsin | **Maj M. J. Sinton**, 2IC |
| Peegos | **Maj P. Goss**, OC HQ Sqn |
| Oclad | **Capt D. Vaughan**, OC LAD |
| Totee | **Capt S. A. Rogers**, TOT |
| Dee-kos | **Col Macfarlane**, DCOS |
| Shaundex Salman | **Capt S. C. Dexter**, Adjt |
| Don-sir | **WO1 (RSM) D. K. Pawlow** |
| Bar-will | **Capt B. F. Williams**, OC 3 Sqn |

**SECURE AREA**

Moving out seems to have grown in popularity recently. Farewells and good luck wishes are extended to **SSgt Andy Reeds** and his wife **Linda**; he is moving on promotion to Verden where he will sport shiny boots and a stick. **Sgt Bob** has taken up **Andy**'s mantle, though after an exercise with the SCAN vehicle is urgently looking for another job! The well deserved promotion to SSgt has not dulled his enthusiasm for the 'Airborne' image, t-shirt, cap etc.

'Farewell' said **LCpl 'M' Barrass**, 'I'm off to Catterick for seven weeks but I should be back for Quarter Final'. The Quarter Finals were over ages ago and Scotland never made it.

In the very near future **SSgt Steve Grantham** and **Eleanor** are off to MOD, their first time out of BAOR in 11½ years of marriage. What do you mean 'is London south of Dortmund on the Route 2?' We wish him and his family all the best.

**1 SQUADRON**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Rick Barfoot** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Gerry Bradshaw** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Alf Ramsey** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Chas Ward** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt Mick Purves** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 Mick Poland** |

Busy, busy, busy sums up the last two months at the Trunk Node Squadron. SLMC, ORT, Summer Sales, Gentle Gallop and Shining Gauntlet all combined to give those organising the manning a major headache. Now a word from the Troops.

**SHQ TROOP**

| | |
|---|---|
| OC, 2IC, Tp Sgt, MT, NCO, Chief Cook and Bottlewasher | **Sgt Nigel Varley** |

Well that's enough from SHQ Tp.

**PANTHER TROOP**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **2Lt Damien Quinn** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Kenny Sykes** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Dave Watkins** |

Panther Tp has taken to the CO's policy on adventurous training by going away for a full expedition to the south of France on Ex Kayak Quadrant.

Hello to **Cpl Butler** who was dragged kicking and screaming from TM Tp. Goodbye and congratulations to **Sgt Piper** who has moved on promotion to become Cheetah Tp's recce Sgt. Finally welcome to **2Lt Andy Williams** just arrived from the factory who is taking over the Troop from **2Lt Quinn** when he leaves to be educated in September.

**CHEETAH TROOP**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **2Lt Mark Adams** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Charlie Dubique** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **SSgt Kev Jenkins** |

There has been quite a turn around recently with the following being welcomed into the Troop: **Sgt Piper, LCpls Bennett, Moorby, Sig Terry Russell, Victor Fraser** and **Tim Collison**. Goodbyes go to **Cpl George Best** who has civilianised himself and **Cpl** 'Chod' **Matless** who is upgrading himself. Finally many congratulations go to the following for their much deserved promotions: **LCpl John Barton, Cpl Weston** (doing time in the Falklands at present) and **SSgt Kev Jenkins** who will soon achieve the dizzy heights of Tp SSgt to add to his current role of Recce Sgt.

**KIWI TROOP**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Lt Clive Cook** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Duggie McDonald** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Kev Falconer** |

Hello to the new Tp **SSgt Duggie McDonald** from the exhalted portals of the MOD and goodbye to **SSgt 'Bud' Abbott** who has taken up residence in the Training Wing.

**2 SQUADRON**

**A1 TROOP**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp Comd** | **Lt Tony 'Jack' Picknell** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **Sgt Dave Snatchstick** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt 'Bald Eagle' Martin** |

New appointments included the promotions in the field of **LCpl Howard** and **LCpl** 'Chippy' **Chipperfield. Cpl Chaz Fox**, it appears, finally realised why Comms Ops asked *those* questions. Surprise, Surprise **Lt Picknell** avoided the next war and galloped away to Berlin, allegedly to swim. Not so lucky for the others, however, who were sent off to make up the Brigadier's SOP 150 and were whisked away to Summer Camp. Well done **Barny** the fish, **LCpl Shears**, and a mention must go to **LCpl 'Spike' Kennedy** for getting blown out on that fateful night. Never mind, perhaps you should have been an A1 lad!

**HELLOS AND FAREWELLS**

Hello to **Cpl 'Chippy' Wood** from 21 Sig Regt. Sorry you'll never manage to get all your leave now, this is 4 Div! It's a farewell to **Sgt Townsend, LCpl 'Geordie' Leask** who got UK!, **LCpl** 'Bulldog' **Mackie** who is pleased to be going but he may have to leave his car, **Cpls Sy Hadley** and **'Chappy' Chapman**. In particular it's a fond farewell to **SSM 'John' Brooks** and **Gina**. Somehow we struggled through the exercise without you but we promise to have a goodbye do.

**A2 TROOP**

With Summer Sales over the troop rushed back to Herford for a quick clean up, and deployed 24 hours later on Ex Gentle Gallop. This was conducted in two phases; an initial movement phase followed by a firing phase. The latter took place on the Munsterlager ranges, having spent phase 1 moving in Northern Germany. It was uncomfortable to move to a range area after the relative comfort of a German Kaserne. After a timing 'misunderstanding' we joined a huge green road train as it moved off into the night and rain. Before long Fwd HQ found its way to the front of the convoy, taking the lead as its name suggests it should, across the range wasteland. Morale was soon lifted by a hot meal at the new location. The highlight of our four weeks at war was the experience of being bombarded by two RA Regiments, whose 105mm rounds fell at distances of less than 250m—an experience neither appreciated nor expected by all.

**A3 TROOP**

The Troop has had another set of exercises designed to test the resourcefulness of its members' abilities.

Adventurous activities saw eight members including five from the Troop, improving their Italian in Sardinia. New recruits included **Lt James Giscombe, Cpls Thompson, Inns, Sig 'Chas' Challiner** and **Crabbe.**

**HI'S AND BYE'S**

Farewell to **Sig Ricky Barton,** who leaves the fold to join the School in the Sky, at Blandford. Good luck. You never know we may not be here when you return. The Troop is also warned of the departure of its current boss who having been caught leg before by a fast ball from the corridors of power, is now destined to be playing for the second eleven for the rest of the season. Since our last appearance in 'The Bleep', **Sig 'Shuggie' Bain** has joined us from the chocolate factory via a brief stay in A1, where the Panzers were frightening and the nights too short.

**3 SQUADRON**

**N TROOP**

Goodbyes to **SSgt Hugh Allison**, now RQMS, and to **Cpl Bob Barker**. Good luck in your new jobs although with **Bob** only just down the road at 7 Sig Regt we do not see the back of him.







Brig P. Symes AQ 1 (BR) Corps talks to Cpl Prince in the Wavell vehicle during Ex Summer Sales

A welcome to **Sig Wood** and **Bishop** Mk2. Due to arrive soon are **LCpl O'Hare** and **Sig Atherton**. Is it Christmas or have Manning and Records only just found out that 3 Sqn still exists?

**TM TROOP**

On a cold and wet Sunday morning **WO1 (FofS) Terry Witts, Sgt George Merrie, Cpls Gordon Rodie** and **Al Sallis** set off to compete in the Minden Half Marathon. Moving out from Herford in convoy, the group eventually arrived in Minden 'via Hannover', thanks to a little bit of day dreaming about winning the veterans event (Foreman!) whilst driving down Route 2.

After booking in and receiving numbers, the band set about fitting wet suits and flippers to combat the torrential rain. When the race eventually started **George Merrie** got off to a flying start but was soon slowed by losing his left training shoe in one of the many swamps along the route. At the eight mile point the runners were spread out over a few miles and **Cpl Sallis** decided to surge on to the finish as he realised he had left his car lights on!

All the group finished the race in a respectable time and raised money for the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

PS: The weather should be better next year guys.



Marathon Men: *(left to right):* Sgt Geordie Merrie, Cpl Gordon Rodie, WO1 (FofS) Terry Witts and Cpl Al Sallis with their cheque for Multiple Sclerosis from the Minden Half Marathon

**CORPS SAILING REGATTA**

**REGIMENTAL CREW**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Skipper** | **Sig 'Harry' Harrison** 200 Sig Sqn |
| **Mate** | **SSgt (FofS) Minton** 3 Sqn |
| **Crew** | **WO2 (FofS) 'Oz Foz' Edmonds** 2 Sqn |
| | **Sgt Ian Tucker** 3 Sqn |
| | **LCpl Greg Anderson** 2 Sqn |

Last year the Regiment came second in the Corps Regatta. The prize was a mounted cannon which weighed about three tons. This year we had two objectives: Not to bring the damn cannon back; and to bring back the first prize (telescope).

We achieved one of our objectives. The Regatta was very well organised and much enjoyed by our crew. A notable achievement by our skipper was the World record for distance chundering after a feed of Bratwurst and fried onions. Our eighth placing belied the effort we put in, however 1991 is looking good!



## 200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn BFPO 41

**WIVES BATTLE CAMP**

The wives arrived eager to start the Squadron second annual wives battle camp with the weather looking kind. After the initial photo session, the exercise started with a 'tab' to the 30m range where the girls were instructed on weapon handling prior to live firing with our RPC SNCO, **Sgt Russell**, After some expert and exciting shooting, the party moved on to a Command task. After a few initial set-backs the girls completed the task comfortably showing great determination and humour throughout . They were not deterred by the ropes, planks and wooden ladders and had great fun meeting the challenge.

After something to eat, the merry band set out for a local training area. On arrival the ladies were shown how to construct a 'basha' in the field and then left to construct their own living accommodation for the night. Next came **Pte Kirk**'s famous field barbecue, a welcome rest prior to a long night spent patrolling. At 2300 hrs the patrols set out. They located, chased and captured the enemy who put up a brave fight, but were overwhelmed by the sight of our heroic girls.

After a short sleep breakfast and then the driving phase started. All the girls took it in turn to drive a 432 APC, a Landrover and a Bedford 4 Ton Truck. The last event of the day was the assault course. the usual array of nasty obstacles were set out for them all to clamber over, or crawl through. They made light work of the arduous course in the knowledge that a week later their husband's would be doing the same thing.

After a short ride back to the Squadron the DS and students enjoyed a well earned drink. **Maj Mills** the Sqn Comd then presented certificates to the participants. During the following week, the final part of the exercise was completed with a visit to the Lynx Simulator where everyone had a go at flying the 'beast'. This was most enlightening with **Mrs Rita Till** showing her skill as a stunt pilot, much to the surprise of the training staff. The exercise once again proved to be a great success and already there are more eager volunteers for next year. Well done to all those involved.



The Victorious Girls

*Left to right:* Sue Sharpe, Angie Purnell, Sarah Jane Payne, Paula Warren, Jo Bedford, Rita Till and Liz Rutter

**EXERCISE JOLLY QUADRANT**

The more adventurous members of the Squadron took to the ocean waves in the form of a three week sailing exercise in the Southern Baltic aboard *Puffin*, a 28ft Westerly from British Kiel Yacht Club. The exercise was split into three, one week periods, with a crew change at the end of each one. Our able skipper **Sig** 'Harry' **Harrison** led the trips throughout.

Week One—A rum crew this one, **LCpl** 'Tiny' **Purnell** was the mate and crew **Sgt 'Al' Churchward, LCpl 'Daz' Cowley** and **Sig 'Taff' Jones**. The majority of their trip saw fair winds and clear skies.

Week Two—No change to the mate for this week, but an injection of 'young' blood in the crew in the form of **Cpl Hutcher, Sig Owen** and **LCpl Grocott** enabled them to push on to distant ports.



The Skipper Sig 'Harri' Harrison at the helm with Capt John Charnock looking on

Week Three—The final week saw a complete crew change **Capt John Charnock** was mate and the crew of **Cpl 'JC' Craven, LCpl 'Cuz' Currie** and **Sig 'Gollum' Fernhead**. They valiantly battled against strong winds and brought the boat safely back to Kiel to end a thoroughly enjoyable three weeks.

**SQUADRON ATHLETICS COMPETITION**

The Squadron Athletics Competition was held on 29 May. The weather was fair and Little Wembley still hadn't been dug up. The teams were selected and battle commenced, cheered on by the wives and children. By lunchtime B Troop had a convincing lead. Now it was time for the tug-of-war competition. This was tough but SHQ Tp won on the final pull. Back to the athletics and as expected B Troop was the eventual winner. **Brig J. Lewin MBE** presented the prizes and we all retired for a barbecue. Special mention for **Cpl Ian** 'Drain my hull' **Duncan** who amazingly competed in every event epitomising the spirit of the day.




Cpl 'JC' Craven proudly sporting his medal for victory in the 1,500m



Brig John Lewin presents a medal to one of the more junior members of the Squadron—Gemma Griffiths

**EXERCISE SPARTAN QUADRANT**
**CLIMBING**
**by Cpl O'Brien**

Well what a Summer Camp it was with sunshine for most of the two weeks. **Sgt Mick Brooks** and I decided to try an original approach to climbing because most of the guys had experience of Top Roping and Abseiling. We aimed to show them how to identify and set up a climb and give them an introduction in leading.

We started the group on the climbing wall behind the hut. Our very first student, **LCpl 'Elvis' King** had trouble finding his footholds, or come to think of it, he wasn't sure where to put his hands either. After a good 15 minutes talking to him on where to put his hands, he did manage to climb about 6ft. His arms gave up before he did, but we gave him 8 out of 10 for trying. Most of the other guys managed the wall and learnt basic climbing techniques.

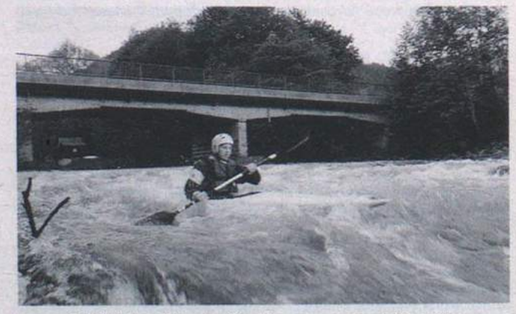
We then thought we were ready for anything, and decided lets put them on the rock. With helmets, harnesses and ropes in hand we all set off to Hinderlang, a rock face not for the squeamish or anyone worried about heights. Some climbs in this area can go to about 200ft plus and there are also some superb abseils. This was the chance in a lifetime for some of the group. There were some good lead climbs so I took **Pte 'Ollie' Oliver** who was keen to get started and lead the way. I showed him 'the ropes' and off he went. On the third pitch he set off leading but by now he was looking a bit worried. He had never climbed this high before. **Ollie** disappeared up the face and I then didn't hear or see anything of him for over half an hour and his rope hadn't moved. By now I was anxious, I shouted to him but there was no reply so I set off upwards following the rope. To my relief I quickly found him. Imagine yourself walking across the mountains and encountering a goat stranded on the smallest possible ledge. **Pte Oliver** was in a similar position but not as capable as the goat. Fortunately we managed to get **Ollie** off the ledge to abseil him off the rock.

The abseiling exercise went well. We attempted a new method of descending known as the 'Cork Screw'. **LCpl Nobby Hall** attempted this but did not find it amusing. The rope was pulled taut from the bottom and tacked off, this sent **Nobby** into a spin. When he eventually stopped spinning he was virtually begging to be let down. However, he had yet another spin the other way to untangle the safety rope. When **Nobby** eventually returned to earth he experienced difficulty walking and uttered a few choice words to his instructors. Despite some difficult conditions all the climbers worked hard and were a pleasure to instruct. Many will be recommended for TR and A courses so 'well done lads' and thanks for a great two weeks.

**CANOEING**

The canoeists this year decided to spend a couple of nights under canvas. The training programme produced included two river trips, the first of which was the River Ammer to introduce the students to grade 3 white water.

**Capt Dave Whimpenny** (7 Sig Regt) showed us all how not to launch someone seal style with **Cpl Stu Hamilton** being the unlucky swimmer, however, this was soon sorted out and all the students entered successfully. **LCpl Steve Sharp** owes the instructors a few beers for losing this paddle in a stopper. The instructor had to be be-layed in to retrieve it. After camping overnight on the banks of the Ammer we moved to Garmish to canoe the Lobach. When the students saw the river they were nervous but as the Squadron camera crew was there everyone tried their hardest not to capsize on film. Everyone succeeded apart from the instructor who was trying to pose and failed miserably much to the delight of the students. Overall with the sun shining and everyone in good spirits, canoeing this year was enjoyed by all. Congratulations to **LCpls Ray Till** and **Billy Bremmner** on passing the proficiency test.

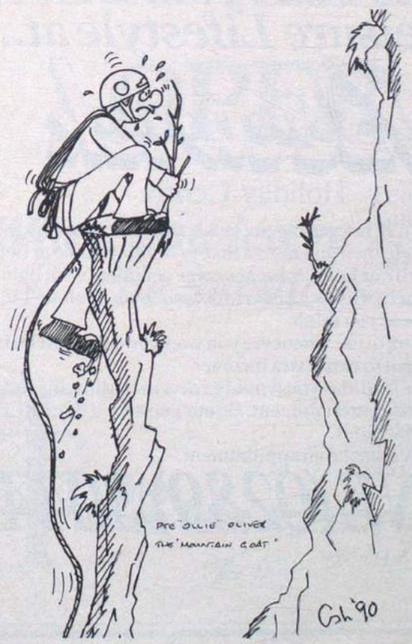


Cpl 'H' Hamilton leading the way over white water






Ex Spartan Quadrant—Squadron Summer Camp




## 211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 29

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj K. J. Hadfield** |
| **2IC** | **Capt M. D. W. Alexander** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) R. T. Fairfield** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (YofS) C. K. Luckham BEM** |
| **CC** | **Sgt G. H. Pollard BEM** |
| **OCA Tp** | **Capt I. G. Lawrence** |
| **OCB Tp** | **Lt J. C. Gillespie** |

June was a busy month for the Squadron with commitments to the Brigade Concentration in Soltau, the Bisley Qualifying Shoot, Princess Royal Day and our Annual Battlecamp. This year Battlecamp was held in Vogelsang and again proved to be very worthwhile for all concerned.

The camp was designed to be intensive and physical in nature. The mandatory tests (BFT and CFT) were supplemented with a Night Navigation Exercise, Assault Course Competition, Stretcher Race, and Athletics Competition. Full use was also made of the wide variety of ranges available in order that we might hone our combat skills. Particularly beneficial was the opportunity of joint training with 3 Royal Canadian Regiment. A few lucky people got to fire their .50 Browning with 1:1 tracer.

The climax of the camp was a defensive shoot simulating a relief in place. The combined power of the Canadian C7 and C9, the British SLR, SA 80, and LAW66 left the ground—and the weapons—smouldering.

Everyone benefited from the camp which drew out the latent leadership in some people. **Pte 'Tina' Turner** was awarded best young soldier for his enthusiastic participation and the way in which he accepted challenges that were presented to him.

Despite a high number of work commitments the Squadron has been able to participate in a number of sporting events. Much of the training had to be done out of hours, often in the early hours of the morning, but the results achieved have shown that the training has paid off and this has brought a high degree of satisfaction to those who participated.

**4 ARMOURED DIVISION SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

This year's swimming championships were held in Hameln on 30 May. Competing against us were the familiar face of the other Minor Units swimming teams—4 Armd Fd Amb, 1 Corps Tp Wksps, and our oldest rivals 200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn.

All the individual events were very evenly contested resulting in the overall result being decided in the final event, the Relay. **Capt Chris Green** put up a very strong performance in the 100m Breaststroke being beaten into second place by only an arms length. **Pte Mark Tunley** also achieved a second place in the 50m Front Crawl. The Backstroke saw us gain a third place **(Cpl Al Sparling)** and **Sig Mark Jones** took fourth in the 100m Freestyle.

A third place in the Medley Relay left us joint third overall as **Cpl Pete Farmer, FofS Mal Thomas, Sig Mark Jones** and **Pte Mark Tunley** lined up for the final race, the Freestyle Relay. With an amazing 25m win we ended the days competition in second place being beaten by 4 Armd Fd Amb—a Kingsley Barracks double. That completes the third year in a row that we have been runners up in this competition—can we keep the trophy?

Berlin provides the climax to the seasons swimming. Both 4 Armd Fd Amb and ourselves have got together for joint training sessions so there is no rest in sight for those who rise early in the morning.

**DIVISIONAL TRIATHLON CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The inaugural 4 Armd Div Triathlon Championships were held at Vennebeck, near Minden on Wednesday 2 May 1990. The event was organised in two classes. The first consisted of an 800m swim, 41km bike ride and a 10km run. The second was a novice class consisting of a 300m swim, 20km bike ride and a 5km run.

The Squadron sent a team to represent them in both classes: The elite class team was **SSgt Mike Boyle, Cpls Al Sparling** and **Taff Evans**. The novice team was **Sgt Terry Crane, Cpl Carl Walsh, LCpl Paul Wray** and **Pte Sean Collins**. The elite athletes set off half an hour before the novice event so as to ease congestion in the water during the first stage. While we were standing on the banks of the lake with the sun beating down on us the water looked very inviting.

Things changed on the cycling leg though, where dehydration and sunstroke threatened the competitors. **Cpl Evans** was our first man into the transition area from the bike ride, with **Cpl Sparling** only a minute behind. After a near solo performance on the bike, due to being nearly the last man out of the water, **SSgt Mike Boyle** set off

on the run with almost five minutes to make up on the other team members.

After 3km he caught and passed a limping **Cpl Sparling** who had been suffering with a knee injury from the previous week. Though the top places were never under threat, valuable experience was gained and the team looks forward to the next event.

**ATHLETICS**

The Corps gathered its athletics teams from the far corners of Germany for the Morrison Cup on 7 and 8 June. As befitting one of the largest Army athletics meetings in Germany the standard, in all events, was again very high. This year's team was trained by **Sgt Mick Openshaw** and it is due to his hard work that we saw some excellent Squadron results.

**LCpl Steve Francis** and **Sig Andy Haines** both achieved first placing in the 100m and the Shot Putt respectively. **Andy Haines**, a dedicated 211 sportsman, now requires a 'soft option' posting if he is to develop his sporting career further!

Two second place results were also achieved by **Cpl Carl Walsh**, in the 5,000m, and **Sig Michael Phillips** in the Javelin. **Sig Phillips** was a former schoolboy Javelin champion who competed in national events and this has been his first attempt at adult competition.

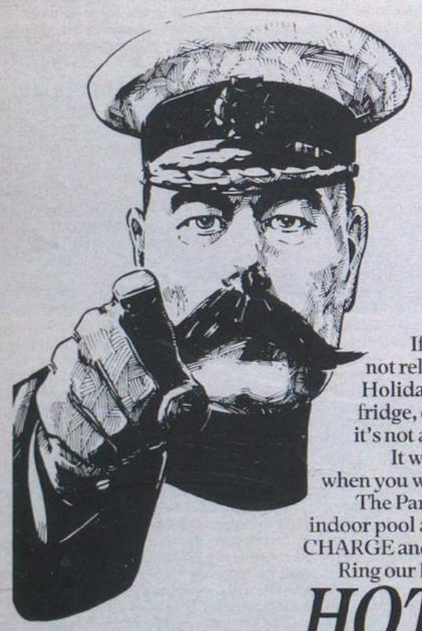
In the following Divisional Championships the team attained second place.

**FAREWELL TO SERGEANT GRAHAM POLLARD BEM**

**Sgt Graham Pollard** has been with the Squadron for almost seven years and completes 27 years in the Army. He has been the linchpin of the Squadron office and his invaluable experience has been of service to us all here. Our best wishes go with **Sgt Pollard**, his wife **Wilma** and **Janet** and **Jim** as he starts his new career in civvy street after a short tour in Loughborough.



211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn Athletics Team
*Back row (left to right):* LCpl Steve Francis, Sig Steve Stranks, Andy Haines, LCpl John Pendlebury and Sgt Mick Openshaw (Team Captain)
*Front row (left to right):* Cpl Chris Cole, Sig Paul Grimes, Nick Beaver and Mick Phillipps

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## 7 Sig Regt
## BFPO 15

**3 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj W. W. Wilson** |
| **2IC** | **Capt G. Harwood** |
| **OC A1** | **Lt S. J. McConnell** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt George** |
| **OC A2** | **2Lt Watts** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt G. Frazer** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Whiting** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt (FofS) Smikle** |

**SUMMER CAMP**
**by LCpl Paul Randall**

28 May saw the start of this year's Summer Camp in Nesselwang, near the Austrian Border—a three hour trip by car, but a considerably longer one for those of us lucky enough to be nominated for the Rover party.

The 60 or so strong adventurers dwindled to around 40 after a number of last minute withdrawals, including 20 WRAC/QARANC who were rumoured to be taking part, but actually turned out to be three on the day. This, as you can imagine, disappointed the singlies a great deal.

Those who made it were split into three sections to take part in compulsory activities of rock climbing, canoeing, windsurfing and trekking. Most thought that the day's trekking should be renamed, as the routes taken were more mountainous than the rocks climbed. **Lt Stu McConnell** led one particular group up an 1,800m high mountain at about 40 mph, earning himself the inevitable nick-name of '4 by 4'.

After two days of R & R the final days were dedicated to activities chosen by individuals, including water skiing and white water rafting. A special word, however, has to be said about those who chose mountain biking. Although half of our stay in Bavaria was dominated by rain and cloud, these intrepid super-humans never once complained about having to carry the masses of equipment on their backs to enable them to camp out. **LCpl 'Louie' Plested** in particular always had a smile and a kind word for everyone.

The last evening took the shape of a talent evening and barbecue. Personalities who made a name for themselves included **Cpl Trev 'T-bar' 'Elvis' Henry** for his excellent singing. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of **WO2 (SSM) Dave Whiting** whose attempts at 'We don't need another hero' sent people scurrying out of the room. All in all it was an excellent camp.

**INTER-TROOP ATHLETICS**

This year 3 Sqn did not take part in the annual Page Trophy Inter-Squadron Athletics Competition, because of a site guard commitment. Therefore, in order to show the rest of the Regiment that 3 Sqn would have swept the board, they decided to hold their own athletics meeting.

The Inter-Troop Competition was made up of two teams: Alpha 1 and Alpha 2/SHQ Troops. There were some notable achievements from both teams headed by the OC Sqn, **Maj Wayne Wilson**, who broke the Regimental Pole Vault record. Furthermore, **Lt Stu McConnell, SSgt (FofS) Nev Smikle** and **LCpl 'Widdi' Widdicombe** all produced better performances in their individual events that those achieved during the Page Trophy. Special mentions must go to **LCpls 'Jay' Knowles** and **'Fester' Richards** who both competed in almost all the events.

The competition was won by Alpha 2/SHQ Tp.

**DEPARTURES**

Many have gone, but few have arrived (as yet). All will be missed and our good wishes go with them and their families to their new Units. **2Lt 'Fletch' Fletcher** is off to Shrivenham to be educated; **Lt Stu McConnell** has moved to 1 Sqn, but not before he managed to fit in a two week swan to France; and **WO2 (YofS) Curley** and his wife **Elaine** are off to Sangcom after a short course in the UK.

Other departures are **Cpls Bird** and **Brunning, Cpl Locker** to 1 R Irish and **Cpls McBride** and **Roberts** to 8 Sig Regt. In June **Sig Ions** and **McKee** were both posted to 249 Sig Sqn; **Cpl Traynor** and **LCpl Knowles** went to 47 Fd Regt and 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt respectively; **LCpls Richards, Whittaker** and **Widdicombe** and **Cpl Thorburn** all left to various destinations; and last but by no means least, **Sgt Collins** has been posted to 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. Good luck to them all.


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# 8 Sig Regt
# Catterick Garrison

**RACE THE SUN—AND WIN**

0315 hrs Thursday 10 May, dark o'clock, and **SGM George** (call me Bilko) **Helfrick** US Army and **SSgt Nick** (the management) **Terry** are leaping around Imphal Barracks, York doing mad impressions of town cryers. The team spring lightly from their four star accommodation and instantly start bumping into things—it's still dark.

0415 hrs Breakfast. **Sgt Dave Owen** and his merry men can be seen wandering into the sunrise carrying their canoes down to the river Ouse, (we wouldn't want to wake the civvies with noisy vehicles). Just you wait!

0445 hrs Bang! The starting gun goes off, 39 noisy competitors charge madly through the streets of York looking to their canoes—now the civvies are awake. After a 6.5km canoe up river, **Sgt Dave Owen, Cpl Mark Quinn** and **Sig Dave Campbell** leap from their canoes for the handover to put the team into fifth place.

0539 hrs Leg 2—**Maj Dick Jardine** US Army, **WO1 (FofS) John Oakes** and **Cpl Bob Vowles** vanish into the early morning mist only to reappear 12km up the river bank in third position. They nudged two teams into the Ouse in passing.

0631 hrs Leg3—**Sgt Mick Tomison, Cpls Wayne Willson** and **Dave Chapman**, looking very trendy in matching Tour De France outfits, speed off for a 37km cycle race, leaving their follow up vehicle far behind. Two punctures later they arrive at Sutton Bank in second place, gaining seven minutes on the leaders.

0730 hrs Leg 4—**Sgt Tony Jenkins** with **LCpl Dayasagar** and **Sig Guman Thapa** race up the 3.5km hill climb on Sutton Bank narrowing the gap with the lead team to three minutes.

0746 hrs Leg 5—**Cpls Pete Stowell, Andy Patton** and **Sig Hugo DeBurgh** don 35lb packs and at the end of 12.5km the team is in pole position with a 17 minute lead.

0859 hrs Leg 6—The lead is held over the 9.5km moors run by **Mr Jeff Evans, Sgt Andy Slack** and **Sig Steve George**.

0938 hrs Leg 7—**Sgt Stuart Cheslett** and **Cpl Steve Cotton** take turns chatting to **Maj Keith Arnold** as they pass by leafy lane and chuckling brook on the half marathon.

1108 hrs Leg 8—During the steep and muddy 18km race on leg 8, **Sgt Paddy Phillips** and **Sig John Taylor** push their mountain bikes into a 20 min lead. **WO1 (YofS) David Taylor** (team captain) pedals in shortly after (I will not be doing it again next year)!

1201 hrs Leg 9—**Cpls Mick Cowie** and **Wayne Willson** wait with apprehension (and a lost control card) at the end of the orienteering leg but **Col Mike Ridlington** races in with a 100 per cent accurate card and we are back in the race.

1257 hrs Leg 10—**Cpl Ian Robinson** lopes away on the 4km Fell run with **Sig Shyam Kaji** and **Shankar** racing over Blakeley Topping.

1328 hrs Leg 11—**Cpl Judy Holder** gainfully keeps pace with **Mr Mick Stocks** over the 9km run through Dalby Forest with **Sig Robert Good** bringing up the rear.

1422 hrs Leg 12—In Thornton Dale car park our cyclists speed off for the 30km cycle orienteering. **Cpl Phil Holland** is first to Castle Howard Lake closely followed by **Lt Mhairi Nisbet** (who manages to pedal the final 3km with a flat tyre) and **SSgt (FofS) John Thomson**.

1540 hrs Leg 13—A real spectacular, **LCpl Pete Mathews** and **Sig Mike Jones** plunge into the icy waters of Castle Howard Lake for the 500m (more like 800m) swim. **Capt Alasdair Rodger**s follows on doing impressions of a hump backed whale and manages to extend the lead a little further.

1557 hrs Leg 14—A 6km run to pre positioned canoes for a 5km race down the river Derwent. **Capt Simon Lowe** is still looking for **Sgt Gary Ashley** and **LCpl Tim Mounfield** (only one more hill sir?). After negotiating two weirs **LCpl Mounfield** spins his canoe round and sinks it 100m from the hand over point. Kind words of encouragement from the CO and several team members from the bank enables him to sort himself out and finish the leg.

1708 hrs Leg 15—The penultimate leg starts from Hawsham Bridge. **Cpls Andy Chapman** and **Andrew Sheppard** with **Sig Neil McConnel** lumber away with their 35lb loads along the 12.5km route to Strensall Camp. The assault course is completed in 2 min 1 sec giving the team a 30 min lead.

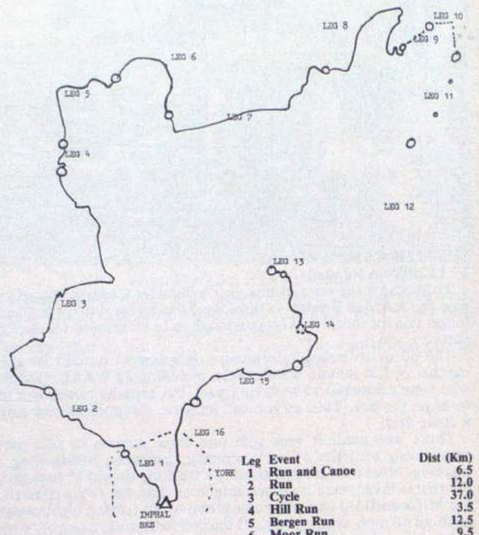
1815 hrs Leg 16—**SSgt (FofS) Nigel Johnson** with **Sig Dave Killgallan** and **John Lewis** are busy trying to work out the possibility of walking the 13km to Imphal Barracks and the finish line but threats of withholding their complimentary Yorkie bars help to change their minds.

1858 hrs At 1858 hrs, 14 hrs 13 mins after the start, **SSgt (FofS) Nigel Johnson** and **Sig Dave Killgallan** cross the finish line closely followed by **Sig John** (who changed the route?) **Lewis**.

2130 hrs The cup is presented, the CO smiles, **SSgt Nick Terry** hands out the beers (Thanks PRI) and a tired but happy team board the luxury 39 seater coach back to Catterick.

So long—and thanks for all the Yorkies.

**Race The Sun 90 Course Route**




| Leg | Event | Dist (Km) |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Run and Canoe | 6.5 |
| 2 | Run | 12.0 |
| 3 | Cycle | 37.0 |
| 4 | Hill Run | 3.5 |
| 5 | Bergen Run | 12.5 |
| 6 | Moor Run | 9.5 |
| 7 | Half Marathon | 21.0 |
| 8 | Mountain Bike | 18.0 |
| 9 | Orienteering | 5.0 |
| 10 | Fell Run | 4.0 |
| 11 | Forest Run | 9.0 |
| 12 | Cycle Orienteering | 30.5 |
| 13 | Swim Lake | 0.5 |
| 14 | Run and Canoe | 11.0 |
| 15 | Bergan Run and Assault Course | 12.4 |
| 16 | Road Run | 13.0 |
| | Total | 204.9Km |



The Winning Team, Race the Sun 90



LCpl Pete Mathews 'Wow! It's really warm'



Capt 'Moralis' Lowe 'where's the finish?'

**EXERCISE SORE FOOT**
**by LCpl Edmondson**

Ex Sore Foot was a charity walk of the Pennine Way, organised by **LCpl Edmondson**, P Troop 1 Sqn.

The Pennine Way runs for over 270 miles of arduous terrain from Edale in Derbyshire to Kirk Yetholm in Scotland, and provides a most challenging walk even for the most experienced of fell walkers. The aim of the exercise was to cover the distance in 10 days and raise money for the Dales School. This is a local school in Morton-on-Swale which caters for children with severe learning difficulties.

To take five novice walkers over the distance in less than 10 days required a back up team consisting of a Safety Vehicle with radio and an admin group.

**Cpl Howells**, a Joint Services Mountain Expedition Leader was in charge of the walkers and **Cpl Jackson** in charge of the communications and manning the Safety Vehicle. Both were to provide valuable advice and safety cover as the walkers proceeded through the hills.

The admin team consisted of **Cpl Lee** and **LCpl Rimmer**, who were to drive ahead of the walkers, set up camp sites, cook and take care of any other admin as and when needed.

After a slight detour by the admin team (via Grimsby?)! **LCpl Rimmer**'s pathfinding ability finally shone through and the whole team assembled in Edale ready for the start.

An early night, and a good night's sleep were needed as the team made a start on the first day. After a very steep climb up to Kinder Scout, the weather deteriorated sharply and as the mist closed in visibility was reduced to 15m.

The bad weather continued for the first three days and the steep hills and boggy ground contributed to the early injuries of **LCpls Daniels, Turner** and **Norris** who were all returned to Unit.

Day four brought brighter weather and a visit from OC Tp **Capt S. J. MacLeod** and some children from the Dales School, who wanted to take part in some of the walk. The less able children walked the nature trail around Malham Tarn accompanied by **Cpl Jackson**. The rest took on the steep climb over Malham Cove helped by **Capt MacLeod, Cpl Howells** and the two remaining walkers **LCpls Maxwell** and **Edmondson**.

By day five **LCpls Maxwell** and **Edmondson** were clearly slowing down under the strain of knee and ankle injuries which meant that a fresh member of the back up team was required every 20km to step up the pace. **Cpl Jackson** eagerly took the bull by the horns and tabbed off carrying the safety equipment and radio. **Cpl Lee** and **LCpl Rimmer** also took their turns despite some bad blisters and even **Cpl Howells** managed to tear himself away from his tea and scones! **Cpl Clarke-Brown** gave up some leave in spite of (or because of) a newly born son and joined the walkers for the last four days as the pressure grew to finish within the allotted time.

Overcoming injuries and bad weather the team completed the walk in the very commendable time of 9 days 13 hours. Ex Sore Foot certainly lived up to it's name but the good humour and excellent team work which soon built up kept the walkers going up through to Scotland.

The finishing team were: **Cpls Howells, Jackson, Lee,** CB **Clarke-Brown, LCpls Rimmer,** 'Robocop' **Maxwell** and **Eddie Edmondson**. The exercise raised £250 for the Dales School.



Ex Sorefoot participants
*Back row:* LCpl Edmundson, Cpl Howells and LCpl Rimmer
*Front row:* Cpl Jackson, LCpl Maxwell and Cpl Lee
*Absent:* Cpl Clarke-Brown

## AN INTRODUCTION TO ROCK CLIMBING
by **Sig Giblin**

Over the period 25-30 May many local heads turned in surprise to see a bright yellow minibus trundling across Wales. Five members of 8 Sig Regt wanted to go climbing and the Adjt, **Capt Simon Lowe** volunteered to take them.

On Saturday the group was introduced to climbing on some easy rocks in Snowdonia. The two Jocks, **Sig Giblin** and **Smith** were complete novices so it was quite an experience for them. The fine weather ensured that shorts were the order of dress and the white bodies slowly changed to a bright pink. Eight small climbs were completed. The next day the group progressed to longer climbs. The first was 230ft. This was followed by a climb of 450ft.

On the Monday the party spent most of the day hill walking across Cader Idris. That evening **Sig Tam Giblin** earned his nickname 'suicidal Bowie fan'. It began with the statement 'I cannot reach the thing' from **Giblin**. 'Take the rope in your hand and hold on' came the calm reply from the Adjutant. 'I can't hold onto both the ledge and the rope'. 'I'll wrap it round my neck' said **Giblin**.

Fortunately the attempt to secure himself to the climbing wall by hanging did not end in disaster. A relieved Adjutant and the rest of the group were in hysterics. 'The funniest incident all week' and **Giblin** still hasn't lived it down.

The final climb of the trip was the most challenging. The rain fell and the wind howled. The soldiers climbed upwards, freezing to death, playing 'I spy' from 200ft. Eventually we reached the summit soaked through. Never mind a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow—how about a mug of coffee at the end of the climb!

A change of clothes and some food and Port Madog was left in peace as the bright yellow minibus headed back to Catterick.

## BSAD WHEELCHAIR MARATHON

On Sunday 29 July, 25 three man teams from 8 Sig Regt, arrived at RAF Catterick for the annual BSAD Marathon. Each Squadron including HQ and TTS had entered teams, making the largest entry in the field of 65 teams from the Garrison.

By 1100 hrs runners and riders joined up, many in fancy dress. At approx 1120 hrs the runners and their jockeys' lined up on the starting grid, tyres well heated training shoes itching to start.

The race consisted of two short laps of one and a half miles (ending with an attempted take off on the main runway), followed by 12 laps of 2.2 miles around the perimeter of the airfield. The 'pushers' swopped around running once every three laps.

Someway back on the starting grid 3 Sqn's six teams were awaiting the gun. First away was **SSM Clive Young** wondering who had volunteered him for this marathon, and worrying about the effect on the adjacent A1 traffic. When he tore down the runway the last thing he or his team (**SSgt Jim Shiels** and **Cpl Rev Revill**) saw was anyone on the motorway trying to get out of their cars whilst moving, thinking they had stopped! It was quite obvious as the temperature rose, and laps passed that lying in 42nd position the Cadre team were real contenders to win. After several more laps, (including being lapped), the track, wind, flies and too much(?) training was hampering the progress of the Cadre team. **Johnny**, their disabled jockey even offered to wheel his own chair (probably thought it would be quicker). **SSgt Jim Shiels** offered to swap places with **Johnny**, and secretly tried wheelchairs during his rest laps. The 3 Sqn Cadre team finally finished in '40th'ish' position.

A good day was had by all competitors and spectators. The Regiment won the honour of first place with the 2 Sqn team of **Cpls Baisdon, Strickland** and **LCpl Knapman** in a time of under two and a half hours. 3 Sqn's **Sig Mick Knowles, Hugo Deburgh** and **Dicky Dickin** came third, 1 Sqn's **Sig Killgallon, Jones** and **Jordan** were fourth and the Gurkha team fifth.



The winning team approaching the finish line

Congratulations must also go to the 2 Sqn WRAC team of **Ptes Howes, Hafizi** and **Gill**, who were awarded the Spirit of the Day trophy. **Pte Howes** not only pushed the wheelchair and its sitter around every third lap, but also ran the remainder—with the result that she completed the marathon distance. Well done and thank-you to all who took part and contributed to the success of the day.

## MAY ATHLETICS DAY

On 26 May the Regimental athletics and Tug of War competitions took place at the garrison stadium. The men competed for their Squadrons and after a hard fought battle, 1 Sqn won the competition, beating HQ/TTS by two points. The girls competed individually with **Pte Hall** displaying her skills in the 100m, 200m and the Javelin. **Ptes Watkins, Huntingdon** and **Russell** and **Lt Nisbet** also all won events.

In the Regimental Tug of War Competition the teams again represented their Squadrons. It soon emerged that the two strongest teams were 1 Sqn and HQ/TTS. The latter team were well practiced and consisted mainly of the Sergeants' Mess team. Honour was at stake! The final was held in the centre of the stadium. After two very long pulls the 1 Sqn team was victorious. Well done to all who participated.

## WRAC SPORT

In recent months our WRAC members have done us proud. They won the Group 5 rounders, swimming and athletics, thus qualifying for the Army finals where they achieved a joint third place in the athletics, and came fifth in the swimming. The WRAC also came second in the Group 5 tennis and third in the volleyball.

Congratulations are extended to **WPte Smart** who broke the AWSS record for the 66 yards breaststroke and was selected to represent the Army in the combined services competition in August.

## OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

**Sig McConnell** has recently completed his Tele Op (Tg) course and received the award for outstanding student. Throughout his course he has been an excellent student and consequently passed with the very high standard demanded for the award.

**Sig McConnell**, however, has hardly been just studying. During his eight months in Catterick he has participated in the Cheviot 2,000 race, the Race the Sun Competition, represented the Unit in athletics and raised over £300, by a Charity Parachute Jump. He has also qualified as a Tug-of-War coach, been canoeing and helped out at the local Scout Group. A fine example to both his peers and seniors.

**LCpl Scanlon** has also gained an outstanding student award. He has achieved excellent results in his basic technicians course as well as coping with being a father. Congratulations and best wishes to both soldiers in their future careers.

## EMBASSY EXCELLENCE AWARD

**Cpl M. Pounsett** was granted an Embassy Award for Excellence in Challenging Sports and Pursuits. The award was a result of his outstanding contribution to dinghy sailing whilst serving with 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

In 1989 **Cpl Pounsett** was appointed Assistant Principal of the Mohnesee Sailing Club. He was responsible for supervising dinghy courses (which involved over 1,000 students), all regattas held at the club and the maintenance of a fleet of 70 dinghies. Despite a heavy workload he has found time to represent the Army and his Regiment in major regattas.

**Cpl Pounsett** is now on an upgrading course in his trade as telecommunication technician (systems). On behalf of the BAOR sports board the CO, **Col M. J. Ridlington,** presented him with an Embassy medal, certificate and a redeemable voucher for £150 to purchase sports equipment. **Cpl Pounsett** was congratulated on his hard work and achievements.



Cpl Pouncett with his course after receiving the Embassy Excellence Award



## GUIDE DOG PUPPY—HONEY
by **Lt M. P. Nisbet WRAC**

Honey has now completed the puppy walking stage of her training and she is now off to Middlesbrough to start the next phase of her training as a guide dog.

I would like to pass on my thanks to everyone who has helped in the training of Honey, it is much appreciated and hopefully one day I will be able to report that she is a fully qualified guide dog.



Lt Nisbet WRAC with Guide Dog Puppy—Honey

## CORPORALS' MESS LIFE

The Corporals' Mess is a thriving club. It is run on the lines of all Messes and holds dinners and other formal functions. The Supervising Officer is **Maj John Turner** and the Presiding Warrant Officer is **WO2 (SSM) Dick Hepenstall**. The committee consists of a PMC, **Cpl 'Jacko' Jackson**, a PEC **Cpl Cheryl Donnelly WRAC** and 10 members. They are all selected from the cadre and students.

## CPL DONACHIE BEM RETIRES

Recently a ladies Dinner Night was held in the Corporals' Mess, to dine out **Cpl John Donachie BEM** and his wife **Jean**. The dinner took place in Vimy C dining hall followed by entertainment in the Mess. **Cpl J. S. Donachie BEM** is known in Catterick Garrison as the Assistant Manager of the stables of Catterick Army Saddle Club. He has had a long and varied career.

He enlisted in August 1958 and underwent his basic training in Catterick. He still recalls his first taste of Army discipline when he was caught red-handed playing cards and the only one with money on the table. He was given a choice of digging the garden or going to jail. 'I said I would do the garden as I love gardening but stood back in amazement when given a dinner fork! Laughs from the lads and backache for me'.

After basic training **Cpl Donachie** was posted to Ripon to complete his driving course and them to 38 Engr Regt. He volunteered to serve in North Africa and spent three years in Tripoli. In 1962 he went to Blandford and did various jobs from dispatch rider to instructing on radio. A shortage of married quarters precipitated his leaving the forces and he joined the TAVR.

In 1975 because he could not settle in civilian life, **Cpl Donachie** re-enlisted. He was posted to BAOR and served with 28(BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) and 7 Sig Regt. In January 1984, he was awarded the BEM for his excellent work as Provost Corporal in 7 Sig Regt.

At 8 Sig Regt **Cpl Donachie** was MT NCO, and then Corporals' Mess Manager until NAAFI took over in 1988. He moved to 2 Sqn and then to the Stables where he is at present. **Cpl Donachie** left the Corps in August after 32 years. 'I will be leaving a lot of good memories and friends but—that's life'.



Cpl Donachie saying goodbye. He is pictured with WCpl Donnally, WO2 (SSM) Heppenstall and Mrs Jean Donachie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*SETTING NEW HIGH STANDARDS IN DISTANCE EDUCATION*

# 9 Sig Regt
# BFPO 58

**THE REGIMENT SWEEPS THE BOARD**

On Wednesday 20 June the Army Individual and Minor Unit Athletics Championships took place in Dhekelia. For the second year running the Regiment won the ladies team competition and 1 Sqn, runner-up last year, won the mens competition. This year 2 Sqn were the runners-up in the team competition making it a clean sweep for the Regiment.

The team competitions provided a nail biting finish. With the positions being so close the final scores from the relay meant that 3 or 4 mens teams could clinch first place depending on their relay performance. The 1 Sqn 4 × 400m relay team, **Sgts Garrett, Holmes, Cpls Barker** and **MacNamara** produced an outstanding performance, won their race and consequently took first place overall. Similarly in the ladies competition the outcome of the relay was to decide the overall winners. Again the 4 × 100m relay team, **Sgt McBride, Cpls Blyth, Jensen** and **LCpl Thornton** produced a convincing win to take first place overall.



The Ladies Team
*Back row (left to right):* Cpls Blyth, Harrison, Best and Thornton
*Front row (left to right:* LCpls Jukes, Milburn, Sgt McBride and Lt McAteer




1 Sqn Mens Team
*(Left to right):* Cpl Tait, Maj Nicol (Sqn Comd), SSgt Abbott and Sgt Holmes
*Kneeling:* Cpls Barker, McNamara, Sgt Garratt and Cpl Grant (RE)

In the individual competition members of the Regiment took away a grand total of 17 medals between them. The mens 400m hurdles was a close run with **LCpl Netherwood** overcoming **Cpl Barker** for first place. In the ladies events **Cpl Blyth** took first place in the 100m and second in the 200m, whilst **Cpl Jensen** won both the 800m and 1,500m. Overall the Regiment produced 10 winning performances thus gaining 10 gold medals. Consequently 17 members of the Regiment were selected for the Inter Service Championships on 27 June in which the Army mens and WRAC teams both won convincing victories.

**ALL CHANGE IN TM TROOP**

It is a long time since TM Tp appeared in this magazine. During the last year all the Foremen's posts have changed and **WO1 Royce Wilson** and **SSgt Ted Edwards** have been joined by **SSgt Wardle**, fresh from his course. Welcome to **SSgt Dave Hizzett** from FI, **Cpl Shaky Patterson** on his return from Belize and to **Pte Cheryl Bradford** the new Troop Clerk. We are now capable of anything! Congratulations are in order for **SSgt Dick Taylor** on promotion to WO2 and to **WLCpls Michelle Newhouse** and **Liz Mangan** on promotion to Cpl. Congratulations to **Sgt Steve** and **Lee Swain** on the birth of their son **Daniel** who arrived with more hair on his head than his dad!

**QUICK THINKING**

On Tuesday 29 May 1990 four members of the Regiment witnessed a serious road traffic accident in Ayia Napa. The accident involved a local Cypriot and a tourist both of whom were on motorbikes and suffered serious head and leg injuries.

Due to the quick action on the part of **LCpls Hands, Fisher** and **O'Rourke** and **J. T. W. Pass**, all of 2 Sqn, the emergency services were quickly alerted. Whilst waiting for the ambulance to arrive they administered first aid helped by **Sgt Watton** who arrived on the scene shortly afterwards.

The soldiers realised that there was petrol leaking from one of the damaged motorbikes and removed the bikes from the scene. But for the quick thinking and prompt action of the members of the Regiment, the injured would undoubtedly have been in grave danger.



Changing faces of TM Tp
*Back row (left to right):* SSgt Andrews, WCpl Best, Capt Morley, LCpl Ceaser, SSgt Reid, Sgts Turner, Garrett, Cpl Green, Sgts Yeomans, Holmes and Cpl Harper
*Front row (left to right):* Sig Tebay, WPte Bradford, WSgt Boddie, WO1 (FofS) Wilson, Sgt Barr and Cpl Appleby

**EXERCISE HANGING FOLLY**

Ex Hanging Folly 90 was an adventure training day for RHO Tp at Cape Greco, organised by **LCpl Stewart Harper**. The Instructors **LCpls Dave 'Scan' Scanlan** and **Darren Anglesea** set off early on a Sunday morning to set up two abseils for the avid adventurers. On arrival they found a hawks nest halfway down the cliff so they relocated the abseils at the other side of the Cape where the cliff is vertical—if not an overhang.

The remaining members of the group arrived around 1000 hrs with **LCpl Harper** leading the way in a Rover containing the drinks, and barbecue in the corner. On arrival it was a bit windy but the instructors got underway with their safety brief and then it was time to find a guinea-pig.



After much humming and hawing the rest of the group volunteered **LCpl Harper** when he had his back turned, on the grounds that he organised the exercise, therefore he should test the rope.

After cautiously making his way down the rock face and then taking the long walk back to the top of the Cape he found the rest of the group had not followed on but wanted him to go down yet again to make doubly sure. Finally everyone was happy, kitted out with their harnesses and began to descend the Cape.

**Mrs Goodall** did extremely well to overcome her fear of heights and with bags of encouragement made her way cautiously down the abseil. What's more as soon as she had made her way back to the top she went straight to the rope for another go.

It was just after this that **Sgt Ian Preston** decided to do his daring bit and go down forwards! With a bemused crowd of onlookers he sheepishly made his way to the edge, and then he was gone only to reappear at the top half an hour later with a big grin on his face.

With storm clouds gathering on the horizon it was decided to get the barbecue underway before it was too late. The Master Chef **WO2 Tommy Campbell** did the honours on the cooking front, closely watched by **LCpl Jan Abbott**.

After some well earned refreshment and watching **Sgt Preston** tuck into a 4ft long brattie, we called it a day as the weather was closing in fast. All in all an excellent day was had by everyone who attended. everyone who attended.



Sgt Ian Preston taking the daring approach


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## 11 Sig Regt
## Catterick Garrison

**NCO TRAINING WING PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Capt R. A. Licence** |
| **Inf Adv** | **Capt C. J. Dockerty PWO** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 M. Chapman** |
| **QMSI** | **WO2 A. Hoensch** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt N. Nicolson** |
| **Clerk** | **Mrs H. Waites** |

February 1990 saw the end of an era with the departure of the old management **Capt Peter Whitehead, WO2 (SSM) Fred Share** and **WO2 (QMSI) Al Parry** and the arrival of the new in the youthful guise of **Capt Rick Licence** (a former SSI Drill) as OC; **WO2 (SSM) Martin Chapman** who has still not received disturbance allowance despite crossing the road from 8 Sig Regt; and **WO2 (QMSI) Allen Hoensch** from 35 Sig Regt (V) whose career reads like the DCI on courses. Both the OC and QMSI returning to their old hunting grounds for a second tour in the Regiment.

The refurbishment of the Cinema resulted in the official opening of the Durham Hall on 23 March by the Chairman of Durham County Council. Complete with the latest audio visual equipment and soft, tiered seats, students can now expect to be soothed to sleep in comfort!

**RSDCC NO 246**

RSDCC No 246 which started on 18 February was very under-subscribed, with only 19 out of a possible 40 in attendance. The next four weeks could only be rosy for the instructors and more testing for the students. This certainly seemed to be the case as before the first week was over the course was further reduced to 16. However these 16 all managed to make the grade, encouraged; some would say by the ranting and raving of **SSgt 'Chippy' Monk** and his crew of **Sgts Glen Maycock, 'Doc' Savage** and **Cpl 'Smudge' Smith**. Arriving back from the final exercise the trials and tribulations of the course were soon forgotten as the final command task loomed, namely bending the ears of the DS in the Amenities Centre.

The evening included the speeches and presentations as usual with the OC presenting **LCpl** 'Jack' **Frost** with his award as top student; congratulations also went to **LCpl Seddon** with a **'B'** grading and oscar for his minor epic on the DS, and **LCpl Thorpe** who came third. The final presentation went to **Sgt Glen Maycock** following his posting to 1 Sqn. This was his only award since joining the Wing 16 courses ago. For some reason or other the section shield has always eluded his grasp—understandable perhaps for a member of the Manchester United Supporters Club!

**THE CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!**

Recently 8 Sig Regt threw down the gauntlet to all comers regarding the total length of service and number of LE officers serving in their Regiment.

We feel that this challenge is worthy of note in *The Wire* and that 11 Sig Regt has accepted this challenge and is proud to declare that we can beat both criteria. In the Regiment we have 11 serving LE Officers with a combined length of 289 years' adult service.

We would like to have accepted any prizes that might have been offered, but we cannot be positive that we have won! There may be another Unit somewhere with even more 'Crusties'!



*Photo by Joseph Krieger*

11 Sig Regt 'Crusties'

*Back row (left to right):* Capts Charlie Manning, Dave Hornsby, Majs Ron Davies, John Worrall, Capts Gerry Whelan and John Illingworth

*Front row (left to right):* Capt Rick Licence, Majs Nick Nicolls, Malcolm Robinson, Capts Geoff Nelson and Colin Miller



*(Photograph by Sgt John Laffey.)*

RSDCC No 246

*Rear Row (Left to Right):* LCpls Bartlett, Ashfield, Ledger, Barnes, Mather, Upjohn, Frost and Seddon

*Centre Row (Left to Right):* LCpl Tipple, Buffery, Cpl Cole, LCpl Thorpe, Cpl Kay, LCpl Wakefield, Cpl Ferguson and LCpl Swithenbank

*Front Row (Left to Right):* Sgt Maycock (Instructor), WO2 (SSM) Chapman, Capt C. J. Dockerty (PWO), Capt R. A. Licence (Royal Signals), SSgt (SQMS) Nicolson and Sgt Savage (Instructor)



**ARMY APPRENTICES COLLEGE**
**HARROGATE**

# The Visit of The Colonel In Chief to a Summer Graduation Parade at The Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, Friday 3 August 1990



The Signal Officer in Chief is presented to HRH The Princess Royal



The Commandant Col K. P. Burke escorts Her Royal Highness to the parade ground



HRH talks to one of the Apprentices



AT RSM Davis at the start of the parade



The Master of Signals has a word



The Colonel-in-Chief inspects Bradley Sqn



The Royal Dais



What a scorcher!



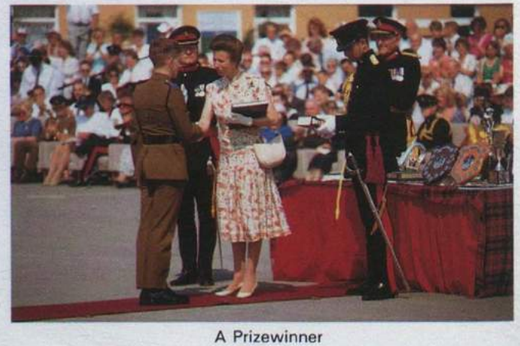
March past in slow time . . .



. . . and in quick time



The Band



A Prizewinner



On the way to the church



And finally off to the reception

## VIEWS ON RSSSC NO 294/295

**by Sgt Paul Youd, 8 Sig Regt**

On a sunny Sunday afternoon in May, 31 members of the Corps, good and true, assembled at 11 Sig Regt for a five week journey into the unknown, blissfully unaware of what lay ahead of them.

It is always disconcerting to be thrown off the square on the initial No 2 Dress Inspection, ask **Sgt Taff Wilce** of Berlin HQ and Sig Regt if you don't believe me, but **Sgt H. Glean** of 2 Div Sig Regt went one better by not even getting on the square in the first place. Was he so well turned out that **WO2 (SSM) Martin Chapman** was forced to excuse him the pleasure of meeting the RSM? Not so, in fact he didn't have a No 2 Dress at all and thus stood out as different from the rest of us.

Then the BFT was upon us and we were congratulated by the Garrison Commander, **Brig Roberts** on being the first course in a long time to have no failures on the intake BFT.

In the afternoon after the written test, we were divided into sections, I had the (mis)fortune of being paired off with **Sgt Nige 'Dave' Kirkby** of 608 Sig Tp, who immediately set the tone for the rest of the course by repeatedly trying to load his SA80 mag into the pistol grip of the weapon.

The following day we went out on the Square and tried a bit of drill, under the auspices of **Sgts 'Mase' Mason** and **Bob '4B's' Banner.** After an hour or so of this, it became apparent that **Nige Kirkby** was not happy with his recent retrade from Tech to ADP Spec and is now designated by Records as Tele Op (TARMAC), as the swagger that he put into swinging his arms in slow time and other such beauties left him second only to Jonesy of Dad's Army fame in the annals of drill history.

The first of the early morning jobs was an interesting, if slightly taxing, addition to the days events as we went round and round a hill somewhere in North Yorkshire, but what was amazing was that you can run round a hill, get back to the place from which you started and have gone uphill the whole way.

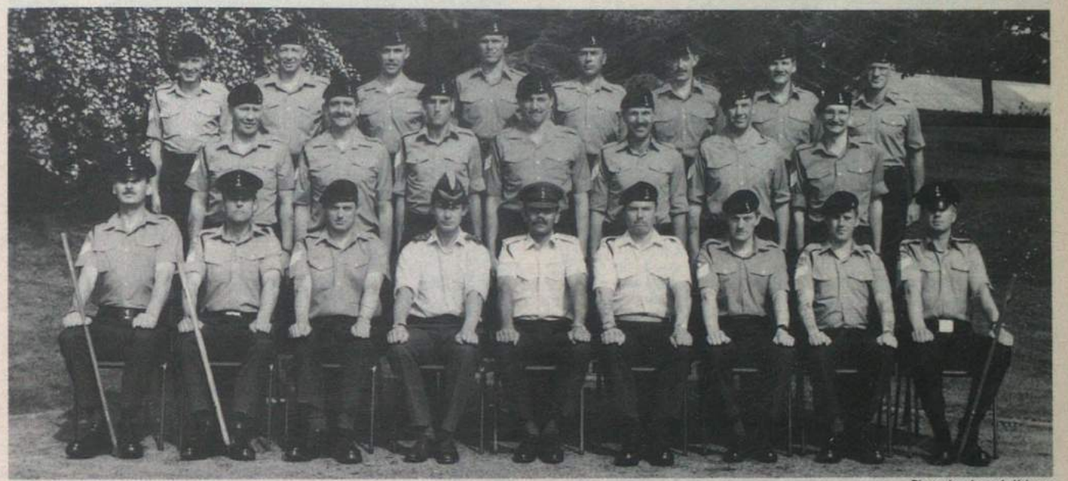


*Photo by Joseph Krieger*

RSSSC No 294

*Rear Row (Left to Right):* Sgts Street, Youd, McIntyre, Brown, Harris, Wilce, Wharton and Andrews
*Centre Row (Left to Right):* Sgts Fisher, Isles, Moye, Bain, Foster, Smales and Pulman
*Front Row (Left to Right):* Sgts Barry, Mason, Deegan, Capts Dockerty, R. A. Licence, WO2 (QMSI) Hoensch, SSgt (SQMS) Nicolson, Sgts Smith and Banner



*Photo by Joseph Krieger*

RSDCC No 295

*Rear Row (Left to Right):* Sgts Dale, Barclay, Thomson, Gaston, Kirkby, Byrne and James
*Centre Row (Left to Right):* Sgts Brealey, Dennis, Tolton, Glean, Wilcock, Clarke and Carter
*Front Row (Left to Right):* Sgts Barry, Mason, Deegan, Capts Dockerty, R. A. Licence, WO2 (QMSI) Hoensch, SSgt (SQMS) Nicolson, Sgts Smith and Banner

As the days came and went, we got into the routine and actually started to enjoy it. Soon Shakedown was upon us and we went for a three day bimble around Gandale Training Area. During this phase I received my first blinding experience on the evening of the Night Visual Aids demo. I was wearing the PNG's (Passive Night Goggles), straining my eyes trying to pick up a landrover which was driving up and down in the darkness to our front, when **Mase**, who was standing next to me, put up a mini-flare which had the same effect as a nuclear burst on my peepers.

We went straight into the night Navex which turned into a day Navex for **Sgts Taff Wilce** and **Pete Street**, who got sightly disorientated, in fact to such a degree that they used the 'there's a human foot print—follow it' method.

Week four, the test week, arrived and the course showed a good grasp of the classroom work which they had been taught. On the recognition test, despite oblique hints from **Sgts Scouse Deegan** and **Scouse Wharton** of 14 Sig Regt still managed to confuse a Chieftain Tank with a Harrier.

Then it was RSMs' Inspection—the sequel. **Sgt Tony Gaston** of 206 Sig Sqn feeling the wrath of **WO1 (RSM) Douglas** to such a degree that he was asked to go and stand next to 'H' who still hadn't got a No 2 Dress. **Sgt Gary Foster** of 14 Sig Regt was asked if he would mind showing his boots again as the RSM could not see his face in them, even with an image intensifier.

Then, seemingly as if we had just started, it was the dreaded Warcop. I drew the short straw and was SSM for the first day, it turned out to be even shorter when **Sgt Nige Kirkby** was made OC for the day, but it passed well and we did OK. Everything was good until the tab-assault course-tab on Thursday, when the teddy bears started to fly, mine probably the furthest as I threatened to shoot **Nige** on the live section attack the next day. However, it was not to be, as he was taken to hospital after the tab with a bad case of stomach cramps, he must have drunk one of **Sgt Phil Harris**'s, of (AA Coll Harrogate), brews. Even without **Nige** the section attacks were good, the QMSI getting the experience! that he had been asking for all week.

We moved back to Catterick to await our final results. Congratulations to **Sgt** (now SSgt) **Chris Moye** of 13 Sig Regt as overall top student, **Sgt Baggsby Bain** of 16 Sig Regt second and **Sgt Tony Gaston** fourth (top student 295). I was third.

We all assembled in the Mess for the final Regimental Dinner, an excellent repast. There is no truth in the rumour that the Script of **Sgt Chris Moyes'** speech is available with a free binder offer (yes it was quite long). Thanks to **Sgt Neil James** of 1 ADSR for the jokes and mickey take of the 'Koo-emm-ess-oi'.

All that remains is to thank **Capt Rick Licence**, OC NCO Trg Wg, **WO2 (QMSI) Alan Hoensch, WO2 (SSM) Martin Chapman** and the instructors; **Sgts** (now SSgt) **'Scouse' Deegan, 'Mase' Mason, Bob Banner, Clive Smith** and **Stretch Barry**, for an enjoyable experience.

PS. When you guys from the course are doing your 'wheneyes', remember to add two miles and 10lbs onto each run.



All together now



Are you sure Lt Cubbin said it was moisturising cream?

**3 SQUADRON IRON TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp OC** | **Lt P. S. Cubbin** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Cauldwell** |
| **Tp Cpls** | **Cpl Brown** |
| | **Cpl Wallace** |
| | **Cpl Lockwood and** |
| | **Cpl Pegg** |

After the last pass off, the Troop thought it was due for a quiet time, however from February to June it has run Pupil Work Experience Courses (PWEC). Children aged between 14 and 18 years attended the courses, five days for boys, and six days for girls. In total we managed to train 400 pupils over 10 courses.

Even though the courses were for school children they were treated in exactly the same way as Junior Soldiers and few allowances made. The training they received was the same as an early stage Junior, but using the cadet version of the SA80 rifle instead of the SLR.

The courses raised a huge amount of public interest. The Regiment was visited by both the BBC and ITV, most national newspapers and numerous radio stations.

The students seemed to enjoy all aspects of the training even the early morning runs! The Squadron has received many letters from the schools thanking us and saying how much the pupils attitudes towards discipline have changed and the way they keep saying 'two three'! A large number of the pupils themselves have also written thanking us for our time. Many thanks to all those who gave their time to make the PWEC courses successful.

The Troop has now got 49 Junior Leaders in training so life has become even busier. Particularly as it was decided to move accommodation from Helles Barracks up to Vimy 'C'. Once the decision had been made all the Troops got involved loading stores onto vehicles etc. Even after the initial sorting out we're still finding other Troops' kit in our stores?

The 49 new recruits are now only just in their second week of training so are settling in, but already working in earnest, towards their saluting test with expert guidance from the cadre. The Junior Leaders are learning all the time for example; **J Sig Newton** has found out it is not a good idea to break dance on bumpered floor, **J Sig James** has found out that the only way to get to the White Shops before being badged is to break his glasses, **J Sig Powell** now knows that he can get unusual expenditures, **J Sig Baber** realises now that bumpering the floor with his forehead is not a good thing. The whole Troop is now looking forward to the next 40 weeks in training.

Congratulations go to **Sgt Yogi Cauldwell** for passing his NBC course, it is rumoured he now wears his respirator in bed, **Cpl Joe Lockwood** for passing his drill course, he has been spotted measuring up his garden with a pace stick, and **Cpl 'DM' Brown** for passing three subjects on his EPC.





*Photo by Joseph Krieger*

Ulster Tp

*Rear Row (Left to Right):* JSig Wild, JLCpl Cannon, JSig Gorton, Longthorne, Smith 180, Gair, Harrison, Hutson and Richardson
*Centre Row (Left to Right):* JSig McLean, Aaronovitch, Hart, Smith 589, Horsfall, Dover, JLCpls Wood 328, Webb, JSig Malcolm and JLCpl McDonald
*Front Row (Left to Right):* Cpls A. Gregory, S. M. Lockwood, Sgt E. T. Strefford, Lt S. O. France, Maj S. J. Smith, WO2 (SSM) M. G. P. Bohanan, Cpls G. Sharp, M. Pegg and JLCpl Wood 370

**ULSTER TROOP**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp Comd** | **Lt S. O. France** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Strefford** |
| **Tp Cpls** | **Cpl Pegg** |
| | **Cpl Lockwood and** |
| | **Cpl Sharp** |

The Troop has said farewell to **Cpl C. Martin**, a well respected member of the Troop, and welcomed **Cpls Lockwood** and **Sharp**. **Sgt D. P. M. Strefford** filled in his fire trench in Ulster Tp and skirmished across to NCO Trg Wing where we believe they will be constantly chemically defending themselves just as long as he can get the gas. The Troop started off with 32 of what looked like the 'Hippies Gathering', 'goodness me don't you lot look wonderfully smashing wandering around camp with trousers which were designed upside down and hooded shirts'! We ended with 21 passing off in June looking like real soldiers! During the training we saw **Sig** (Big) **Wood** and (Little) **Wood** promoted to J LCpl which didn't solve the problem of who was who. It was solved towards the end of their training when one of them was promoted to J Cpl, (I think we promoted the correct one!) **Sig** (Yo-Yo) **Cannon** was promoted to J Cpl two or three times and by the skin of his teeth made it to J Sgt. Ulster Tp, the very last Junior Soldier Troop, disappeared into the distance in a cloud of CS. We welcome **Sgt Steve Dickson** in time for the new Ulster Tp of Junior leaders due to form in October.

**KOHIMA TROOP**

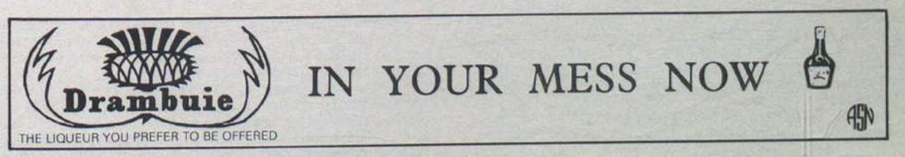
On Monday 9 July Kohima Tp formed to train the new intake of Junior Leaders, the first to be trained in Catterick in many years. The Troop has taken up residence in Vimy 'C' Lines, 8 Sig Regt and got off to a happy start by congratulating **Cpl Mick O'Brien** on his selection for promotion to Sgt.

Other Troop Cadre are: **Lt I. L. Meers, Sgt Edminson, Cpls Brine, Sharp** and **Giles**.

The Juniors number 47 and have already been nicknamed 'Tall Troop' due to the 17 who are 6ft tall or over, up to a height of 6ft 6in! They come from various parts of the country and with equally varied backgrounds, many with parents who have served in the Army, one a Lieutenant Colonel in the RAOC and an RSM in the Irish Guards and an RSM in the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment. Also represented are sons of parents in The Coldstream Guards, RCT, WRAC and some in Royal Signals!

Although a background due to having been in the Army Cadets or Military Schools influenced some, it is worth mentioning that some joined after having attended the Pupil Work Experience Courses run here in Catterick by 3 Sqn earlier this year and at 104 Air Defence Regt, Newport.

The Troop is now settled in and working hard towards the Cap Badge Competition and looking forward to a week's external leadership training at Dent towards the end of the first term.



# 13 Sig Regt
# BFPO 42

**RHQ**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **CO** | **Lt Col A. M. Wallace** |
| **2IC** | **Maj G. R. Elliot MBE** |
| **Adjt** | **Capt J. S. Lugg** |
| **AAdjt** | **Lt J. Collis** |
| **RSM** | **WO1 (RSM) Dobson** |
| **Trg YofS** | **WO1 (YofS) McMahon** |
| **Chief Clerk** | **WO1 (ORQMS) Barbe** |

**RHQ**
**REGIMENTAL FETE**

The Fete at Birgelen on Saturday 9 June was a huge success, despite the weather being a little on the cold side. The Troop provided lots of exciting stalls but the favourite was obviously the Ducking stool where many Officers, Warrant Officers and SNCO's took the maximum of dips. It is believed the **Maj Jim Doherty MBE** took the most. Like it or not the beer stall took the most money making a clear DM1,500 profit. Miss Carlsberg made her presence felt by posing at the Army Air Corps and local Fire Brigade displays. A memorable day, lots of money made for charity—well done to everyone who was involved in making it a success.

**HOCKEY**

The Regiment has just concluded a very successful season of hockey by winning the RCZ 2nd Division by a clear 11 points, winning the RCZ Army six-a-side and just being knocked out of the BAOR six-a-side on penalty flicks in the Quarter Finals. Next season we move up to the 1st Division to play among the professionals.



RCZ Six-a-Side Hockey Champions
The attached photograph shows the winning RCZ six-a-side team
*Back row:* Sgts Sam Street, Dave Piggott and SSgt John Kennedy
*Front row:* WO2 Steve Young, SSgt Chris Talbot, WO2 Mick Barbe and LCpl Smudge Smith

**ANGLING**

The Regimental Anglers have had a fine start to the season, having already qualified to compete in the BAOR finals in Denmark. In form Anglers are **Capt George Stubbings, WO2 Tony Lunney** and **SSgt Robbie Robinson** with **LCpl Dave Harrison** pushing them hard. With the BAOR, RCZ league and RCZ knock out competition still to come, just watch this space!

**1 SQUADRON**
**HOTEL TROOP EXERCISE THEIR FREEDOM RIGHTS**

Hotel Tp has been stationed in the Kreis of Luechow Dannenberg since 1974. During these 16 years it has earned the trust and friendship of the local population and developed a close relationship with the Stadt of Dannenberg.

The winning of the Wilkinson Sword of Peace in 1983 and the granting of the Freedom of the Town to the Troop in 1984 is evidence of this.

Hotel Tp exercises its right to march through the streets of Dannenberg 'with swords drawn, bayonets fixed and drums beating' every even year. This year's parade was commanded by the OC, **Capt Bert Appleton** who presented the Troop to the Reviewing Officer, **Brig Cordingley**, Commander Soltau Garrison. The Brigadier was accompanied by **Herr Predoel**, the Burgermeister of Stadt Dannenberg. Music for the parade was provided by the band of the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards who provided a short concert for the town's people as the Troop marched off.

Immediately following the parade the CO of the Regiment, **Lt Col Alan Wallace** hosted 200 guests from the local community and supporting Units at a cocktail party. **Brig Cordingley** made two presentations, a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **Cpl David Earnshaw RPC** and a certificate to mark 12 years meritorious service to the British Forces to **Herr Udo Bauer**, a driver in Hotel Tp.



Hotel Tp marching through Dannenberg

**SAFE DRIVING DAY**

In May the Troop received instructions to see what contribution it could make to this year's safe driving campaign. **LCpl 'Chalky' White** produced an outline plan for a families day out based around a competition. The plan grew and grew and almost everyone attended and enjoyed a day packed with a wide variety of events, all with an emphasis on safety on the roads.

A competition was organised which brought together two teams one captained by the OC, **Capt Bert Appleton** and the other by the SSM, **WO2 Mark Wright-Jones**. Each team member had to complete two of the eight events which included: parallel parking, judging the speed, first works parade and straight line driving.

There was also an individual competition which tested all aspects of manoeuvring and judgement and which both soldiers and wives could enter. In addition, **LCpl White** organised the BFG Skid Car for several demonstrations and to give people advice on driving in adverse conditions. The German Civil Police gave a display of their patrol car.

The day was a tremendous success due to the hard work put in by all the helpers. Everyone learned something about road safety and the SSM learnt that even a Qualified Testing Officer fails the tick test when under pressure!

The winners were **WO2 Wright-Jones'** team, **Sgt 'Snowy' Snowball** in the individual male and **Mrs Jane Appleton** in the individual female competition (but who finished third overall and seven places above her husband?—keep cycling boss).

**4 ST HELENS SCOUT GROUP**
**by LCpl Forshaw, H Troop**

I have been a member of the 4 St Helens Scout Group for over 10 years. For the past four years I have been helping out as a leader when I can although this has become more difficult since 1987 when I joined the Army.

The last time I went to my home town I discovered that the Scout Group was planning to go to Walesby Scout Camp, Nottingham for a week. Having obtained some leave I volunteered my services as an additional leader to the Scout Group.

The first day consisted of travelling across the Pennines to the camp site and setting up our 'home' for the next week. That evening we planned the activities and answered many questions from the younger scouts. The activities planned included archery, swimming, climbing and abseiling, shooting and the assault course, which I was particularly looking forward to. As it turned out, we managed to fit in orienteering and canoeing which were enjoyed by everyone.



The camp was a tremendous success with all of the scouts gaining valuable experience in a wide variety of activities. Unfortunately, their learning experiences with preparing food were all tested out on me and so I was glad to get back to BAOR cooking!




LCpl Forshaw with five of the happy scouts from 4 St Helens Scout Gp

**3 SQUADRON**
**VISITORS**

The large number of visits to the Squadron has included a visit from **Rear Admiral M. Harris ACDS.**

**ATHLETICS**

Preparations for the Berlin Brigade Minor Units Athletics Competition began with an inter-watch competition in March. This was very well supported by the Squadron and the pessimism over recently posted gladiators was reversed. The winning watch was D Watch in a close run competition.

The main competition was on Saturday 2 June. Much juggling of manpower released our best team from working commitments. Opposition from within the Brigade was underestimated and the Squadron was only able to salvage fourth place out of seven behind a very strong Berlin HQ and Sig Regt. Notable performances included **Cpl** (now Sgt) **Mo Sudell** winning the 400m hurdles, **LCpl Rob Jones** winning a very close run 100m and **Sgt Paul Dunn** runner-up in the triple jump. Intensive training for next year's competition has already begun.

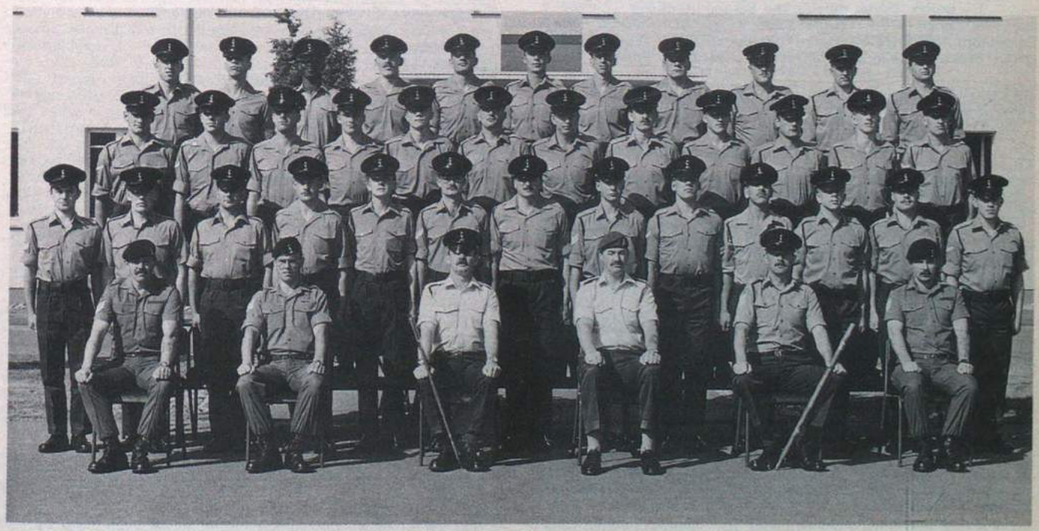
**HOCKEY**

In Berlin the hockey season is divided into two halves—Indoors and Outdoors. All Units (major and minor) compete in one league and the winners qualify for entry into the BAOR KO Cup. Our season started on a high as we fought and won the Berlin Sixes (Plate) Competition, and continued with only one defeat. In spite of this the Squadron team managed to beat off all comers and retained the Berlin Hockey League Winners title for the second year running.

Having qualified for the BAOR KO Competition, and being current holders, much was expected of the team. 10 Fd Wksps, our first opponents, proved worthy adversaries and after a hard fought match were defeated 1—0. 12 Armd Wksps who we were drawn against in the quarter final proved to be our downfall: a better equipped team, who, following a bitter fight, won by 2—0. (There's always next year!) The culmination of the season was the tour of Berlin by the Regimental team. Two days of splendid hockey together with social engagements ended an enjoyable season.



3 Sqn Hockey Team
Players: WO1 Dave Kent, WO2 Ellis Page, SSgts Dave Cawkwell, Yogi Yoeman, Sgts Ewen Hall, Jimmy Spiers, Paul Dunn, Cpl Oz McConnon, LCpls Steve Rushen, Guy Farmer, Rob Thomson, Dave Bell and Sig Gaz Hepburn



Royal Signals Detachment Commanders Course No 3

# 16 Sig Regt
# BFPO 35

**RHQ TROOP**

Here in busy RHQ we bade farewell to **WO2 (ORQMS) John Boyd** on his promotion and posting to 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. Our new Chief Clerk is **WO2 Clyde Atherley** and we wish him and his wife **Janice** a very happy tour. We also say goodbye to **WCpl Terry Goodman** who leaves us for the AAC at Middle Wallop. Both will be missed. Welcome to two new Clerks, **WLCpl Zoe Ferguson** and **WPte Mhairi Whitfield** who will discover what work is all about. RHQ is now disease-free as our ORS, **Sgt Jim Peat**, has got over the chicken-pox! Everyone rang home to mother to find out if he or she had had it as a child! Most said yes, others kept quiet and worried in silence! Not a spot in sight, **Sgt Peat** is back behind the desk and shovelling through the work. We will soon be welcoming **LCpl Ian Clark** back. He has been working even harder at BMTC Norway for the last few weeks on detachment and craftily got out of buying us all cakes in celebration of his 21st birthday, or so he thinks! We also say farewell to one of our typists, **Wanda Conway** who is returning to UK with her husband. The Typing-pool will not be the same without her little chuckles. And now that they've all gone, we are all broke having coughed up for various presents and cards!

**NOTES FROM THE WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS**

**WO1 (YofS) Garth Pickersgill** and **WO1 (FofS) Tony Sarginson** were dined out 'on commissioning' in fine style in July. They are off to the Falkland Islands. As an extra special surprise on the night the present incumbents of their jobs were flown 8,000 miles to complete the handover takeover certificates. Escorted by **Sig 'Benny' Allan** and **'Benny' Gardiner**. The two nameless Captains from the FIs complete with woollen coats came and joined the Mess at dinner.



Before dinner outside the Sergeants' Mess
*(Left to right):* WO1 (YofS) Dave Keig, WO1 (FofS) Tony Sarginson, WO1 (RSM) Butch Maycock, WO1 (YofS) Garth Pickersgill and the PMC WO2 (TSM) Barry Spiers

**BRADBURY BARRACKS KINDERGARTEN DRILL COMPETITION**

On a bright morning in June, almost the whole of Krefeld turned up to watch a startling display of drill by the Bradbury Barracks Kindergarten Display team.

As the voice of **WO1 (RSM) Butch Maycock** bellowed across the square more than 35 highly trained, finely honed, well rehearsed children responded to his every command.



WO1 (RSM) Butch Maycock presents the cheque to (little) LCpl Geordie Dunn

Hardly ever losing his temper and bursting into tears only twice the RSM beasted these darling little sons and daughters of some of the finest soldiers in the Corps. In the end, they won, but only after having raised some 1,456 Deutsch Marks in sponsorship. Well done the children and the teachers who organised the event so well. All except the RSM, had a wonderful time.

**STOP PRESS**

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Summer Ball was a major Caribbean success as most of North Rhine Westfalia heard on the night!

**1 SQUADRON**

The highlight of the last few months was undoubtedly the 'Commanding Officers Day'. Having studied the form and seen the format of the previous three Squadrons tasking we had formed the opinion that ours was going to be no picnic and we were not to be disappointed.

At 0730 hrs on Friday 29 June every man, women and dog less those on absolutely essential duty formed up outside the Squadron HQ to be greeted by three Bedfords. After loading everyone up it was off to Regimental HQ in Krefeld to be met by the OC, **Maj Jim Harris** who had the orders!

We were placed into three sections led by **WO2 Chris Heeles, SSgt Paul Stevenson** and **Capt Geoff Downey** respectively. We then headed off in double quick time to Hulserbruch ranges some two miles away. The section commanders were then spirited away to leave the remainder of us to work out how to cross the familiar mine infested ravine with the usual array of bits and pieces. The only notable failure was an oversight by three section when tightening their rope across; they hadn't bargained for the additional weight of **Sig Reevsey Reeves** who exploded one or two mines as he bounced across.

Once across it was another hard slog to the Hulserberg tower. Almost exhausted some of the heads started to drop but the appearance of **WO2 (SSM) Babs Davies** gave new heart and her words of encouragement were well received.

Then it was all back to the Regiment to put up tents and put out fires and finally to prepare for the inter-section competition. The competition was a novel means of transmitting a signal around the Regiment by less conventional means: Blackboard, Bike, Canoe, Don 10 and finally by Flag.

A close competition but as expected Section 3 driven by **Capt Geoff Downey** took the honours and to add icing to the cake the promotion to WCpl of **Clare Spearing** was announced.

All three sections were treated to a ride back to Rheindahlen by Chinook to prepare for the highlight of the social calendar the 'Summer Ball', a fitting end to an auspicious day.

**2 SQUADRON**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Mike Complin** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Pete Doherty MBE** |
| **OC J Tp** | **Capt Julian Swindells** |
| **OC R Tp** | **Lt Karen Osterburg** |
| **OC S Tp** | **2Lt Mark Hanby** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Steve McKechnie** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (YofS) John Dyer** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt (FofS) Ian Dobson** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) Brian Lauder** |

**FAREWELLS**

The Squadron would like to say farwell to **Capt Pete Doherty** who, unable to stand the Ptarmigan pace of life, has gone to be 2IC 1 Squadron, we wish him the best of luck. **Capt Julian Swindells** has moved up from J Troop to become 2IC of the Squadron; congratulations to both of them on their promotions.

**NEWS FROM THE TROOPS**
**JULIET TROOP**

July started with RSIT as well as the handover of the Troop from **Capt Julian Swindells** to **Lt Jane Lawrence**. Many of the Troop then went on a well earned 'holiday' to Heimback on the Regimental Adventure Training camp (Ex Spam Backstop).

The activities on offer were canoeing, at which the Troop excelled, trekking, windsurfing and top roping and abseiling. Everyone had a couple of days to try each pursuit before concentrating their energies on two of the activities.

The Troop returned to camp on the day of Bradbury Fair; Juliet Troop's stand was a 'Recruiting Centre' where children (and some adults) were dressed up in combats and camouflage cream and had their photograph taken to be put on a certificate that they could take home with them. They were then taken on a trip in a 'ready for action' landrover. The stand was a great success and nearly DM400 was made for the Corps Museum Fund.

The following have also left the Troop: **Sgt Mo Lyons** and his wife **Wilma** to 8 Sig Regt and **LCpl Paul Chesters** and his wife **Mare** to 30 Sig Regt. We wish them all the best in the future. The following have arrived in the Troop: **Lt Jane Lawrence, Sgt Neil James** and his wife **Karen, Sig Billy Bedford** and **Jase Fairclough**.

**ROMEO TROOP**

Ex Spam Backstop, the Regimental Summer Camp took place over three weeks with 10 members of Romeo Tp attending the second week.

The activities included rock climbing, instruction being given by our own **Cpl Paddy Bredin**, where the art of the natural fall was mastered by **Cpl Gaz Taylor** and the dreaded 'disco leg' twitch was evident in **Cpl Andy Cooper** and **Sig Johono Johnson**.

Windsurfing was one of the most popular activities, mastered by **Cpl Gaz Taylor** who even managed to go backwards as fast as he went forwards, and also **Sig Scouse Byrne** and **Tom Bartley** who both managed to go out into the lake, but not return.

Canoeing was taught by the Squadron FofS **SSgt Ian Dobson** who initially introduced us to the sport on a lake, the then on river where **Cpl Andy Cooper** and **Sig Tom Bartley** both spent more time in the water than in their canoes.

The last two days were taken up trekking around the area of Monschau, and some of the time was used to carry out sight seeing trips, conducted by **Sgts Mick Licence** and **Steve Ludlum**.

**SIERRA TROOP**
**FAREWELLS**

Farewells to **Sgt** and **Mrs Hodkinson (Mick** and **Tracey), Sgt** and **Mrs O'Shea (John** and **Sally), Cpl** and **Mrs Ter Motsche (Nick** and **Sue)** and **Cpl** and **Mrs Shimmons (Dave** and **Ruth)**.

**ARRIVALS**

Welcome to **Sgt** and **Mrs Perry, Cpl** and **Mrs Innes** and **Cpl** and **Mrs Wood**.

**PROMOTIONS**

LCpl to Cpl, **Dusty Miller**.

**3 SQUADRON**
**DELTA TROOP**

The Regiment has been fund raising for the Corps Museum. We all know it makes sense.

Corps Sunday was held on a glorious July day and set a fine scene for the sporting events which followed Morning Service. The first event was football (Siggies versus the Corporals' Mess). It was very closely contested but the Siggies won in the end 5—4, for the second consecutive year. The cricket was between the Sergeants' Mess and the Officers' Mess. In the end the Sergeants showed their superiority and won quite easily. Two weekends later saw the Bradbury Fair with Delta Troop organising a disco. The music was provided by **Sgt 'Swinging Stevie' Ludlam**. It was a big success, and with **Sgt 'Bagsy' Bain** as the Chief Barman, the staff were sure to stay sober . . .

The Troop returned from Summer Camp sporting a sun tan. A week full of activities such as canoeing, abseiling, windsurfing and trekking were enjoyed by everyone.

The Troop says farewell to **Cpl Andie Andrews** and his wife **Tina** and we hope that they will have fun at 22 Sig Regt. Also a farewell to **LCpl Goodard** and his wife **Angela**, who are going to 30 Sig Regt.

Welcome **Stevie Miners** from 1 Inf Bde also to **Cpl Snowdon** 210 Sig Sqn and **LCpl Scott** 28 Sig Regt.

**GOLF TROOP**

Over the past few weeks the Troop has been busy one way or the other with Ex Summer Sales, Nijmegen Marches, Bradbury Fair, DTI, UWI and PRE's—all good fun things.

The Troop contribution to Bradbury Fair was a Welly Throwing Competition, Darts and Guess the Weight of the Motor Bike were run under the watchful eyes of various Troop personalities. Well done to all stall keepers; the Corps Museum Fund was slightly boosted.

Well done to **Sgt Tez (Bike) Brown, Sig Junior Crawford** and **Tucks Tucker** on the Nijmegen Marches.

Those not on Summer Camp had to get the vehicles through PRE and to look after the Commcen.

Farewell to **WPte Babs McMillan** off to Hong Kong and hello to **WCpl Karen Ballington** who is from 1 Sqn.

Congratulations to **WCpl Marion Richards** and **Cpl Natt Jennings** on their promotions to Sgt and congratulations to **Natt** and **Linda Jennings** on the birth of their son **Nathan**.

**FOXTROT TROOP**
**TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Tp** | **2Lt Parry** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Pete Griffiths** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Ray Edge** |

The Troop has had a busy six month period with lots of arrivals and departures. Firstly we say welcome to **2Lt Parry, SSgt Pete Griffiths,** who has moved from 2 Sqn to 3 Sqn, **Sgt Ray Edge; Cpls Harmer, Dean, LCpl Muir** and their families, **Sig 'Stew' Stuart, Mathis** and **LCpl 'Nobby' Clarke** all from 1 Sqn. Farewells to **Capt Richards** and family, **Sgt Steve Rowe** and family, **Cpl Burns** and family. Congratulations to **Cpl Burns** on his promotion to Sgt. More farewells to **LCpl Holcroft** and **Sig 'Doc' Livings** with their families on posting, **Cpls 'Nobby' Hall, Milburn** and **Murphy** and their families soon to be members of civvie street. We wish everyone the best in the future.

Apart from exercises, there is plenty to keep people busy. **LCpl Jerry Marsden** can vouch for this with his own Special Train Spotters course.

The Squadron celebrated Princess Royal Day whilst at Haltern Training area where the sun shone with fierce intensity every day. Special mention goes to **SSM 3 WO2 'Guy' Richards** for all his ideas.

After that came more exercises, PRE's, UWIs, and RSIT. During this time **Cpl 'Max' Hurd** tried hard to keep everyone's spirits high by inventing the new sport of tri-bike jumping. This involves two tri-bikes, an army escort, and a wide open stretch of autobahn. Then the Troop threw itself into Bradbury Fair. Using all the resources at their disposal, we built and ran five stalls on the day, raising over DM400; a commendable effort.

**SPORTING EVENTS**
**WATERPOLO AND SWIMMING**
**by SSgt Griff Griffiths**

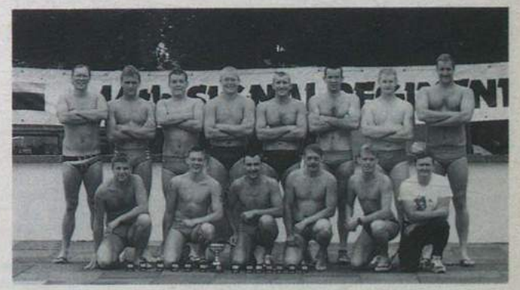
The RCZ Swimming and Waterpolo Competitions were upon us once again. Unfortunately this year, the team suffered from the loss of **WO2 (YofS) Roberts, LCpl 'Matt' Mathews** and **Sig 'Gus' Thomson.**

Training started at the beginning of April and when the Regimental pool opened for the summer season in May the team concentrated on Waterpolo skills.

The RCZ Swimming competition was held at the Blue Pool Rheindahlen on 30 May and was a very close competition. The final result hinged on the last race, the 4 × 50m freestyle, which was won by 21 Sig Regt, so, First 21 Sig Regt, Second 16 Sig Regt, Third 28 Sig Regt and Fourth 13 Sig Regt. This is only the second time that 16 Sig Regt has lost in 27 years. Training continued in earnest for the Waterpolo competition, which again the Regiment had not lost in 27 years.

This competition was held at Bradbury Barracks, which gave the team home advantage. It was a long and hard fought competition with a league of fine teams. 21 Sig Regt against 52 Sqn RE led off. The Signals came back from 3—1 down after three quarters to win 4—3. 16 Sig Regt's first match was against 227 Sig Sqn which it won 6—0. As the competition went on it was clear that 21 and 16 were the teams to beat, and the competition would be between them.

At the end of two quarters of their match the score was tied 2—2, but as the match went on it was 16's overall fitness and close skills that won the day. The final score was 8—3. The team went on to win all its matches and retain the RCZ Trophy giving a great deal of satisfaction to all team members.



Team Members
*Back row (left to right):* WO1 (YofS) Garth Pickersgill, LCpl Dunn, SSgt Griffiths, Cfn Quince, Cpl Beardmare, Sgt Davies, LCpl Smith and SSgt Tedby
*Front row (left to right):* LCpl Kerr, Cpl Keen, Sgt Edge, Cpls Ross, Fowler and LCpl Harden

At the end of the competition, an RCZ Select team played a match against the Junior Army Waterpolo Champions from the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate who were guests of the Regiment. Both teams played extremely well with the RCZ Select team finally winning. This was the only game the AA Coll Harrogate was to lose during its stay and the team is to be congratulated on some very fine waterpolo. There are some up and coming stars in its ranks, and I am sure we shall be seeing more of them in the future.

So, the Regiment proudly took its banner to the BAOR Championships in Berlin where the team had been runners-up for the last two years. Sadly, this was not to be the case this year and the Regiment lost to 1 Bn Gren Gds in the Semi-Finals.

The Season continues and the local league continues. At the end of the Season, the team will say farewell to a number of its players on posting. So for any budding waterpolo players in the Corps, this is the place to be.

**EXERCISE WET QUADRANT**
**by LCpl Cook and Pte Jones, 4 Sqn**

It all began very early one June morning as the seven would-be sailors arrived in Arhus in Denmark to meet our Skipper for the voyage, **Steve Glover**.

Things weren't looking too bright when, for the first time we boarded the yacht *'The Ragna 'R''*. It was a grey and miserable day as we were introduced to both the Skipper and the yacht.

The first thing we did as it began to rain, was to learn the safety rules, then a little bit about the yacht and how we would set about sailing off the next day for our first port of call.

The first day of our journey went really well and we all managed to master some of the skills of sailing without too many hiccups as the Skipper shouted our commands such as 'main sail up' 'fore sail up', 'ready about', 'helm-to-lee', and 'lee-ho'. These phrases soon became second nature to us.

The only one of us to fall victim to sea sickness was **Pte Julie Adams** who soon earned the nickname of 'Fish Feeder'.

We were up at the crack of dawn each day, and spent between five and eight hours sailing.

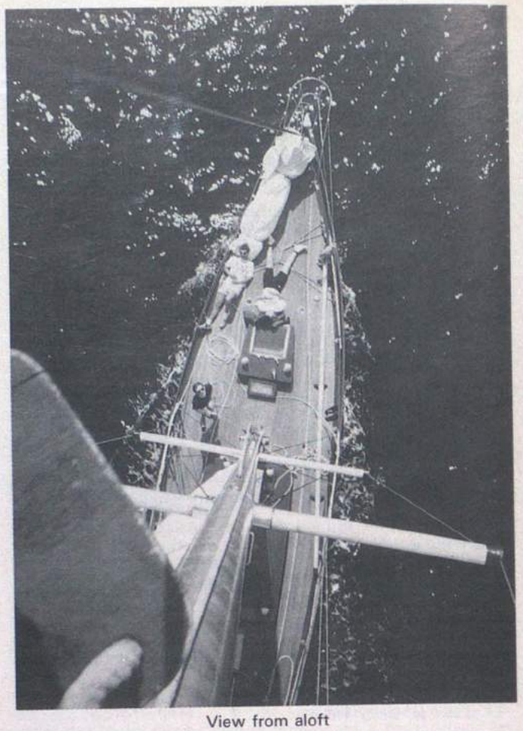
We docked at a different port each night as we made our way down the east coast of Denmark. Some of the places we stayed at were: Nyborg, Svendborg and Faaborg, to name a few.

By the end of the week, we felt like experts at putting sails up and taking them down as the weather had proved to be very unpredictable, one minute we were motoring due to the calm sea and the next we had all the sails up as we battled against gale force winds.

For five of us it was the first time we had ever been sailing and by the end of the week I think we all agreed that it would definitely be something we would try again, given the opportunity. It is certainly to be recommended to everyone, young, old, novice or expert.

We arrived at Kiel our final port of call and ended an enjoyable weeks sailing with a boat party.

**If you are serving and have a standing order for THE WIRE please keep us well informed 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.**



View from aloft

**CENTRE COURT—WIMBLEDON**

How does two weeks leave working at Wimbledon watching the tennis, eating all the strawberries you can eat if you can afford to with the Filofax and portable phone society, sound to you? It certainly appealed to two members from 1 Sqn, 16 Sig Regt, who were there for the whole fortnight, namely **WCpl (PTI) Matten** and **WPte Yule**.

Behind the scenes of the world's most famous tennis tournament a lot of hard work is put in by the Service Stewards. Two hundred of them from the Air Force, Navy, Army, Police Force and the London Fire Brigade, man all the entrances to No 1 and Centre Court to provide crowd control and security.

The added bonus of being at Wimbledon is the people you meet from all walks of life, the rich and the famous and, if you're really lucky, the Royals too.

**Cpl Matten** was seen once or twice on the television so was obviously well placed for the camera.

The fortnight was long, hard on the feet and hot but very enjoyable. Well would we do it again? You bet!



WCpl Matten *(left)* and WPte Yule





# 21 Sig Regt
# BFPO 42

**SILVER CENTRE PIECE**

It is not often you come to commission a piece of silver costing nearly £8,000! 21 Sig Regt (Air Support) is now the proud owner of the striking centre piece shown in the photograph. It was purchased from funds donated by Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior non-commissioned Officers of the Regiment over recent years.

The background to the commissioning of the centre piece is that during October 1986 and February 1987, two events of major significance occurred in the Regiment. First a fifth Squadron was formed to provide communications for the RAF Support Helicopter Force. Secondly, 2 Sqn, which had been stationed in Osnabruck, was reunited with the main body of the Regiment at Wildenrath. At the same time the Unit began to re-equip with Ptarmigan.

To mark these events and especially the fusing of the Regiment at one main base, it was felt appropriate to commission a silver centre piece. 21 Sig Regt does not have its own messes and a centre piece would provide a striking and appropriate symbol at important functions held in the RAF Messes.

The design of silver centre pieces has to be accepted by the Corps Paintings and Centre Pieces Committee. After some changes were made to the original design, it was approved in August 1988. The Regiment is very grateful to the Committee Chairman, **Brig Tony Boyle** for steering the proposal through to success.

The centre piece is designed to depict the Regiment's work and especially its' close relationship with the Royal Air Force. Thus the base includes a Harrier and a Puma to indicate the communications provided to the deployed Harrier and Support Helicopter Forces respectively (artistic talent would not run to interpreting the Chinook!) and a Ptarmigan (for obvious reasons, depicting the hardest worked element of all!). These creatures sit on a solid circular base. The traditional role of the Airfield Signal Troops is portrayed by the engraving of the cable wagon on the silver band at the base of the wooden column. Atop the wooden column on which 'Jimmy' is mounted stands a magnificent eagle with a 16in wingspan.

Garrards made the centre piece. After some difficulty over the completion date it arrived safely, just in time for the Regiment's 30th Anniversary celebrations in May 1989.

The Regiment now has a striking centre piece for all special occasions and we are all grateful for the contribution made towards it.



The Regiment's Silver Centre Piece

| | |
|---|---|
| **1 SQUADRON** | |
| **Sqn Comd** | **Maj Keegan** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Harvey** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Mullen** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt McCutcheon** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt Nicholson** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt Whitehead** |
| **MT Sgt** | **Sgt Yates** |
| **TN 037** | |
| **OC** | **Lt Heywood** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Bragg** |
| **TN 038** | |
| **OC** | **2Lt Bennett** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Mazey** |
| **TN 039** | |
| **OC** | **SSgt Kennedy** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **Sgt Wickham** |
| **TN 040** | |
| **OC** | **2Lt Dakin** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Atkinson** |

**EXERCISE GUSTY BACKSTOP**

On 8 August members of the Regiment returned tired and broke (financially) after 10 days in Chamonix, France, on Ex Gusty Backstop. The exercise was designed to introduce novices to alpine climbing, high altitude trekking and mountain biking.

The highlight of the climbing phase and the whole expedition was the climb of Aguille de l'index. Two groups went up led by **SSgt Phil** (Babs) **Atkinson** and **Cpl Rick** (I'm a non Swimmer) **Nolan**. Words cannot describe how it felt to be perched 15,000ft up a mountain, on a narrow ledge, whilst trying to pretend to be enjoying ones lunch. Near the peak the party had to traverse along a narrow knife edge ridge with a drop of hundreds of feet either side. **Lt Ashley Stocker** using his 1,000 points of contact method to edge his way along the ridge commented that he had never seen finger prints in granite before. Meanwhile **SSgt Atkinson** was receiving all manner of threats to his life from the rest of the intrepid explorers, these threats he added ominously could not be carried out if they got down the mountain alive!

The next few days promised views of mountain scenery at a more sedentary pace . . . that was until **Cpl Steve** (Choppers) **Chopping** got hold of the map! He started off by upsetting the entire group by saying that after a few hundred metres it would be easy contouring all the way . . . what he failed to add was that the first few hundred metres happed to be vertical ones! Consequently it was an exhausted group that reached the contour where they collapsed and failed to appreciate the high altitude scenery and majestic vistas of the French Alps . . . what a waste of effort. **Sig Lee** (Saggy) **Anderson** and **Darren** (Tinkerbell) **Taylor** are classic examples of mountain trekking philistines . . . all they said was 'it was a nice view but the one at the local swimming pool was better!'.

On the final day the group rounded off the expedition to the French Alps with a marathon mountain bike ride again into the hills . . . how predictable. After yet another 600m ascent the team grimly followed contours along well worn trekking paths. Everything went well until **LCpl Hill** on temporary loan from the LAD shot off into the distance on the wrong track! Some local walking clubs discovered the art of diving for cover as a group of 'Brits', frantically searching for brake levers bounced down mountain sides. As a result of this several members of the group found it rather painful to sit down for dinner that evening!

The final challenge of the expedition was the under bridge traverse challenge set by **Lt Stocker** and **SSgt Atkinson**. **LCpl Doug** (Frames) **Wood** was the only successful idiot to take up the challenge whilst **Cpl Tony** (Jessica) **Martin** only managed 5ft before experiencing how cold the glacier water really was! **Cpl Chopping** said he would go but was worried that his callipers might rust.

| | |
|---|---|
| **2 SQUADRON** | |
| **Sqn Comd** | **Maj Ewell** |
| **OC E Tp** | **Capt King** |
| **OC F Tp** | **Capt Stapleton** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Bradbury** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Hamilton** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt McHugh** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt Sheppard** |
| **SSgt E Tp** | **SSgt Barrington** |
| **SSgt F Tp** | **SSgt Petherbridge** |
| **SHQ Sgt** | **Sgt Thomas** |
| **ADP Sgt** | **Sgt Evans** |
| **MT Sgt** | **Sgt Fleming** |

**SUMMER CAMP (EXERCISE HARRIER BACKSTOP)**

Ex Harrier Backstop was an Adventurous training exercise organised to get the lads from 2 Sqn away to Wertach in Bavaria. The advance party left on 17 May with **SSgt (YofS)** (Trainspotter) **McHugh** leading the way. The main party arrived the next day. Within minutes **LCpl Mat Wakeling** decided to test a novel fire drill escape route from his room by abseiling from the window . . . he was followed down by the room's radiator! He must be a volunteer for 264! Everyone settled in on the first night and all were looking forward to a week of canoeing, climbing and hill walking. After a somewhat eventful evening the YofS awarded the first 'Yellow Card' warning to **LCpl Mat Wakeling, Sig Taff Williams, Dave Pilling** and **Shaun Pargin** for sleep walking into the nightclub next door. They said they had thought it was a hotel. Never mind, an easy mistake lads, **LCpl** (Shiney) **McClenaghan** made the same one but didn't get caught! The reward for that escapade was a lenient two days pan bash, character building stuff!

The party was split into three groups. The first hill walking group covered double the distance they had expected and then discovered on arriving at the inn for the night that there were no rooms available! The Canoeing group ably led by **Cpl** Gypsy **Cooper** enjoyed a pleasant day canoeing down the river Iller. Most of the group said that they enjoyed the underwater scenery and the frequent cold refreshing dips. The climbing group failed to do any climbing whatsoever due to the inclement weather. However the steps leading up to the high diving board at a nearby swimming pool proved to be 'V Diff'. Over the next few days all the group had the opportunity to try their hand at new activities such as waterskiing, jet skiing and mountain biking. The mountain biking proved very popular as one of the recommended routes took the bikers past some beautiful scenery. The last day was spent visiting the Olympic Slalom canoe course. **Cpls Wood** and **Cooper** showed their prowess as canoe instructors and successfully navigated the course. The remainder of the group had varying degrees of failure, the majority deciding to 'swim' the course wishing they had just been allowed to watch! All in all everyone had a great break away and really enjoyed themselves . . . even those who turned up late due to technical problems with their Porsche! (unlucky).

**ROETGEN FIVE-A-SIDE SOCCER COMPETITION**

On Saturday 28 July eight members of the Squadron football team travelled to Roetgen for the Fourth Roetgen Five-a-Side Football Competition. They started off well by arriving late . . . luckily the whole competition was running late anyway so embarrassing excuses weren't needed. Our first opponents the JHQ 'Rozzers' were despatched by a superb individual goal by **Cpl Bob Maxted**. The next game three hours later, was against a local German team SV Lammerdorf. It was the only quarter final game not to be decided by penalties after full time, thanks to two goals from **Sig Richie Lees** and yet another from **Cpl Maxted**. The German Kegel club in the semi finals were also beaten by a great action goal from **Cpl Kev Jarvis**. In the final we came up against a talented German team Villa Kunterbruck. At full time it was a 0—0 and meant that for the first time our penalty shooting skills were to be tested. **Cpl Kev Greenwood** hammered in the first for us and the Villa team missed. **LCpl Del Kavanagh** put the second away and one again they missed. **Sig Lees** got a third but unfortunately **Cpl Stu Leadbetter** conceded his first and only goal of the day. **Cpl Keith** (Days to Do) **Vicary** needed to score to ensure victory. To the utter amazement of his team mates and I suspect himself . . . he did, just! . . . 'I aimed for his hand' he admitted! **Sgt Paul Fleming** failed in his bid to become top scorer with an outstanding overall total of zero. Our thanks must go to **Tracey, Inge, Michelle, Aggy, Corinna, Vera** and the boys for their touchline support and coaching. Finally thanks go to **Sgt Gaz Wilson** of Roetgen for the kind invitation to come and win . . . any chance of a similar invite for next year?

**EXERCISE RAMROD**

The 2 Sqn 'A' team was a team picked to win. Led by the courageous **Sgt Paul Fleming**, the eight man team had three potential SAS members (names withheld for security reasons!) and a useful RMA 3 medic in the shape of **Sig Mark Williams**. With such a pedigree they could not lose, however before the end of the competition the 2 Sqn B team and several of the other Squadron teams would have a say in the matter. The competition started with an eight mile march and shoot. In reality it felt a lot further due to the intense heat (and a few suspect navigational errors). **Cpl Neil Cooper** and a few others got muddled with pounds and kilograms and ended up carrying almost 10lbs over the required weight of 35lbs. **Cpl Cooper**'s excuse was that he hadn't taken his EPC yet! On arrival at the range two shoots were provided to test the team's stamina, accuracy and shooting skill. **LCpl Mat Wakeling** took control of the LMG and managed to score more points than the rest of the team put together. **LCpl John Wood** (of Bisley and Regimental Shooting team fame) scored no hits, not one, not a sausage, zero, zilch . . .




The 2 Sqn teams that were so successful on Ex Ramrod the Regimental Military Skills Competition



Day two started off with an early morning BFT followed by a round robin of 12 military skills stands. The hot weather again drained energy from tired limbs and sapped various member's concentration. Here are a few highlights from the winning teams memoirs:

**WEAPON STAND**

Assemble these weapons but **Sig Carl Manns** wasn't very hot on Serial numbers! He also tried to design a new gun from all the parts he left out.

**OBSERVATION STAND**

This stand went a little better I think. I couldn't see from my OP. I think it was a memory test, but I can't remember now!

**COMMAND TASK**

The Command Task was easy we all shouted at each other, made a complete horlicks of everything and then we turned it all over to the Section Commander to sort out if he could. **Sig Willy Rushton** was brilliant on this stand, not because he was intelligent, fit or even willing . . . just small and expendable!

The finale of the competition was a two lap race around the assault course. Only five team members were required for this event, and in a marvellous display of aggression, agility and exhaustion they managed to put the team into the lead at the last hurdle of the day.

The presentation was suitably sited next to the bar and after the prizes the teams recaptured the events of the day over a few quiet beers followed closely by several more noisy ones. The winning team, as predicted, was 2 Sqn 'A' team. Well done lads.



Sgt Fleming receiving the Allen Trophy from the CO on behalf of 2 Sqn for winning the Regimental Military Skills Competition

**3 SQUADRON**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sqn Comd** | **Maj Tony Whydell** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Nigel Whittingham** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) Stewart Mullen** |
| **MT SNCO** | **Sgt Pete Searle** |
| **Clerk** | **Sig Chris Taylor** |
| **OC G Tp** | **Capt Taff Williams** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **Sgt Ron Bates** |
| **OC H Tp** | **Capt Lenny Carr** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Steve Dobson** |
| **OC K Tp** | **Capt Mike Kerr** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Kev Fitzpatrick** |
| **OC L Tp** | **Capt Dave Wright** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Terry Hague** |
| **OC N Tp** | **Capt Gary Mason BEM** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Dave Belshaw** |
| **OC ACPO** | **Capt Brian Billsberry** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 Dave Stewart** |

**VISIT OF MAJOR GENERAL J. O. C. ALEXANDER COMMANDER COMMUNICATIONS BAOR**

On 24 July the Regiment and K Troop in particular were visited by the new Comd Comms BAOR **Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander OBE**. K Troop and ACPO put on a very graphic display depicting the Troop's role at RAF Wildenrath. The visit commenced with a brief from OC 3 Sqn **Maj Tony Whydell** (Don't forget the light Sir), and this was followed by a guided tour of K Troop by its acting OC **SSgt Kevin Fitzpatrick**. After seeing several displays on Conventional Battle Damage Repair (BDR) and Blown Fibre Optic BDR ably demonstrated by **Sgt Dave Harris, Cpl Les Crowder** and **Sig Kev Ingley**, the Comd moved on to the Fibre Splicing practical test! Whether it was luck or the fluttering eye lids of **Cpl Rob Carter** who aided Comd Comms in producing a near perfect splice, we shall never know. All we can say is that the CO has never achieved the same standard in two and a half years. (The Colonel says he has—at Bruggen where they have better instructors!) OC ACPO **Capt Brian Billsberry** and his very professional team, **Sgt Dave Campbell, Cpl Bob Maxted, LCpl Gary Mathieson, Sig Tony Tranter** and **Geordie Robson** demonstrated the use of British Telecom Prototype Fibre Optic Battle Damage Repair Kit in NBC conditions. Many hours of hard work were put in to make the visit a success and **Maj Gen Alexander** expressed his appreciation to all ranks for a most interesting series of demonstrations.



Comd Comms BAOR receiving a 'Nut and Bolt' man from the CO. The sculpture depicts a Tele Mech preparing a fibre optic cable for splicing and was manufactured by LCpl Davidson of the LAD

**CONGRATULATIONS**

All ranks of K Troop congratulate **LCpl Darren Rosenfield** on his recent marriage to **SACW Caroline Young**, we welcome **Caroline** to the Troop and wish them a happy future together.

**K TROOP COMINGS AND GOINGS**

We welcome our new Troop OC **Capt Mike Kerr**, and new arrivals, **Cpl Bill Agnew, WLCpl Lucy Ambridge, Sig Jimmy Brocket, Jock Faichney** and **Ian McKillop**. We say a farewell to our outgoing OC **Capt Mick Bailes** and his wife **Marie** who are posted to 13 Sig Regt. Also to **Sgt Gary Gillings** and his wife **Margaret**. We wish them all the very best for the future and many thanks for their hard work whilst in K Troop.

**INTER SQUADRON CRICKET**

First of all our apologies to the RAF for causing them to suspend flying at all four RAF stations in BAOR whilst various key members of 3 Sqn descended on RAF Wildenrath for the annual Inter Squadron Cricket Competition. The teams were split into two leagues with the top two from each league playing a knockout to decide the finalists. In the Semi finals 3 Sqn had a gentle warm up against 2 Sqn by amassing 77 runs for 6 whilst 2 Sqn fell by the wayside with 23 all out. In the finals there was a virtual repeat of last years final against 1 Sqn. 1 Sqn managed a respectable 70 runs all out. The 3 Sqn innings started off brilliantly with **Cpl Billy McKeagan** scoring 39 before retiring. There then came a middle order collapse that England would have been proud of. By the time the tail-enders took to the field we were 67 for 8 with only 9 balls left. Tension mounted . . . could we get the runs? Would 1 Sqn get the wickets? . . . Would **Capt Len Carr** have to get the drinks in?

Modesty prevents me from going into details but a glorious square cut sent the ball crashing out to the boundary and victory was ours. Many thanks to 1 Sqn for a great game. Well earned congratulations must go to the 3 Sqn team who, considering they had been drawn from all four Airfield Troops, and had only met for the first time as a team that morning, performed magnificently. Special mention must go to **Cpl McKeagan** for scoring a total of 98 runs and to **Sig Tim Holmes** who finished his day with figures of 12 wickets for 45 runs. Finally **Cpl Pete Rouse** (now with 1 Inf Bde Sig Sqn) your winners medal is in the post!

## 4 SQUADRON

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sqn Comd** | **Capt A. Hickling** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 J. J. Fairbairn** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 K. Townsend** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt S. Wilks** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt A. S. Dos Martyres** |
| **OC I Tp** | **Capt J. R. Tod** |
| **OC J Tp** | **Capt D. Warne** |

### CHARITY ROAD RACE AND FUN RUN

One quiet evening in the 4 Sqn Tea Bar, someone was heard to suggest. 'Why don't we have a charity Road Race around the Station'. The assembled SNCO's in the unfamiliar position around the bar all nodded their agreement to what seemed a good idea. By Saturday 28 July 1990, a vast amount of hard work had been put in by all Squadron members who predictably wanted to discover the culprit behind the 'bright idea'. To this day no one has been stupid enough to own up to it.

The day of the race arrived and luckily it was blessed with excellent weather. On top of the entries received prior to the day, a steady flow of entrants queued to enter both the 4km Fun Run and the 10km Road Race. By 1400 hrs over 100 people had entered the Fun Run and the massed start saw a wide range of ages, shapes and sizes.

As the start of the 10km Road Race approached the entries increased rapidly with a number of the top runners in BAOR and RAF(G) turning up late to add to the prestige of the race. Again by the race start, over 100 entries had been reached and judging from the start, a good, fast race was expected. A relaxed looking **Julian Goater**, (the RAF and England international) was first across the finish line in 30 minutes 24 seconds. In Second place came **Sgt Geoff Martin**, the Army Marathon Champion from 21 Sig Regt.

First in from 4 Sqn was **Sig Charlie Ellis** in a very creditable ninth place closely followed by the OC, **Capt Andy Hickling**. In a closely fought team contest the eventual winners were Rheindahlen Garrison followed by the Grenzland Club, Erkelenz and 4 Sqn.

Special mention should go to **Cpls Carl Smith, Baz Hardman** and **Bob Harvey** from 4 Sqn who did the race tied together at the ankles and made DM400.00 for charity.

The day turned out to be a great success with the race and surrounding stalls generating over DM4000.00 for various charities. Thanks should go to, the Station Commander for allowing the race, to all the sponsors and especially to every member of 4 Sqn for the hard work which made the day such a success.



The Wildenrath 10km Road Race gets underway providing funds for charities

### COMINGS AND GOINGS

Farewells to **WO2 (YofS) Clive** and **Ruth Copestake** on posting to the School of Signals and **Sig Mark Wyldes** on posting to 633 Sig Tp.

We would like to welcome **WO2 (SSM) Joe** and **Jane Fairbairn** and **WO2 (YofS) Kev** and **Sandy Townsend, Sgt Al** and **Pat Coleman** and **Capt Jeremy Tod**.

Congratulations go to **LCpl Hugh** and **Elka Marshall** on the birth of their daughter.

### CHARITY

On Saturday 9 June, 4 Sqn arranged a charity fund raising day by organising a bottle stall, car wash and barbecue. The bottle stall and barbecue came as something of a surprise to the shoppers using the NAAFI car park, but soon the stalls were doing a marvellous trade in burgers and raffling bottles of spirit. The car wash was set up in the Petersholtz Compound. This was free, however, for a small donation the team left the paint on the car and in some cases the mud that held some owners car's together. The total sum raised was over DM2000.00 which will be split between various charities. An excellent day was had and our thanks go out to all who supported the event.

## HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sqn Comd** | **Maj Tony Hewett** |
| **2IC/Families Officer** | **Capt Les Wood** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Willie Ireland** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Trev Beeley** |
| **Clerk** | **Sig Tony Mount** |

### ADVENTURE TRAINING

Recently the SQMS, **SSgt Trev Beeley**, took some members of the Squadron to an Adventure Training Camp organised by the Bundeswehr. The training activities included climbing, abseiling and walking in the Rhine area, as well as a 50km paddle down the river linking up all the other activities, over a period of four days.

This is the second year running that the Squadron has been invited to take part and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the training laid on by the Stabs Kompanie of 5 Panzer Div, stationed at the picturesque, Schloss Oranienstein, Deiz An der Lahn. Also taking part were members of the Bundeswehr Reserve Forces and 3 US Armd Div based at Frankfurt.



Hauptfeldwehel Klaus Schulz, organiser of the adventure training, explaining the finer points of boatmanship on the Rhine



Start of the Wildenrath Fun Run organised by 4 Sqn



### HELLOS

There has been quite a lot of movement of personnel both coming and going. New arrivals are: **WO2 (AQMS) Andy Dickinson** from 4 Fd Wksps, **SSgt Pete Duffy** from 22 Sig Regt and **SSgt Angus Cochrane-Dyet** from 1 Green Howards. Welcome to the Squadron you will find that the RCZ is not all sport and play. We do quite a lot of work.

We would like to say farewell and best wishes to: **Capt Barry Watson** and his wife **Jane** off to a real job as QM Admin in 16 Sig Regt, **SSgt Mark Wright-Jones** (now WO2) and **Sharon** posted to 13 Sig Regt, **WO2 Mick Leather** (posted in, promoted, posted out). We hope you enjoyed your three months with us. (But I daresay the tour in Fortress Gibraltar will be more attractive than Wildenrath) and finally **WO1 (ASM) Eddie Lennox** and his wife **Kay** congratulations on your promotion we wish you all well for the future.

## M TROOP

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **WO1 (FofS) Crabb** |
| **Tp Sgts** | **Sgt Spence Robson** |
| | **Sgt Andy Marston Weston** |
| | **Sgt Colin Jones** |

We welcome into the troop **Sgt Colin Jones** and his wife, **Karen**. He has just re-enlisted after 18 months in civvy street, sensible man! Two more new arrivals are **LCpls Rick Howlett** (reporter), and **Rob Jennings**, both just completed training at 8 Sig Regt.

Sadly we lose **Cpl Strugnell** who departs for SHAPE, leaving his financee **LCpl Paula Jones** behind in RHQ.

Congratulations to **Sgt Andy Marston-Weston** on passing his Foreman's Entrance Examination and good luck for the hard times ahead.

Well done to **Cpls Cox, Josse** and **Mayner** on their new promotion. Also to **Cpls Moocroft** and **Cox** on their recent marriages.

Mike Tp is one of the hardest working Troops in the Regiment. It very rarely has time for an afternoon off for sport as there is always plenty of work, ask PCU expert, **Cpl Cunningham** who blew himself up four times in one day!

Ex Hill Foil proved to be hard work for **Cpl Terry** (my ERV always works) **Blunsum**! His ERV was parked at 45 degrees in a ditch for the tactical part of the exercise, much to the TA Cheshires amusement, that was until **Sig Skidmore** of 1 Sqn directed them around the 'boggie' bits, for which they were truly grateful . . . until they too were bogged in. Two vehicles for the wrecker to deal with.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# 22 Sig Regt
# BFPO 107

**TUG OF WAR**

The Regiment makes history in the normally Artillery dominated sport.

| | |
|---|---|
| 3 Div Competition | 640 runners-up<br>680 Third |
| BAOR Competition | 640 Fourth<br>680 Fourth |
| Morrison Cup Competition | 640 runners-up |
| Army Championships | 640 runners-up<br>680 runners-up |
| Inter Service Championships | 640 runners-up<br>680 runners-up |

Having selected the squad to represent the Regiment from the Inter Squadron Competition the Regiment entered three teams in the Div Competition the best result being the runners-up in the 640kg to 49 Fd Regt (three ends). The Regiment is the first Corps team ever to have achieved this at the premier weight.



Inter-Corps Team



UK Team



Inter-Services Team

On Morrison Cup day 7 Sig Regt BAOR Champions at 560, 600kg had taken over the previous dominance of 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, two changes gave them a strong experienced well drilled team. They won their league easily then met 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in the Crossover (4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt having been beaten by 22 Sig Regt) 7 Sig Regt won which meant they would meet us in the final. The big one 22 Sig Regt vs 7 Sig Regt no not rugby, Tug of War, first end quickly went to 22 Sig Regt, second end to 7 Sig Regt who had come to with a shock. Third end wow! 22 Sig Regt took 7 Sig Regt to within a foot of the line then 7 Sig Regt put a very cheeky braking system into action ABS (All Bottoms Sit) this halted the 22 Sig Regt momentum enough for 7 Sig Regt (after two warnings) to recompose themselves and with superior stamina pull 22 Sig Regt all the way back to win the final end well done 7 Sig Regt.

Five of the Regiment from this excellent display of pulling were selected for the Corps' Tug of War team by **WO2 Pete** 'talent spotter' **Halstead** from UK looking for the squad to represent the Signals in the Inter Corp's Championships on 16 July.

A few days training before Summer Sales then a week and a half after saw the team on its way to the UK for the Army TOW Plate 640kg, but our ex-coach had entered us for the main competition both at 640 and 680kg; great! We thought chins on the floor in a deep depression. It was at the weigh-in that it was brought to our attention that as we weren't entering a team in the 680kg there would in fact be only three teams in that weight category. So we decided to use the 680kg as a warm up for the 640kg which was to be held in the afternoon. So where do we get 40kg from? **LCpl Frank Barrison** the tacky man, how much does he weigh? 79kg, on went Frank = 650kg! er yeah that'll do. Well what do you know. 22 Sig Regt beat 7 Para RHA and 4 UDR only to lose to a very strong 680kg 26 Fd Regt team (with a squad of 25 men I might add). Runners up in the 680kg—a chance to represent the Army in the Inter-Service's on 26 July. A great achievement. Until this result never has a Royal Signals team come this far before, not even the mighty 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt of old. Alas it was not all over, the premier weight 640kg competition was still to go. We chucked **WO2 'Pete' Halstead** from the crowd as coach and off we went. What a team to start with, 4 UDR previous Army Champions, Army representatives at Earls Court, a long history of success with TOW; still we took them back a few yeards before they settled down to beat us by two ends. Still plenty more teams left. Six in all, 1/2 Gurkha Rifles, 7 RHA, FOD Dulmen, AA Coll Chepstow, 26 Fd Regt RA, AAC and ACC. We beat them all except 26 Fd Regt RA who were on form but no; just as we had accepted third place. 4 UDR were beaten by AA Coll Chepstow as they had also been beaten by 26 Fd Regt. That meant we were equal on points, so faced a pull off for second place. Well this was too much, the chance to come runners up at the premiere weight at the Army TOW Championships. We needed no prompting, the team found a new lease of life and took both end's off 4 UDR and again made even more history. Saturday 7 July what a great day for 22 Sig Regt and the Corps.

The CO **Lt Col Peter Innocent** was delighted and instructed OC TOW **WO2 Martin Smith** to move mountains to get the team cleared to return to UK AA Coll Harrogate and more hard training.

After the Army's the five members of the team selected for the Corps squad set off for sunny North Yorkshire and the Army Apprentices College Harrogate, the other four went back to Lippstadt and then off again to the UK to rejoin the team and train with the Corps squad in the build up to the Inter Services.

The Inter Corps saw four of the Regiment in the 680kg and five in the 640kg. Royal Signals went on to win the 600kg, 640kg, 680kg and 860kg and were runners up in 560kg. As the Regiment had the majority of pullers in the 640/680 the Inter Corps shields for these weights will rest in RHQ until next year.

The training for the Inter Services went well, full of variety and hard graft. The team united together more each day, the heavies we had borrowed (**Sgt Steve Brown** 8 Sig Regt, **Cpl Roy Carter** 7 Sig Regt, **LCpl Jonah Jones** 21 Sig Regt and **LCpl Taff Collis**) to boost our weights slightly) were all experienced keen tug-of-war men and settled into the squad right away. We travelled to Aldershot on 25 July back to sunny Mons Barracks transit accommodation a little jog to run off the journey saw us tucked away in bed early ready for the next days' events. Inter Service TOW: what a scorcher of a day, weather and competition.

Out of a squad of 11 pullers seven of them came from the Regiment. The 680kg started very well with us taking the first end from 26 Fd Regt in a time of 2 mins 35 secs, the second longest pull of the day. 26 Fd Regt came back however to win the next two ends having beaten everyone else. We were runners up in the 680kg.

The 640kg competition saw the longest pull of the day with a 3 mins end between 22 Sig Regt and 26 Fd Regt the strength and stamina of the 26 Fd team won through and they went on to win all.

Credit to the Signals team, they were not to be put down by this and gained a convincing second place beating both RAF and Navy teams. A well earned and fitting finish to the outdoor season for 22 Sig Regt.



The team consisted of: **SSgt Steve Stevenson, Cpls Tom Frazer, Tony Manktelow, Fergie Ferguson, Archie Gemmel, LCpls Des Jenkins, Bob Anderson, Frank Barrison** and coach **WO2 Pete Halstead** (School of Signals).

**106 VERBINDINGSBATALJON EXCHANGE VISIT**
**by 2Lt Gunning**

**Sgt Duffy** and I left Lippstadt at first light on Tuesday 5 June to travel to 106 Verbindingsbataljon in the Dutch Town of Ede, west of Arnhem. Owing to the outstanding map reading abilities of young Subalterns in the Corps we arrived at the Battalion Headquarters Ede in time for our welcoming introduction from the CO **Col Wennekes**, and were duly introduced to our hosts for the next six days, **Lt Lambregts** and **Smi Schut**.

The main purpose of our visit was to gain an insight into the Dutch communication system. The pride and joy of the Dutch Signal Corps is its new tactical area communication system Zodiac, which is based on design specifications similar to Ptarmigan. The School of Signals building itself is of a somewhat dubious design externally and almost as confusing and complicated internally. The framework of the Training Regiment permanently based at the School is very much like that at Blandford, consisting of professional soldiers, civilian designers and engineers who together take on the mammoth task of training conscripts, in a mere four months, to a suitable standard to allow them to join working units for their final six months of service. Every trade and skill is taught at the school, with an impressive array of training facilities in everything from learning morse in Dutch, English and Russian to working on the Zodiac system. The system is in the forefront of the Dutch Signal Corps' attention at present, and it was in their Zodiac Wing that we spent most of our time at the school. The system has been introduced in three phases. The first phase was the design and trialling, the second phase was the introduction of the switch facility and the initial training of the new conscripts and the third, final and current stage is the introduction of the system to working units such as 106 Verbindingsbataljon. Our hosts, from 114 ATS (Automatic Transmission Switching) Detachment, were among one of the first units to receive the Zodiac switch facility and in several instances during our stay quite often corrected the system designers on the capabilities of their system.

After a couple of days touring the School of Signals we returned to our host unit to watch and experience their everyday life. It often proved difficult to tell the difference between the male and female soldiers. Were it not for the fact that the male population all seemed to possess longer hair than their female counterparts some very embarrassing situations could have arisen. On our fourth morning we were privileged to join in such fun activities as their equivalent of a BFT and observe their trade training. After all this excitement we were driven to a large range complex north of Arnhem, where we fired the Uzi on a field firing range and made a vain attempt at firing a 40mm anti-armour machine gun at a distance of 1,000m.

Our next port of call on the following day was a visit to the Dutch Air Corps Helicopter Display Team, known as the Grasshoppers. The team uses the Alloutte reconnaissance helicopter and in time of war are at the very best armed with only a machine gun capability. After watching their acrobatic display we were taken on a sightseeing tour of Holland, over just about every city except Amsterdam. On our return, still feeling slightly dizzy, we were taken to a local Air Defence Artillery Regiment equipped with the Stinger missile system. After being shown the internal workings of the weapon and given a demonstration of the handling drills we ventured into their simulator dome.

Our visit was concluded with an all expenses paid trip to a local health club and a cultural, sightseeing visit to Amsterdam. Our thanks go to our hosts and we look forward to hosting them in the near future.

**HARZ MOUNTAIN MARATHON**

For those not familiar with this event it is an arduous orienteering marathon held over two days in the Harz mountains. The first day is a three man team event covering 55kms, day two is the individual event covering 35kms. Of course, those who covered this distance would have to be crows, the actual distances are more like 60kms and 40kms (optimum). The distance is not the real problem here, it is the terrain; hence the name.

The event took place over the weekend 23/24 June when the weather was at its kindest, that is to say not too hot and not too dry. The Regiment sent four teams this year; three teams of whippersnappers and an old crocks team (the veterans). The stated aim of the team captain, **WO2 Scotty Handibode**, was to win; the aim of **Lt Chas Dowie** was to finish, there is a difference (team captain to note). The QMSI, **WO2 Steve Simcox**, was invited to attend, after all he is a physiotherapist, who needed to heal himself. Those who thought they required his services soon had second thoughts after watching some of his ministrations; the cure seemed worse than the injury.

**Sgt Bob Anderson** led his team of **LCpls Jason Meek** and **'M' Emmerson** to third spot on day one. The second day is the real test though and **Sgt Bob Anderson** set off with only the thought of 'winner' on his mind; his injuries from day one however took their toll and he finished fourth overall. **LCpl Jason Meek** had a good day finishing ninth overall. **LCpl 'M' Emmerson** with a great deal of determination and after even more pain finished 83rd overall giving the 'A' team an overall fifth position, which qualifies them for the Cyprus Walkabout Competition to be held in October.

**Sig George** and **'Capo' Carpenter** both had good runs on the first day but picked up injuries to feet and knees such that it made their second day a very painful experience (one not to be repeated they say). However both now know the difference between 'can't' and 'won't'. **Sig George** also had the honour of finishing third in a local German marathon; he didn't actually start with the rest of the field, it was just that his selected route at that time passed through the finish line. The applause was tremendous and is vouched for by **Lt Chas Dowie** who finished fourth in the same race using the same strategy.

**Results**

| Place | Individual | Time (hrs) |
|---|---|---|
| 4th | **Sgt Anderson** | 4:57:16 |
| 9th | **LCpl Meek** | 5:39:48 7th Veteran |
| 38th | **WO2 Simcox** | 7:02:48 |
| 40th | **Sgt Carr** | 7:06:23 |
| 48th | **WO2 Handibode** | 7:31:34 10th Veteran |
| 68th | **Cpl Martin** | 8:08:13 |
| 83rd | **LCpl Emmerson** | 8:59:40 |
| 93rd | **Lt Dowie** | 10:09:55 15th Veteran |
| 95th | **Sgt Boxall** | 10:11:00 |
| 96th | **Sig George** | 10:11:54 |
| 97th | **Sig Carpenter** | 10:18:20 |
| 5th | **Sgt Anderson**<br>**LCpl Meek**<br>**LCpl Emmerson** | 25:59:11 |
| 20th | **Sgt Boxall**<br>**Sgt Carr**<br>**Cpl Martin** | 34:10:25 |
| 22nd | **Lt Dowie**<br>**WO2 Handibode**<br>**WO2 Simcox** | 34:32:25 3rd Veterans |
| Unplaced | **Cpl Law** (retired)<br>**Sig Carpenter**<br>**Sig George** | |

**EXERCISE TOFANE TRIANGLE**

This adventurous training expedition consisted of two weeks trekking along 'Alta Via 1'. This is one of three classic high level routes through the Dolomites in northern Italy. The 150km was split into two parts; the first from Villa Bassa to Cortina and the second to the final destination, Belluno.

The exercise got off to a good start when **2Lt Jim Foulkes** (with pockets overloaded with Cilor) discovered it was an Italian Bank Holiday. Not down hearted the group set off to establish a base camp and had to live on dehydrated rations for the first day. The plan was to buy fresh rations from the mountain huts which, according to the mountaineering guides, were open all year round. The discovery that the huts were not open until two days after our return to Germany dismayed **LCpl Jason Harvey**. 'Why me?' was his joyful cry when he discovered that he had 'volunteered' to accompany **Lt Foulkes** on the 34km round trip to the local Spar store: so near—so far!



Making the most of the sun—LCpl Harvey

After this slightly unfortunate start the intrepid six had some time to make up. Over the initial shock of carrying the Army's 'sturdy' kit up to 2,400m the group found itself adapting to the routine: get up in the rain; pack away in the rain; walk in the rain, camp in the rain and go to sleep in the rain. Morale hit an all time high when the high point of 2,810m was reached and the view consisted of seeing rock for about 10m in every direction, everything else was swallowed in cloud. Not to be put down by 'no sun-tan blues' **Cpl Wilf Wilford** led the six to the well deserved rest day at the half-way point—Cortina d'Ampezzo.

With dry kit and a full stomach the refreshed adventurers set off with new hope in sunshine. This was of course not to last long. By 1,500m it was raining. By 2,200m it had stopped raining—it was snowing! Due to this blizzard camp was made early: a certain expedition leader was starting to worry that warnings about avalanches might have been more applicable than those on sunburn.

The next morning was clear, hot and still. The group was suddenly aware of the mountain range around them and the most fantastic views. The glaciated Mt Marmolada, at 3,343m—the highest mountain in the Dolomites, was clearly visible over 50km away. **Cpl Bonar Law** required no encouragement to jump into his shorts and smother himself in coconut oil. This turned out to be the only day with good weather.

Only one more incident occurred on the rest of the journey. As a final stop was made at a supermarket, a huge lump on **Sig Bruce Sunley**'s knee was brought to the attention of the horrified expedition leader. Despite apparent lack of concern on **Sig Sunley**'s part it was decided that a tactical diversion to the nearest doctor would be wise. After a four hour wait he was finally seen by the doctor. **Sig Sunley** was asked several times if he had knocked his knee, but each time became more adamant that he had not. Three insertions of a large hypodermic and a plea to be evacuated to the nearest BMH later he finally conceded that he now remembered banging his knee. The doctor was so amused by the whole episode that he did not charge us.

The expedition was of great benefit to all those that took part. Special thanks are owed for the generous donation made from the CinC BAOR's Enterprise Fund which made it possible.

**HOTEL TROOP**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Troop** | **Lt Williams** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Griffiths** |
| **Recce Sgt** | **Sgt Rideout** |

**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

There are now many new faces in Hotal Tp. Welcome to **Lt Eddie Williams, Cpl Carr, LCpls Spiers, Lake, Sig Robinson, Hillier** and **Peters**. We say farewell to **LCpl Mackenzie** and **Jill** to 19 Inf Bde, SSgt **Wylie** to 1 Sqn, **LCpl Eldridge** to 5 AB Bde and **Cpl Clark** to 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt.

**EXERCISE SUMMER SALES**

In the middle of June TN 014 deployed on Summer Sales leaving their Troop Commander swanning in Norway. **Sig 'Dixy' Dixon** believed that the reason for deploying during the World Cup was to prevent him from being arrested. The exercise went well with only a few mistakes, giving all new members of the Troop a chance to see the node in operation.

**RHEINDAHLEN ALLIED MARCHES**

Six of the lads from Hotel Tp were conned by their Tp Comd, **2Lt Williams**, to take part in the Rheindahlen Allied Marches. The team left Lippstadt on 3 July to allow time to acclimatise to the Rheindahlen weather.

Finally when the 30km march started the team set off at a blistering pace. This was mainly due to **2Lt Williams** and **LCpl Langley** wanting to watch the World Cup Semi Finals. The fast pace was maintained over the 30km and this meant the team completed the course in 3 hrs 55 mins.

The team members were: **2Lt 'Para' Williams, LCpl 'Speedy' Langley, Sig 'Waddler' Taylor, 'Jules' Barnes, 'Sir my knee hurts' Tinsell, 'Mandy Smith' Robinson** and **'Scare Face' Hillier**.


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# 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) BFPO 35

The highlight of the last two months has been the Regimental Adventure Training held through our NATO contacts, at the Belgian Para-Commando training centre in the Ardennes. After an initial reconnaissance by the Training Wing, **Capt Julian Bunce, WO2 (SSM) Brian Parkhill** and **Sgt Martin Bamford** earlier in the year, a demanding programme was arranged.

Each week 50 students spent two days undergoing the 'Centre d'Entrainement de Commandos Initiation' tests then chose to canoe, climb or trek for the rest of the week.

Nothing attempted was actually dangerous, just rather intimidating at times. Besides climbing and abseiling there were a wide variety of confidence course obstacles including the 'Vertigo' which was a series of high wire acts at 240ft.

The WRAC were made especially welcome and performed extremely well, led by the mountain goat Asst Adjt, **Lt Jayne Bell**. Most memorable was **Lt Debs Wadsworth** on 'the beam' over the river.



Smiling now it's all over: 1 Sqn and the Instructors



LCpl Jeff Howe and Sig Robbo Robertson attempt to appear casual on the Vertigo Course

**VISIT**

Mention must also be made of the visit by **Mr Denis Thatcher**. He showed considerable interest in the Regiment's equipment and chatted to most of those taking part.



Mr Thatcher with 2 Sqn

**1 SQUADRON**

Whoever said 28 Sig Regt was a sleepy hollow?—well 1 Sqn certainly isn't. What with numerous visits, an escape and evasion exercise, a four day climbing and windsurfing trip to the Eifel, a four day canoeing and cycling trip to the Mosel, challenge pursuit camp and exercises and competitions, life has been busy to say the least.

On 18 May Foxtrot Tp assembled their switch on the Regimental square in preparation for the visit of the local stadt councillors. The speeches were delivered in German so it was left to **Sgt Chris Hartley** and **LCpl Mick Moore** to do most of the talking.

The following day **Mr Thatcher** visited the Regiment with Foxtrot Tp once again in the limelight. This time all explanations were in English so everyone managed to get a word in—some more than others. **Cpl G. E. D. Major** decided to show off his new Northag Tare Computer and put all planned timings out of the window. After an informal chat over coffee; avoiding the subject of the Poll Tax (excepting **Cpl G. E. D. Major**); Foxtrot Tp was keen to join the Regiment on the sports field for a barbecue, so the fastest turnaround ever took place.

**EXERCISE JONAHS BACKSTOP**

On Monday 18 June 1 Sqn departed for Arnsbeck with Foxtrot Tp disappearing into the woods and Golf Tp in hot pursuit. We now hear the story from both sides:

**FOXTROT TROOP (THE KINGS!)**

Had our enemy switched on quicker and stayed on the perimeter road of the area they may have caught more pairs sooner. **Sig George Crawford** and **LCpl Trish Williams** were the first to be caught—next time don't stick your thumb out to a rover! A chilly first night was had by all. Everyone trotted off to their first RV for a yummee yummee 24 hour rat pack, the thought of which led everyone straight out of the woods and into the nearest Schnell Imbiss.

On the second night **Cpl** 'Scott of the Antarctic' **Booth** declared 'I'm just going for a walk' only to be seen 12 hours later after a 50km trip in a police car, a ride on a train and maybe 50-60m of walking. **Sgt** 'Hotrod' **Jobling** had the good fortune to be caught by Golf's most gullible guard **Sgt** 'Max' **Maxted**. 'Would I lie to you **Max?** There's another one over there'. He actually fell for it.

A special mention must go to **Sgt 'Seve' Hartley, Cpl Craig Raine** and **LCpl Rick Davey** who all escaped capture successfully (by the skin of their teeth). Well done lads.

**GOLF TROOP**

The pre-exercise activities proved to be just as much fun as the exercise with the Foxtrot personnel trying to outwit Golf Tp by hiding money and cigarettes in the most unexpected places.

The weather dampened the spirits and everyone's kit but Golf Tp managed to struggle through. At the end of the exercise when stories were swopped it seemed difficult to decide who'd had the harder time of it.

**FOXTROT BACKSTOP 1**

After all organisation and recces etc all kit was loaded on Wednesday 11 July and all that was left was to wait for Thursday morning.

Morning came, everyone was up at the crack of dawn and we left half an hour late. The journey down was straightforward and no-one got lost thanks to the excellent route-card. After finding the campsite

we found the direct route blocked so had to backtrack a couple of miles and arrive by the back door which provided us with our first hiccup. **Cpl Sam Prince** decided that driving on the tarmac was boring and proceeded to put two wheels and nearly all the DAF in a ditch. After a few scares and breaking a few eggs we retrieved the DAF and headed off to set up camp.

The afternoon saw the group split into rock climbers and windsurfers, **LCpl Reg Varney** leading the windsurfers and **Cpls Sean Morgan** and **Alfie White** looking after the climbers. Some interesting techniques were tried on the rocks with **Sig Harry Harris** trying to scamper up but slipping on all the suntan oil left on the rock. **Lt Debs Wadsworth** had the shakiest legs and also the shortest and spent a lot of time hanging by a rope!

Evening meals were always eventful with the women taking charge while all the lads replayed the World Cup. After barbecue and showers we drove into town and danced the night away in Heimbach.

All in all a good time was had by all and the activities went well.

**EXERCISE FOXTROT BACKSTOP 3**

On 1 August nine members of F Troop and a few from G Troop departed for **SSgt** 'Gunny' **Gibson's** second home 'The Moselle Valley'. The idea was to cycle and canoe from Bernkastel to Cochem. The first leg of the canoeing was 22kms and was covered fairly well, especially by **Pte Tracy Williams**, who for her first time in a canoe did superbly well.

Day two started with broken minibus, quickly repaired by **LCpl Richie Taulbut** and **Cpl Marty Taylor**. We all arrived eventually at Bullay and the Black Cat Disco.

Day three got underway without a hitch and **Cpl Sean Murray** was happy now that he had got his bike back. When the activities had finished we were joined by **Lt Wadsworth** and **SSgt** 'Gunny' **Gibson** (Told you! It's his second home).

**2 SQUADRON**
**OSCAR TROOP**
**WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS**

This month we say farewell to **Capt Davis** who is posted to 22 Sig Regt and **Cpl Hank Cappleman** who is going to 2 Inf Div Sig Regt. Welcome to the New Troop Commander **Capt Stringer** and also **Roy Bradley, Keith Blondel** and **Craig** 'Star Player' **Fisher**. Congratulations to **Pete Trant** on his promotion to LCpl.


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After a residential training course of between 29 and 52 weeks – depending on background experience – the Radio Officer Pay Scale ranges from £12,678 to £18,431 over 5 years with prospects for further promotion. (Salaries include an allowance for shift and weekend work).

APPLICANTS MUST BE BRITISH NATIONALS

For further information and application form contact:–
Recruitment Office, Room A/1108, GCHQ, Priors Road, CHELTENHAM, Glos GL52 5AJ or telephone (0242) 232912 or 232913.

GCHQ


**RAFFLE A RANK DAY**
**by LCpl John Bedborough**

In aid of (yes, you've guessed it), the Corps Museum Fund, the OC Sqn decided to raffle four ranks off for a day. The Squadron Commander's place fell to **Sig Terry Waite**, so first thing on Tuesday morning he shouted for 'SSM' **LCpl John Bedborough** to accompany him while he inspected the Squadron. Papa Tp was led by 'Lt' **Sig Billy Davison** and Oscar fronted-up by 'Tp Sgt' **Sig Vice Chipping**. The inspection passed without too much blood on the carpet. 'Maj' **Terry Waite** then set about organising the rest of the day with a little help from the real OC **Maj Costello**—on the whole he did not make too much of a mess of it. It was soon time for NAAFI break and a trip to the Sergeants' Mess for tea and toast. After light refreshment 'Maj' **Waite** and 'SSM' **Bedborough** got back in time to shout at **Cpls Bob Clubb, Ginge Morgan** and **Gaz Blight** for sitting around drinking coffee as usual. The rest of the morning was spent under instruction from **Maj Costello, WO2 (SSM) Clark-Darby, Lt King** and **Sgt Ray King** in how to drink coffee and walk around looking important without actually doing anything. At lunch it was time for a few beers under the pretence of saying farewell to **Capt Davis** who is posted to 22 Sig Regt. The rest of the day proceeded smoothly with many more cups of coffee being drunk and a lot more walking around. The day finished off with after work drinks in the Sergeants' Mess. Unfortunately 'Maj' **Terry Waite** and 'Lt' **Billy Davison** were thrown out by 'SSM' **John Bedborough** and 'Sgt' **Vince Chipping** for being Officers!

**RUGBY**

The Tigers had another good social season with touring sides from Warwick University, Furness United (Wales) and Bromley Police, all turning up (somewhat unexpectedly) for a game and a couple of beers. The team actually won three games and got through to the RCZ Sevens semi-finals. Thanks to **Capt Phillips** and **SSgt Dave Thompson** for all their hard work over the last few seasons.

The team has now been taken over by **Maj Jones** who has threatened to start training sessions on the pitch instead of the bar. The last game of the season saw the Tigers (re-named Pussy Cats) lose once again, this time to the WRAC in the Regiment, the Francisca Felines. The lads still say that their 14—0 defeat was due to the inclusion in their team of a footballer in stockings and wellies (normally seen around camp disguised as **RSM Bob O'Hara**). The third half was a well fought contest which was eventually declared a draw.

The men can now relax, they haven't got a woman in charge next season as **Sgt Jo Richmond** is posted.

**CHALLENGE PURSUIT CAMP**

On a dull rainy Sunday afternoon members of 2 Sqn with elements of Support Sqn set off to Marche Les Dames, Belgium for the annual Summer Camp. After a brew and a brief by **Capt** 'Joules' **Bunce**, we set about the most important phase of the week, abseiling without the aid of a safety rope, down the hill to the Belgian Bar.

Monday morning saw us split into two groups for phase one of the week, a two day climbing and abseiling course. Our instructors for this were supplied by the Commando School at Marche Les Dames. The high wire part of the course on the Monday evening sorted out the men (and women) from the boys. This activity was carried out at 200ft, even though we were clipped onto a safety rope, it was certainly character building/breaking stuff.

Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays phase was given over to either climbing or canoeing, with the canoeists staying out overnight at a civvy campsite.

Thursday night we had a farewell barbecue to say thank you to the Belgian staff who had supervised us in the confidence course.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the Regiment's Directing Staff for a thoroughly enjoyable week.



Sig Si Jennings about to discover the problems of being small on the confidence course



# 30 Sig Regt Blandford Camp

8 August and as an operational Unit 30 Sig Regt again has its proverbial ear to the ground awaiting the latest in a long line of potential deployments.

Our impact in Trinidad and Tobago in February of this year must have been greater than we thought. Luckily the timing for Platinum Mercury had tactfully avoided the latest rebel coup. Was this to be the sequel—Trinidad and Tobago II?—The return of the Regiment? No repeat of the carnivals and 'wookey' in the streets of Port of Spain for the Troops in 1 Sqn. Oh well, keep the Caribs on ice.

Liberia? Another hot and sunny location for the Spearhead lads to fill their webbing pouches with suntan cream. Apart from **Cpl Blythe's** comparatively short but very memorable trip to Monrovia the rest of the Regiment watched their suntans fade, back in the blandness of Blandford.

So now what? 2 Sqn has recently returned from Cyprus and Ex Purple Venture and the Gurkhas have hiked back from their Adventure Training in Capel Curig—suntanned!

All returns to normality in Blandford Camp—until the next time . . .

**CCF CAMP OKEHAMPTON**
**PERSONALITIES**
**Lt John Adams**
**SSgt Ian Brereton**
**LCpl Dave Millar**
**LCpl Jason King**
**LCpl Foggy Dewhurst**

Once again the Regiment was tasked to provide a team to teach signalling skills to cadets on their annual camp. The cadets enjoyed half a day's practical signal training squeezed into a busy programme. They were pushed through a variety of stands including: Voice Procedure and National Cadet Radio Net, Mast Erection, Pole Crossings and Line Laying. The training culminated in cadets being split into teams and competing for the coveted 'best signaller' trophy. All of this was set against the rugged backdrop of Dartmoor. Characteristically, the moor demonstrated that it has its own separate weather system, with storms and gales prevailing for the first week. Congratulations to **LCpl King** for putting his life on the line teaching mast erection in the atrocious conditions. The teaching proved to be very successful with both the instructors and cadets gaining from it. The only improvement that I suggest for next year is to move the whole camp to Newquay instead!

**JOCOMMEX—SCOTLAND**
**by 2Lt Trevor R. Nottage RAPC(V)**

It was with trepidation that I joined **Lt Adams** and **Sig Reynolds** in a 1.1 Metro for a 1,600 mile round-trip drive to Gairloch, Scotland.

The closing stages of the first leg took an interesting twist when at 2200 hrs on a single lane, winding, foggy road a few nonchalant sheep and cows became our welcoming committee (undoubtedly they were not briefed by the Chamber of Commerce).

The fresh sea air stung the nostrils and heightened the appetite for adventure. The toss of the sea and the draught from the ship stimulated the sickening feeling usually reserved for meals in the Officers' Mess.

On the whole the trip was a success. The liaison lines and 'traffic' became cohesive. The Captain and crew gave us a tour of 'their lady' and the feast laid before us would have impressed a Brigadier. A welcoming rain and fog accompanied our berthing just to remind us that we were indeed in Scotland.

**Sig Reynolds**, a.k.a. 'Sig Nigel Mansell' met us on our disembarkation in our luxury coupe, non-existent stereo sound 1.1 Metro.

The drive back was sweltering. The hottest August day on record. My boxer shorts were boxing. As we returned to the mecca of the south (Blandford Forum—ha! ha! ha!) the sun had set and drinking time was escaping fast. The visiting UOTC girls put much life back into these weary bones.

As an RAPC Officer all the communication jargon and equipment was as clear as mud. I did however manage to help the Signal Officer who thought it was Greek. It was, overall, an enjoyable event to culminate my short attachment to 30 Sig Regt. Thanks to everyone for their hospitality. It has been an experience.

**250 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON**
**by LCpl Gobinda Pras Gurung**

After a long wait it was finally decided that a Gurkha Signal Squadron was going to be formed in UK, which was good news for QG Signals. Late in 1989 it was decided that the Squadron would replace 3 Sqn of 30 Sig Regt at Blandford.

A lot of preparation had to be done prior moving to UK: combat radio operators would mainly use Triffid for radio relay in UK, which was not used in Hong Kong. A new equipment for them! therefore **Cpls Parendra** and **Bikram** having done the Triffid course at Catterick, gave the boys a familiarisation course on the Triffid at the All Arms Training Centre, Sek Kong.

The first batch of 14 radio operators left for UK on 15 March. First they went to Catterick to do a course on operation of Triffid. Three radio techs also came for the conversion course (they would be working as system technicians), then the advance party of eight men mainly from SHQ left for UK on 30 March, but this time heading direct for Blandford. The Tg Ops while in Hong Kong had been using the Trend for the past couple of years, so they had to go back to the T100.

Ex Pennine Link a CPX took place from 11 to 17 May. The exercise was for training purposes for fulfilling the role of Squadron which is to provide trunk communications and HQ facilities to UK Mobile Force Rear Maintenance Area HQ (RMA).

Then came an important event to be remembered. On 1 June 1990, 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn was formally established as part of 30 Sig Regt. The parade was held to mark the formation of the Squadron. Salute was taken by **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook** SOinC. We could call it a reformation parade because in 1951, the Sig Trg Sqn was officially titled 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn. During the 1967-71 British withdrawal from Malaya and Singapore, the training role of 250 Sig Sqn was passed to the Training Tp of Hong Kong, which is now known as the All Arms Training Centre.

**TUG OF WAR**
**by SSgt (YofS) K. E. Emmerson**

An invitation was given to Blandford Camp to enter the Tug-of-War Competition taking place at St Leonards School Donkey Derby. 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn decided to take up the challenge.

As Squad Leader, I checked around for likely pullers. As this was a catchweight (no weight limit) competition some 'weight' was required. However in a Gurkha Sig Sqn this wasn't easy to find. Our resident TOW expert, **Cpl 'Foggy' Dewhurst**, took on the task of training and team selection. The team eventually being half Gurkha and half British. **Sig 'Tiny' Clarke** proved a solid anchor man and the Gurkha soldiers, who had not pulled before, gave excellent performances.

After beating the Young Farmers 2—1 in a close fought battle, the final against the Blandford Rugby Club pack proved just too much for our very lightweight and new team. However, this didn't dampen the spirit of the team or spoil what was an excellent afternoon out.

**THE FOVANT BADGES**

During these three days the Squadron undertook the restoration of the Corps badge on the hillside at Fovant near Salisbury. The 'Jimmy' standing about 40m high is one of several badges which have been carved into the side of the hill. The first day of restoration was spent reshaping and bordering the edges. The second day was spent raking and putting more chalk into the badge so as to make it easily visible. (The nearest viewpoint is three quarters of a mile away). The third and final day we spent tidying the area and doing the final shaping etc. In the afternoon we finished off by having a barbecue which was provided by the SQMS **SSgt Bikram**. An enjoyable three days was spent doing a worthwhile job which, we hope, produced a good result.

**A VISIT TO WHIPSNADE ZOO**
**by LCpl Laxman**

On 3 July the Squadron visited the 600 acre Whipsnade Zoo. The weather was marvellous, not a cloud in sight.

An interesting day which included viewing the wild animals at closer quarters, courtesy of British Rail.

In the evening we took part in a sports competition against the Zoo staff. We played six-a-side football, volleyball and softball. Softball is a new game to the Gurkhas and our performance was somewhat disappointing at first. However by the end of the game, after a good sweat out, some aggression and determination, we narrowed the difference in seores.

To round off the day we provided a Gurkha curry supper for the Zoo staff. In return they prepared a burger barbecue for us, a good exchange of food!

Before leaving, the Squadron presented the Zoo staff with a commemorative plaque to convey our gratitude for an entertaining and educational visit. Hopefully this will not be the last of such trips!

# 31 Sig Regt (V)
# Hammersmith

**EXERCISE CALM FENCE**

When the CO announced to the Regiment that we were going to be deployed to the Island of Leonidas, to restore their communications following a devastating hurricane, he was met with some very perplexed looks. 'But we always go to Belgium' was the reply from **WO Maurice Byrne**. However, being flexible, as soon as the request came through the Regiment packed and was ready to go.

The initial task was to 'provide communications at key installations' which included some rather unusual locations—83 Sqn found a disused race track and HQ Sqn found some very comfortable quarters to stretch out in at Tongeren.

2IC **Maj Keith Bruce-Smith**, keen to get to the first location, led his packet of vehicles along the narrow streets and the pavements of Mons, through diversion signs and to the amazement of the locals (and the police), joined the annual town procession.

Soldier magazine heard about the stricken plight of Leonidas and keen to get first hand news, flew to the scene. The intrepid reporter, **Laurie Manton**, (ex Corps) was mildly surprised to see some familiar faces from 1964 days in Harrogate which included **Sgt** 'Titch' **Walker** who had shot from 4ft something to nearly 6ft, and the Trg Maj, **Allan Duncan**, who used spoons on **Laurie**'s head to practise drum rolls and only stopped when confronted with an irate **Mrs Manton** armed with an umbrella!

The Regiment was pleased to receive a number of visitors who included the SOinC **Maj Gen Cook**, Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen Alexander**, GOC London District, **Maj Gen Cooper** and **Maj Gen Oehlers**, our Honorary Colonel—to name but a few, and also some 20 NATO Officers.

What good afternoon cakes we had with our tea on those days.

**47 SQUADRON**
**SUMMER CAMP**

Yet again, 47 Sqn came on camp with the largest number of soldiers, ably led by the Sqn Comd **Maj Chris Mote** and **SSM** 'Radar' **Keefe**. Having finished work on Friday at 1800 hrs, the Squadron left the drill halls by 2100 hrs, fully loaded and eager for the Continent.

On arrival in Belgium another refuelling stop at Chievres and a meal prior to deploying straight into the field. The first vehicle casualty occurred within 10 minutes of leaving Chievres with **Sgt Bob Snow**, **Capt Tony Rose** and **Lt Jenny Denning** having to limp back to Chievres with a backfiring landrover. A quick change and then off to the recce. It took at least a couple of days before the Squadron shook out the cobwebs and began to work cohesively. The Recce Officer is convinced the Belgian tree planters know the width of a 4 tonner, and plant the trees 1in too close.

**Lt Steve Maddigan** produced an excellent site diagram for the next location, in the woods of a local Court with wild boar and hogs roaming nearby. Unfortunately the chateau was the Count's hunting lodge and not open for visitors. During this part of the exercise, **Sig Geoff Howe** was 'lost' at Ostende having arrived by ferry in the morning. With the escort **LCpl Gary Cheshire** being unable to locate him, **Sig Howe** naturally returned home. A quick call from the 2IC **Capt Rose** to England from a Belgian phone box to 'Mum' and he was back on the ferry again. this time we did collect him, and his assistance was greatly appreciated for the remainder of camp.



Sgt Carol Borowska and LCpl Judith Camino with the SOinC in the Tape Relay Vehicle

**Lt Mike Lansdown** surpassed himself at one site by producing an excellent putting green, with compo tins for holes. **SSgt Richard Peters** gave the expert tuition in landscaping, being a professional landscaper in his civilian career. Having a newly married couple (**LCpl David Cumino** and **Cpl Judith Cumino**) in the Squadron, separated in different Troops produced a constant stream of letters for the postal service: 'Absence makes the heart grow fonder'.

**SSgt Chris Hurst** and **Sgt Carol Borowska** led the multiplex and tape relay vehicles admirably, despite being overworked as all the radio shots were successfully achieved earlier on in the exercise.

**Cpl Ian Stokes** produced the entertainment for the Squadron bringing not only his TV but also his VCR together with a variety of 'training tapes', which produced a full house after hours. The knowledge gained was put to practical use at the end-of-camp disco!

The Squadron surely missed **WO2 George Johnston** and his wife **Sgt Bet Johnston**, due to a serious illness, and are pleased to hear that he has now recovered.

**41 SQUADRON**

'Er ma'am, the gear stick's just broken off your rover' said **LCpl Brian Taynor**—the first words uttered as K Troop arrived at their initial site for camp—a site, which incidentally had turned into a jungle since it was first recce'd.

A friendly Belgian farmer then walked through the middle of our site with a gun and asked was it all right for him to go hunting—there were wild boar in the area. That did at least explain the grunting and snorting noises that had worried **Sig Paul Russell** on guard that night—he'd thought it was linkman **Sig Adam Champion** coming to relieve him for guard! Meanwhile, lizards crawled all over him.

**Pte Helen Bore**, DTg, had a few adventures on camp—first of all she got electric shocks from the switchboard when she took her boots off one evening. Then the following day she got locked in the toilet when we were at Brunssum Radio Site.

Quote of camp went to **Sig Tony Bailey** who, while on switchboard, rang the cook and said 'hello cookhouse, this is switchboard. Dinner's ready'. **Bailey** was later found sleepwalking round the complex at 0400 hrs—he thought someone had woken him up for guard, but then realised he'd dreamt it.

The Bde Comd, **Brig Conrad Garton**, sprang a surprise visit on us. He had some of **Pte Jan Davies'** 21st birthday cake—deliciously baked in the field by **Cpl Ian Jeeves**—then visited the R/Relay det. He took one look at **Cpl Martyn Grabb** (5ft 8in and stocky with a tash) and **Sig 'wild boar' Russell** (5ft 10in lean, mean, fighting machine') and asked 'are you two brothers?'.

**83 SQUADRON**

The last few months have been dominated by our deployment to NW Europe for Ex Calm Fence. After the familiar adventures of the actual deployment through St Martins Plain and Dover, the Squadron arrived at Chievres to be met by the welcome sight of **SSgt Roy Smith** and **Cpl Baker**.

Having recovered from the journey the Squadron deployed for phase 1 of the exercise. The Trunk Node, after a number of adventures arrived at the motor circuit at Mettet and set up in the pits (an unfortunate start one might say), whilst A Troop drove across the road into Chievres camp to set up between the showers and the gymnasium, this proved yet again that **Lt Steve Mills** had better connections at RCP than his Sqn Comd.

We now awaited our first challenge in the shape of **Mayor of Wandsworth** who was paying his first visit to the Squadron in NW Europe. The Mayors party was briefed on the exercise by **2Lt Anne Mercer** and then taken round the site by the OC and SSM **WO2 Graham Brain**. The following morning the party went to the woods at Jehonville to see A Troop in a tactical setting, and were shown round by **2Lt Claire Runnicles** and **Sgt John Hickey**. The Mayoress took great interest in the cookhouse run by **LCpl Gregory ACC** and sampled the tea and biscuits. The Mayor's party then drove back to the new Trunk Node site at Barriere de Champlon. Here after tea and cakes with the soldiers of the Squadron the ladies in the party were presented with Belgian Chocolates by **Cpl Sharon Driver**. The Mayor's party then departed on their journey home whilst we got down to the exercise.

The Trunk moved into Germany to Prum a familiar site to the old hands in the Squadron and much favoured by **Capt Stephen Potter** for its' excellent sauna facilities. From there off to Lammersdorf for the final phase of the Brigade exercise. Whilst all this was happening A Troop had not been idle, well almost. Off they went first to echelon braving the hardships of Tongeren then up to Maastricht, down across





Photo: Courtesy of 'Soldier' magazine

Lt Hayley Hummerston (Australian) watchkeeper talks to Capt Linda Coe Operations Officer



Photo: Courtesy 'Soldier' magazine

Is anyone there? LCpl Brent Copsey and Cpl Simon Loftus

to Chievres where **Sig Sturt** was heard to comment on the difficulty of fitting in his work between his frequent showers. B Troop meanwhile in the capable hands of **Lt Guy Lester** was finding that things don't change much in Belgium. If you make use of **Cpl Mick Sheldons** outdoor shower, you will get an audience.

At Lammersdorf the visit of the GOC Londist came and went but not before the linemen of **2Lt John Russell** had relaid most of the cable in and around the site. There were rumours of a crisis but **LCpl Fairs** and **Sig Godfrey** coped well. The Squadron barbecue took place on their respective sites, at Lammersdorf we erected a 'modernist' cam net spire, at Cheivres they used the bicycle sheds. Alas endex came and we returned to Zeebrugge via the scenic route. The linemen appeared at the party wearing a series of T shirts whose logos had various sentiments relating to Comms and Parties printed on them.

After an eventful journey home we dismissed at Southfields and went home to our families with large quantities of Chocolates.

The next weekend **Cpl Donna Dawson** married her Para and became **Cpl Malcolm**, the rest of the Squadron went off on holiday.

**NEWS FROM ABROAD**

**Capt Vicki Hutchinson** is still working hard on Operation Raleigh in Australia.

News from our man in Hong Kong, **Lt Tim Smith**, who sent a signal back to his old Unit to let us know that he arrived safely (via the Middle East!).

WHO FIGHTS FOR THE SOLDIER WHEN THE SOLDIER CAN'T FIGHT?



When a man has given his youth and strength to help us, it's our privilege and duty to help him and his loved ones when in need – even if he's still in the Service.

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SOLDIERS', SAILORS' AND AIRMEN'S FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

# 33 Sig Regt (V)
## Liverpool

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **CO** | **Lt Col R. J. Brown** |
| **Trg Maj** | **Maj P. J. Bowles** |
| **QM** | **Maj R. Fortune BEM** |
| **Adjt** | **Capt R. W. Seaword** |
| **RSM** | **WO1 (RSM) J. J. Dent** |

The Regiment has had a very full training programme coupled with a wide variety of activities.

It has also experienced a change of CO since our last report with the arrival of **Lt Col R. J. Brown** who joins us from sunny Cyprus. With temperatures in Liverpool in the high 90's he probably felt quite at home. It may well be a different tale in December!, however, we all wish him and his wife **Sue** a very pleasant tour with us and hope they enjoy the Liverpudlian style of TA soldiering.

On 6 July we said farewell to **Lt Col D. G. W. Gardiner OBE** who, having just returned from holiday abroad, received the news that he had been made OBE in the Honours List and selected for promotion to Colonel. Needless to say all members of the Regiment were delighted for him. It was a fitting reward for all his hard work at 33 Sig Regt (V).

During his farewell drinks the RSM, **WO1 John Dent** presented **Lt Col David Gardiner** with a silver ink stand and pen from all members of the Regimental Sergeants Mess. The idea behind the gift was that the pen needed to be dipped before use and would hopefully slow the Colonel down when creating his staff papers; a problem our Regimental Typist never managed to master against the speed of the modern biro!

**Lt Col Gardiner** now moves to the MOD and we wish him and his wife **Sarah** all the best for the future and hope they enjoy their stay in the metropolis.

**NEWS FROM 80 SIGNAL SQUADRON—CHESTER**
**ASSISTANCE AT THE ACF CAMP**

Between 21 and 28 July ACE HGV drivers **Cpls Alison Seaward-Birchall** and **Tony Wylie** of 80 Sig Sqn, Chester provided support for the Cheshire ACF.

It proved to be a change of scenery in more ways than one for the drivers, whose usual roles are as a Data Telegraphist and Radio Telegraphist respectively.

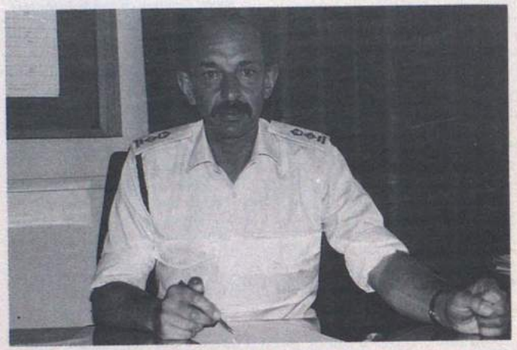
Their main duties involved transporting the cadets from Cultybraggan Training Camp to Loch Earn in order to practise their canoeing and swimming, and a short distance further along the road to participate in abseiling. As the party of cadets and instructors usually left at 0830 hrs and returned for tea at 1600 hrs, the two drivers found plenty of time in which to perfect a glowing tan and sample the delights of the activities available at Loch Earn, including windsurfing and jet skis.

Evening duties involved driving groups of cadets back and forth to Stirling Camp for the changeover in companies.

**Cpl Seaward-Birchall** was judged the best driver of the week and both were thanked for their help by **Capt Ken Jones** RMTO of Cheshire ACF.



Lt Col David Gardiner hands over command of the Regiment to Lt Col Rick Brown


Lt Col Rick Brown with a clear desk on his first day in command. How long will it last?


WO1 (RSM) John Dent presents a farewell gift



# 35 Sig Regt (V)
## Sutton Coldfield

**HANDS ACROSS THE WATER**

On Saturday 9 June in what can only be described as typical exercise weather the Regiment began deploying for its BAOR biennial camp in torrential rain. An air of apprehension could be detected as the Regiment formed up in its marshalling area at Hull Docks as a rough crossing over the North Sea was anticipated. Many members began to realise that a bag of crisps and an apple would not be a substitution for forgotten Kalms or Sea Legs. Fortunately the 'Greenhouse Effect' saved the day and the weather broke as we boarded and we crossed on a sea of air—although those of us with really weak stomachs would not agree!

The preceding few months had been dominated by Camp preparations and training; now it was time to test and assert our military and trade skills in our mobilisation and reinforcing role on the continent. Skills that would be thoroughly tested and stretched by Saceur throughout Ex Calm Fence. Already a healthy competitive spirit was developing between the various Squadrons based throughout the West Midlands and all were confident that they would exceed their Commander's expectations and improve on past performances. To the Regiment's credit all Phases of the exercise went remarkably well from the movement to the Comms Phase which deployed the Regiment over a wide area placing great pressure on the Line of Communications and the Regiments technical and engineering effort. Needless to say all elements responded well and communications were maintained at a highly satisfactory level much to the relief of Brigade and Regimental planning staff. Who won the competition . . . Well!

Even the Duty Free Phase went without a hitch or complaint (at least certainly not from the Felsenkeller Brewery in Herford which we are keeping in business by our biennial contribution to their sales effort). However one or two cadets were intercepted heading for the flight home carrying six crates of Grolsch and could not understand why the Air Movement Staff would not allow it to be carried as cargo. Fortunately a sympathetic member of the Sea Party managed to take it home for them at no extra cost.


Sig Shenton of 58 Sqn showing two of our attached cadets how to camouflage line cables in a trench


Cpl Eileen Fox of HQ Sqn MT in her designer refuelling gear at Lincoln Barracks


A trendy looking Pte Bev Jones of the HF Det


The LAD in a relaxed mood

**NOTABLE VISITORS TO ANNUAL CAMP**

Notable visitors included the SOinC, **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook** and Commander Communications BAOR **Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander OBE** to Access Node 61 (58 Sqn) in glorious muddy conditions close to HQ Afcent, **Maj Gen P. R. F. Bonnet MBE,** GOC West Midland District Comd 11 Sig Bde (V), **Brig Conrad Garton,** the Hon Col, **Col M. P. K. Beatty TD, ADC, DL** and last but not least a large group of NATO visitors who were entertained to a most unusual briefing by members of Access Node 61. All visitors however met many members of the Regiment including attached members of the ACF in various Field Locations.


The SOinC chatting to members of 58 Sqn

**REST AND RECUPERATION**

At the end of the exercise all members of the Regiment were granted a one day R & R to allow personal administration, shopping and sight-seeing prior to returning to the UK. Some, notably from 95 Sqn, made impromtu trips to the East German Border to witness history in the making; not surprisingly they were followed by our Press visitors. Many others took advantage of local German hospitality and made their way to Munster Stadt Center and the huge fun fair to get rid of their loose change. We have it on good authority that a certain Squadron Commander who shall remain anonymous (but has recently become a father) is still recovering from his five minute trip on the notorious 'Cage' after consuming vast amounts of Bratwurst. The experience left him more than a little lightheaded and weak kneed (legless). The more level headed in the Regiment were found to be huddled around several televisions trying to catch up on the world cup.

Finally we are confident that BAOR has not seen the last of 35 Sig Regt!

**AKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO UNSUNG HEROES**

To the MTWO **WO1 Mick Boyle** and his Stalwart **SSgt Trev Loughton** for ensuring the road movement to and from BAOR was the most successful and bearable for some years, to **Maj Mike Gaffney** and his illustrious Pay Staff, to Q **Kearney** and his Catering Staff to both QMs and their staff for resupply and even kit exchanges, to PSAO 58 Sqn **Capt Roger Breese** and his sidekick **SSgt Stu Waring** for their continued efficient organisation of accommodation and many other Rear Party activities and to the many others involved in the welfare and morale of the Regiment—your efforts did not go unnoticed.



The Pay Team in action in the Field

**NEWSBEAT**

**48 SQUADRON (SPARKBROOK)**

The highlight of the year for the Squadron was undoubtedly the Germany FTX, Ex Calm Fence. Whilst all was going smoothly throughout the two weeks the humourous events took centre stage—in particular **Lt Julian Webbs** growing mistrust in motorised transport. Not only did he have a sense of humour failure when he got bogged down in his Landrover but he was found to be speechless when at a later date he saw half of his convoy packet practising 'right flanking' at a autobahn junction.



Capt George Cairns attesting Pte Sarah Taylor (now Nevitt)

Apparently his facial expression said it all and rumour has it that he is planning to take his Troop on a continental driver training weekend somewhere safe. **SSgt Brian Hughes**, who is amazed at the number of German towns called Ausfahrt, along with a few others ran into some language difficulties at an Autobahn Service Station. Sterling attempts were made to order refreshments in the native tongue much to the amusement of the locals and the Squadron interpreter **2Lt Martin Pulwer** (newly commissioned) quickly found out that the waitress was studying English at University and was anxious to take their order in English—whether or not she could manage to interpret 'Brum' is another story though. Apart from Squadron members, wild animals featured prominently during camp although the legendery Bad Munstereifel Bear proved as elusive as the Loch Ness Monster. We are convinced it was deterred by **SSgt Dusty Evans** and the Sqn Guard Frog or perhaps some ancient meat sandwiches which provided a home for a colony of maggots. Apart from these amusing incidents everyone thoroughly enjoyed the exercise in Germany and the valuable experience it gave us all in improving our military skills and the opportunity of meeting many nationalities.

**NEW ARRIVALS**

A warm welcome is extended to **2Lt Joe Watling** who joins the Squadron from OTC, to **2Lt Alan Jacobs** who has joined us from 89 Sqn and to **Pte Sarah Taylor** who was re-attested into the Squadron by **Capt George Cairns** after a two year excursion with the Regular Army. Since going to press **Sarah** has married **Sig Keith Nevitt** and we extend our warmest congratulations to them both and wish them a happy and long marriage.

**FAREWELL**

The Squadron bids farewell to **SSgt John Mizen** who leaves us on promotion to assume the appointment of SSM 89 Sqn, to **2Lt Julian Webb** who will be leaving us to join 30 Engr Bde RE and to **2Lt Martin Pulwer** who is joining 89 Sqn as a Tp Offr. Farewell also to **Cpl Steve Daly** who successfully passed his 23 SAS selection course. Well done **Steve.**

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations are extended to **2Lt Martin Pulwer** on passing his Sandhurst commissioning course, to **Lt Chris Heaton** on his well earned promotion and to **LCpl Michael Bellaby** on receiving his first tape.

**89 SQUADRON (RUGBY)**

**EXERCISE BARNES GAMBLE**

In an effort to recover from the traumas of Annual Camp **2Lt Alan Jacobs**, as a parting gesture, organised what was to prove to be a superb Adv Oops! Leadership Training Weekend in the heart of Wales.

After very careful planning, preparation and scouring the country for qualified instructors in adventure training pursuits as well as stores depots for various bits and pieces of essential equipment such as canoes, rock climbing equipment and sail boards—some 30 members, on a scorching hot weekend in July, made their way to Crickhowell armed with their personal supply of compo and the latest edition of the country code. On arrival demand for canoeing places exceeded supply as everyone was anxious to cool off in the water. Eventually various pusuits were allocated and the weekend activities commenced including pony trekking—compliments of the OIC. The pony trekkers were however relieved to return to the stables to treat their saddle sores and pursue a more ground based activity. They almost got their wish as rock climbing was next. It should be said at this point that the Squadron party was divided into two groups and the activities equally divided over the weekend to ensure that everyone was given the opportunity of participating in all the programmed activities whether they wanted to or not.

The Rock Climbing element proved to be one source of character building and nerves were soon overcome even though one or two had to be peeled/encouraged off the rock face to get them moving as they say every picture tells a . . . Windsurfing produced some rather strange performances and sights although some very brave attempts were made to do it properly. **Pte Tracy Windross** was ecstatic that she managed to stay on her sailboard and move through the water but dismayed to find she could only go backwards. **Cpl Angie Burrell** decided it was much better to treat it as a surf board and **Sig Russ Sharman** found it better to pose close to shore and pretend he was mobile.

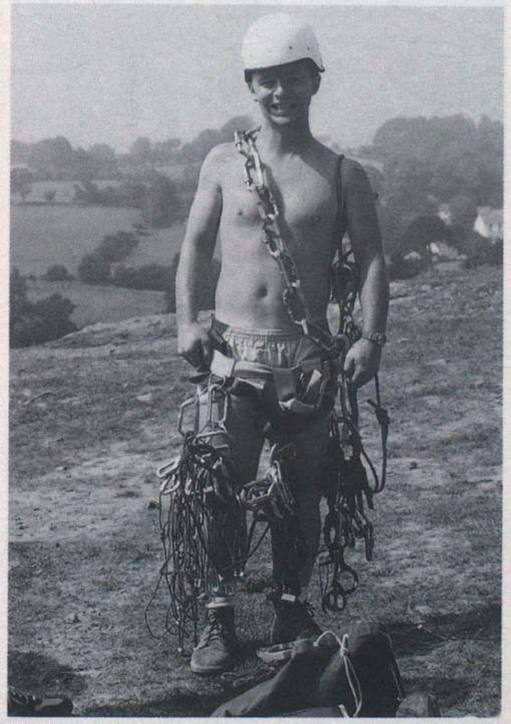
Attempts at canoeing went much better and produced some startling performances from **Lt Ian Barnes** and **Sig Colin Marshall.** Ian's canoe seemed to be tailor made for his formidable shape but he still managed to glide through the water looking like a jet propelled dolphin. Meanwhile **Colin** (White Water) **Marshall** was content to use the bank-side of the lake as a dartboard. This unique and enjoyable



weekend finally drew to a reluctant close and we are now hoping (MTD's willing) that it can be repeated next year.



Cpl Angie Burrell wishing she was somewhere else



Cpl Steve Phillips. The only way we could get him to Rock Climb

**FAREWELL AND CONGRATULATIONS**

Firstly we bid farewell to **2Lt Alan Jacobs** who moves on to 48 Sqn where no doubt he will organise some interesting weekends for his new Troop. We welcome his replacement from 48 Sqn **2Lt Martin Pulwer.** Secondly congratulations to **LCpl Oz Gilroy** and **Cpl Brian McNeil** on their recent promotions and finally to **Sgt Charlie Walker** and **SSgt Dave Arnot** on coming up with a solution on how to store the new sleeping systems without experiencing a nervous breakdown.

## 36 Sig Regt (V) Wanstead

**Maj Frank Jepson** received a silver jerrycan amongst his gifts at his farewell party. He will be missed by all ranks who wish him well in his appointment with the Bank of England.



Pte 'Biscuit' Nesbitt makes the presentation. *From L to R:* Cpl Reg Gregory, Sgt Dave Lock and Cpl Alan Bell

On 9 June 1990 a surprise 50th Birthday Party was held by family and colleagues for **Mrs Iris Burton,** AO HQ Sqn, in the 36 Club. Pictured is **Mrs Burton** cutting the cake.



**UKLF ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The end of another successful Orienteering season saw two teams from the Regiment at Aldershot on 18 May 1990 for the UKLF Orienteering Championships. The girls from 54 (EA) Sig Sqn based in




Sgt Grant handing over to Cpl Keen after another steady run




SSgt (FofS) Thomas-Peter looking for the oxygen at the finish

Bedford, Cambridge and Norwich, who had qualified at the Eastern District Championships as runners-up, and the men of HQ Sqn based in Wanstead, who qualified from the London District Championship as runners-up.

The first day cross-country courses were technically difficult and physically very demanding and proved too much for some of the team.

The second day's relay courses however were over more familiar terrain and the teams enjoyed a good run which was a consolation for the first day.

Many thanks go to the organisers and planners for an excellent event.

The photos show scenes from the relay event.

**WARLEY WARRIORS COMPLETE COURAGE!**
**by SSgt Mick O'Brien**

I was approached in early September and asked if I was prepared to join 45 Sqn's Courage Trophy team. Not knowing what was involved and trying to appear keen, I signed on the dotted line and prepared to learn.

I soon started Tuesday evening training, which involved a run of up to 4.5 miles, circuit training followed by an infantry skills lecture on anything from AFV recognition to first aid.

In March we were as ready as we could be and the weekend beckoned, Squeezed into three landrovers we drove to Pirbright and set up for the night.

Saturday dawned crisp and clear and we were bussed up to the start of the 5.5 mile battle run along the back of the ranges at Bisley and Pirbright. Here we met our umpire for the weekend who was a Paramedic. Having walked(!) the small problem of the run, we were tested in recognition skills, first aid, shooting, NBC warfare, BATCO and signals skills and that night, navigation through what looked like secondary jungle.

After an excellent breakfast prepared by our wonderful support team, we packed up and moved to the Guards Division assault course. This was absolutely mind blowing. As Officer of the team I was told to 'show some aggression!' while gasping for breath and hoping no one would notice if I died quietly in the bushes. After a short break to get some air into our lungs we moved on to the Falling Plate Shooting Competition and the prize giving.

We finished in a respectable position, the free beer tasted fantastic and I was totally shattered. Big thanks from the team goes to our excellent support team, **Capt Hitchen WRAC, LCpl Barnes WRAC, Ptes Cutler** and **Trotsenberg** and our chief cheerleader—the CO.

Thanks to the Staff for persuading us to even attempt the event and for organising a great weekend.



Sig Barnes, LCpl Pickett, Cpl Nicholls, LCpl Drew, SSgt O'Brien, LCpls Wadwell, Barwick and 2Lt Smith



The Team 'going for it'!





## 37 Sig Regt (V)
## Bristol

**FLEET PRE-LONDON HALF MARATHON**

Seven members of 67 Sig Sqn (V) went to Aldershot on Sunday 25 March to take part in the Half Marathon. We arrived at 1100 hrs for the final preparations. Out came the safety pins, out came the race numbers. 'Arr, a slight mistake here, they have gone and put our **Cpl Fred Hughes** 'Freddy' down as a male, well if she does insist on being called **Fred!**', so after she got her number changed preparations continued. Out came the foot powder, the plasters and on went the vaseline; if it's going to rub put vaseline on it!

At 1150 hrs everyone lined up where they thought they might finish, so it was blokes to the front and women to the back! As we lined up with the 4,000 other runners the heavens opened with hail stones and as the temperature dropped so did the flag. It was 1200 hrs and off we went.

The course started with a lap of the arena and then on to the open road. You could not call it 'tales of the lonesome jogger' as there was a seething mass of bodies of all shapes and sizes as well as ages. Some decided to run in fancy dress although we decided it would be a good idea just to try to complete the course!

The course took us through some very pretty countryside and towns with many spectators cheering us on. Sponges were provided at various water points on route and a very valuable lesson was learned—don't drink water from a sponge—it tastes awful!

As the pace settled down so did the weather and the sun came out which made it a lot more enjoyable. The hardest part of the course was when we reached the 11 mile point which just happened to be at the start of a very long hill. The course organisers who must be sadists, had decided to put markers every quarter of a mile or so! This brought an audible groan as yet another marker was reached and stared at with disbelief 'we must have gone further than that, it must be wrong!'.

However all seven of us finished with our very own 'Roger Bannister' coming in first as usual, the results were:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Sig Ian Sewell** | — | 1 hr 38 mins |
| **SSgt Pete Charles** | — | 1 hr 44 mins |
| **Sig Bob Hampson** | — | 1 hr 52 mins |
| **Sig John Lord** | — | 2 hrs 01 mins |
| **Cpl Fred Hughes** | — | 2 hrs 04 mins |
| **Pte Lesley Payton** | — | 2 hrs 40 mins |

An enjoyable day was had by all with some pleasing personal times. We look forward to the next one!



After the Event
Sig Ian Sewell, Pte Lesley Payton, Sig John Lord, Bob Hampson, Pte Lucy Pennington, PSI and Cpl Freddy Hughes
'The Team Photo' (with medals!)

## 39 Sig Regt (V)
## City of London

**3 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj R. E. C. Davis** |
| **2IC** | **Capt G. M. Bryan** |
| **PSAO** | **Capt H. A. C. Meekings** |
| **OC F Tp** | **2Lt T. J. R. Lankester** |
| **OC G Tp** | **Lt J. D. Gregory** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) B. M. Reynolds** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) D. Hart** |
| **PSI (Ops)** | **Sgt A. S. Cupper** |
| **PSI (Tech)** | **Sgt D. B. Evans** |

Since our last entry there have been several changes to Squadron personalities. **Capt Gavin Miles** has departed to take up a post with 36 Sig Regt (V) and has been replaced as 2IC by **Capt Malcolm Bryan**, the former Regimental Ops Officer. **Lt Sandra Wilkosz** has also left and joined 56 Sig Sqn (V), replaced as OC Golf Tp by **Lt Julian Gregory**. **2Lt Toby Lankester** has taken command of Foxtrot Tp (from **Lt Gregory**) after successfully completing his Officer Training.

**Capt (Retd) Harry Meekings** has had much success in the Army Golf Championships and walked away with three trophies: Best Scratch—Black Watch Gold Medal, Retired Officer Cup—Grenadier Cup and Veterans Cup.

**SHOOTING**

The Squadron entered several competitions with the following results:-

TARA Skill-at-Arms Competition

| | |
|---|---|
| SLR | 6th out of 29 |
| SMG | 11th out of 14 |
| LMG/GPMG | 16th out of 20 |

Territorial Army Small Bore Match 1990—First South East team, (12th out of 49) and the only Royal Signals entry!

**TRAINING**

Following the Squadron's re-equipment last year, complete field trails were held on Ex Bishops Rock in April, allowing the last few bugs to be ironed out, there were not many, with the equipment working well.

**ANNUAL CAMP**

This year's camp was a full field exercise, with the Squadron deploying a TRC and two field detachments.

TRC C—After driving from Tunbridge Wells to Ripon the TRC moved to the first location in the Catterick area. This was only the second time the Squadron had used the TRC, and the first time in anger, so procedures were developed and modified as experience built up. The rest of the camp became a blur of packing up, moving, setting up, and 'getting the communications in'. This routine was relieved by high points such as sitting in NBC High for 36 hours (yum yum) and winds so strong we lost three of our 48ft masts on the Warcop Training area. Instant field modifications (ie throw away the broken sections) gave us new 40ft masts to put up.

Enemy action was provided by members of the Regiment (and sometimes our Squadron PSIs), who gave us the opportunity to repulse their attacks several times, on the first occasion by a lone **WRAC Michelle Pettet** brandishing her empty SMG and shouting 'bang'. Credit must be given to **WO2 (SSM) Titch Reynolds** who during a landrover recce found one of the enemy quite literally with his trousers down! It was perhaps unfortunate that the exercise scenario gave the enemy the use of helicopters. **Lt Mike White** was noted, during a stand to, gently explaining to a worried operator that the sound he could hear was not an attack helicopter hovering behind a nearby hill, but our own 16/24 generator chugging away. Natural enemies also took their toll with the TRC C TX lurgi claiming several victims, getting so bad at one point that the Regimental Doctor came out to minister to the afflicted (I didn't know they still made house calls!).

All in all a great camp with the new kit being fully exercised and tested to everyone's satisfaction.

**FIELD DETACHMENT**

We all arrived at the TAC at 0800 hrs on the Saturday, looking forward to our two weeks in the field. Our det consisted of **Sgt Lynne Chambers (WRAC), Cpl Brian Higgins, LCpl George Newnmam, Sig Richard Dear, Pte Clare Brown, Recruits John Arnold** and **Jo Dyke**.

The warm up phase was Ex Dog Bark, during which time we stayed at the TAC at Nottingham, where we brushed up our routines and procedures.

From Nottingham, we packed the kit and continued North to Ripon to join the rest of the Regiment, for a short period of rest, and preparation for the next phase of the exercise.

The first location was Glenrothes TAC. We stayed two days before packing up and heading further North to Dundee, where we stayed until the end of the exercise.

We received a great welcome at all the TAC's we stayed at, but none more so than that **SSgt Lynne Chambers** received from 'Rommel', the Dundee TAC caretakers dog, who took great pleasure in introducing himself personally to our 'innocent' Sergeant! Once the exercise had finished we loaded all the kit for the last time and headed back first to Ripon then on to Tunbridge Wells and a first class party.

**EXERCISE BREAKAWAY**

This Squadron exercise was centred on Jersey Camp on the Isle of Wight, where the Squadron was split into teams of four, two pairs per team. One pair from each team went on an Easterly route, the other was sent off Westerly. The aim was to use initiative to get to all the check points. There was no time limit, except a final Endex time. So far so good, *but* no one knew which other pair was in their team! So everyone had to be treated as the opposition.

Initiative was the key work—some hired cars, some hitched lifts, some hitched lifts from those who had hired cars (and then 'borrowed' their maps)! There were tales of hitching lifts at traffic lights and even 'hitching' a bus! The exercise allowed everyone to use their map reading skills, and initiative in a very enjoyable way. The winning team was **SSgt Bob Hibbit, Sig Taff Evans, LCpl Michelle Pettet** and **Sig Richard Dear.**

The only 'down' on the weekend was the confusion over the return transport. Suffice to say that 'Tpt and Movs' lost a few friends when the pre-arranged coach took four hours to arrive. But even an extended stay at the docks did not ruin a great exercise—our thanks to the PSAO for all the organisation.

## 71 Sig Regt (V)
## Bexleyheath

| | |
|---|---|
| **RHQ** | |
| **CO** | **Lt Col A. P. Verey TD** |
| **Trg Maj** | **Maj B. H. Rowe** |
| **ADJ** | **Capt C. R. Owen** |
| **RSM** | **WO1 J. R. McKenzie** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 S. McElreavey** |
| **Trg** | **SSgt P. Lockie** |
| | **SSgt D. Mann** |
| | **SSgt C. Jackson** |
| **MTW** | **WO1 Curtis** |
| **CC** | **SSgt L. Brookes** |
| **AO** | **Mrs Ball** |
| **AA** | **Mrs McLeewe** |

**FAREWELL/WELCOME**

Farewell to **SSgt Marion Amos**. Welcome to **SSgts Cheryl Jackson** (and the Labrador) and **Les Brookes.**

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to **Cpl Bastow** on her promotion to Sgt. To **SSgts Nigel Scott** on being selected for promotion and to and **John Atherton** (REME) on being selected for promotion.

**70 SIGNAL SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Stephen Foakes** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Ken Lloyd** |
| **PSAO** | **Capt Jack Hatton** |
| **TFO Offr** | **Capt Dave Swann** |
| **OC RTT** | **Lt Jonathan Pyman** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Ian Perry** |
| **SQMS TA** | **SSgt (SQMS) Bob Lodge** |
| **SQMS NRPS** | **SSgt (SQMS) John Fensom** |
| **PSIs** | **SSgt Frank Evans** |
| | **Sgt 'Spider' Webb** |
| | **Sgt 'Ginge' Robinson** |
| | **Sgt Keith Bolton** |

**THE TWINNING**

**by Capt Lloyd**

Brass helmets, red plumes and flashing sabres were in evidence in Chelmsford on 27 April when 70 Sig Sqn mounted the Guard of Honour for the Twinning of the Towns of Chelmsford in Essex and Backnang in Germany. First presented in 1911 by King Edward VII, brass helmets had not been paraded in the Essex county town for 30 years.

To mark the Twinning the Squadron entertained a party of 37 Backnang Army Reservists, of the Army, Airforce and Navy. They stayed with Squadron members and took part in a range competition as well as the various ceremonies to mark the Twinning.

The Guard of Honour, comprising **WO2 (SSM) Perry, SSgts Lodge, Bell, Sgts Metcalfe, Fidgeon, Jones** and **LCpl Toogood** was congratulated by the Chairman of the Borough Twinning Committee and the Burgermeister of Backnang for their smart turnout and bearing. The Council Chamber Lance Guard of **Sgt Fidgeon** and **LCpl Toogood** were singled out for especial mention for their steadfast appearance during the Ceremony. At the Cathedral, the Guard was the centre of attention from photographers.

The ceremony was attended by French and Hungarian Mayors whose towns are also twinned with Chelmsford.

Altogether we were privileged to accommodate and entertain 37 Reservists. **SSgt Bell, Cpls Bathurst** and **Davies** of 881 Tp are to be congratulated for their successful hosting arrangements which at times resembled a game of musical beds and community breakfasts.

The Reservists were very appreciative of the welcome given to and for being invited to stay in homes and made so much a part of the family.

The social programme included tours planned by **Sgt Humphries** and **Cpl Rogers** with **SSgt Brooking** and **Cpl Basson** providing escort.

The range day, organised by **Capt Crowther** and **Major Christian** of β(EY) Coy ACT was particularly appreciated by the Reservists who were full of praise for the SA80.

The Barn Dance proved to the 'Backnangers' that the English are not quite as reserved as one might imagine and joined in the fun with abandon. The Borough Councillors, thought the entertainment was one of the best events. **SSgts Fensom** and **Lodge** and their 'social committee' deserved the compliments heaped on them for their organisation as did **SSgt Pieper** of 907 Tp who worked behind the scenes arranging the decorations.

The result of the Twinning furthers friendship with a German NATO Unit and extends our training areas.

The most important feature of this marvellous event is the personal friendships which have been established between our soldiers and their guests from Backnang. We have already received our training programme from them and much look forward to 'being there' next year.





## JCUFI
## BFPO 655

**MEMORIAL SERVICES—FALKLANDS CAMPAIGN**

In previous years, every battle, every loss, has been marked by a Service. Commander British Forces Falkland Islands felt it would be more appropriate this year to concentrate on two Services only. The first to take place at Blue Beach cemetery, San Carlos to mark the landings of the Task Force on 21 May. Additionally it would mark all actions in the conflict up to Goose Green. The second Service was to be at the Liberation Monument in Stanley on 14 June. JCUFI was given permission to mark the tragic loss of **Maj Mike Forge** and **SSgt Joe Baker**.

**BLUE BEACH**

The service on 21 May at Blue Beach Cemetery was ecumenical, led by the Force Chaplain, **Padre John Russell RAF**, and assisted by the Canon of Stanley Cathedral, **Canon Gerry Murphy** and **Monsignor Agreiter**, also from Stanley. The ceremony was attended by many Islanders. Wreaths were laid by the Comd British Forces and HE the Governor, the Falkland Islands.

Although the day was cold and blustery the wind died away completely during the silence so that all that could be heard was the lapping of waves on the beach. It was a moving experience.

A small posy of silk flowers was placed on the graves of **Maj Mike Forge** and **SSgt Joe Baker**.

**MT PLEASANT PEAK**

Eight members of JCUFI walked up to the memorial on Mt Pleasant Peak on 6 June where the Gazelle of 655 Sqn AAC crashed on 6 June 1982 killing all on board including **Maj Mike Forge** and **SSgt Joe Baker.**

A short service conducted by the Force Chaplain preceded the laying of wreaths.

**LIBERATION DAY**

Stanley Cathedral was packed for the Liberation Day service in which the Force Chaplain, the Canon of Stanley Cathedral and **Monsignor Agreiter** took part. The band of the Royal Marine Commandos was on parade. Wreaths were laid at the monument which overlooks the Harbour. The Royal Signals wreath was laid by **Maj C. C. McColville** OC, JCUFI, in memory of all those Corps members who lost their lives during the conflict.

**DARWIN/GOOSE GREEN**

A memorial service took place for those members of the Parachute Brigade (to which **Lt Jim Barry** was attached) who died in the Battles for Darwin and Goose Green. Poppy wreaths and silk flowers were placed on the memorial in tribute.

*(Photographs of these commemorative events can be made available to relatives who should write to OC JCUFI.)*

**WHO ARE WE?**

One of the tenets of service life is that each Unit likes to think that it is unique. This of course does not apply to the Joint Communication Unit, Falkland Islands. We know we are!

JCUFI is an organisation made up of some 83 members of the Corps, three WRAC members, 54 members of the RAF and 20 members of the Royal Navy. All the posts are on roulement of four or six months with the exception of the Foreman of Signals who does a 12 month accompanied tour. As can be imagined, the constant movement causes upset but it does mean that everyone has to get stuck into the job straight away and no time is wasted on lengthy handovers or settling in periods.

As befits a 'Joint' or 'purple' unit, the Management is also 'Joint'. The Comd is a Royal Signals Major who was obviously in the wrong place at the right time when PB11 was wondering who to 'ping' next, **Maj Phil Grey** handed over to **Maj Craig McColville** on 25 April. The OC does a six month tour and needless to say it flashes past, in something like 26 weeks! To reflect the current changes in communication management army wide, the OC is doubled-hatted as SO2 J3 CIS and acts as CIS advisor to Comd British Forces and his staff. **Maj Neil Fisher** is expected to succeed **Maj McColville** in October.



The Liberation Monument, guarded by FI Defence Force



The Paras Cross above Goose Green



Entrance to JCUFI, our very own .50 cal machine gun

Bravo Tp, which looks after the Commcens is commanded by a Royal Signals Captain and the post is currently occupied by **Capt Alf Thomas** who came from 16 Sig Regt on commissioning. **Capt Garth Pickersgill** takes over in August.

Charlie Tp which looks after the Falkland Islands Trunk System (FITS), Syscon and airfield cable is also commanded by a Royal Signals Captain, the present incumbent is **Capt Gavin West**, recently commissioned from 7 Sig Regt. He is to be replaced by **Capt Tony Sarginson** at the beginning of August.

The RAF posts are 2IC JCUFI, **Flt Lt Jim Steel**, OC A Flp (Floop = Flight/Troop!) **Flt Lt Chris Featherstone** and SO3 J3 CIS, **Flt Lt Adrian Land**.

Within the Unit HQ, the USM is a tied Royal Signals post, currently occupied by **WO2** (USM) **Dave Smy**, 'on loan' from 656 Sig Tp in Lippstadt.

The UQMS is a tied Royal Signals post. The Tech Storeman Sergeant is not on the Unit Strength but is posted to Technical and Domestic Supply Flight (RAF run) of Supply and Movements Wing (commanded by a Lt Col RAOC) within RAF Mount Pleasant! **Sgt McDonald** from 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt fills this post.

The Orderly Room is run by **Sgt John Salvesen** and **Cpl Paul Buckley** and they have to attempt to keep track of the dozen or so postings in and out each week. When not thoroughly confused by the differences in the three services, they handle the most important single item in our lives, the 'Bluey' or forces aerogramme from home.

**BRAVO TROOP**

It has probably been some time since Bravo Tp has featured in the Corps Magazine, so for any reader who has yet to experience the delights of the South Atlantic, here is a short resumé of our activities.

Yes, we still operate a manual torn tape Commcen and Minor Relay. Thoughts have been given to automation and hope springs eternal. We boast a total of 10 members of the Corps plus another three 'Signaller' WRAC. Our lady operators are: **WLCpl June Prudhoe, WPtes Sharon Lee** and **Karen Cooper**. Male personnel include: **Sgt Terry Murrell, LCpls 'Ash' Ashfield, Tony Young, Roy Hanbridge, Sig Craig** 'Scouse' **Johnson, Peter Lee** (not **Sharon**'s brother) and **Jason Cade**. The rest of the team is made up from members of the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, so quite a mixed bunch. The whole show is ably watched over by (RS) **Ken Sutton, PO (WRNS) Linsey Dobree-Carey** and **Sgt Jim Ford RAF**.

'Timmy Days' are both busy and emotional (Timmy is our pet name for the Tri-Star). The three way shift system allows some limited time 'spotting', mainly Penguins, also for sports of all kinds and if you are really keen, a six day patrol with the Resident Infantry Unit. This is precisely what **Sig** 'Scouse' **Johnson** did recently, much to the horror of his 'Joint' colleagues. Many take advantage of R & R opportunities around the Islands. The highlight of any R & R trip has to be the open air ride in the 'Wokka'. The RAF Loadies seem to take pleasure in watching the contents of a helicopter slowly freeze to death, often in a flurry of snow.

Finally, we would like to wish all those who have already served with us all the best for the future, and for those who have yet to fly south, you have our condolences.

**THE 'ITS GOOD HERE INNIT' DEPARTMENT**

Eat your hearts out, those former members of JCUFI who had to put up with the appalling fleet of sheds and shacks we used to have.

Fifteen of our seventeen new 3.5 V8 Landrover 110 (one was on a job and one had already developed a fault. Not as big a fault as the one **Cpl 'Stirling' McEwan** wrote off the next day!).


15 of our 17 brand new 3.5 litre, V8, 3/4 tonne landrover 110

**WAGWE**

WAGWE (or What a Good Weekend) was how JCUFI celebrated the 70th birthday of the Corps. Although obviously a special occasion for us, the whole unit was involved, as it also coincided with midwinter and the curious celebration known as Fixmas. The whole idea was to raise money for the Museum Fund.

The weekend started on Friday 22 June with a combined Officers, Warrants Officers and SNCOs dinner in the Sergeants' Mess. We invited those members of the Corps serving with other units in the Falklands to join us. **SSgt Joe Letts** was the man responsible for the organisation and did a superb job. The OC started the fund raising by fining all those who left the table for a natural break. The first £10 into the bank!

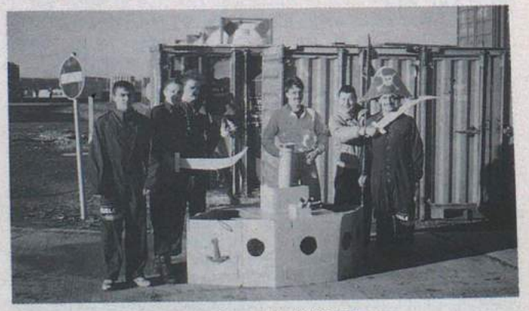
Saturday was to be the big day. A 10km Fun Run from Mare Harbour to the Unit HQ. The fancy dress is perhaps better seen in the following photographs. An entrance fee of £1 was charged for every entrant. The run was started by CBF, **Maj Gen P. Stevenson RM** who then ran the 10km in 41.34. First of the home team was **Cpl** 'Buck' **Buckley** in a time of 36.45. Power section with HMS *Fixmas* brought up the rear in 66.23. Of the 123 starters 105 finished. Another £123 into the bank. **Pte Jock Evans** on detachment from 1 Royal Scots ran the 10km with a full bergen and webbing. He was sponsored to the tune of £30. Well done **Jock**, another £30 into the bank.

After the run, it was all down to the Ram Inn, the JCUFI Bar. Prizes were presented and then the Grand Auction took place. **Sgt Jim Ford RAF** was auctioneer, ably assisted (or was it hindered?) by **Sgt Keith Pammenter** of the Power section. The items ranged from two 4.5 in Cartridge cases (inscribed by **Sgt** 'Shady' **Knight**) which sold for £165 and £130, through brass bells (also made out of cartridges) which went under the hammer for £61 and £50, down to 'Be OC JCUFI for a Day' which raised £15. The bidding was fast and furious. Another £609.94 into the bank. Not content, we opened the bar again that night and had a prize raffle. The organiser, **PO(WRNS) Lindsay Dobree-Carey** had not quite realised that the aim was to make money.

The balance sheet was: cost of prizes £230. Sale of tickets £116. Oh well, JCUFI fund made the difference of £114. Another £0 into the bank!

We hadn't quite finished. Sponsored events were held on Sunday and a curry lunch raised more money.

What a good weekend! £772.94 is on its way to the Museum fund.


Power section with HMS *Fixmas*
*Left to Right:* Sig Dave Cox, Bush Maybury, LCpls Vinnie Lund, Jarve Jarvis, Steve Wherry and Sig Mel Melling





## NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn BFPO 18

**NIJMEGEN MARCHES**
**Report by SSgt Tony Doherty**

NASRS took part in the Nijmegen Marches from 17-20 July as part of the Joint Operations Centre (JOC) Maastricht Marching Team. Participating from NASRS were: **ELNT Jan Verwoerd RNLA** (OIC Marching Team and custodian of the bicycle), **WO2 (SSM) Ray Bruce**— March Leader, **WO2 (YofS) Bob Marshall, SSgt Tony Doherty, Sgt Ron Boesar RNLA, Cpl Steve Howard, Kpl Michele Degraff RNLA** and **Sld Rick Van De Ven RNLA** along with representatives from the Dutch and Belgian Air Forces based at the JOC.

The team deployed to Heumensoord camp at Nijmegen on Monday 16 July. Having fought his way through the enormous mound of red tape at the military site. **ELNT Verwoerd** secured palatial accommodation for the team and led the multi-national boots to the even more multi-national watering hole, an experience not easily forgotten.

Day 1 of the marches began, it seems, half an hour before going to bed. The team wiped the sleep from their eyes, eager and ready to roll, knowing full well that this was the best their feet were going to feel for quite a while. Last minute adjustments made to webbing (suitably weighted to 10 kilos—mine water) and the long perfected international drill movement of 'ready—lleft' was ordered by **Ray Bruce** and the show was on the road—literally, 40km of good humoured footslogging followed, the highlights of which were **Ray Bruce** attempting to equip the children en route with all the requirements for NBC Black, along with instructions not to eat the DKP pads and **Ron Boesers** renditions of Singalonga-March songs which amused the local populace tremendously.

Day 2 began with suitably doused feet and a generous portion of elastoplast. 40km of rural route meant less interesting scenery but the breakdancing duet of **Tony Doherty** and **Steve Howard** served to entertain the troops in a way that Vera Lynn could never do. The temperature soared to over 30 degrees and that was only the ambient temperature, inside the boots, even the asbestos Army socks were wilting. The team tip-toed back into camp to the tune of 'I'm still standing' and the unprecedented act of **Bob Marshall** getting the round in at the international water hole. Sources close to the medical tent report that **Jan Verwoerd** needed some treatment after prolonged bicycle duties but he strugged this off as just another rear detail.

Day 3 saw another 40km of blistering heat and heated blisters, taking in the sights of what seemed like every canal bank for miles. **Rick Van De Ven** had by now perfected the art of not stepping on **Michele Degraffs** hair and he of not tripping over **Ron Boeser**'s song sheet. The strain was now beginning to take its toll but **Bob Marshall**'s factor had risen to fever pitch and morale was maintained, even though in some cases, the contents of 'Boots International' began to resemble something from the Quatermass experiment. The roadside spectators had turned out in their masses; we were assured that the **Steve Howard** supporters club formed the majority, believe it or not.

The fourth and final day was greeted with expectant vigour and an even larger portion of elastoplast than before. The final 40km being the real test of singing voice and tippy-toe marching technique. The **Steve Howard** supporters club had by now swollen to many thousands and provided a rapturous support en route, leading on to the final parade through the town of Nijmegen. The NATO contingent of HQ Northag, Afcent and JOC marching teams was led into the town by **Ray Bruce** (star of Nederland TV) with flags flying, marching bands playing and feet singing. A spectacular end to a gruelling 160km which the team insist was 'eee-zee'. Thanks must be extended to **Kpl Monique Guldemond RNLAF** and **Sld1 John Van De Wetering RNLA** as a first class support team, providing essential foot maintenance and humour along the route.

Considering the heat of July and the hard slog of such an event, a splendid effort was maintained by the team and the loss of only two marchers due to injury was testimony to the hard work put into many hundreds of training kilometres over the past five months. Marching in camp will never be quite the same again, for all who took part and already sights are being set at next year's marching programme.

**IT'S A KNOCKOUT COMPETITION**

On what proved to be one of the coldest and wettest days the Squadron held an It's a Knockout Competition.

A total of six teams entered including the wild women of the north—the Ambiorix Angels, otherwise known as the Squadron Wives wet T shirt club.

**Sgt Keith Barker**'s team known appropriately as the Beer Bellies, were disappointed to gain a mere second place to the Dutch Lollipops team. **Keith**'s team, consisting of **Cpl Tim Boyle** (REME), **LCpls John Batts, Brett Cowley, Sig Jimmy Rimmer** and potential recruit **Mark Bruce** had points deducted for being far too organised and being too keen by half! **SSgt Tony Doherty**'s team, described themselves as the Comms Troop Codgers, and lived up to their name by finishing only third. The 'Pathetic Shark' Award went to the Belgians after their team unilaterally withdrew.

Six games were conjured up with the inevitable abundance of fire hoses and buckets of water. No one was spared a soaking—even Sqn Comd **Maj Peter Hryhoruk** and **SSM WO2 Ray Bruce** were treated to a ducking.

The SSM was actually given his scrambled egg on this occasion—however not to be worn in the usual place, he joined the Sqn Comd and the remainder of the Squadron by wearing it on his head.

Refreshment was plentiful thanks to **SSgt 'Taff' Taylor** and **LCpl Mark 'DPM' Wilson**'s efforts. **Sgt Dennis Morgan**, wearing the latest designer shorts, and **LCpl Colin** 'Bad Back' **Goodwin** (ACC) helped appease the ban on British beef by keeping an endless supply of steaks, bratties and burgers sizzling on the barbecue.

The whole day was rounded off in the traditional Belgian manner with a second soaking in the Squadron bar!


*Back Row Left to Right:* Elnt Verwoerd, Kpl Jorris, WO2 (YofS) Marshall, Sld Van De Ven, Cpl Howard and WO2 (SSM) Bruce
*Front Row Left to Right:* Sld Olsthoorn, Kpl Weerts, Kpl De Graff, Kpl Hardam, Sgt Schoonheym, Sgt Schenk and 1Sgt Boeser


'It's a Knockout' Competition—The Ambiorix Angels
*Back Row Left to Right:* Karin Goodwin (Joker), Linda Marshall, Linda O'Brien, Annette Oliver, Diny Verwoerd and Lyn Morgan
*Front Row Kneeling Left to Right:* Elaine Crawford, Leanne Goodwin and Marje Bruce

# 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215 Sig Sqn) Tidworth

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Tony Russ** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Steve Turnbull** |
| **Adjt** | **Maj Simon Firbank LI** |
| **QM** | **Maj Stan Hargreaves** |
| **Tfc Offr** | **Capt Dave Gilchrist** |
| **TCO** | **Capt Matt Mathews RCT** |
| **OC A Tp** | **Capt Neil Longley** |
| **OC B Tp** | **Lt Mark Billingham** |
| **OC C Tp** | **Capt Martin Prodger** |
| **RSM** | **WO1 (RSM) Fred Payet** |
| **FofS** | **WO1 (FofS) Tom Sharp** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (YofS) Keith Glasby** |
| **RQMS** | **WO2 (RQMS) Des Faherty** |
| **CClk** | **SSgt (ORQMS) Paul Addison** |

1990 has proved to be a very busy year for 215 Sig Sqn (no, please don't laugh!). Personalities have changed thick and fast and amongst the hectic workload of exercises and adventure training some have even managed to achieve some leave. Goodbyes to the seasoned veterans **Maj Stan Hargreaves, Capts John Avison, Mark Castle-Smith, Rick Mather** and **WO2 John Clark**. We all wish you luck with your new jobs.

Ex Stanford Swan, Ex Pennine Link, Ex Stanford Swallow, Ex Druid's Drake—a lot of exercises but all designed to test the Squadron in preparation for the big one: Ex Bold Guard 1990. This will probably be the last time 1 Bde will deploy to Germany for some time and it will be interesting to discover our new modified role. However, what have we really been up to over the last six months?

**APRIL—EXERCISE TORCHLIGHT**

By an obscure and virtually untraceable route of delegation the Squadron was tasked in April to send a team to a local Fire Brigade college to erect a 'small' fence as part of a Home Defence Exercise: Ex Torchlight. What we were not told was that this fence was 3km long! Armed with enough screwdrivers and spanners to send the AQMS running to check his stores for deficiencies 50 well motivated soldiers left Tidworth as part of the 'Fence Gang'. After waiting two hours for the three lorryloads of fencing to arrive the team set to work under a scorching sun, only stopping when the fencing supplies ran out and, of course, for lunch. There were no complaints about cookhouse food after that meal. With renewed vigour the team finally completed the task a few hours later. There was even a rumour that the OC, **Maj Tony Russ** and OIC Fence Party, **Capt Martin Prodger** got their hands dirty; this was later disproved.

Morale was heightened on the return journey when it was announced that the fence had to be taken down five days later. Groan! Phase 2 was duly completed with only **Sig Nigel Hinton** making any real complaint—the fact that he had a two inch spike stuck in his hand may have had something to do with it. Thanks for the suntan but next time anybody who wants a construction job done how about the RE or even Laing, Taylor Woodrow . . .



The 'Fence Gang'

**SPORT**

Football has always been a very strong sport in the Squadron and this year is no exception. Under the guidance of the Manager **SSgt John Standen** and the Beastmaster General **WO2 (QMSI) Joey Roach** the Coach, both first and second teams got off to a terrific start to the season. The 'firsts' fought through 3 Fd Wksps (6-1) and 15 Bn RAOC (2-1) to reach the semi-finals of the Yorks and Lancs UK Knock-Out Cup only to lose 400 miles from home against Scottish Junior Infantry Depot. (Hey Yoo Jimmy 3-1!)

The Squadron also appeared in the final of the SWDist Cup against the School of Infantry in heat conditions more suited to Italia 90 than Tidworth. The opposition had obviously been on holiday to the med recently as they won the final 2-1. Congrats to all those Squadrons Colours winners too numerous to mention and sad farewells to **LCpl 'Dinger' Bell** who is off to the local Constabulary.

Commiserations also to the Squadron Cricket Team which under the inspired leadership of **Capt Martin Prodger** managed to lose to 3 Fd Wksps in the final of the SWDist Minor Units Cup by a mere eight wickets. The fact that it was the first time we had lost in eight games played this season impressed no-one. No photos of the presentation as they have all mysteriously disappeared. No bowling or batting figures as they have also gone missing.

**ALPHA TROOP**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Capt Neil Longley** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **John Hall** |
| **Tp Sgts** | **Dave Harman** |
| | **Nobby Nevill** |
| | **Keith Balsdon** |

New OC, new ideas—one of which was the dreaded 'Fieldcraft Exercise. After a predictably cold weekend the Troop prepared for a cold day on 'The Plain' but lo and behold it turned out to be the hottest February day on record. Well done RQMS. In full kit, the Troop toiled along after the Duty Mountain Goat **SSgt John Hall** up and over the hills for four miles ending up, to the disgust of a sharp-eyed **Sig Jamie Jameson**, only half a mile from the start. Instruction on harbour drills by **Cpl Paddy Irwin** and **WO1 (RSM) Fred Payet** lasted up to a non-tactical lunch spied upon by **LCpl Jimmy McGinn**, dug in only 5m away. By this time **Sig Huxley** had gained a concrete friend kindly presented by the OC for having the lighest bergan in NATO. To end the day **Sig Bernie Dyer** led the section on a gruelling tactical stretcher race to 'save' the concrete member. As **Sig Dyer** fell by the wayside, courtesy of an enemy sniper's bullet, **Sig Shaun Morgan** led the rest of the men to the 'Boot Inn' where medication was gratefully received by all.

Welcomes to: **Capt Neil Longley, Sgt Keith Baisdon, LCpl Andy Powell** and **Cpl Griffith**.

Farewells to: **Capt Mark Castle-Smith, LCpl Johno Johnson, Sig Steve Hillier, George Milne** and **Smudge Smith**. Good luck to you all.

It has not been all work in A Troop. In March we headed for Betws-y-Coed in North Wales for a week of hill walking, climbing and abseiling. The Troop was subjected to slogging up to the summit of Snowdon courtesy of **Capt** 'I love walking up mountains' **Longley** and hanging about on rockfaces courtesy of **Cpl Robbo Robson** and **LCpl 'Skull' Freeman**. The week finished with a mock rescue operation in which two people were 'lost' on Snowdon. The appalling weather made navigation difficult but **Cpl Wolf Kempton** came through to save the day and lead his section to rescue the casualties. A satisfying end to an enjoyable week.

**CHARLIE TROOP**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Capt Martin Prodger** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Kev Nulty** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Chris Middleton** |

On a warm sunny day in June the Troop lined up in Camp ready to deploy on Ex Stanford Swallow. Death packs were issued, confirmatory orders given and the Tp Comd **Capt Prodger** announced that the exercise had begun.

After communication had been established there came the shock of recce patrols and digging in. **Sgt Chris Middleton** was informed that enemy forces were in the area and in a few short minutes OP's were out and the QRF put on standby. The Troop could take on anybody or anything. When the attack finally came from the 'reds' things did get a little confused. **LCpl Monks** was seen trying to dig in his RR wagon; **Cpl Rob Clark** was having his own private battle with his camnet; all the Staff Officers were in their trenches (what?) and the OC **(Lt George)** was trying to recover his helmet cover from a fearsome looking bush. **Cpl Stu Allister** limped off after the enemy and was later heard to say he had won the battle single-handed. The surprised enemy bugged out not to return. Not surprising really. The excitement over, Endex came quickly.





The Tp OC then came up with the idea of raising money for a local charity and the Corps museum by holding an Open Day. The idea was good, the enthusiasm was boundless and the weather was predictable—it rained all afternoon.

Farewell and congrats to **LCpl Mark Keogh** who managed to get married and posted at the same time. Good luck to **Mark** and **Louise** in BAOR. Welcome to **Sig Jason Hawksworth** and **Cpl 'Geordie' Wightman** who has returned to the fold after eight months attached to Civ Div. A warm welcome also to **WPtes Anne Marie Kelly** and **Lorraine Huntley**, the first of many.

**TECH WKSPS**

It all started with a briefing from **WO1 (FofS) Tom Sharp** but that wasn't going to dampen the troops spirit. We were off on Ex Cumbrian Swan—adventure training in the North. The advance party made the journey to Cumbria without a hitch, even **SSgt Skelton** remembered his vitamins and lotions. The main party however did have a few problems. The amazing Sherpa 45 miles north of Birmingham produced clouds of smoke but was nursed back to health and keeping a close eye on the gauges 'Old Faithful' managed to make it to destination.

Windsurfing was the order of the first day. **LCpl Simpson** got acquainted with the weeds and the cold water. **Cpl Dave Beach** produced his RYA3 and claimed diplomatic immunity when it came to the swimming test. **Cpl Chippy Carpenter** did encounter some problems but everybody enjoyed themselves. **Cpl Blouse Murphy** thought of taking the sport up professionally until somebody told him of the price of a piece of plastic and a sheet.

The climbers and walkers boasted of the wonderful scenery they had seen but nobody could take them seriously in their issue 'Sound of Music' shorts. Can anybody yodel?

On a closing note the Squadron is off to Cyprus for a month on Ex Lion's Sun. Sun, sand and Sawes kit—what a mixture.



Sgt Chris Middleton briefing the Op's



Op1: Cpl Meeke and Sig Davies trying to hide from 'Pan Bash'

# 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

**SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj M. W. Edwards** |
| **2IC** | **Capt J. Turner** |
| **AO** | **Capt J. Aspinall** |
| **Ops Offr** | **Capt S. R. Workman** |
| **RSM** | **WO1 (RSM) M. A. Granitza** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (YofS) McCrindle** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 (FofS) Gaffney** |
| **CC** | **SSgt (ORSQMS) Richards** |

Before everyone can shut up shop and depart en-vacance, some work has to be done. For the two months preceding summer block leave the Squadron has gone through a rather exciting period. In June, the benefits of nearly a year's planning and preparation were reaped in the form of a highly successful summer camp, held this year in Garelochhead.

The Military training phase started as usual with an early o'clock chalk parade on the square followed by NAAFI coaches guided tour to RAF Lyneham. From there, was the three hours low level to 'It's a lovely place or I'll break your arms' Gareloch Head DZ. This was going to be a sporting time for the Starboard stick, who were not impressed with the warning, 'The obstacles on your side include gorse, fences, trees, power lines and if you miss all of them, there is a Loch to think about'.

No one was too disappointed to find the weather up north unsuitable and the jump scrubbed.

Training started the next day. It was prepared in phases covering a variety of weapons and military skills. We went from explanations through discussions to walkthroughs, and then to dry runs and live practices. After the event, everyone said that they had really benefited from the week; they covered new and old ground in soldiering skills, with rain whipping across from the sea driven by a northern wind, designed to really ruin your day! It was a credit to the soldiers that they kept their heads up the way they did and cracked on regardless. Everyone covered fire and manoeuvre in pairs, section and platoon attacks, bunker busting, house clearing/Fibua, platoon in defence, night shoot incorporating support weapons/Law, anti-armour drills 66mm, M203/M16 grenade launcher and pump action shotgun, CQB. The military training phase ended with the obligatory competition which was convincingly won by **Cpl Wigley's** elite section, made up of a rag tag mob from all departments, although **LCpl Woody Woodward** was of some assistance. Despite the section only coming third on the tab they had accumulated such a lead on the other events, that no other section could topple them. Thanks goes to the command task D/S, of **2Lt Colin Pettifer** and **Sgt Merrill** for showing us the best way over the chasm!

The last phase of the two weeks was spent horse riding, climbing, abseiling, hill walking and windsurfing/canoeing. The two weeks were hard graft on the whole, however, it was badly needed training and thanks to the Training Wing staff comprising **SSgt Nick Neilsen** and **Sgt John Black,** for their patience and instruction under extreme weather conditions. Thanks also to the entire DS led by **Capt Scott Workman** who managed to hold the interest of the Squadron throughout the exercise, and to the admin staff for making life bearable. Overall it went down as a thumbs up.



LCpls Gaz Shuck and Dinger Bell prepare to go rock climbing in Scotland during Summer Camp



Cpl Lothian on the adventurous training phase in Garelochhead

For some, the summer camp was cut short. There was work to be done in Cyprus. The Squadron's commitment to Ex Purple Venture increased as the exercise itself drew nearer.

13 June saw the admin party and hangers-on depart for RAF Akrotiri, Cyprus via RAF Lyneham, closely followed by the rest of our mob.

This was to be the start of one of the most tiring exercises ever experienced for Q Troop. The Department sent **RQMS Steve Clarke** who had to be dragged from his office physically! and **LCpl Dewar** with **Sig** 'Lobster' **Duncan** and **Vernon Critchley**. The exercise had a slow build up with much moving of furniture, setting up the HQs and accommodation for the staff to arrive, whilst the remainder of the Squadron led by **Capt** 'Costas' **Turner** carried out a three week 'KAPE' Tour to Ayia Napa. The exercise proper came and went so quickly that very little disturbance was made to the R & R phase, in fact **LCpl Dave Dewar** slept through the whole exercise.

Our task was to provide the lowcon for a JFHQ CPX. All went well, especially as we saw ourselves depart virtually straight away for the Tropical Seas and Topless Beauties of Ayia Napa.

A few token members of the Squadron seemed to think that Ex Purple Venture was an undercover exercise for the UN Peace Keeping Force and armed with their hired Monkey Bikes (50cc) and posing as the Black Widow motorcycle gang toured around covertly.

**Cpl Brown** was the Squadron representative as Aldershot's Town Cryer and Cheerleader, especially when England was playing. He was ably assisted by **Cpl Murphy** alias (Filo Bedow), **LCpl Sid James** alias (the Milky Bar Kid) is still in intensive care following a minor case of sunburn.

Anyway after much hard work the flight details came for the move back and what had started with people in the Troop swapping to get out there, actually ended with lads swapping to get back. Apart from **Sig 'Vernon'** (I don't like leaving the wife) **Critchley** who would have stayed for good.

There was an added incentive for us to get back from Cyprus. Airborne Forces Weekend was looming and this was to be closely followed by Ex Red Lanyard, a 1 Para Leading Parachute Battalion Group exercise in Scotland.

Most of the Squadron had left Cyprus by 4 July. Those leaving on the 4th seemed cursed by their respective aircraft wanting the day off to celebrate American Independence Day. So with 3 C130 Hercules' parked on the pan in Palermo—Sicily, 15 or so members of the Squadron spent the night in a hotel in Palermo, the capital of Sicily, watching the sad demise of the English football team at the hands of West Germany. We did, however, all manage to get back to a rainy Brize Norton the next day.



Among the few members of the Squadron who did return to the UK with a few new fetishes, there is **Cpl Tom** (I love kids really) **Keville** who now has a passion for yoghurt, for some strange reason. I wonder if the Security Officer knows about this!



The Yeoman pondering over HF frequency allocation in Cyprus



The OC balancing a lamp post on his head as LCpl Dinger Bell climbs up

In all the trip was a resounding success and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Let's hope for more!

1990 is the 50th Anniversary of Airborne Forces, so unsurprisingly this year's ABF Day was a rather grand affair. With all such events, packed with bustle and excitement, there is a great deal of hard work to be done. Every man in the Squadron was involved to a degree in the organising, the build up and the day itself. After many mornings and afternoons spent fighting it out over ABF Duties between departments in the RSM's office, we finally managed to come to some agreement, and the big weekend finally dawned.

With people still arriving back from Cyprus, throughout the build up, and even up until the Friday, manpower was scarce. M Troop volunteered to play the Tom Cruise part and run the Squadron bar for the whole period.

Enter: **George** (Cocktail) **Crozier** IC Bar, **Dayo** (Evening All) **Day**, and **Nicky** (Way Aye Man) **Jose**.

The evening was very busy with some old familiar faces turning up. Other duties for the Troop on Friday were Mess Barmen, **LCpl Geoff Wright, Cpl Smudge** (Bed and Breakfast) **Smith, Sgt Phil** (Bisley) **Green**. As Saturday morning dawned and Friday night's hangovers were just getting to work, the main bulk of the duties got under way. **Sig** 'Mermaid' **Carter** reporting for Guard (unlucky), **LCpls Mick Ronald, P. A. Rushmoor, D. Morris** Sqn DNCO, **Cpl Andy** 'Taxi' **Lothian** Duty Driver, **Sig** 'Where's Sibbald' **Curry** Wine Waiter.

Rushmoor Barmen: **Cpls Matt Wigley, Fred Hargreaves** (Where's my Surfboard?) and **Shaun Taylor**.

Everything seemed to go off smoothly.

So to the evening of Saturday and the Squadron Barmen were again: **Sgt George** (Cocktail) **Crozier, Cpl Stu** (You'd better believe it) **Archer** and **LCpl Woody** (Slaphead) **Woodward**.

Another successful night was had in the bar (Why has the AO got pound signs in his eyes?).

All that was left to do was the Big Clean Up on Sunday and then all settle down to watch the Big Game, (or catch up on some sleep). Let's all wait until 1991.

Ex Red Lanyard followed closely on the heels of Purple Venture, involving mostly Bravo Tp, headed by **Lt Rob Healey** who managed to get himself on the road party yet again.

Owing to the fact that the Squadron and, in particular, Bravo Tp has been very busy, it's taken months to catch up with **Cpl Chris Brown** to find out what happened to him on his Chilean stint during Operation Raleigh.



Ex Red Lanyard. Frog Hill DZ Thetford

**OPERATION RALEIGH**
**by Cpl Chris Brown**

'Not another swan', was the complaint as I left a cold and drizzly Aldershot for my flight to Chile for three months.

On arrival in Coyhaique some four days later, via plane, coach, ferry and more coach journeys, all the various equipment to be used was tested out. After a week of hectic activity the Venturers, all 120 of them, arrived. A further week was spent in Coyhaique before departing to the various project sites.

The communications consisted of two HQs, one in Coyhaique, and a second one in a National Park in the more Southerly part of Chile called Torres Del Paine. Each group had its own signaller. The groups used PRC 320s whilst the two HQs used a set called a Yeza, a set of German descent.

My project consisted of working with CONAF, the Chilean equivalent of the National Forestry Commission. We were trying to establish the numbers of a very rare species of deer. The project involved three days travelling in a Gemini, up a river to the base of a glacier. The expedition was based around the glacier, carrying out five to seven day trips around 60sq kms.

The accommodation was two man tents, but as I was the only man in my group, I had to share with one of the Venturers. I bore this hardship well, however, and continued to smile.

After seven weeks in Puerto Eden we returned to Coyhaique for some wild parties and also to clean up the equipment. Finally back to England just late enough to miss Ex Red Lanyard.

I would like to thank the Squadron for allowing me to take part in Op Raleigh, and for giving me the time off to take part in this worthwhile exercise.

**TROOP NEWS**
**ALPHA TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp OC** | **Capt S. J. Vickery** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Grattidge BEM** |
| **Tp Sgts** | **Sgt Craig** |
| | **Sgt Hanlon** |
| | **Sgt Merrill** |

During the past three months the Troop has been involved in summer camp, Cyprus and a Troop change around.

**FAREWELLS**

The Troop has lost **Sig Rosser** and **Cpl Bob Labrum** who are both now in 'Civ Div'.

**POSTINGS**

**Cpl Chesh Cheshire** moves down an office and joins TACP and **Cpl Steve Navesey** joins Schemes Tp in 8 Sig Regt.

New arrivals fresh from AA Coll Harrogate are **Sig Scott** and **Combe**, welcome and your Pre Para starts in September. **LCpl Eldridge** joins us from BAOR. The Troop has several minor additions in the baby boom with congratulations going to **Sgt Jim Hanlon** and **Lesley** on the arrival of baby **Stacey**, and **LCpl Eddie Corcoran** and **Karen** on the arrival of **Heather**. The Troop OC has decided to deploy us for the rest of the year to give the Maternity Wing of the hospital a break!

Congratulations to **Sgt Duggie Craig, LCpls Gaz Shuck** and **Fordie Ford** on their recent promotions.

Finally the Troop bids farewell to **Sgt Mez Merrill** and his wife **Brenda** who are posted to AA Coll Harrogate, the Troop wishes him well in his new posting.

**BRAVO TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp OC** | **Lt Healey** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Hutchinson** |
| **Tp Sgts** | **Sgt Hawkins** |
| | **Sgt Dawson** |
| **Tp Storeman** | **Cpl Jones** |

Another hectic three months has come to an end. The whole Troop deployed on Squadron Camp to Gairlochhead and gained valuable live firing experience. Then the Troop deployed en masse to Cyprus for Ex Purple Venture. The majority on return from Cyprus and Airborne Forces Day deployed onto Ex Red Lanyard II. The Troop is now working hard before block leave due to a slight change in organisation of the two radio Troops.

**COURSE/DETACHMENTS**

**Sgt Andy Dawson** and **Cpl Trev Bailey** are now coming to the end of their Belize tour. **Sgt Jack Hawkins** is at present on his RSSSC up at Catterick and **Cpl Chris Brown** and **LCpl Phil Smithurst** are fresh from accompanying **2Lt Charlie Cooper** (attached Officer) on a Sandhurst Demonstration.

**Lt Rob Healey** is just off on Ex Long Look down to the Airborne Signal Squadron in Australia. However that was not before the recent Officers/Warrant Officers versus Staff Sergeants/Sergeants Cricket Match in which his Troop SSgt, **SSgt Hutchinson**, scored a 50 and to rub salt into the wound **Lt Rob Healey** was bowled out by **Karl Hutchinson**, Staff's son.

**HELLOS**

Welcome back to **LCpl Icky Gratrick** and **Sig Jose Tinnion** who have just completed their detachment with 2 Para in NI. Hellos also to **LCpl Nesbitt** who has just arrived from 30 Sig Regt and **Sig** 'RSM' **Brown** and **Baigent** who have just arrived from AA Coll Harrogate. Welcomes also for **LCpls Gaz Shuck, Dinger Bell** and **Kev Fogg** who moved from A Troop to B Troop in the recent Troop reshuffle.

**GOODBYES**

Unfortunately the Troop has lost several members recently. **Sig Jose Tinnion** fresh from NI has gone to 4 Div, **LCpl** 'Syd' **James** and **Sig Young** have been posted to 2 Div. **Sig Ford** has been posted to the Falklands and **Sig Rob Thorpe** has started his trade conversion course to Tele Op (Tg) at Catterick. Finally, farewell to **Cpl Spencer Cave** who has been posted across to A Troop. Good luck and farewell to all.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Best wishes and congratulations go to **LCpl Phil Smithurst** on his recent marriage to **Amanda**. **Sgt Jack Hawkins** and his wife **Karen** who have just had another baby. Reports have been received that little **Adam** has already been seen watching motorbike racing on the tele and sleeping in a helmet! Success also to **Sig Si Ferrer** and his wife **Shirley** who have just had a baby daughter.

Finally, congratulations to **Sig** 'Heights' **Gardiner** who recently passed P Coy and is at present on his Jumps Course.

**Q TROOP**

The Troop has continued to be busy during this 50th Anniversary of Airborne Forces. With half the Troop in Cyprus the other half was given the task of setting up and building Rushmoor Arena in order to stage the celebrations of ABF Weekend.

And so to the Monday two weeks prior to the event, we set off as all good Q Departments do with paint, brushes, sledgehammers and the knowledge that the work could not possibly take as long as the planning meetings had.

After many hours and blisters the arena looked impressive when a high ranking Officer decided to test us by having us move all the pickets. Fortunately the dismantling phase was made easier by high spirited old comrades! The work party was led by the QM, **Capt Fred Bancroft**, with **SSgt Mac McKenzie, Cpl Colin Rich, LCpl Julian Lynch** and **Pte** 'Chunky' **Smithson**. A footnote to this must be, well done to **Mac McKenzie** who sweltered for two weeks in his Gortex Jacket, Cheers Staff!

**TROOP ORIENTEERING**

With the orienteering season looming the QM thought it a good idea to have a Troop event to spy out any budding stars. With temperatures soaring we set out on the course which had been set out by the RQMS earlier that day. Although it was to be run as individuals, novices partnered up in two cases, one pairing was **Cpl Scouse Walsh** and **WO2 (FofS) Paul Gaffney** who lacked confidence, but, in the event, ran like men possessed and finished with a moderate score. The other pairing was **LCpl Kieran Sharp** and **Sig** 'Light Duties' **Duncan** who received the most promising newcomers' prize. The star of the run was **Sgt Mez Merrill** who almost attained top score. However **SSgt** 'Wheezer' **Grattidge** reckons he was following his 'panting' to the controls.

**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

Welcome to **LCpl Mat Southcott** and his wife, **Sharon**, and congratulations on the birth of a daughter, also welcome to **Pte Slim Mason RPC**—have a good tour lads.

Farewell to **LCpl Kev Broughton** and his family to Cyprus, along with **Tich Dimond**, also to the land of sun—is this a sign, we ask ourselves, of many postings to come?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## 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Sig Sqn) Colchester

**SHOOTING SUCCESS**

In 1989 the Squadron entered a team in the Royal Signals Skill-at-Arms meeting and enjoyed a modicum of success. Building on this experience, it was decided to enter the District and Corps meetings, with the hope that we could earn a place at the Regular Army SAM at Bisley. A Squad of 12 volunteers started training in mid March on the Fingringhoe and Middlewick range complexes around Colchester. Exercises and Barrack security commitments reduced the number of effective training sessions to about six days. The team was thus ill prepared for the Eastern District RASAM qualification on 17/18 May and with the OC **Maj Richard Hoole** absent representing the Army against the British Police in target pistol, the team struggled to come third. The event was convincingly won by the Military Corrective Training Centre (MCTC), with Comms and Sy Gp second, Despite this we were allocated a vacancy for Bisley and started training in earnest and at the same time making the change over to SA80 and LSW.




The Team
*Back Row:* LCpls Mayall, Brooks, Pte Sommer and Sig Ross
*Front Row:* SSgt Waldron, Maj Hoole, Brig Farrar-Hockley MC, RSM Tomlinson and Cpl Dean

With only four weeks to go the Squad was quickly reduced to more manageable numbers with the OC, **Cpl** 'Dixie' **Dean, LCpls Dave Copley, Steve Mayell, Sig John Ross** and **Pte Geoff Summers** proving too good for the other hopefuls. Under the expert and watchful eyes of two different Team Adjutants, first **SSgt Dave Parry** and then **SSgt Andy Waldron**, the team slowly managed to become accustomed to the new weapons. A lot of help and support was given by **Sgt Kevin Gregson**, our Kingsman NBC/Training SNCO, which helped everyone to overcome some of the quirks of the SA80.

The Corps meeting was our first chance to see how good our training had been, **Ross** fired as an individual and the remainder, after a slow start, soon found themselves in intense competition with the other seven Minor Units. Six first places, two second places and a third place in the nine team events assured the team of overall success in the Minor Unit Championship, The Worrin Cup. In addition **LCpl Copley** won the Roupell and **Maj Hoole** the Exell Trophy, for the best Royal Signals Officer, as well as coming runner-up in the pistol.

A week's confirmatory training around Colchester prepared the team for battle against 18 other Series B (Iron Sight) Minor Units at RASAM. Again a disappointing start in the first match, The Roupell, ninth was quickly shrugged off and with a second and two fourths we finished fifth in the Rifle team match behind 69 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron RE, the Depot Hong Kong Military Service Corps and our old rivals MCTC. After steady but below par results in the SMG, ninth and the LSW, sixth, the team finished with a flourish. Three third places in the Para Cup, the Fire Team match and the Team Snap assured the team of a very well deserved entry to the finals of the SMG and the Pistol as well as winning the Bulford Cup for best Royal Signals shot in the Bisley Cup Target Rifle event. **LCpl Maynell** was top B class firer in the Series B Association and that and his overall good performance during the meeting gained him,



along with the OC, selection for the Corps Methuen Team. This team of four Gurkhas, **Sgt Hellewell** of 7 Sig Regt and our two had quite a lot of success in that match and subsequently at the National Rifle Association Bisley Centenary Meeting.

All in all a most successful year, which saw the trophy cabinet inundated with fine pieces of silver and at the end some very tired but extremely satisfied Squadron shots.

**TM TROOP**

**Sgts Andy Davie** and **Bob Drysdale** were searching through the wreckage of the Foremans office prior to the arrival of the new Foreman. **Andy Davie** was looking for half completed job application forms left there by **WO2 Mal Allerton; Sgt Bob Drysdale** was just there. In the bin, they found a scribbled note.

'The thoughts of **Mal Allerton** . . . 'Dear Diary, it's Wednesday today. Slept badly last night, must have been worrying about writing my final Wire notes tomorrow. Its a heavy burden being a Foreman of Signals in TM Tp, writing reports, answering the phone, fobbing people off, ducking and diving, things like that.

**Cpl 'Kebab' Silvey** just popped his head around the door, (blighter woke me up) still the dog got him, good boy YofS come here. **Cpl Mather** fixed another Cossor printer today, got to be careful and keep that quiet, don't want him headhunted by a 2 Div ERV.

Well haven't two years gone by quickly? Worked my way through 2 OC's, 2 RSM's, the odd Troop Commander (most of them are) and goodness knows how many Techs. Good lads the Techs, salt of the earth, must persuade records to post some in to replace the ones I've lost.

Anyway, got handover weeks with **WO2 (FofS) Mick Cooper** to look forward to after exercise and block leave. Should be good, might even wear uniform that week!'

**NOVEMBER TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp OC** | **Lt Neil Holden** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Derek Deegan** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Chris Warnes** |

**DETACHMENTS**

**Sig Gary Stewart** has now left the glorious weather of the UK and is now 'enjoying' the glorious winter weather at JCUFI.

**Sig Steve Savery** and **Jenks Jenkinson** have recently returned from Cyprus with their newly bronzed bodies only to find we had better weather here—Serves you right!

**COMBINED CADET FORCES**

The Troop still has a commitment to local school CCF's and is now proving to be fun as well as interesting to both the schools and to the JNCOs. We serve a total of nine schools within the Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk borders. One JNCO is responsible for running and teaching a Signal Section in each school.

**EXERCISES**

As everyone knows the exercise season is greatly reduced compared with recent years. But we still manage a couple. Coming up at the end of July Ex Panthers 'Strife' on Salisbury Plain, which is a three phase exercise starting with the Troops carrying out section battle drills, night navigation and defence of communication sites, culminating in a Brigade FTX.

**NEW ARRIVALS**

Welcome to **SSgt Derek** and **Ann-Marie Deegan** and family from 11 Sig Regt, Sgt **Chris Warnes** and **Carol** and family from 1 Green Howards, **LCpl Chris Davies** and **Margaret** from HQ Afcent and to **LCpl Andrew Giffen** and **Karen** from 212 Sig Sqn. **Cpl Kev Graham** from HQ Afcent. **Sig Karl Reid** from 16 Sig Regt and **Sig Gary Stewart** from 8 Sig Regt. Hope your tours are happy.

**DEPARTURES**

As always someone has to go and we lose **SSgt Dave Parry** on promotion to WO2 to 11 Sig Regt, congratulations on his recent marriage. Also **Sgt Steve Mitchell** on promotion to SSgt and family to NI. **Sig Steve Sandeman** to 3 ADSR and finally to **LCpl Ray Hitchen** to Papa Tp.

Congratulations to **Cpl John Leach** on his promotion to Sgt.

**SPORT**

**SSgt Derek Deegan** and **Sgt Chris Warnes**, are the Troop's only golfers.

The Troop Volleyball and barbecue held recently was a huge success and many thanks go to **Cpl Kev Graham** for organising the event.

A few personalities came to light during the Volleyball, **Cpl Tom Murray** and **Sig Jenks Jenkinson** and an enjoyable afternoon (when they managed to get a game that is).

**Sig Steve Savery** had a smashing time at the expense of 1 Sqn RCT office window, (It was the best shot he made that afternoon).

**EXERCISE PANTHERS DIP**

Oscar Tp Summer Camp to be precise! Two weeks of sun fun pleasure and leisure, or so we thought. Everybody was in high spirits as we set off for Cornwall. Arrived at Fort Tregantle 10 hours later. set up our tents and got the canoeing, diving and windsurf kit ready for the first days activities.

The first day was to start at 0630 hrs with a little run to wake up everyone and get them in the mood for the fortnight ahead. The alarm went off at 0615 hrs as planned but the distinct drum roll, pitter patter of rain and the howling of a force 8 put paid to that idea! That same evening the accommodation tent decided to do an impersonation of a 24ft × 18ft Hang-glider, leaving people lying asleep in a downpour! The first week then proceeded as a 'wet weather' week with most people taking refuge from the weather.

The second week proved to be the best with all the sun we could ever ask for. Funnily enough people still took refuge from the weather. **WPte Stage** looked like an Egyptian Mummy wrapped up in her tracksuit on the beach! **LCpl 'Geordie' Embleton** was mistaken for a beached whale and nearly got towed away by the locals!

A lot was learned that week by all and some people even became quite proficient at scuba diving and windsurfing. Thanks must go to our Diving Officer, **Capt A. G. Ross**, and our Windsurfing Instructor, **Sgt George** 'Duggie' **Maher**. Well done to everyone who participated and thank you to the people of Looe for making our stay happy and enjoyable.

## REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

The Association, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Employment, 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 the services are available to them throughout their working lives.

Our Employment Officers are situated in Branches throughout the United Kingdom and they maintain close contact with local employers and Jobcentres. Their addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Unit/Ship Resettlement Officers; Jobcentres and local telephone directories.

From 1 April 1989-31 March 1990 the Association assisted 10,584 men and women with their resettlement and placed 5,030 in employment. Of those placed 2,275 were men and women from the Army and 203 were from the Corps.

## 238 (London) Sig Sqn
## Chelsea Barracks

It has been a very busy couple of months in London with a Summer Camp, PRE inspection, visits and presentations.

On Friday 20 July 1990 **Brig C. A. Brown,** Comd 2 Sig Bde visited Chelsea Barracks. He visited all the departments and also found time to present two LS & GC medals in the Bruno Club.

The recipients were **Cpls Salisbury** and **Davies. Cpl Kev Salisbury** is the Radio Tp mascot who looked very happy during the presentation. Since joining the Army at the age of 15¾ **Cpl Salisbury** has had an interesting career (not forgetting Kenya). He was accompanied by **Anita** at the ceremony.

**Cpl Peter Davies** left the Squadron and Army in June, but we were delighted to see him back at Chelsea to receive his medal. His citation records weird and wonderful places in Cyprus, Salalah and Masirah and he has obviously had a varied and lengthy career. He is now working in Wales, but his family travelled down to be with him on this special day.

**STOP PRESS**

The female element of the Squadron were runners-up in the London District Rounders Championships—well done!

**EXERCISE SCARBOROUGH CYGNET**

Ex Scarborough Cygnet was the Squadron's Summer Camp held, believe it or not, in Scarborough. The weather did not quite match the predictions of Michael Fish but, undaunted, the events went ahead. **Sig** 'Lone Ranger' **Garlick** managed to control his wild stallion during the 'hair-raising' pony trekking, while **SSM Alun Parry** enjoyed the girls' abseiling. **Cpl Heal**, as SQMS, took good care of **Capt Max Knobel** by ensuring that she received her daily ration of Jaffa Cakes. The girls, not content with swimming in the sea, decided that they wanted an indoor swimming pool and proceeded to flood their accommodation. Much mopping, buffing and polishing later together with lots of patience from the camp staff and the block was back to its usual pristine condition. The 2IC, **Capt Sue Harrison,** upset everyone by making them do the capsize drills before canoeing, but **LCpl Eric Head** was glad that he had mastered these drills after his dramatic capsize offshore and he needed all the 2IC's skill to ensure he made it safely back to shore.

One of the highlights of the camp was the games night. The sight of **Sgt Tracy Dodd** and **Pte Clare Hallam** with their faces covered in flour will be remembered for a long time. And isn't it amazing what you can do with a polo and a matchstick?

The Squadron returned to London leaving the local hostelries happily counting their profits.



Cpl Kev Salisbury and Cpl Peter Davies after receiving their LS & GC medals from Brig Brown



Pte 'Pebbles' McPhail, 'where's the canoe?' hindered by Capt Sue Harrison



The management Capt Max Knobel and Sgt J. B. Bragg


COMBAT STRESS

**'Perhaps the bravest man I ever knew...'**

**and now, he cannot bear to turn a corner**



Six-foot-four Sergeant 'Tiny' G*t*r*e, DCM, was perhaps the bravest man his Colonel ever knew.

But now, after seeing service in Aden, after being booby-trapped and ambushed in Northern Ireland, Sergeant 'Tiny' cannot bear to turn a corner. For fear of what is on the other side.

It is the bravest men and women from the Services that suffer most from mental breakdown. For they have tried, each one of them, to give more, much more, than they could in the service of our Country.

We look after these brave men and women. We help them at home, and in hospital. We run our own Convalescent Homes and, for the old, there is our Veterans' Home where they can see out their days in peace.

These men and women have given their minds to their Country. If we are to help them, we must have funds. Do please help us with a donation, and with a legacy too, perhaps. The debt is owed by all of us.

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To protect those concerned, this is an amalgam of several such case histories of Patients in our care.

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## 239 Sig Sqn
## Colchester

**HAIL AND FAREWELL**

It is now nearly three years since the Squadron was formed and so we are now in the middle of a large changeover of military staff. We say farewell to **Capt** 'Daz' **Cole** posted to the sun in Cyprus, **Cpl Simon Pell**, off to 225 Sig Sqn, **LCpl Tim Pellett** and **WLCpl Sally Reggler** to BAOR and **Sgt Marc Ewart** to a Yeoman's Course at Blandford. Arrivals include **WCpl Kathy Stone, WPte Karen McLean, LCpl Martin Hoyt** and **Cpl Paul Smith.** We hope they have a rewarding tour in Colchester.

**THE THREE PEAKS WALK**

It all started, as good ideas so often do, in a pub. Someone, after a little too much ale suggested running the 'The Three Peaks'. The Three Peaks (of Whernside, Ingleborough and Pen-Y-Ghent) are in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the challenge is to start at Horton-in-Ribblesdale, complete a distance of approximately 29 miles of a circular route and, in the process, ascend the Three Peaks, a total climb of 9,000ft. To qualify for a badge and certificate the route must be completed in 12 hours and to ensure this, a clocking in and out machine is installed in the Three Peaks Cafe in Horton-in-Ribblesdale. Armed with the above information our intrepid 'runners' now decided to walk the route instead and new plans were made.

The team to do the walk were **Sgt Marc Ewart** (the organiser), **Capt Graham Atkinson** and **LCpl Tim Pellett** and our faithful driver **Sig Martin King**. From Colchester we moved to Horton-in-Ribblesdale on a Monday, booked into a delightful B&B and prepared for the start. This proved to be a wise move as we discovered that the Three Peaks Cafe doesn't open on Tuesdays! We chastised our organiser **Marc** ('how was I to know!) **Ewart** but all was well as the cafe owner allowed us to purchase a Three Peaks badge in advance. That evening was spent finalising plans.

The Three Peaks walk was completed in just under 10 hours. The map reading had been made easy mainly due to the restoration work being done in the Dales walk which left wide trails of hardcore to follow. The team had aching limbs at the end but all agreed it was worth doing. The views were excellent and a small amount of money was raised by sponsorship for the Peaks restoration work. The only gripe was from the TOT wanting to know why he had to give up his day sack and carry the survival kit on the longest stretch and highest peak!

We would like to thank the Royal Signals Adventure Training Centre at Dent for loaning us the required equipment. If anyone has ideas of running the Three Peaks, it is possible — the local Fell runners have achieved a time of under three hours — a record which will be hard to match let alone better.



Taking a breather before tackling Pen-Y-Ghent in the background are LCpl Tim Pellett, Sgt Marc Ewart *(standing on the wall)* and Capt Graham Atkinson *(seated)*

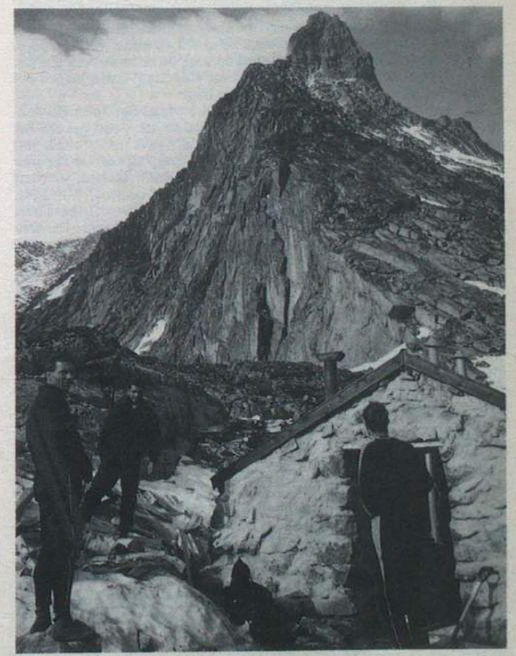
## 244 Sig Sqn (AS)
## RAF, Brize Norton

In June, under the leadership of **Capt Jim Wood,** eight members of the Squadron spent two weeks in the Jotenheim mountains in central Norway. The area has the highest mountains in northern Europe and the aim was to practise mountaineering techniques as well as basic snow and ice work. After three days travelling we set up the first basecamp at Lom in the north of the area.

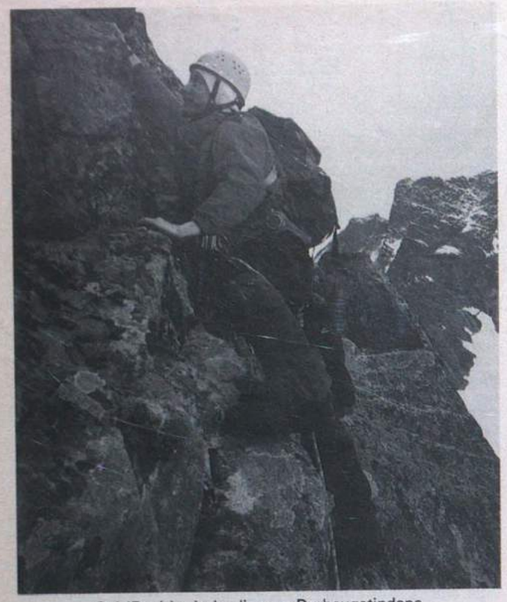
Day one was a climb of Glittertind, the highest mountain in the range. The peak is a few metres lower than Galdhopiggen but a 30m snow/ice cap means once on the top, you are at the highest point in northern Europe. The tourist season had not yet fully started so on the drive in we encountered the first of many gated roads. This meant that a gentle introduction was lengthened by a one and a half hour CFT in each direction. The climb up was relatively uneventful and the team was introduced to snow/ice work up the Glacier.

The amazing views from the top were recorded as were the faces of the team showing surprise as a 73 year old Norwegian appeared at the top on skis! Using Glissading techniques the trip down was much quicker than the ascent and **LCpl Andy** 'AB Biscuit' **Brown** and the Landrover were a welcome sight at the end of the trek.

Day two was going to be the start of a series of day trips into the area of Leirdalen but another gated road put paid to that. Plan B was a scramble over rocks made more difficult by the wet and **Sig 'Wiz' Wiseman** soon showed that even beginners could handle the rocks. The next outing was a three day trip into Leirdalen with the 12km march-in made more difficult by the very hot weather. Camp was set up near the head of the valley at 1,400m underneath the peaks we were to climb later. The first was Stetinden at 2,020m and needed another hard slog through deep snow which nearly proved too much for the team midget, **Cpl George Rahman**. After reaching the top of the secondary peak at 1,985m, the team was roped together for the final ascent. The view from the ridge, on either side, was exhilarating with a glacier 500m straight down on one side. Again the descent was made easy by the steep snow slopes and camp was reached after five and a half hours hard climbing. The weather held out for the final peak, the



Sgt John Howell-Walmsley and Cpls George Rahman and Rocky Bentley contemplate Storen



Cpl 'Egg' Irwin leading up Dyrhaugstindane

sharp pointed Kirkje at 2,032m. Another rapid ascent up the gentler of the approaches and the top was reached in just over one and a half hours. This time the descent was much longer as we took the opportunity to abseil down over a number of difficult pitches and it was more than six hours before we returned to pack up the camp. **LCpl Paddy Maybin** almost regretted coming as he had spent the last three days under the Landrover but he and **Cpl 'Egg' Irwin** jogged out to meet us to help carry the equipment back.

The move to a new campsite was delayed whilst **Sgt John Howell-Walmsley** and **Cpl Rocky Bentley** attempted to set a new record for the ascent of Galdhoppegen. The vehicle finally gave up at the highest and bleakest point in the road with half the party already at the new site. **Cpl Paddy Maybin**, along with **LCpl 'Biscuit' Brown**, was left with a pile of Kroner whilst the remainder set up camp at Turtagro. After a trip into town to buy medicine to try and stave off the illness that was attacking the group, we set off for a four day trip to the area of Skgeastolstind. At 2,440m Storen, as it is known, is not the highest peak in the area but, is renowned both for the standard of climbing and its bad weather. We experienced both over the next few days. Nil visibility, drizzle and strong winds meant that the first attempt had to be abandoned after four and a half hours and still 2,000m from the top.

The next day brought good weather but the group was largely laid low by illness. **Capt Jim Wood** and **Sgt Howell-Walmsley** reached the same height as the day before in under one hour but had to return due to illness. The adjoining peak of Dyrhaugstindane at 2,208m was attempted after persuading **Cpl 'Egg' Irwin** to have a go but the standard of climb was too difficult. We came down after three and a half hours, disappointed with the result, but pleased with the effort put into the attempt. The walk out was relatively easy especially as **LCpls Paddy Maybin** and **'Biscuit' Brown** had joined us and we set off back to Lom to start the long journey back.

This was beset by problems with ferries. We now had to travel an extra half day to Stavanger as our ferry had been cancelled. One vehicle was left on the quay side at Skudeneshavn as that ferry was full and the final ferry was delayed yet again. **Sig Wiz Wiseman** again took control with his rhino briefing. On the journey, wearing the team T-Shirt, we received more applause than the band for our singing!

The trip was very enjoyable with all members learning something new whilst carrying out some arduous mountaineering.



## 254 Sig Sqn (UNFICYP)
## BFPO 567

| | |
|---|---|
| **SHQ** | |
| **PERSONALITIES** | |
| **OC** | **Maj J. G. Peck** |
| **2IC** | **Capt R. P. Giles** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 W. Henderson** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt C. Alexander** |
| **CC** | **Sgt A. B. Rose** |
| **Stores Acct** | **Sgt R. Clatworthy** |
| **FSO Clk** | **Mrs J. McGhie** |
| **Typist** | **Mrs S. Hiscock** |

**PRINCESS ROYAL DAY—JUNE**

This year special celebrations were held to mark the 56th anniversary of Princess Royal Day and the 70th anniversary of the formation of the Corps.

Festivities began with a lunchtime cocktail party for the Squadron's official guests, the officers and SNCO's of the various national contingents which form UNFICYP. Guests were escorted through a display of photographs showing the many Squadron activities, military, social, and sporting, which had taken place during the last year, and were then hosted at the party by all ranks of the Squadron.

In the afternoon soldiers and families all adjourned to the swimming pool for a watery version of 'It's a Knockout'. It was a very lighthearted competition with events such as a 'Waterproofs Race', 'Child Carry' etc which everyone whether spectator or competitor seemed to enjoy thoroughly.

Families and lads donned their trendiest beachwear in the evening for a disco and barbecue at the poolside—though most participants found themselves in the water at least once before the evening was over! However, everyone took the high jinks in good part and a memorable day was had by all.



Sig 'Chico' Towers, 'Doobs' Rodgers, Hayhurst and LCpl Pike (Canadian) enjoying the Princess Royal Day Cocktail Party



The Force Commander, Maj Gen Clive Milner, being welcomed by OC Sqn, Maj Jerry Peck, 2IC, Capt Richard Giles and WO2 (SSM) Bill Henderson





Protecting the bar at the Pool party are from *L to R* Sig Wright, Wilson, 'LA' Law and Wray

| | |
|---|---|
| **COMMCEN TROOP** | |
| **PERSONALITIES** | |
| **OC Troop** | **WO2 (YofS) D. MacTaggart** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt L. Thornton-Granville** |
| **Day Cpl** | **Cpl S. Gill** |
| **A Shift Cpl** | **Cpl A. Hall** |
| **B Shift Cpl** | **Cpl G. Horabin** |
| **C Shift Cpl** | **Cpl G. Purves** |

**ARRIVALS—DEPARTURES**

We would like to welcome the following members to the Troop: **Cpl 'Ginge' Purves** (once again), **Sig Steff Carroll, 'Gidge' Gibben, Doobs Rodgers, 'Waz' Warren** and **Tom Wiffen.**

A fond farewell to the following members we wish them well: **Cpl Niblock, Sig** 'Scouse' **Aitken, Nige Bruin, Keith Hunt, 'Tommy' Stavely-Wadham** and **'Chico' Towers.**

| | |
|---|---|
| **TECH AND LINE TROOP** | |
| **PERSONALITIES** | |
| **OC Troop** | **WO2 (FofS) G. Whiteford** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt A. Broadbank** |
| **Tech Sgt** | **Sgt S. Norris** |
| **Line Sgt's** | **Sgt P. Jennings** |
| | **Sgt P. Norrie** |

Yet again Tech and Line dominated all physical activities within the Squadron (. . . with a little help from SHQ—thanks!), winning both the Swimming and Safe/Skilled Driving Competition in early June. However, because Commcen Tp was getting a bit upset with last position every time, we let them win the recent Dash Competition.

On the working side of life everything is in control, as per usual, and the once legendary cable TV system is slowly but surely being stripped out and replaced by antennas; (what's this Foreman, no more work on Monday afternoons—Yeahh!).

We say a big 'Hello' to **Sgt Pete Edge** and **Sig Al Hayhurst** and **Wray**.

Farewells go out to **Cpls Stu Phillips, 'Billy' Creighton, Deryck Stewart, Ade Toye**, and not forgetting, **Sig 'Dede' Watts**.

| | |
|---|---|
| **RADIO TP** | |
| **PERSONALITIES** | |
| **Tp Comdr** | **Lt Steve Gaunt** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Mick Halford** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Jerry Gervais** |

Once again a busy time for the Troop. The recent demonstrations by both sides of the Cypriot community saw most of the Troop and its compliment of 'Tired' (CO's words) but freshly painted vehicles deployed on various tasks. The demonstrations passed quietly, but it provided a busy introduction to some of the brand new 'Whiteys from Blighty and Canada' during the first few days on the island.

Congratulations to **Lt Steve Gaunt** on his good performance during the UNFICYP swimming competition which helped the Support Regt team to gain a good second position.

Welcome back to **SSgt Mick Halford** freshly shorn from the Drill Instructors course at Pirbright—you can put your flip flops back on now **Mick** and hide the boots.

**ARRIVALS**

The Troop would like to welcome the following new members: **Sgt Jerry Gervais, Cpl Walters, MCpl Beaupre, LCpl Byrne, Sig 'Specky' Davies Morris, Sig Hancock** and **'Ted' Heath**. Have a good tour.

**DEPARTURES**

To the recently departed namely **Sgt Rick Whitaker, MCpl 'Pepe' Lemieux, Cpl Nicholson, LCpls 'Marty' Rayner, Eldridge, Sig Wilson** and **Stoker**, thanks for your help and we wish you well.



# – News from Troops –

## 602 Sig Tp
## Bicester

The hierarchy of the Troop has changed quite dramatically in recent months. A warm welcome to the following: **Capt Nigel Gill, WO2 (YofS) John Arkley** and the Troop's *first* SSM, **WO2 (SSM) Fred Share**. The technical staff has also been further strengthened by the addition of **Sgt Nick Stapleton** and **Cpl Stan Riley**.

Those who have recently left us to adopt the title of Mr or Mrs include: **Capt Kevin Fisher, Cpls Stu Robertson, Mick Whincup, WCpl Jo Hope** and **WLCpl Trish Wilby. Lt Catriona Hay, WO2 (YofS) Keith Bell, LCpl Kev Potts** and **Sig Dave Aitken** have also left us on posting. Best wishes to them all.

The only major exercise in recent months was Ex Able Archer 1 in which the Troop deployed communications detachments to AFSOUTH, AFNORTH and SHAPE. The SHAPE detachment was worthy of mention as it was the first time a wholly female detachment commanded by the 2IC, **Lt Catriona Hay** had been deployed on a major exercise. They did, however, have some male assistance in the shape of **Sean Weldon** (R Tech).

**EXERCISE WILD LYNX 90**

Ex Wild Lynx 90 was an adventurous training exercise based in the Aviemore area where we hoped to do some skiing. As it turned out there was a distinct lack of snow and therefore other activities such as pony trekking, mountain bike riding and hill walking were hastily planned.

**SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS COURSE 3/89**

SC Course 3/89 has been completed. Passes were achieved by **Cpls Rick Buxton, Dave Hughes, LCpl Chippy Lang, Sig Mark Jackson, Jim Shaw, Phil Whitehead** (Best Student Award) and **Pte Trudie Philpott**. We welcome them all to the Troop. They can now look forward to their well earned £4.16 a day Special Pay, one of the *many* advantages of service with the Troop!

**SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS COURSE 1/90**

At present in the middle of their course are: **Sig Rick Foster, Graham MacKintosh, Mac McDonald, Paul Winstanley, Ptes Mary Flaherty, Jane Hinchliff** and **Sarah Rawson**. Wherever possible, part of the Special Communications course includes one week of adventurous training. This not only gives the students a welcome break from the routine of the course, but enables the unit to assess individuals under different and often arduous conditions. The course was dispatched to the Cairngorms in June after their 16th week of training for some character building experiences.

We are now looking forward to exercises in the latter half of the year which will include deployments of Special Communications operators to Italy and Norway among other places. This years' Annual Camp will take place at Tenby in September. It is hoped that the weather will be kind for some 'work hard—play hard' activities. An exercise in Canada which was to have taken place earlier in the year was cancelled. Maybe next year?



Pictured enjoying a welcome rest in the Cairngorms are, *(from left to right):* Pte Sarah Rawson, Sig Graham MacKintosh and Mac McDonald. Propping up a rock in the background are SSgt Mike Hope and WO2 (YofS) Keith Bell

# Royal Signals Maritime Detachment 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RCT Southampton

The deck tilts at an alarming angle, books, pads and assorted stationery items fly across the cabin to impact on the opposite bulkhead. The ship vibrates madly as the propellers break the surface and briefly beat the air before submerging again. There is a rumbling noise like thunder, the vessel lurches sideways as she is swatted by a playful green roller. As you fight to control the nausea welling up from within, you might well wonder what the devil a 'Bleep' is doing in the middle of the ocean during a storm force 10 gale . . .

Yet it does happen! . . . Maintaining communications whilst battling through severe storms is a real problem which has to be faced from time to time by those members of the Corps serving with the Royal Signals Maritime Detachment of 17 Port and Maritime Regt RCT.

It has been several years since *The Wire* has received a contribution to its pages from the Corps Mariners. This article is therefore an attempt to bring this 'Minority Group' to the attention of the more recent Corps members and perhaps to offer an insight into the unique opportunities which exist for the telegraphist tradesman within the maritime environment.

**THE MARITIME 'DET'**

Until recently, the Royal Signals Maritime Detachment was part of the establishment of 20 Maritime Regiment RCT and was located at St George Barracks, Gosport. On 1 December 1989 the Regiment was amalgamated with 17 Port Regt RCT at McMullen Bks Marchwood and the unit retitled 17 Port & Maritime Regt RCT. This reorganisation had the effect of concentrating all of the Army's port and maritime resources in Marchwood, which was already the principal military port in the UK, with a capability to handle military units and freight, including explosives.

Many readers will already be familiar with Marchwood Military Port as it is the home port for several of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Vessels and a large number of troops will embark from here, enroute to their various exercise locations overseas. However, the day to day management of the port is only part of the Regiment's operational role.

The Regiment has responsibility for the loading and discharging of both service and civilian shipping, either across a beach or through an existing port, in support of military operations worldwide. It also deploys Composite Port Squadrons as part of the UK/NL Amphibious Force and is committed to support all Out of Area operations involving sea movements or amphibious operations.

The Royal Signals' role within this organisation is to provide telegraphic communications for HQ 3 Tpt Gp RCT, HQ Solent Station and units under command. This service is provided using the facilities of Marchwood Commcen, which is part of the AFTS Network under command of 251 Sig Sqn. The detachment also provides operators aboard the Regiment's two Landing Craft Logistic (LCL) HMAV *Ardennes* and HMAV *Arakan*. In addition, the detachment also supports the Regiment in its UK/NL amphibious deployment tasks.

The current establishment of the detachment is 12 men, of which six are serving aboard the vessels, whilst the remainder are employed in the commcen, which operates on a 24 hour basis. In addition to the normal signal message traffic, the commcen maintains a 24 hour radio watch with the Regiment's vessels at sea. At the present time the radio facilities are rather basic but a major refurbishment is scheduled to take place (sometime this century) and this should considerably improve the situation.

During a tour with the detachment, an operator can expect to serve both ashore and afloat. The length of time spent aboard the vessels will vary considerably and will depend on the aptitude of the individual and the availability of personnel. In order to maintain continuity of operators and stability of the vessel crew as a whole, a tour of duty aboard the ship will generally be a minimum of 12 months.

**COMMUNICATION CENTRE**

The move from Gosport has involved some changes to the day to day running of Marchwood commcen. Prior to the move, the commcen operated on a part time basis and was staffed by two civilian operators, **Mrs Christine Mckenzie** and **Mr John McConkey**, both of whom are employed with 251 Sig Sqn. Although the commcen now operates on a 24 hour basis, the command and control arrangements remain unchanged and the civilian staff now work alongside the military. Although this arrangement is somewhat unusual, it has created no major problems, and both **Chris** and **John** have contributed a great deal towards ensuring an efficient and co-operative working environment.

At the present time, the SNCO in the commcen is **Sgt Norman Cavanagh**. After having served four years aboard HMAV *Ardennes* as the Signal Sergeant, Chief Clerk, Flag Wagger Class 1 and Postman extraordinaire, he has decided that it is time to come ashore. However, he has not given up the sea completely and now constitutes a hazard to shipping as he sails his 22ft yacht *Suanto* around the Solent waters, in preparation for his epic attempt to circumnavigate the Isle of Wight (weather permitting). **Cpl Nick Carter** is the commcen's resident 'Landlubber' and has maintained the continuity ashore for several years. This is partly due to his operating abilities, but mainly to his incredibly weak stomach. Also employed ashore is **Cpl Nick Smith**, who leaves us shortly to join 210 Sig Sqn at Catterick. He is unique within the detachment in that he has never actually set foot aboard one of the Regiment's vessels. The remaining commcen operators are **Cpl Kev Jones, LCpls Lance Croasdaile**, 'Bing' **Crosbie** and **Tony Jenner**, who has recently joined us from BAOR.

So, if there are any enthusiastic telegraphists out there who would be interested in the opportunity to practise their skills in a unique environment, get 17 Port & Maritime Regt down on your 'Dream Sheet' and come and join the 'Crew', here at Marchwood.

**HMAV *ARAKAN* (L 4003)**

The Landing Craft Logistics (LCL) are 72m long, have a beam of 15m and a gross tonnage of some 1,595 tonnes. They have two engines and are capable of an average speed of 10 knots. Each vessel has a complement of 36 soldiers, which includes the three Corps members. HMAV *Arakan* is commanded by **Maj Eddie Bell RCT**, and he shares the Wardroom with his First Lieutenant (and RCT Captain) and his Chief Engineer (also a Captain). The remainder of the crew range in rank from Dvr to WO1 and are organised functionally into a watch system, which comprises Deckside/Navigation and Engineering. Also included in the ships complement are two REME electricians and two ACC chefs.



LCpl Howes (now Mr) on watch in 'The Shack'



*'Arakan'* discharging Soviet Armoured Vehicles



The job of the three Royal Signals personnel aboard is to provide the communications for the vessels at sea. The ships radio room contains all the necessary equipment for processing signal traffic. Transmission to and from the vessel can be accomplished using an assortment of Navy and Army MF/HF equipments. The vessel is also equipped with the mandatory International Maritime Mobile VHF equipment for ship/shore/ship working. The majority of the vessel's signal traffic is cleared through the UK ship-shore facilities. When the ship is deployed on joint operations or exercise, NATO ship-shore stations are used, giving the operators experience in alternative systems and procedures. Another unusual aspect of the maritime signallers job is the use of visual signalling techniques. Although not formally instructed in the art of flags and light, the operators are often 'flashed up' by RN ships at sea and are expected to make sense of what is being sent. The Signal sergeant aboard the vessel also has the unenviable task of being the ships Chief Clerk and is responsible for the vessel's administration. This can be a full time occupation, particularly when the vessel is in port. Not only is he responsible for the normal day to day administration of the crew but also deals with the mountain of paperwork which is vital to the ships operational role.

One of the Regiment's vessels is permanently stationed in Scotland providing resupply for the RA ranges in the Hebrides, the other is usually employed on BAOR maintenance tasks or is exercising in Norway. In April however, HMAV *Arakan* broke new ground and set sail for Leningrad, with the Royal Corps of Signals represented by **Sgt Ray Sant**, who has spent almost five years roving the seven seas, **Cpl Tony Wilks**, an Op Corporate veteran who joined the ship in February and **LCpl Nick Lait** who took over shortly before sailing to allow **LCpl** 'Bing' **Crosbie** to depart to sunny Catterick on his upgrading course. The cargo on this trip was a collection of military artifacts—AFV's and artillery pieces, which were to be 'swapped' for similar items from the Soviet and Finnish tank museums. Thankfully the voyage out was calm and we arrived in Leningrad to a warm and cordial welcome. During the two days spent in the city the crew were allowed ashore in uniform. Although the Royal Navy has made periodic visits to Leningrad, the arrival of an Army vessel and soldiers in blue uniforms, created considerable interest among the local population (have you any Levis Tovarich?). After Leningrad, the vessel paid a short visit to Helsinki where once again the crew was treated to a most hospitable welcome by the British Ambassador and his staff. All in all a most memorable voyage and one which owed a great deal to the professionalism of the men of 17 Port & Maritime Regiment RCT who man the LCL's. After Russia, it was a brief spell home at Marchwood, then on to Scotland to relieve HMAV *Ardennes*.

Although the flat bottom of the LCL means that it rolls about in anything more than a gentle slop, there is no better job when the weather is fine and the seas calm. A passage round the Western Isles in the summer is an unforgettable experience and although the work and separation can at times be a little irksome, a tour aboard the RCT vessels can only be described as a unique and satisfying experience.

**HMAV *ARDENNES* (L 4001)**

Her Majesty's Army Vessel *Ardennes* is the senior of the Regiment's two Landing Craft. The vessel was commissioned in June 1977. The current crop of 'Siggies' aboard this floating gin palace are: The Boss, **Sgt 'Biggles' Gee**, who although he has been known to pay the occasional visit to the ship's radio room, can more often be found creating problems in the Ships Office. 2IC, **Cpl Keith Williamson**, is currently on his second tour with the detachment. It would appear that unlike normal people who get 'Homesick' he gets 'Seasick'. **Keith** is leaving us shortly to take up a new posting as 'Godfather' to the Junior Leaders at Catterick. Last but not least, is the detachment's answer to Arnold Swarzenegger, **LCpl 'Mac' Maclean**. As a dedicated weightlifter, he takes his sport so seriously, that even when socialising, he is often seen in the local hostelries with a 'Dumb Belle' in each hand.

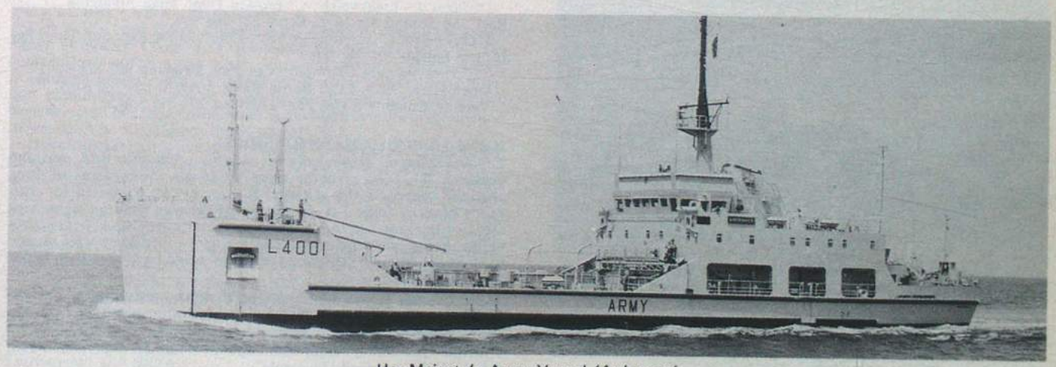


Cpl Tony Wilks and 'Comrade'

HMAV *Ardennes* has recently finished a spell on station in Scotland, and during the voyage south it was intended to incorporate a trip to the Scilly Isles for the ships summer camp. First stop was Peel on the Isle of Man where the vessel stayed for two days. During this time the TT races were in progress and as the ship left the harbour we were treated to a spectacular flying display by the Red Arrows, who performed directly above us. After leaving Peel, we then set sail for the Scilly Isles, unfortunately, due to adverse weather conditions we were unable to enter the harbour. Thus, as a direct result of the fickle British weather it was the population of Newlyn near Penzance who were eventually innoculated with a dose of that special brand of humour and antics that is peculiar to the 'Soldier Sailor'.

Since summer camp, the vessel has been very busy, steaming backwards and forwards across the channel. As these notes go to press, the crew is busy preparing the vessel for the Cunard Review, which takes place on the Solent on 27 July. After the review, the vessel has one more trip to the continent before the crew disperse for a period of leave. Then it's off to Norway to assist in a NATO exercise.

Finally, congratulations are in order to **Keith Williamson** and his wife **Susan** on the birth of their daughter. And the very best of luck to **'Biggles'** on his AAC selection course.




Her Majesty's Army Vessel *'Ardennes'*

# THE ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

| | |
|---|---|
| Admiral | Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB MBE |
| Commodore | Col W. Roper |
| Vice Commodore | Lt Col C. K. Powell |

**Rear Commodores: Offshore, Lt Col A. W. Cudlip; Dinghies, Maj V. T. Smedley; Windsurfing, Lt Col C. D. McK Kemp**

**Secretary Capt G. M. Lewis-Taylor.**

All serving members of the Corps, Regular (including Apprentices and Juniors), male or female, are members of the Royal Signals Yacht Club by virtue of their contributions to Corps Funds. Retired members of the Corps may continue to be members of the Club provided that they register with the Retired Members' Representative.

The Club owns four offshore yachts; *Petasus 3* and *Skywave* are kept at Gosport, *Quicksilver* is at Keil in Germany and *Parang* is at Larnaca in Cyprus. A fleet of six Enterprise racing dinghies is kept at the Parkstone Yacht Club in Poole Harbour. The Club also owns 12 racing windsurfers. Dinghy sailing and windsurfing also take place worldwide under Club auspices using other craft not owned by the Club.

By the time that this article appears most of the summer sailing programme will be over although there are still some major dinghy and windsurfing fixtures remaining. Brief details of these appear below. The main theme is the winter programme for the new yacht *Petasus 3*.

*PETASUS 3*

*Petasus 3* was bought by the Club at Easter this year. She is a brand new Victoria 34 and her purchase was made possible by a grant from Army Welfare Funds and a particularly generous grant from the Royal Signals Association. Those of us who have already had the chance to sail on her think that she is well suited to our needs. She is a roomy, solidly built boat with nine berths, she is an ideal adventure training vessel and private charterers will also find her attractive. She is also fast and did well in the recent Army Sailing Association Regatta and came second in her class in the Services Offshore Race. Her Skipper, **Capt Mark Castle-Smith** and his crew are congratulated on a fine performance.

One of the reasons for buying the Victoria 34 was to enable us to use her during the winter. This year we shall be deploying her to the Gibraltar area from mid October until April next year. The first leg of the Exercise, known as Ex Signal Venture 1, takes her from Gosport to Vilamoura in the Algarve. She will then have two cruises based on Vilamoura before deploying to the Canary Isles in late November. There will then be five cruises in and around the Canaries before returning to Vilamoura in early March 1991. This will be followed by a further cruise out of Vilamoura before the final leg to Gosport, returning in mid April in time for the UK summer sailing season.

Full details have already been sent to Units but if you want to know more or need an application form then contact either: **Maj J. Barrett MBE** at the School of Signals, telephone Blandford 2480 or **Sgt A. Morgan**, 106 St Nicholas Avenue, Gosport, Hants PO13 9RW. Tel: (0705) 526144.

**RESULTS**
**DINGHIES**

Despite apparently being a fast disappearing breed—the dinghy regatta had to be postponed due to lack of entries—our dinghy sailors continue to do well at all levels. **Capt David Ellis** skippering the Army's J24 *'Chieftain'*, with **Lt Simon Spiers** in the crew, has made a promising start in his first full season racing at the highest level. *Chieftain* came 25th out of a fleet of 50 in the National Championships. The Club fully intends to support **David Ellis'** campaign of *Chieftain* probably for another three seasons leading up to the World Championships which are due to be held in UK in 1993. If anyone is interested in racing at the highest level then contact **Capt Ellis** at the School of Signals. Tel: Blandford 2489.

We have won all our matches in the UK Inter Corps Dinghy League, with the exception of that against the Sappers, and we had a convincing win against RAF Signals at the RAF Signals versus Royal Signals Sports Day.

The ASA Regatta at Seaview was won by **Cpl Paul Downie** with a fine performance in which he won three of the races. The rest of the Corps team were **Capt Vaughan Smedley**, who came fifth, and **Cpl Mark Pounsett**. A Royal Signals helmsman won five of the eight races in the Regatta.

**WINDSURFING**

Corps Windsurfing has enjoyed much success in the mid-season as the following event reports indicate:-

**BAOR ARMY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

This event was held at the Dummersee on 20-22 June with the following Corps results:-

Individual Division 1 Lightweight Champion—**Sgt Andy Elliott** of 21 Sig Regt and Third—**Capt Mike Stapleton** of 21 Sig Regt

Superheavyweight Champion—**Maj Jo Fletcher** of 202 Sig Sqn and Second—**SSgt John Smith** of 22 Sig Regt.

Team—Major Unit—Third 21 Sig Regt.

Minor Unit—Champions 202 Sig Sqn and Second 227 Sig Sqn.

**ARMY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Held at Browndown Camp over the weekend 30 June-1 July this event both enjoyed and suffered from very strong gusty winds in the order of force 6-7. Enjoyed in that the two races held were most exhilarating for those sailors able to cope with the conditions. Regrettably suffered by all as the safety boat sank in the strong seas causing the event to be brought to a premature close. Happily it was decreed that the two races would constitute a result and out of the 13 Corps competitors (some 23% of the field) the following results were achieved:-

Individual—Division 1 Heavyweight runner-up **Maj Jo Fletcher** 202 Sig Sqn.

Champion Veteran **Capt Bill White** 249 Sig Sqn.

Team—Unit Champions 3 Armd Div Sig Regt and Seventh 8 Sig Regt and 227 Sig Sqn.

**BFG CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Once again at the Dummersee this event was run over the 16-18 July with strong contention from the Corps. Individual results were:-

Division 1—Lightweight Champion **Capt Mike Stapleton** 21 Sig Regt and Second **Sig Nigel Berry** 227 Sig Sqn.

Heavyweight Champion **Sgt Andy Elliott** 21 Sig Regt and Third **Sgt Dougie Shields** 227 Sig Sqn.

Superheavyweight Champion **Cpl Paul Emerson** 202 Sig Sqn.

Open Class Second **Cpl Barrie Raine** 3 Armd Div Sig Regt.

Veteran Champion **Cpl Paul Emerson** 202 Sig Sqn.

**JOINT SERVICE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Once again at Browndown Camp this event was held over the weekend 28/29 July but in more moderate winds than the four previous weeks. On this occasion five races were competed for with winds between force 2-5. As this is the premier windsurfing service event of the year full individual corps results are listed. Regrettably unlike the earlier Army event, BAOR Corps windsurfers were unable to make the crossing otherwise the Corps would have been even better represented.

OPBC 6.0m Lightweight 10th **Cpl P. Ellwood** 249 Sig Sqn.

Heavyweight 4th **Sgt D. Maw** 8 Sig Regt, 7th **LCpl S. Hall** 1 Inf Bde Sig Sqn and 8th **Sgt N. Finnegan** AA Coll Harrogate.

OPBC 7.5m Heavyweight 12th **Capt W. White** 249 Sig Sqn and 14th **AT S. White** AA Coll Harrogate.





As you read this article the Corps UK Championships will already have been held at Browndown over 6-8 September. Additionally the Corps will have defended its Inter-Corps title at the Dummersee on 17-18 September.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CLUB DINNER**

Advance notice is given of the Annual General Meeting which will be held in the Crown Hotel, Blandford at 1800 hrs on Friday 26 October 1990. This will be followed at 1930 hrs by the Annual Dinner, also in the Crown Hotel. Make a note in your diary now.

## — Sport —

# TUG-OF-WAR

**CORPS TUG-OF-WAR**

Royal Signals Tug-of-War is continuing its upward trend as can be seen by this year's participation and results.

**MORRISON CUP**

For the first time Tug-of-War was included in the Morrison Cup (UK) Competition with two Major and three Minor Units entering teams. The winners in both categories came from the Army Apprentices College at Harrogate with the Apprentice/Junior Leader team taking the overall Morrison Cup (UK) title by beating the Minor Unit Permanent Staff team. In the Morrison Cup (BAOR) Competition an excellent entry of eight Major and seven Minor Units produced an outstanding competition and as in 1989 proved as big a draw as the athletics for the spectators. The Minor Units pulled in a seven team 'round-robin' league which saw a very strong 227 Sig Sqn team coming out the eventual winners with 206 Sig Sqn (1989 winners) the runners-up. The Major Units split into two leagues with cross-over semi-finals matching 7 Sig Regt against 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt (winners in 1987, 88 and 89) and 22 Sig Regt against 14 Sig Regt. This resulted in 7 Sig Regt against 22 Sig Regt in one of the best Morrison Cup (BAOR) finals for many years with victory going, after three ends, to 7 Sig Regt; an excellent result for them with 640kg way above their natural weight and coming only two days after their BAOR triumphs.

**BAOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

At the BAOR Championships the Corps was well represented with 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and 22 Sig Regt both getting into the top four of their weight, but pride of place here must go to 7 Sig Regt, in their first proper season since taking the BAOR 640kg runners-up in 1974, they won both the 560kg and the new 600kg titles with what was basically a novice team. Credit for this success must go to **SSgt Mick Scull** assisted by **LCpl Jim Gooch** and if they can keep this squad together plus a few reinforcements, then the next couple of years could be very successful.

This is three BAOR titles to Royal Signals Units in the last three years after a 13 year period of total domination by the Royal Artillery and hopefully if this trend continues and the new generation of 'pullers' go on to be coaches, the future will see the Corps established on equal terms in the sport the Royal Artillery regard as their own.

**ARMY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Army Championships is one area of the sport where the Corps have yet to achieve top honours but the day cannot be too far away and indeed 22 Sig Regt went remarkably close this year, achieving runners-up in both the 680kg and 640kg, the latter after a pull-off against 4 UDR (Army Champions for five years).

**INTER-CORPS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

This year's Inter Corps Championships were hosted by the Royal Army Ordnance Corps at Blackdown. The original aims of the competition were to mirror other sports and allow the various Corps to compete against each other (without a Royal Artillery presence), thus encouraging the weaker teams to participate. Not only has this been achieved but the improvement in standard is quite dramatic and to win at these Championships is no easy task.

Therefore this year's success of winning the 600kg, 640kg and 680kg as well as runners-up in the 560kg was an excellent achievement. The squad was formed from several Units (4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, 7 Sig Regt, 8 Sig Regt, 21 Sig Regt and 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn) but it did not take long to get the squad to adopt the same basic pulling technique. Training sessions were held with civilian teams including Leek, the English and Great Britain 560kg Champions, after which the squad realised the degree and quality of training required to reach the top. As a run-up to the Championships the Corby Highland Games were entered, only to find that the entry included Coveney, St Pat's and Lincoln, three of the top teams in England, but it was all good experience and the team certainly did not disgrace themselves, coming second in the 600kg and third in both the Catchweight and 640kg.

**INTER-SERVICES CHAMPIONSHIPS**

As runners-up in the Army Championships 22 Sig Regt were invited to represent the Army 'B' team at this year's Inter-Service Competition. Postings, the odd injury and lack of experience meant that the nucleus of the team came from 22 Sig Regt with some reinforcements from the Corps squad. On the day it was very hot and not a place for the inexperienced with the RAF 'A' team looking very accomplished. Our pullers rose to the occasion achieving runners-up to the Army 'A' team in both 640kg and 680kg. In fact at 680kg they took the first end against the Army 'A' team in 2 mins 40 secs before running out of steam for the second and third ends (1 min 50 secs +) and at 640kg the first end against Army 'A' went beyond 3 minutes. At the end of the day it was an overwhelming victory to the Army with the RAF Second and Navy Third.



Royal Signals Squad—Inter Corps Championships 1990
*Back row (left to right):* LCpl Jim Gooch, Sig 'PT' Paterson-Turner, Cpls Tom Fraser, Roy Carter, LCpl 'Jonah' Jones, SSgt 'Stevie' Stevenson, LCpl 'Eddie' Edwards, Cpl Keith Parsons, Sgt Steve Brown, Cpl 'Fergie' Ferguson and Sig 'Taff' O'Connor
*Front row (left to right):* LCpl 'Taff' Thomas, Cpl 'Robbo' Robson, Sig Gordon Cowan, Jim Mason, SSgt Mick Scull (Coach), WO2 (SSM) Peter Halstead, Cpls 'Paddy' Simpson, Tony Manktelow and Stu Palmer



Inter Services Championships 1990
*Back row (left to right):* Cpl Roy Carter, LCpl 'Jonah' Jones, Sgt Steve Brown, WO2 (SSM) Peter Halstead, LCpl Des Jenkins, Cpls 'Fergie' Ferguson and Tom Fraser
*Front row (left to right):* SSgt Stevie Stevenson, Cpls 'Archie' Gemmell, Tony Manktelow, Stu Palmer and LCpl 'Taff' Collis with the Inter-Services Tug-of-War Trophy

## SWIMMING AND WATER POLO

The Annual fixture versus RAF Signals took place on Friday 8 June at Catterick.

The competition was of a much higher standard than in recent years, the Royal Air Force fielding a very strong team. A weakness in breaststroke due to the unavoidable absence of **LCpl Ledger** proved to be our undoing and the Corps lost in a keenly fought and finely balanced tussle.

In a rather 'physical' water polo match the Corps proved too strong for the RAF particularly in the third and fourth quarter where water fitness paid dividends.

As a means of working off the obvious excess of energy there followed a match 'amongst ourselves' as it were, where those personnel who had travelled from BAOR to take part took on the UK element of the team. This proved to be a much more evenly balanced game and was much enjoyed by all who took part. The result was a draw.

**RESULTS**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 400 yds Freestyle | **AT Brass** | AA Coll Harrogate | 4 mins 35 secs |
| 100 yds Freestyle | **AT Woodman** | AA Coll Harrogate | 4 mins 55.6 secs |
| 100 yds Breaststroke | **Sgt Jenkins** | 8 Sig Regt | 1 min 15.9 secs |
| 100 yds Backstoke | **AT Robins** | AA Harrogate | 1 min 7.3 secs |
| 100 yds Butterfly | **Cpl Banting** | School of Signals | 59.4 secs |
| 133 yds Individual Medley | **LCpl Cox** | 30 Sig Regt | 1 min 35.6 secs |

**Results**

RAF Signals 22 points and Royal Signals 20 points.

**Water Polo**

Royal Signals 9, RAF Signals 4. Royal Signals (UK) 4, Royal Signals (BAOR) 4.

The Corps was represented by the following: **WO2s Roberts, Caddywould, SSgts Griffiths, Brereton, Cox, Sgts Jenkins, Weavers, Cpls Shrives, Ord, Beardmore, Banting, Evans, LCpls Waring, Ward, Dickinson, Dunn, Blanchard, Cox, Sig Searle, Thomson, ATs Brass, Robins, Jones, Woodman** and **Whitehouse**.

An invitation to play in an Inter Corps Water Polo Tournament at Arborfield on 15 November has been accepted. Anyone wishing to be considered for selection whose name does not appear on the above list should contact **Capt J. R. Wallace** at AA College Harrogate or phone Harrogate 4309.


# R-S-A
## The Royal Signals Association AND YOU

**THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION—IT MAY MEAN MUCH MORE TO YOU NOW THAN DURING YOUR SERVICE**

*The principal aims of the Association are:-*

- To try and keep those who have served the Corps in touch with each other with a view to keeping alive a spirit of comradeship—a feature of Corps life you will miss when you leave the Service.
- To help serving and retired members of the Corps (and their close dependants) who find themselves in difficult circumstances with advice and practical aid, financial or in kind.
- To assist, where possible, resettlement in civilian life by trying to find employment and generally advising.

*The Association endeavours to achieve these aims by:-*

- Sponsoring branches in the main towns and population centres of the UK. These branches often meet for social occasions, and there is generally an annual dinner.
- Organising annual reunions at Blandford and Catterick. These provide the opportunity to meet old friends, for the retired to see something of the serving Corps and, but not necessarily on every occasion, to remember the dead.
- Running a welfare and general advice section at Association HQ, which is at the service of all members.
- Publishing the Corps magazine. *The Wire*. Taking out a subscription will help to keep you in touch with Corps and Association affairs.
- Selling items of Corps goods such as Corps ties, car badges and diaries. These are listed in *The Wire*.

### MEMBERSHIP

Nearly all members of the Corps have, whilst serving, been contributing under the Day's Pay Scheme which has greatly benefited our Benevolent Fund. As you conclude your Service, may we thank you most sincerely and remind you that, by virtue of your contributions, you are a Life Member of our Association. Please write **NOW** for registration as such. If you have not contributed at all you can become a Life Member for £2.50.

### THE FUTURE

If, in the future, you are confronted by circumstances or problems where you consider the Association may be able to offer advice or help, please contact The General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD (Tel: (071) 630 0801). Please give your service particulars when writing.

**Your Corps Association has flourished for many years, but only the support of those leaving the service will enable it to continue doing so. If a branch is near you join it and so make your personal contribution towards this end.**




## THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

**Patron: HRH The Princess Royal GCVO**

**President: The Master of Signals**

**Chairman and Treasurer: Major General P. D. Alexander CB, MBE**

**General Secretary: Colonel A. N. de Bretton-Gordon** — **Assistant Secretary: Major G. Schofield MBE**

**Welfare Secretary: Mrs P. J. Haw** — **Administrative Officer: Miss J. L. Wade**

**Association Office, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Tel Military System: London District 8245. STD 071 873 6355. Welfare Secretary (direct line) 071 630 0801.**

## LINCOLN BRANCH

It is with regret that we record the death of our comrade **Mr Dick Shepherd**, a Chindit who served in the Corps from 1942-46, on 27 June 1990. Our deepest sympathy has been conveyed to his wife and family 'we will remember him'. **Harold Bennett** and **Jack Roome** are both in hospital, we wish them a speedy recovery.

A party of 30 members travelled to Catterick on Saturday 23 June. Everybody enjoyed the two days although the weather could have been kinder.

Two of our Branch Members from Humberside are contemplating starting an Association Branch in the Grimsby area on behalf of the Lincoln Branch Members—we wish them every success.

## SCARBOROUGH BRANCH

**ROYAL SIGNALS 70TH ANNIVERSARY**
**SPECIAL EVENT AMATEUR RADIO STATION GB70SIG**

In August last year, at a Branch meeting held at Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, the secretary highlighted the fact that June 1990 would be the 70th anniversary of the Corps. This prompted **Peter Bateman**, a member of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society and the Scarborough Special Events Group, to think of a way to mark this auspicious occasion on the air.

Though Branch membership included licenced amateurs **Len Pearson, Jack** (Skim) **Simpson** and **Bill Woollcott**, we did not have sufficient manpower to sustain a long period of operation, so a joint venture with the Scarborough Special Events Group was arranged, with members from the Royal Signals, Royal Naval and Royal Air Force Amateur Radio Societies.

**Lt Col Gordon Wallace**, OC Burniston Barracks, was approached, with a view to mounting a special station on the Barracks premises and permission was readily given, which enabled planning to commence in September 1989. With the blessing of the General Secretary, RSARS, we immediately applied to the Department of Trade and Industry for the unique radio call-sign GB70SIG and to our delight permission was granted to use this call-sign during a 28 day period commencing 10 June 1990.

One month prior to the event, a meeting with the OC and **RQMS Barry Lewis** resulted in the group being offered every conceivable facility to assist in the operation, such as a transmitter hut and two 50ft masts located on the cliff edge, stores, and a quarter (for the night shift) was made available from 1 June.

A busy nine day period ensued as aerials were rigged, transmitters installed and tested, and operating schedules drawn up all ready for the big day. Murphy was on parade in the form of a new aerial lead being below spec, which caused quite a headache. Our equipment consisted of two HF transmitters using an 80m dipole and a multi-band aerial to give worldwide coverage using single-side band voice and morse, plus a VHF position feeding two home made Yagi's mounted on a rotator for 50 and 144 MHz, to provide speech and morse facilities for more local contacts. A centre-piece between the main operating positions consisted of a display of awards and trophies gained by local RSARS members and also on exhibition were two special sets, a B2 (Circa 1942) and an R122 (Circa 1964), which were used to make a demonstration contact during our operation.

The station commenced operation at 0600 hrs on 10 June and was soon in contact with RSARS members in Australia, New Zealand and the USA from this superb site overlooking the North Sea. These initial contacts were to set the tone for the next 28 days as amateurs world-wide queued up for the opportunity to send greeting to the Royal Corps of Signals on their 70th Anniversary.

The highlight of the event occurred on 21 June, when **Brig Martin Roberts**, president RSARS, and **Maj (Retd) Ray Webb**, general secretary, visited the station. The president sent the following message over the air to HQ station G4RS, at Catterick Camp:-

*From: The President, Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society*
*To: The Master of Signals*

*'Greetings and congratulations from grateful members of the society on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the corps.*

*A special amateur radio station with a unique call-sign GB70SIG is operating world-wide from Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, for the month in honour of the event.'*

A reply to this message was received towards the end of the operation when **Col (Retd) Fred Orr**, Curator Royal Signals Museum Catterick, arrived with a message from the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen John Badcock CB, MBE, DL** which read:-

*'Thank you for your message of greetings upon the 70th Anniversary of our Corps, which I reciprocate, and further congratulate you upon an almost similar length of service of your society. Well done too, upon gaining such a unique call-sign for the occasion.'*

The Brigadier's visit concluded with a buffet, during which he



Len Pearson (G3JFE) RSARS, operating HF position 1 Suitcase sets on the right



Colin Shepherdson (G0COL), operating VHF position. Looking on are Roy Clayton (G4SSH) RNARS, and Peter Tipper (G3JBR) RAFARS

chatted to the team of 18 operators and offered to attempt to obtain special acknowledgement cards to be sent to all stations who made contact with us on the air.

We were delighted with a surprise visit to the station by RSARS member **Mrs Ursula Sadler**, VP2MP, from Montserrat, who was very happy to operate the station and surprise a few overseas members.

Our last day, Saturday 10 July, was very busy until we finally closed down at 2359 GMT. During the operation we had received greetings from 2,600 stations world-wide, in 95 different countries, including the Royal Navy, Merchant ships at sea, Royal Air Force Bases, Scouts and Guides in camp and children in schools; all of whom were very interested in the reason for the special station. Of particular interest was a contact made with special station GB50ABF, activated by **Sam Kennard**, another RSARS member, celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the British Airborne Forces.

A social get-together was held in the Jimmy Club to mark the end of a highly successful operation, during which a video was shown of the Brigadier's visit. This was followed by a presentation of a Royal Signals GB70SIG plaque, by the chairman of the group to the OC and staff of Burniston Barracks, in appreciation of the help and friendship accorded to the group during the period.

We hope to be able to report the 75th Anniversary of the Corps.




Brig Martin Roberts sending the greetings message to HQ Station G4RS (RSARS)



Mrs Ursula Sadler (VP2MP) RSARS, operating HF position 2



# 3RD DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

**by E. E. Bayley Hon Sec**

Another remarkable and memorable Regimental Weekend with the 3rd Armoured Division HQ and Sig Regt was enjoyed by members of the 3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club accompanied by their wives. Our first timers this year were **Mr** and **Mrs John Hudson** from Wakefield, **Mr** and **Mrs Ron Steel** from Rhyl and **Col** and **Mrs Peter Hoskins** from Long Compton, Warwicks. As usual these trips are not without snags and this year our Deputy Secretary **Mr Tom Dean** was missing when heads were counted at Victoria Coach Station. He woke up in Barnet on Friday when he should have been waking up in Soest, but thanks to an efficient travel agent he arrived in Soest on time. Our second snag was due to heavy build up of traffic on the motorways and missing the 1030 sailing. Running late by one and a half hours we disembarked at Soest where **WO1 (YofS) A. M. Stokoe** welcomed a weary but, not worn out, party of veterans. On arrival at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at San Sebastian Barracks, **WO1 (RSM) Tony Spray** and **WO2 (SSM) Haslam**, the mess manager greeted us with coffee and biscuits and outlined our programme. The party from Gatwick was not far behind us and arrived in time for lunch. A sight-seeing programme to Bad Sassendorf had been arranged under the care of **SSgt Till** and **Sgt Wales**. Everyone decided to go, even **Mr Porky Edwards**, now 84, who has asked me to make mention in this article that he wished to say thanks for the co-operation and consideration extended to him on this trip to Germany. Everyone was most helpful to him in so many ways for which he is most grateful.

Later that evening **Col** and **Mrs Peter Hoskins** with **Lt Col Michael Philp** arrived from Heathrow. The CO **Lt Col Jonathan Cook** together with Adjutant **Capt E. A. Davis** who hosted **Maj D. J. Roberts. Lt Col Cook** welcomed us and said it was a privilege for him to have so many D-Day veterans present and hoped we would enjoy the programme that had been laid on for us. Sadly missed on this occasion was **Mr Pedlar Palmer** (86) and everyone wished him a speedy recovery from his accident. I was very surprised that the younger lads in the Corporals' Mess all asked after **Mr Palmer** and were very sorry to hear of his accident. **H. W. Palmer** joined the Corps as a lineman in 1923 and was discharged in 1945.

Saturday 21 July was aset aside for sightseeing in Soest and for shopping, followed by a visit to the NAAFI. After lunch a visit to the Mohnesee where our first footers were taken, the beauty of the place reminding one of the Peak District in Derbyshire. Everyone enjoyed the boat trip which was much appreciated on such a very hot afternoon. A wheel chair had been arranged for **Lt Col Michael Philp** and **2Lt Rowson** very kindly looked after him while **Sgts Weavers** and **Hancock** looked after the remainder of the veterans. We were joined on board by **Maj** and **Mrs Steve Marshall**, now members of the Reunion Club. Back to the mess for a light tea, and to prepare for the Cabaret/Restaurant evening in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess which commenced at 2000 hrs. It was a brilliant evening with a meal of your choice. Veterans were dispersed amongst the 20 tables. The cabaret was a great success and the girl singer and her Dutch partner worked very hard. Everyone joined in the World War 2 songs.

Sunday's Reunion Service at St Luke's Church, was well attended by Veterans and serving Corps. After the service we went to the Cricket Pavilion for a barbecue lunch before the match between the Officers and Seniors. The result was a narrow win for the Seniors. The Corporals' Mess was the venue for the evening's entertainment and they did the veterans and the wives proud.





The start of what proved to be the hottest day of the visit dawned on Monday when the Veterans and their wives were conveyed to the San Sebastian Exercise location to a Military Event, 'A view of how we operate today in a tactical setting', organised by 1 and 2 Sqns. After a short briefing, Compo Breakfast. Divisional Main HQ and Rear HQ in four APCs heavily camouflaged in a woodland setting. All this went down well. **2Lt Fathers, Sgts Fisher** and **Murray** explained in detail how things are done today. Radio Rebroadcast station and Divisional Ptarmigan trunk Nodes were explained in detail.

On return to the Mess and a respite of half an hour the party was whisked off to the Mohnesee Sailing Club and on arrival met by OC 2 Sqn and had lunch. Dinner was at 1700 hrs in the Mess and afterwards the veterans and their ladies were to be the guests of the officers at an Inn called the Wippenshof in the village of Wipperingsen. Here a super buffet was laid on and competitions arranged in the Skittle Alley and at Dice games.

A buffet lunch in the Sergeants' Mess the next day, a farewell address by the CO and a presentation cheque to the Regiment by **Maj Roberts** ended the visit. We bade farewell to our hosts at 1600 hrs. Our sincere thanks to **Lt Col Cook** the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and all concerned in making it a memorable weekend and we hope to see as many of you as possible on 22 March 1991, the 40th birthday of the Reunion Club, at the Victory (Services) Club, Marble Arch, London. The Reunion Club is open for membership to all who have served with the 3rd Divisional Signals.

# ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during July 1990:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Boys Model School | £ | 354.04 |
| 8 and 11 Sig Regt Wives Club | £ | 50.00 |
| Capt B. Smith | £ | 16.50 |
| The Blandford School | £ | 15.00 |
| J. W. Birkwood | £ | 10.00 |
| Certa Cito Lodge | £ | 10.00 |
| P. E. Duthie | £ | 10.00 |
| D. D. Driscoll | £ | 10.00 |
| H. S. Watt | £ | 8.20 |
| In memory of Lt Col R. J. K. Fenton | £ | 5.00 |
| R. Glyn Jones | £ | 3.20 |
| C. W. Hoar | £ | 3.00 |
| Bequeathed by Col T. W. Boileau | £ | 1,000.00 |
| Despatch Rider Sec (56 Div Sigs) | £ | 120.00 |
| | £ | 1,614.94 |

The following donations were gratefully received during August 1990:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| G. Birrell | £ | 5.00 |
| H. Liley | £ | 12.00 |
| In memory of Maj D. Carnell | £ | 20.00 |
| W. H. O'Neil | £ | 20.00 |
| St Boniface Church—Rheindahlen | £ | 119.50 |
| A. E. Roberts | £ | 150.00 |
| E. Sharf | £ | 350.00 |
| From the Estate of Mrs M. P. E. Glass (widow of Maj J. McD Glass MBE) | £ | 17,831.29 |
| | £ | 18,507.34 |

# 1939-45 WAR MEMORIAL FUND

The Corps now has a new and permanent Memorial at Catterick.

From time to time we receive enquiries in Association Headquarters about a War Memorial Fund subscribed to by members of the Corps during the second world war.

With the money raised, two 'Mercury Houses' were purchased—one in Bournemouth and the other in Colwyn Bay, to provide convalescent holidays for former members of the Corps and their families. Sadly neither of the 'Homes' was well used, and this led eventually to their closure and sale in the 1950's.

The original fund was used exclusively to provide holidays elsewhere until 1982 when it was decided to use the capital of the fund to establish a Memorial Chapel in the Garrison Church at Catterick and a Memorial Porch in the Garrison Church at Blandford.

The funding of holidays has continued and the costs are borne by the Association Benevolent Fund, with some assistance from the Army Benevolent Fund.



# SERGEANT WILLIAM HENSHALL

Anyone who knows the whereabouts, or perhaps the fate, of **William Henshall** is asked to communicate with **Lt Col L. R. J. Tilson** at HQ London District (Tel: 071-930-4466 Ext: 2440) **Sgt Henshall** who came from South London served in the Corps with 2 Coy 3 0TB in Huddersfield between 1940 and 1943.

# HUGH JOHNSTONE

Anyone knowing the present whereabouts of **Hugh Johnstone** who served in 5DR Tp, 2 Sqn, 1st Dist Sig Regt, BAOR is asked to write to his grandaughter, **Miss Amanda Johnstone**, 2F 23 Scotland Street, Edinburgh EH3 6PU.

# CORPORAL LESLIE DISMORE

Anyone knowing the present whereabouts of **Leslie Dismore** who served in the Corps from 1941-48 please contact his daughter: **Mrs Ann (Houghton-Turley) Blackburn**, 3/66 Wasley Street, North Perth, 6006, Western Australia.

# DO YOU KNOW THEM?

**Mr J. Brand** would like to trace **CSM Thomas Hatton** who left the Corps in 1945 after 27 years service. Please write to him at 163 Hume House, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland TS18 2BL.

**Mr J. Mutch** would like to get in touch with some of his former colleagues and asks that you write to him at 76 Chestnut Springs, Lydiard Millicent, Nr Swindon SN5 9NB.

**Charles Beaumont, S. Collins, G. F. (Gordon) Coward, J. Daniels, Robert Dillaway, R. Grundy, Leslie J. Hartzig, Stanley Harvey, R. V. Hobbs, E. Hurley, Stewart Linney, Ian MacGeighen, Edward Munroe, John Prendergast, Cpl A. W. (Bill) Roberts, B. G. Robinson, Douglas Strachan, George Thomson, A. (Andy) Watt** and **David White.**

# CABLE SECTION—15TH SCOTTISH DIV SIGNALS

**Mr J. T. Shutt** would like to get into contact with two of his war time colleagues—**Cpl K. Seed** and **Sig J. T. Byram.** They served together in Cable Section, 15th Scottish Div Signals at the assault on the Rhine crossing.

**Mr Shutt** lives at 39 Harebell, Amington, Tamworth, Staffordshire B77 4NA.

# 25 BASE SIGNAL SECTION BLA

**Mr Peter Walsh** who was OC 25 Base Signal Section BLA between November 1944 and February 1945 would like to hear from any former members of the Unit. Please write to him: 18 Tuson Drive, Widnes WA8 9EZ.

# REUNION AT (S)HELLFIRE CORNER DOVER

On 27 June more than 150 men and women from the three services attended the (S)Hellfire Corner Dover Reunion. Amongst the large gathering were six former members and two ATS of Second War Office Signals. The marvellous occasion led to many renewed contacts with former colleagues and it is hoped to establish the (S)Hellfire Corner Reunion Service as a regular event. Much of the hard work in tracing former members and organising the reunion was undertaken by a former signaller, **Ken Flint.** He will be delighted to hear from anyone who served in front line Dover. His address is: 77 Lydia Road, Walmer, Kent CT14 9JT (please enclose SAE). **(Ken Flint** is a former member of 21AG, 2nd Indian AB Div Sigs and also 71 Sig Regt (V)).

## CALLING ALL BRANCHES

**Your association has 57 Branches and nine affiliated Branches throughout the United Kingdom. We like to hear your news. Please keep in touch via your magazine. If activities are limited, an annual news letter would be appreciated.**

# REUNIONS

**DENBURY NEWTON ABBOT JUNIOR LEADERS REUNION**

The Triennial Reunion in and around Newton Abbot will take place on the 27 and 28 September 1991.

The programme will cover the Friday evening and all of the Saturday.

The reunion will be on much the same lines as 1988 when approximately 100 attended and this may well be the last reunion under the present system so it is hoped that all the regular attenders and some new ones will be able to make the dates.

Any enquiries in the meantime to **Sam Ward**, 56 Seymour Road, Newton Abbot, South Devon. Tel: (0626) 52101 or daytime (0392) 51056.

**SOUTH EAST ASIA REUNION**

Any former service personnel (all ranks and including ATS) who served at, either HQs ALFSEA, SACSEA, Ceylon Army, during and after, the cessation of hostilities, are invited to join a new reunion group which has recently held its first reunion at Coventry. The next will be held on 12 October at the same venue.

Anyone interested should write to **Don Lafferty**, 2 Stirling Way, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 5RP, enclosing a large stamped addressed envelope, together with a cheque or PO for £1.00 if they wish to receive a list of 76 participants.

**ETHIOPIA PILGRIMAGE 1991**

A special pilgrimage to commemorate the campaign in Ethiopia is being planned by the Royal British Legion for March/April 1991. All enquiries should be addressed to: The Royal British Legion, War Graves Pilgrimages, Royal British Legion Village, Maidstone, Kent ME20 7NX. Tel: (0622) 716729/716182/717172 (24 hours). In this connection anyone knowing the present whereabouts of war widows, **Frances Olive Lampitt (Sgt Donald)** or **Doris Gertrude MacSweeney (2Lt Timothy)** is asked to advise **Mr Piers Storie-Pugh**, Head of Pilgrimage Department.

**50 INDIAN PARA BDE SIG COY**

**Col (Retd) S. Upadhyay**, a former CO of 50 Indian Para Bde Sig Coy, wishes to invite former members of this unit to a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Company which was the first Indian Airborne Signal Unit. Former members seeking further information should contact: **S. G. Yardley**, 31 Greenfields Road, Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 8EW. Tel: (0384) 271263. **George Yardley** would particularly like to contact the following ex-members: **Capt M. G. Bell, Lt S. K. Hodgkinson, Capts (TMO) A. Callaghan** and **(QM) Davy**.

# DEATHS

**Craggs—Capt (Hon Maj) T. R. Craggs (V)**— died 12 January 1990.
**Dale—Maj A. Dale**—died 17 June 1990.
**Davies—Maj D. M. Davies TD**—died 11 September 1990.
**Davies—Col L. J. D. Davies TD**—served 1939-1981—died 9 August 1990.
**Dudley—Lt Col H. Dudley MBE**—served 1939-1953—died 3 August 1990.
**Goodeve-Docker—Lt Col P. G. Goodeve-Docker**—served 1928-1957—died 2 September 1990.
**Kelly—Maj H. Kelly**—served 1932-1957—died 28 August 1990.
**Holliday—Maj M. F. Holliday**—served 1939-60—died 1990.
**McDowall—Maj G. V. McDowall**—died 7 March 1990.
**Nicholls—Cpl K. G. Nicholls**—served 1938-1945—died 26 July 1990.
**Oliver—SQMS U. Oliver**—served 1929-1962—died 14 July 1990.
**Scott—Maj H. Scott**—served 1938-1974—died 24 August 1990.
**Shepherd—Sgt W. C. Shepherd**—served 1942-1946—died 27 June 1990.
**Williams—Maj E. B. Williams TD**—served 1939-1965—died 2 July 1990.

# OBITUARIES

**Bonnor—Sig E. W. Bonnor. Sig Bonnor** who served in the Corps from 1921-1927 died on 31 August 1990, shortly before his 87th birthday. Most of his service was in Baghdad. After he left the Corps he followed a career in London Transport for Boycars retiring as Depot Inspector, Victoria. He leaves a widow and a son to whom we extend our sympathy. His grandson, **LCpl Graham Bonnor** is serving in the Corps with 1 Infantry Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.

**Callender**—It is with great regret that we at Catterick and District Branch announce the death of **Norman Callender**, suddenly, on 16 July 1990. **Norman** was widely known thoughout the Corps and in the Richmond and Catterick area because of his work in the Trade Training School and for his sporting achievements. After active service from 1945 to 1948 he returned to the Post Office Engineering Department in which he had received his early training in telecommunications. In 1951 he was seconded to the Ministry of Defence as a Line Instructor. In due course his secondment became permanent and he became the supervisor of Line Training Group in the Trade Training School, a position he held for many years until his retirement in 1989. During his long career in training he was involved in many changes in line and cable technology including the changeover from lead to plastic sheathed cables and the introduction of the jointing of optical fibre cables. Away from technical work he was particularly well known for his footballing achievements. Originally playing for Darlington he went on to qualify as a referee and officiated at first division and international events. Over many years he made his skills available to local youth clubs and many sons of members of the Corps benefited from this. Latterly he became a well known figure on Catterick Garrison golf club and was Golf Officer for 8 Sig Regt for several years. **Norman** was a popular and greatly respected trainer and sportsman who will be missed by his many friends throughout the Corps. Our sincere sympathies are extended to his family who wish to thank all who have offered condolences and help in their bereavement.

**Dexter—Trevor Dexter** who died recently joined the Corps in 1931 and served at Sialkot prior to the second world war. He was discharged in 1939 but recalled and served until 1944. He was an active member of North London Branch RSA which he joined in the early 1960s and served as Secretary and later as Chairman. He was made a life vice President of the Branch. **Trevor** was also a member of the Indian Signals Association and was their Branch Secretary for some years. He was a regular attender at the Catterick Reunions. He will be sadly missed by all those who knew him.

**Elson—Lt D. Elson** died 8 March 1990 aged 97. **Douglas Elson** was born in Kent and educated at St Olave's School in London. In 1913 he joined the Territorial RE Signal Unit in Westminster and in 1914 served first with an RE Wireless Unit in Norfolk and then after a short spell caring for horses he joined the motorcycle unit at Houghton Regis and after training joined the Suvla Bay expedition at Gallipoli as a despatch rider. During the campaign he carried despatches on foot, horseback and occasionally by sea. At the end he helped to man a wireless station and was one of the last men to be taken off.

From 1916 to 1917 he was stationed at Port Tewfik in Egypt, as a motorcyclist and later took part in the Palestine campaign. He eventually returned to England and was finally sent to France with the 11th Division for the 1918 campaign which ended the war, riding his motorcycle over the muddy roads of France. He was demobilised in 1919 and after selling glass between the wars rejoined in 1940 as Lieutenant in the RE serving in England and finally after the war in Walcheren, Holland. After writing his memoirs, he retired to Bexhill-on-Sea, where he lived with his wife until her death in 1983.

**Grant—WO2 Hugh Grant. Hughie** Grant died on 9 August, aged 77 years.

He served from 1931-1955, with time spent in India. He was an active member of the Indian Signals Association and a life member of the Royal Signals Association, Liverpool Branch.

He was one of the party who visited Pakistan in 1988 which event was recorded in the January 1989 issue of *The Wire*.

**Hughie** was a much respected member of the Liverpool Branch and will be missed by all Branch members.

**Hobson—Brig P. M. P. Hobson DSO. Brig Pat Hobson** was commissioned on 30 January 1930 and posted to the Depot Bn at Catterick. After 32 years he finished his service, also at Catterick, commanding the Training Brigade.

A man of action, his service was mainly in India and the Far East (where he took part in Operations on the North West Frontier) or at Catterick, except for a short spell of Arctic conditions in Canada in 1948 when he was selected to represent the Corps in a team of five studying how to exist and fight under conditions of extreme cold.

Among his many outstanding qualities, those of leadership and devotion to the welfare and morale of his men were predominant. His keenness for fostering all forms of sport and his participation in them is well known and is exemplified in the record of 1 Trg Regt during his tenure of command.

His whole-hearted sympathy, enthusiasm and determination were recognised by his many training appointments, amongst which was the Boys Company at the STC India, Jabbalpore. Always sympathetic, he would never accept the attitude 'it won't work' until he personally had proof that this was so. Many will remember him in Poona, Austria, Hong Kong and East Africa, taking a wireless set and proving to its users, be they gunners, infantry or our own Corps, that in fact it would work provided it was correctly handled and sited.

During World War 2 he commanded 50 Army Tank Bde Sig Sqn and later 7 Indian Div Sigs in the Arakan where, during the phase known as the Battle of the Box the Regiment took a major part in the defence of the Divisional Headquarters, a ferocious hand to hand battle. The grim tenacity of 7 Indian Div Sigs is vividly portrayed in the book 'Spearhead General' by Maule. For his coolness, courage and devotion to duty, **Pat Hobson** was awarded the DSO.

From his earliest days in the Corps he always had the good name and efficiency of the Corps close to his heart, and nothing has been too much trouble for him to ensure that this was maintained. On retirement he became the General Secretary of The Royal Signals Association for 13 years and Editor of *The Wire* and for many years was Chairman and, later, President of the Aldershot Branch of the Association.

**Jenkins**—It is with great regret that we in Catterick announce the death of **Tom Jenkins** in Richmond, North Yorkshire, after a long illness. He joined the Corps in 1943 and retired in 1965 having attained the rank of Staff Sergeant. In addition to his UK Service he had tours of duty in Germany and Nairobi. Following his retirement from the Corps he worked in Catterick Garrison initially in the MOD Police and latterly as a Housing Warden. Our sympathies are extended to his wife **Pat** and his family.

**Kelly—Maj H. Kelly** died peacefully on the 28 August in Germany aged 82 years. **'Tim'** as he was affectionately known was quite a character and enjoyed attending the annual reunions in London and the Regimental weekends in Soest of the 3 Div Reunion Club of which he was a founder member. **Tim** served with Signals from 1932 to 1957 seeing service in several theatres of war, including the NW Frontier in pre-war days and later in Burma. He joined 3 Infantry Div Sig Regt in April 1942.

After leaving the Corps he became landlord of The Four Bells, East Langdon, Dover and later that of The Black Bull, Romney Marsh, Kent. **Tim** and his wife **Merika** went to live in Malta where their daughter **Moira** had settled with her family. After the death of his wife he left Malta to live with his daughter **Jill** and her husband **Brig W. R. Mundell** in Germany. **Tim** was sadly missed at the Reunion weekend in July. The deepest sympathies of the Club go to his family in Malta and Germany.

**McGriesh—WO2 Terry McGriesh. Terry** died on 27 May 1990, aged 58 years. He joined the Corps in 1950 enlisting in 61st HQ Army Signal Regiment (TA) and commenced National Service in 1952 where he served with 3 GHQ Sig Regt (MELF) during the Suez crisis. After the Canal Zone he finished National Service with 89 AGRA Sig Regt (TA) and re-enlisted in the unit as a TA soldier the following day. After that came service with 54(EA) Inf Div Sig Regt (TA) and finally 36 Sig Regt(V) from which unit he was discharged in 1984. His special contribution to the Corps was marked by the award of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal and a Lord Lieutenant's Efficiency Certificate. He then took an appointment as Book Keeper/Storeman with Royal Signals Bedford where his wife, **Adele** was caretaker. **Terry** was an active member of the RSA.

More than 200 of his friends and comrades attended his funeral. He will be much missed.

**McMain—Lt Col T. B. S. McMain MBE, TDS**. Tom, a former manager with the Royal Bank of Scotland in Dundee died in August, aged 70 years. Prior to the war he served with the TA and later saw action in NW Europe with the 52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals TA where he was mentioned in Despatches. After the war he rejoined the TA and commanded the 51st (Highland) Div Sig Regt TA from 1960-1964. He retired in 1966 and was later awarded the MBE and the TD. His wife predeceased him. He is survived by his daughter **Sheena** and son **Stuart**.

**Percival—WO2 S. Percival MSM** died on 11 February 1990. **Sydney** enlisted into the Corps in 1929 and served for 32 years. His service took him to Sarafand, 3 Div Sigs and Dunkirk. He was an enthusiastic member of the Dunkirk Veterans Association and was awarded the Dunkirk medal by the township of Dunkirk. He also served in North Africa and Italy, 6 AGRA Sig Section, 13 Corps Signals, 7 Armd Bde Sig Section and Egypt.

He was a life member of the Royal Signals Association, and a founder member of Winchester Branch together with his son **Philip** who is the Branch Standard Bearer. His wife **Katherine** is an associate member. **Katherine** served in the ATS during the war and is Branch Welfare Officer. **Philip** followed his father into the Corps and served from 1965-1972.

**Scott—Maj H. Scott. Henry** died on 24 August 1990. Born in Bristol on 14 May 1919 he joined the TA in 1938 (76 HAA Regt RA) and was embodied on the outbreak of war in 1939. He volunteered for overseas in 1940 and went to the Middle East. From 1941 to 1943 he served in Malta. He was commissioned into the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders from the ME OCTU in Acre in 1943 and served with the 1st Bn until wounded near Cassino in May 1944. Invalided home he left the Army in 1947 but immediately joined the TA in 12 AA(M) Sig Regt. He subsequently rejoined as a regular Officer and served in Korea and Hong Kong. On return to the UK he served in Nos 2 and 3 Trg Regts and as Adjutant of HQ AER in Chester and Blandford. Before retiring he also served in 30 Sig Regt and the UNFICYP Sig Sqn. He was on the staff of the M&RO in Reading as a retired Officer until his final retirement in May 1984. He is survived by his wife **Helen**.

**Steele—Capt H. R. Steele**. Known to his friends in the Corps as **'Rusty' Harry** enlisted in the Corps in 1924 and retired in 1948. He served with 3 Div Sigs, Bulford, Aden Sig Sec, Cav Div Sigs, Mech Force Sigs, AFV Sigs and Tank Bde Sigs. Service then followed in India with B Corps Sigs Karachi, 3 Cav Bde Sig Tp Meerut, 9 Ind Div Sigs Meerut, 11 Fd Regt RA Sig Sec Meerut and Middle East. He was posted to 8 Ind Div Sigs with 8 Army, then to Kohat Dist Sigs NWFP; East Scotland Dist Sigs Edinburgh; Scottish Command Signals; Admin Officer 8 Army Signals Vienna, and lastly OC 3 Rly Tele Sqn Villach.

Harry eventually joined the War Dept Constabulary serving at Didcot and Pendine from 1955-59. He transferred to the Ministry of Supply, Proof and Experimental Establishment Pendine as MTO, and then Range Foreman until 1972 when he retired.

A Life Member of the Royal Signals Association, **Harry** was a founder member of the Winchester Branch. An active member of The Royal British Legion from 1949 serving in Branches at Hastings, Didcot and Pendine, he was awarded the Legion Gold Badge in 1972. Joining the Winchester Branch in 1973 he soon made his mark where he was in turn Secretary, Chairman and President and was a County Vice President. He was also a member of the Earl Mountbatten Memorial Branch. He was made a Life Member in 1980 and it is perhaps as the Hon Poppy Appeal Organiser for the Winchester District that he will be best remembered.

**Harry** was an example to all those privileged to know him. He was supported by his wife, **Agnes**, in all he undertook.

**Wilkinson—Reginald G. Wilkinson** died recently. He joined the Corps in 1935 as a Territorial at the New Southgate Works of the Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd where he was employed. **Reg Wilkinson** was a founder member of 44 Div Sigs.

He went to France with the BEF and was also at the D day landings in Normandy. After the war he returned to the Standard Telephone Company. **Reg** was a founder member of the North London Branch RSA which was formed in 1955. He served the Branch in various posts and became a life vice-President. He was also a member of the Dunkirk Veterans Association and the Royal British Legion. He was a regular attender at the Catterick reunions. **Reg** was an active supporter of all ex-service activities and took a lot of interest in welfare matters. He will be greatly missed by all his many friends in the North London Branch.

**Williams—Maj E. Williams TD** joined the Middlesex Yeomanry in 1939. This became 9 Armd Bde Sig Sqn in 1941 just in time for El Alamein. The Brigade comprised Royal Wilts Yeomanry with whom he served, Warwickshire Yeomanry and 3 Hussars. On passing out of Maadi OCTU he took over 32 Heavy Regt Sig Section in Damascus and took part in the last battle for Cassino.

He volunteered to serve in Germany and joined C Section 79 Armd Div Sigs and later went to Rhine Army HQ and then to Berlin to command 16 High Speed WT Section and became OIC Berlin Transmitter Site.

He joined 44 (HC) Inf Div Sig Regt TA at Chiswick in 1947 and in turn commanded A Troop, No 1 and No 3 Sqns and was later Second-in-Command. He transferred to the Reserve in 1958. **Eric** passed away on the 2 July 1990. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife, son and family.

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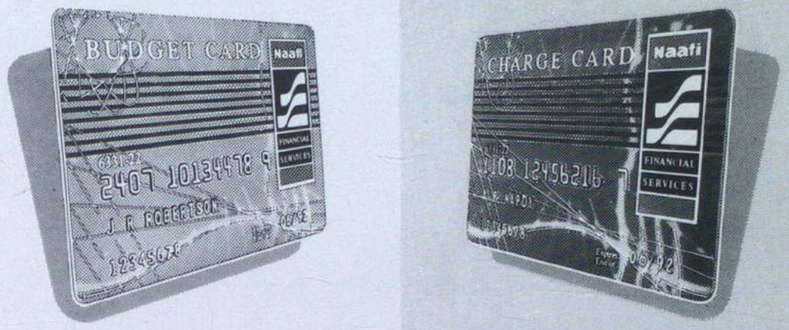


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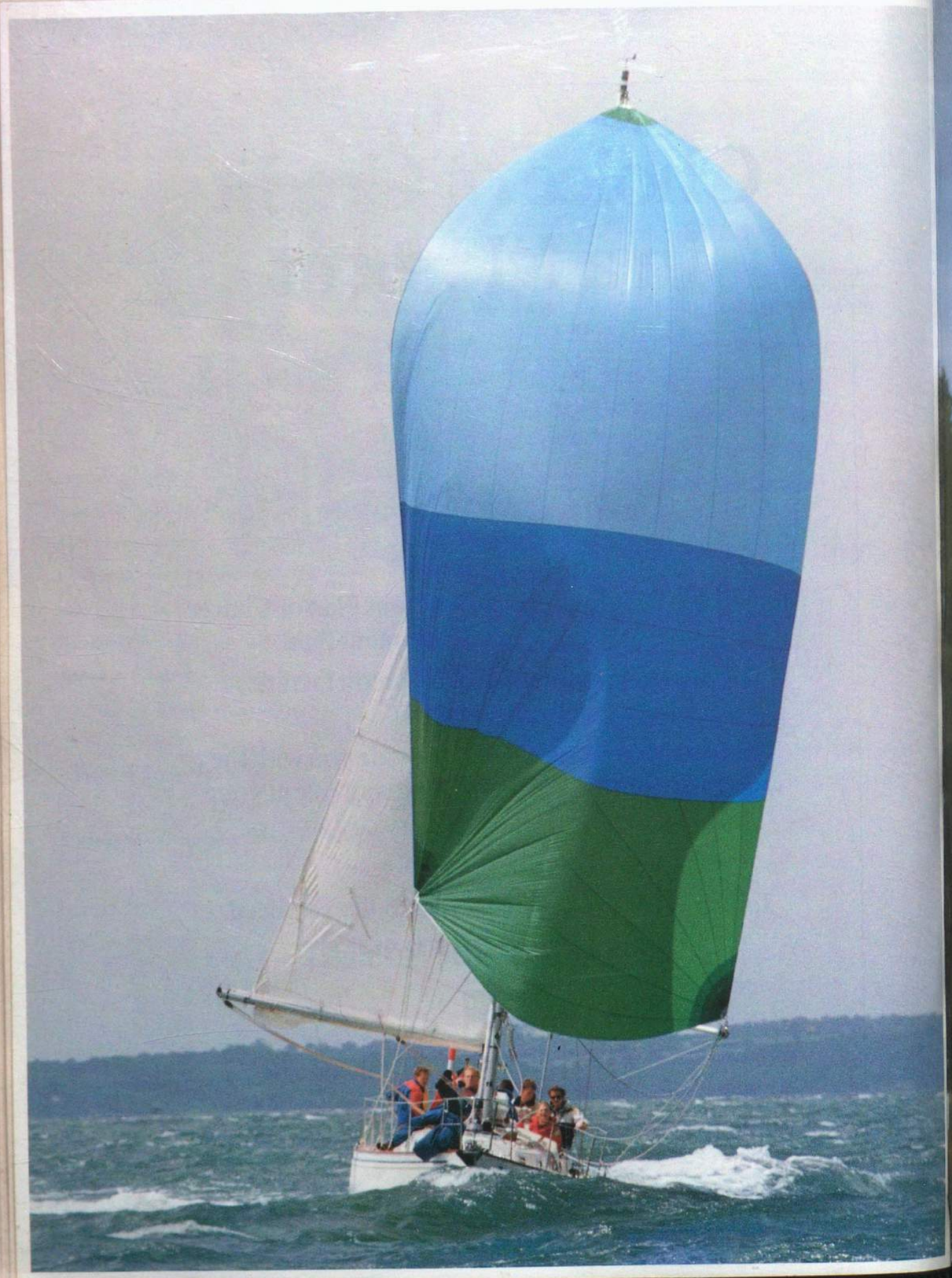


# THE wire

## The Royal Signals Magazine

December 1990



# How do you feel about leaving the Army?

As you're well aware, serving in the Forces isn't just a job. It's a way of life. So, it's no surprise, that after leaving, many people feel as though they're high and dry, like a fish out of water.

But there's no need for you to feel this way. It's perfectly possible for you to keep up with old friends, make use of the unique skills you've acquired, *and* make a vital contribution to the nation's defence into the bargain.

How? Simply by becoming a member of the Volunteer Forces, which make up a third of our Army and represent a significant part of our commitment to NATO.

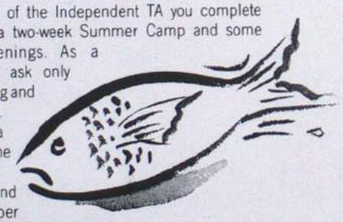
There are three options open to you.

Firstly, you can join one of the Territorial Army Independent Units based in the TAVRA region in which you have decided to settle. An ideal route for those leaving Infantry or Cavalry regiments.

Secondly, if you are leaving a Corps, you could retain your capbadge and become a member of either an Independent Unit or a TA Specialist Unit. In either, you can maintain and extend the special skills that you have learned.

Thirdly, you could join the HSF, which fulfils a vital role in our home defence, and in particular is suitable for people with limited spare time.

You can contribute as much time as you want in any one year. The minimum that we ask is that as a member of the Independent TA you complete 6 weekends, a two-week Summer Camp and some weekday evenings. As a Specialist we ask only 15 days training and two weekends.



And, as a member of the HSF, 6 to 10 days training and one evening per month. In return you will receive payment equivalent to the rates paid to Regular Army soldiers plus an annual tax-free bonus.

If you would like more information about how you can stay in the swim of things, write to the address below, giving details of which option you are interested in, your current age and address, your intended county of residence, and of the regiment you have left or are leaving.

The Territorial Army, Freepost, 4335 (Ref: 9000), Bristol BS1 3YX.



The Royal Signals Magazine

December 1990 Vol. 44 No: 6

# The Wire

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**Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs**

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## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 1990 FROM MAJOR GENERAL BADCOCK



This message is written at a time when 7th Armoured Brigade and a sizeable part of the Corps in Germany and UK are in Saudi Arabia. What is in store for them is a matter for conjecture but one thing is certain; our thoughts will be with them and their loved ones at Christmas. But we shall also be thinking of others in the Corps family separated from their families perhaps in Northern Ireland, or the Falklands. Parting is the beginning of meeting and those of us lucky enough to be celebrating Christmas at home will be wishing that they will soon be happily reunited.

This is my last Christmas message to the Corps and I take the opportunity to thank everyone in the Corps be they Regular, Territorial, civilian employee or retired, and their families for their tremendous support over the past eight years. The letters, cards and messages from individuals and independent units of all sizes throughout the world have been overwhelming, not to mention being dined out in succession by the Colonel Commandants, the HQ WOs and Sgts and the HQ Officers' Messes—ill deserved as a person but a testament to the family loyalty and affection which the Corps holds for its established heads and particularly our Colonel-in-Chief. It has been a privilege, an honour and, I must admit, a lot of fun to have served you all.

Despite the uncertainties, the morale of the Corps could not be better and, having experienced at least three previous structural reviews, I am confident that 'Options for Change' will result as it has done in the past, in a leaner but better Corps in which service will continue to be challenging, stimulating and probably even more fun than before. To see that it is, you have a superb new Master of Signals in **Maj Gen Archie Birtwistle**.

My wife and I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a New Year full of success, reward and happiness.

## FROM THE NEW MASTER OF SIGNALS MAJOR GEN A. C. BIRTWISTLE CB, CBE

I agreed with **General Badcock** that he would send to you all a farewell Christmas message but that in no way diminishes my pleasure in being selected to succeed such a popular and generous Master of Signals. I think he would agree that every effort has been made to give him and his wife a fitting farewell. On your behalf I wish them both a Happy Christmas and many happy years together.

Have a Happy Christmas and my wife and I look forward to seeing you all before too long.

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE SIGNAL OFFICER IN CHIEF



To say that the past year has been an interesting one is perhaps something of an understatement. The momentous changes in Eastern Europe, the unification of Germany and the resulting changes that will follow in NATO's force structure are all major political events which will affect the future deployment of the British Army and therefore of the Corps. Indeed work has already commenced on the size and shape of the new model Army which may be a little smaller but will also be better with well equipped and properly manned units training in a wide variety of locations for their UK, NATO and other roles.

The growing importance of communications, computers and information systems in general will ensure that Royal Signals remains a major component of this new Army for the 1990s, with enhanced opportunities for interesting, fulfilling and successful careers for all ranks in both the Regular and Volunteer Corps. The involvement of Royal Signals in the Gulf, where our soldiers were deployed from the outset, and where our commitment has grown to a very sizeable one, has once again shown how the modern Army cannot operate effectively without the nervous system provided by units of the Corps. They have to be in place early in any crisis and we can all be proud of what Royal Signals has achieved to date in the Gulf, in Northern Ireland and indeed wherever we are deployed.

During a year in which I have again been able to see a great deal of the Corps my abiding impression from visits to units is of a lively, positive and highly professional approach to soldiering at all levels. In spite of undermanning, new commitments, and a host of other challenges you have kept a sense of humour and managed to stay right on top of your jobs. This is highly commendable and reflects great credit on you all.

In wishing all ranks in the Corps, serving and retired, a very happy Christmas and a very successful and enjoyable New Year, my wife and I are very conscious of the large number who are on operational duty this year and in many cases separated from their families. Our hope is that we will all continue to find inspiration, and a feeling of warm friendship and identity, within the wider family that is the Corps in 1991.


**SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FORM—PAGE 620**

## VALE

# MAJOR GENERAL J. M. W. BADCOCK CB, MBE, DL, MASTER OF SIGNALS

**Major General John Badcock**'s tenure as Master of Signals ended on 8 November 1990 when his successor **Major General Archie Birtwistle** was handed the Master's Sword by **HRH The Princess Royal** at a dinner held in the Headquarters Officers' Mess at Blandford.

**General Badcock** was born in 1922 in Nazareth, Palestine and educated at Sherborne School before joining Royal Signals in 1941. He was commissioned in 1942, and spent the next three years with 35 Tank Brigade and 79th Armoured Divisional Signals, through France and Germany until the end of hostilities. As an acting Major at the age of 22 in 1945 he commanded the Ceylon Signal Squadron until 1947.

Whilst serving at Regimental Duty he held a variety of appointments, amongst which were several as an instructor, notably the Method of Instruction Team in Catterick followed by appointments at the Amphibious Warfare Signal School and the School of Military Intelligence. His subsequent staff appointments included G2(Int) at HQ 1(Br) Corps and G2 in Military Operations in the MOD. He was later a Company Commander at Sandhurst and an instructor at the Imperial Defence College (now the Royal College of Defence Studies). He took part in operations in Oman and was earlier involved in the Suez operation. He completed his regimental service as CR Signals 4th Division in 1965 and 1966.

During his career, he achieved a number of 'firsts' for the Corps. He was the first of the Corps to be an instructor at the Royal College of Defence Studies and later as the Commander of 2 Infantry Brigade he was also the Deputy Constable of Dover Castle where he lived in the Constable's Tower. His appointment as the Head of British Defence Liaison Staff in Australia was a similar distinction. For his services in Australia he was appointed CB in the New Year Honours List in 1976.

He was appointed Colonel Commandant in 1974, retired in 1977, and served as Chairman of the Royal Signals Association from July 1979 until July 1982, being appointed by Her Majesty The Queen, Master of Signals in November 1982.

He hands over as Master of Signals at a critical time in World events, but during his service in and to, the Corps he has done much to assist in keeping it in good shape to meet the future and the challenges that will undoubtedly face us all.

The Corps bade **General Badcock** farewell at the biennial Master of Signal's Dinner which was graced by the presence of our Colonel in Chief. The evening was a splendid occasion which started with The Master and the Signal Officer in Chief hosting a small drinks party in the Corps Room for those Officers being dined out and dined in and during drinks the Signal Officer in Chief presented the Whistler Trophy to **Lieutenant Tony Picknell** of 4 Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment. The Master concluded the drinks party with a presentation to the Corps of a magnificent Trolley Coaster.

The same group of officers was then presented to the Colonel in Chief on her arrival in the main ante-room. At the completion of dinner The Master gave a short speech and the Colonel in Chief formally marked the change of the Master of Signals appointment to **Major General A. C. Birtwistle** by handing over the Master's Sword. **Major General A. Yeoman**, the Representative Colonel Commandant, gave a farewell address expressing the enormous debt of appreciation the Corps owes to **Major General Badcock** for eight extremely successful and busy years as Master. The Colonel in Chief then presented **Major General Badcock** with a farewell gift of a silver *Jimmy* statuette.

All of us hope that **General** and **Mrs Badcock** will enjoy a long and happy retirement.



The Colonel in Chief with Maj Gen Badcock

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# VISIT OF THE COLONEL IN CHIEF TO 40 (ULSTER) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

During the first Tuesday of Annual Camp at Burniston Barracks, Scarborough on 11 September the Regiment was honoured by a visit from our Colonel in Chief **Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal GCVO. Her Royal Highness** arrived by helicopter at 1100 hrs and was met by the Signal Officer in Chief **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook** accompanied by the Regimental Secretary, **Col (Retd) A. N. de Bretton Gordon** and the Aide-de-Camp **Lt M. R. Fraser-Brenchley**.

**Her Royal Highness** then met the Commander 12 Sig Bde (V), **Brig S. G. M. Gordon**, the Deputy Commander **Col P. N. Henwood (V)**, the Honorary Colonel, **Lt Col (Retd) A. J. Cramsie**, the Commanding Officer **Lt Col I. G. Henderson** and the Regimental Sergeant Major **WO Class 1 (RSM) Urquhart**.

The Commanding Officer presented the 2IC, **Major J. J. Wilson WRAC (V)**, the Training Major, **Maj J. R. S. Amberton** and the Adjutant, **Capt A. D. Sykes. Her Royal Highness** was then briefed by the Commanding Officer on the role of the Regiment.

The Colonel in Chief toured the Barracks visiting seven training stands and stopping to talk to the soldiers. **HRH** then attended an all ranks reception held in the junior ranks club where the Colonel in Chief met the Mayor of Scarborough, **Councillor C. C. Mann**, the Commandant of Scarborough Signal Training Centre, **Lt Col G. Wallace**, the Quartermaster, **Capt B. R. Peel** and small groups from all ranks of the Regiment. After the reception the Colonel in Chief lunched with the Officers.

After lunch the Colonel in Chief witnessed a Tug-of-War Competition and met some of the teams and some of the spectators and presented a prize to the winning team captain. Prior to departing at 1430 hrs **Her Royal Highness** accepted a gift of an Irish blackthorn cane as a memento of her visit.



HRH discusses aspects of LMG weapon handling with members of the Detachment Commanders' Course



Detachment Commanders' Course, HRH discusses weapon handling with the WRAC members of the course



HRH shares a joke with LCpl Jack



RSM *(centre)* worries in case Sig Barry messes up his speech to HRH whilst presenting the Blackthorn

OUR COVER PICTURES

The front cover shows Cpl Vince McNaught of 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn installing an overhead route to provide signalling for the railway between Swanage and Wareham—in the background is Corfe Castle (see article on page 545). (Photograph Courtesy of Andrew P. M. Wright—Official Photographer Swanage Railway, Dorset.)

On the back cover are Sig Hayland and Cox of 30 Sig Regt exercising in Saudia—the locals don't look too impressed.



HGV Driver Stand, two brothers with HRH, SSgt Ernie Cahoon is presented by his brother SVWO WO1 Artie Cahoon



Sgt Pauline Barron, the winning Tug of War Team Captain receives a trophy from HRH

## HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL GCVO VISITS WHERNSIDE MANOR

**Report from 11th Signal Regiment**

The Regiment was delighted to play host to our Colonel in Chief at the Corps' Adventure Training Centre, Whernside Manor, on 3 August. After flying in from the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, HRH was met by the CO, **Lt Col Jim Blake; Capts Gerry Whelan, Martin Woodham** and **2Lt Sarah Lowe** were also presented. HRH was shown around the centre by OC Adventure Training Team, **Lt Martin Barnes**, and met **WO2 Bob Cook**, the Centre manager. HRH viewed the accommodation and the facilities, and after being shown around the ground The Princess watched members of the Potential Officers Course and the Welbeck Leadership Course practising adventurous training skills. These included abseiling, Single Rope Technique as used in caving, and a static demonstration of canoeing, windsurfing and general mountaineering equipment.

The Princess Royal met the Centre instructors, **SSgt 'Strings' Stringer, Sgts Dougie Stevenson, Bob Cook, Cpls Ian Johnstone, Mick North** and **'Geordie' Short**.

The visit was rounded of with afternoon tea on the lawn, where the Colonel in Chief met the families of the Centre's permanent staff. **Sarah Cook**, daughter of **Sgt Bob Cook**, presented HRH with a bouquet, bringing the visit to a close.



HRH meets Staff and Students



## – From our "In" Tray –

Participants: **Lt Matt Fensom** OIC Exercise, **Capt Stuart Hodges, Sgts Frank Roberts, Dave Ryan, Ian Thompson, Cpls 'Nobby' Noble, Rab Graham, Ian Wells, Frank Nevens, 'Jinx' Jenkins, Vince McNaught, LCpls 'Gadget' Smith, Phil Graham, Heather Joy ACC, Kev Dougherty RCT, Chris Braund, 'Woody' Woodworth, Sig 'Stig' Richards** and **'Crunchie' Thomas**.

On Tuesday 2 October the advance party for Ex Topham Hatt II left Lisburn on the 550 mile road journey to Swanage, Dorset. This was to be the second trade training exercise to be held on the Swanage steam railway by the Squadron in the last 12 months. The railway line between Swanage and Wareham is being relayed to connect with British Rail in 1992. Our task was to assist with the installation of signalling facilities over a new stretch of track from Harmans Cross to Corfe Castle.

The main party arrived at Swanage during 3 October by various methods of transport—some driving, some flying. This was necessary because the RAF (God bless 'em) had changed the dates so hasty alternative travel arrangements had to be made. We soon all settled into our luxurious accommodation (a passenger carriage) and **LCpl Heather Joy**, on a welcome break from the Lisburn cookhouse, had by now taken control of the kitchen. One area of concern was the showers. However, **Cpl Frank Nevens** had the answer to this by having a good soaking under the water column (normally used for filling steam engines) and was caught on video by the exercise commander.

Work began in earnest the following morning after our initial briefing. One of the main aims of the exercise was the installation of a PABX No 1 telephone exchange at Corfe Castle Station. This in turn had to be linked to the original exchange in Swanage by 3,000m of 20 pair underground cable and 700m of multicore aerial cable.

Just how we were to bury the underground cable was something that was causing a few headaches. However, at the last minute, a very simple but effective 'mole' was just the job. The cable was on one ton drums and was laid out using an ACL designed by Heath Robinson and built by **Cpl Vince McNaught**. The mole went into operation and by the end of the third day all the underground cable had been buried.

All went very smoothly except for one 'minor' mishap! Whilst towing the 'mole' the crane jib brought down an 11,000 volt overhead power cable. A few umbrellas went up as everyone tried to decide who exactly was in charge. **Lt Matt Fensom**, video camera in hand, took command just in time to capture on film the arrival of the Southern electricity land rover racing over the hill to the rescue.

Meanwhile the 'Boggy Boys', a team consisting of **LCpl** 'Woody' **Woodworth** and **LCpl Kev Dougherty**, was getting stuck in to the task of installing a cable testing cabin at the halfway point. Not only did they have to install the cabin, they also had to build a flight of 20 steps to provide access. **LCpl** 'Gadget' **Smith** (complete with an MFO box of tools) and **Sig** 'Stig' **Richards** were also hard at work providing a new local network of phones at Swanage. We couldn't work out which was worse, to let **Sig** 'Crunchie' **Thomas** near the Squadron minibus or let **LCpl** 'Gadget' **Smith** loose on the MDF!

On Sunday we had a day off. Some went windsurfing, some just relaxed and one individual spent most of the day train spotting—no names mentioned! The building manager, **Jimmy Drummond**, suggested that a Sunday night in the Royal British Legion Club wouldn't go amiss. A quiet pint? . . . not likely. We happened to visit on the night of the harvest auction in aid of the Earl Haig Poppy Appeal. Our wallets certainly took a hammering and we returned with some exotic produce such as potato wine, a pumpkin and a cuddly pink dog!

It was soon back to work and **Sgt Dave Ryan** and his team of **Cpl Frank Nevens** and **LCpl Phil Graham** were in full swing with the installation of the new exchange. There was another minor mishap with the terminating but **Dave Ryan** would prefer that we didn't mention that.

British Telecom assisted the exercise by providing 20 second hand telegraph poles. Once we had collected them from North London it was the job of the 'Boggy Boys' to set about creosoting them. Probably one of the hardest and most time-consuming jobs was the digging of the holes for the poles. The so called 'two man' auger was operated by **Sgt Ian Thompson, Cpls** 'Jinx' **Jenkins, Vince McNaught, LCpl** 'Gadget' **Smith** and anyone else who happened to be around. The augering was carried out under the leadership of **Lt Matt** 'Timothy Potter' **Fensom** who had the job of ensuring that all holes were dug 3m from the inside rail. We couldn't work out why two holes had to be redug—it must have been a faulty tape measure! The ground along side the track must have been bedrock as we all soon found out. There were a number of sore hands as the only way to dig the holes deep enough was to hammer away with an iron bar for hours on end.

**EXERCISE TOPHAM HATT II**



The exercise participants



That's another pole done



The cable drum is mounted onto our makeshift ACL



Sgt Frank Roberts directs operations—with a cup of tea!

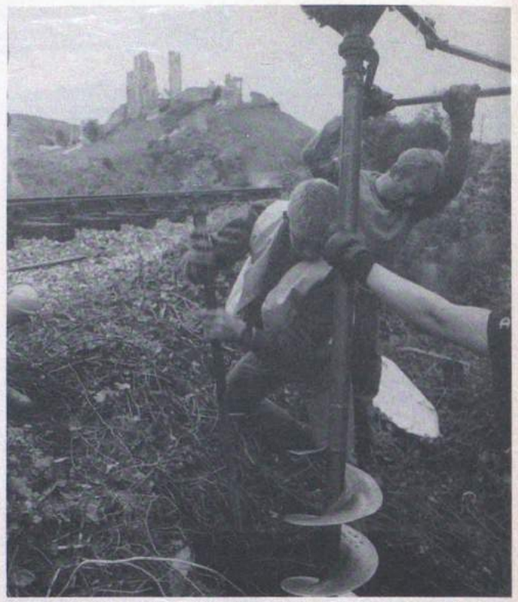
The last day was spent rigging the aerial cable throughout Corfe Castle station and fitting the poles. The exchange team, who had been working overtime, fought their way through cables in order to find the right one to Swanage. This they duly did and the first trunk call to Swanage was made from Corfe Castle linking the two stations by phone for the first time in 23 years. All our hard work had paid off and there was a feeling of great satisfaction.

The exercise debrief took place on the last evening. A few presentations were made and a vote of thanks given to all the members of the railway who had ensured the exercise ran so smoothly.

There is still a great deal of work to be done on the railway and preparations for Ex Topham Hatt III are now underway. What we have achieved is not only of community benefit to the Swanage Railway but to all of us who took part as well. The communications that we have installed will be there for many years to come.



LCpl Phil Graham installs a trackside telephone



Digging the holes for the poles was not an easy job

(All photographs by Andrew P. W. Right, Official Photographer Swanage Railway, Dorset)

## COMBINED SERVICES MARATHON

Congratulations to **Sgt J. K. Martin**, 21 Sig Regt on winning the Army and Combined Services Marathon on 12 October thus retaining the Championship.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## 35 SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS) STRETCHES THE EXECUTIVES

Once again the Regiment accepted the daunting challenge of organising and running Ex Executive Stretch for the second consecutive year. The plan again was to put at least 40 young executives through their paces by setting them a variety of demanding, punishing and exacting tasks designed to stretch their mental and physical agility and cause a reasonable amount of disorientation as well as stimulating the imagination (blow the mind). This exercise has already proved its worth in promoting and improving relations and understanding between industry and the Territorial Army and in particular amongst employers who now appreciate the value to them in developing team spirit, self discipline and leadership and managerial skills amongst their workforce and by being more sympathetic to their employees TA commitment. We now hoped to repeat last year's successful exercise.

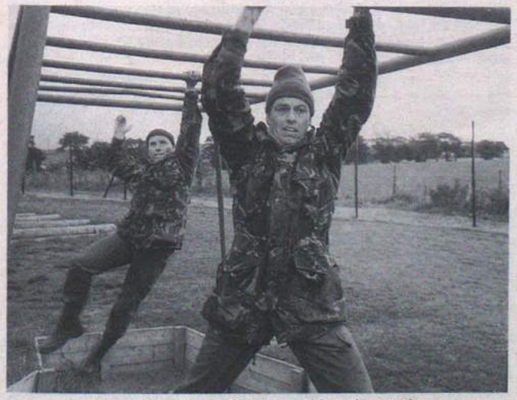
**Maj** (no pain, no gain) **Lance Byrne** our intrepid Training Major quickly realised that running Ex Executive Stretch was no picnic and required the same operational planning and logistic support as a small BAOR exercise—so some months before he set to work preparing a suitable scenario, selecting his DS and issued invitations to companies throughout the West Midlands. These were followed by the various exercise instructions which would involve all elements of the Regiment. The stage was now set in an inhospitable and bleak part of Leek training area which was last used by the Gurkhas for acclimatisation training for the Falklands Campaign—all we needed now were the executives.

During the weekend 21/23 September the weather seemed to sense the deep depression moving in from the West and, although unusual for the time of year, early winter conditions seemed to prevail over Leek. Fortunately this did not dampen the spirits of the 42 young executives who had assembled and they seemed resigned to their fate and began to look forward to their first night (after a forced march) under the stars. Camping out in bitterly cold and miserable weather took on a new meaning and some felt they were candidates for 'Survival Special', all felt the worst was yet to come and fell into an uneasy sleep. After an early Reveille the executives were divided into seven teams and after loading their rucksacks set off on a two mile uphill march to start the first series of tasks. Early signs of comradeship, team spirit and friendly rivalry were already evident amongst groups of people that included transport managers, journalists, engineers and marketing managers.

All teams undertook a variety of challenging tasks throughout the weekend; these included rescue operations, river crossings, where they had to assemble their own rafts, escape and evasion and rock climbing —which provided some valuable lessons in character building. After some expert and rapid instruction in rock climbing the executives were kitted out in climbing gear and ordered up a 60ft rock face, on reaching the top they were told to abseil back down—this produced some rather startled looks but no refusals! All of this excitement was followed by a race over an obstacle course and an



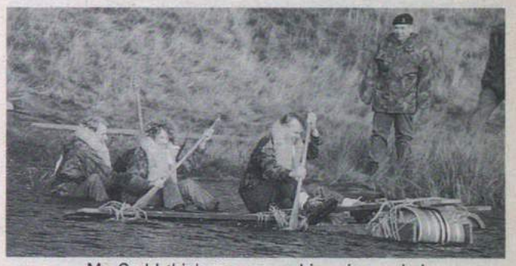
Gently does it! An executive from Palethorpes at the rock face



Executives from Salserve taking the strain



Time for a wheel change



My God I think my rear end is going under!



I've done this before!

introduction to the SA80. So far so good, nobody had thrown in the towel, but would they survive the night in the disused pigsty? Exhausted from the days activities which included a written command task—they did and prepared themselves for the final task, a high speed cross country navigation exercise back to Sutton Coldfield. Rumour has it that the MTWO **WO1 Mick Boyle**, couldn't sleep for thinking about it.

On completing the final and exhilarating task the executives relaxed under a hot shower after which they changed back into civilian clothes and made their way to the Officers' Mess for debrief and closing address by the CO, **Lt Col Brian Foxon**. This was followed by a welcome curry lunch. During the closing address the CO paid tribute to the employers by acknowledging that the TA could not operate without their goodwill and cooperation. In improving relations and fostering a better understanding the weekend was a tremendous success and from comments received from the executives, they thoroughly enjoyed themselves and most would willingly participate in similar future exercises—all agreed many valuable lessons had been learnt some of which could and, would be applied in their own workplace, a worthy testament to this leadership exercise.
exercise.

*Footnote:* Many companies have since expressed their gratitude by making generous donations to the Army Benevolent Fund for which we are extremely grateful.



Rather relieved executives at the de-brief with Lt Col Brian Foxon



The HF Det from HQ Sqn who provided safety cover for Executive Stretch

## ADVENTUROUS TRAINING WITH 15 SIGNAL REGIMENT

After one false start, when Ex Summer Squirrel was cancelled due to lack of water at the adventure training centre, our plucky band—a mixed group of 18 Corps personnel, Intelligence Corps and WRAC led by **SSgt Mick Reehal**—left for the Whernside Centre in Cumbria on the evening of 6 August, a day later than originally planned. After crossing by ferry to Stranraer we made the long drive to Cumbria, arriving at 0500 hrs on Tuesday morning.

The first morning was spent catching up on some sleep, and we then gathered for an informal briefing. We were divided into three groups, each with its own instructor. A wide range of activities were available, although river canoeing was out because most of the rivers were dry!

Our first jaunt was to an area of crags not far from Whernside for rock climbing. Although not particularly high, the climbs ranged from basic to very difficult, with our comments ranging from 'hmmm interesting' to 'but that's physically impossible for someone who's only 5ft 6ins tall'! With encouragement shouted from those below, such as 'left a bit', 'right a bit' and 'don't let go now', the majority of us managed to complete even the more difficult climbs. **Sgt Eddie Thompson** proved himself adapt at finding hand and footholds on seemingly sheer rock-faces and made it look all too easy.

We travelled to Hodges Close, a water filled quarry, near Ambleside in the Lake District for abseiling with a difference—no landing on Terra Firma, but onto a small platform jutting out over water more than 100ft deep and very cold! Fortunately none of us missed the platform but some came a bit close. The abseil itself was more than 200ft with approximately two thirds of that distance being a free abseil past the mouth of a large cave. This was a new experience for most of us who had previously thought that one abseil was much the same as another, and for the 'once you've done one, you've done them all' brigade. Despite the added 'interest' of the free abseil and the unusual landing most people came back for more—particularly **Eddie Thompson** who insisted on doing it forwards, backwards and then in tandem with **WO1 Bob Turner**.

The final activity was caving—something new for most of us. Fully kitted out with inner and outer body suits, wellies, and, most importantly, helmets and lamps, we set off for the cave system around Alum Pot near Ingleton. This is a very popular and extensive cave system and more than once we had to wait for other groups to pass by us. The initial part of our cave trip was down large, relatively dry, and shallow-sloping tunnels. There was plenty to see—stalagmites and stalactites, cave 'diamonds' and, of course, those well known cave inhabitants, bats.

After the initial geological sight-seeing tour, things started to become more 'interesting' as the tunnels got smaller and sloped more steeply downwards—things also got a lot wetter! We soon discovered that it was no good asking our instructor how deep the pool of water were—we either successfully circumnavigated them or we fell in! **Sgt Andy Worsley** became our ace 'depth tester' by falling in even more often than **Sgt Mary Few**. Further into the cave system we found ourselves either wading through waist-deep streams, or crawling through very tight tunnels—caving is definitely not an activity for those inclined towards 'stoutness' of stature. The high—or low—point of the exercise was the infamous 'cheese press'. This was a sort of hollow rock 'sandwich' approximately 10in high and 12ft long. **Eddie Thompson**, being a slim sort of chap, snaked through, followed, by **WO1 Bob Turner**. The rest of us, being somewhat more generously built had to admit defeat, although **SSgt Mick Reehal**, thinking thin, made it half way but then had to be pulled back out by his legs. Our caving trip was rounded off by taking a different route out of the system—half-crawling and half-swimming along a narrow tunnel in which a large stream was flowing. Despite the occasional feelings of claustrophobia and the large amounts of water, it was a very interesting and enjoyable experience.

The week was rounded off with a free day on the Friday—some chose to go walking, some abseiling, and some even went back for more caving! It was a very enjoyable week—the accommodation and facilities at the Whernside Centre are excellent. The village of Dent was within walking distance and we made use of its very pleasant pubs for post activity 'winding down'. The centre provided all the necessary kit for the various activities and the instructors were first class. A very worthwhile exercise.



WO1 Bob Turner to Sgt Eddie Thompson 'once you've done one embassy you've done 'em all'



# – Movements –

## OFFICERS

OCTOBER 1990

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| Lt Col A. E. Abbott | 11 Sig Regt (Depot) |
| Lt Col J. H. Griffin | MOD ACDS (Concepts) |
| Lt Col S. M. Siddall | BDS Washington |
| Lt Col R. L. Windmill | MOD DEF Export Svcs |
| Maj N. F. Fisher | JCUFI |
| Maj A. H. Gibb | MOD CGS |
| Maj A. D. Hewett | HQ 2 Sig Bde |
| Maj R. G. L. Hill | BDS Washington |
| Maj A. G. Morgan | 241 Sig Sqn (att BRITCON MFO Sinai) |
| Maj I. O. Robertson | MOD MS (PBII) |
| Maj M. J. Sinton | MOD DSS (AD) |
| Maj G. C. K. Taylor | MOD PCDS (CTS) |
| Capt G. D. Anderson | 210 Sig Sqn |
| Capt M. D. Bailes | School of Signals |
| Capt W. J. Dodds | AA Coll Harrogate |
| Capt R. J. Goddard | Comms & Sy Tp (UK) |
| Capt R. N. Howes | 641 Sig Tp (2 ATAF) |
| Capt S. K. Macrostie | 21 Sig Regt |
| Capt R. Morley | 28 Sig Regt |
| Capt G. Thomas | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Capt A. Weaver | JSSU (FI) |
| Capt D. I. Whimpenny | HQ 12 Armd Bde |
| Lt M. J. Barnes | AAC Centre |
| Lt A. B. Stocker | 11 Sig Regt |
| 2Lt C. A. Ford | School of Signals |
| 2Lt R. H. Kind | Cambridge University OTC |

NOVEMBER 1990

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| Lt Col S. J. Kidner | 30 Sig Regt |
| Maj J. Dryburgh | 259 Sig Sqn |
| Maj A. Duncan | HQ 2 Sig Bde |
| Maj S. D. Galpin | 31 Sig Regt (V) |
| Maj D. M. Martin-Rhind | 16 Sig Regt |
| Maj C. C. McColville | HQ Northag Staff |
| Maj J. T. Smith | School of Signals |
| Maj J. E. Thomas | HQ BAOR/BRSC |
| Capt M. D. W. Alexander | RMAS |
| Capt S. Gray-Cowan | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Capt A. A. S. Harwell | HQ BAOR/BRSC |
| Capt A. P. Lomax | 9 Sig Regt |
| Capt C. D. McGrory | JCU (NI) |
| Capt C. S. J. Phillips | 259 Sig Sqn |
| Capt N. M. Romans | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Capt D. Weir | JACIG |
| Capt S. P. Windsor-Brown | HQ Trg Gp R Signals |
| Capt A. J. Wood | HQ NI |
| Lt C. N. Cooper | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Lt A. J. Parsons | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Lt J. E. R. Smith | QG Sig Regt |
| Lt D. G. Taylor | 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Lt S. S. M. Youngson | 11 Sig Regt |
| 2Lt C. B. Pettifer | AA Coll Harrogate |
| 2Lt A. E. Talbot | 22 Sig Regt |

## WOs and SNCOs

OCTOBER 1990

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| WO1 (YofS) J. H. Williamson | 11 Sig Regt Depot Tp |
| WO1 (FofS) T. M. Witts | HQ Trg Gp R Signals & Catterick Garrison |
| AWO1 (YofS) A. J. Baron | 28 Sig Regt |
| WO2 S. Armitage | 13 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (FofS) M. G. Cooper | 19 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| WO2 (FofS) J. Hoyland | Electronics Branch REME |
| WO2 (YofS) R. A. Smith | AA Coll Harrogate |
| AWO2 A. Arbuckle | QG Sig Regt |
| AWO2 A. R. Carr | JCUFI |
| AWO2 (YofS) I. C. Gascoigne | 7 Sig Regt |
| AWO2 D. Griffiths | Liverpool UOTC |
| AWO2 (FofS) P. McGiveron | 633 Sig Tp |
| AWO2 S. P. Simpson | 30 Sig Regt |
| SSgt C. Alexander | 22 Sig Regt |
| SSgt (YofS) W. R. J. Bacon | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| SSgt K. J. Bailey | School of Signals |
| SSgt B. Clark | 33 Sig Regt (V) |
| SSgt K. J. Daniel | 243 Sig Sqn |
| SSgt P. Eyre | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| SSgt M. J. Gaylard | 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| SSgt S. Grantham | MOD |
| SSgt G. C. Guy | 11 Sig Regt |
| SSgt A. Jarwood | 22 Sig Regt |
| SSgt R. B. Joughin | 1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| SSgt (YofS) D. M. Marriott | 14 Sig Regt |
| SSgt K. R. Nulty | 22 Sig Regt |
| SSgt W. Ogden | 21 Sig Regt |
| SSgt G. B. O'Sullivan | 608 Sig Tp |
| SSgt J. D. Parish | 239 Sig Sqn |
| SSgt A. Sampson | 1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| SSgt (YofS) B. Sinclair | 31 Sig Regt (V) |
| SSgt D. A. Smart | 16 Sig Regt |
| SSgt J. Topping | 19 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| SSgt A. Trivett | 21 Sig Regt |
| SSgt M. P. Waclawek | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASSgt A. Balderstone | 14 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt M. Brooks | 15 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt A. C. Campbell | 14 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt P. J. Huzzey | 22 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt P. M. Madelogo | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASSgt J. McLachan | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASSgt D. J. Ross | HQ Afcent (ASG/CRSG) |
| ASSgt (FofS) N. T. Stirk | 71 Sig Regt (V) |
| ASSgt C. Williams | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. R. Bain | 15 Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. Barran | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. Beverley | 9 Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. Birchenough | Berlin HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt H. A. Board | 71 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt L. P. Bostock | 9 Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. P. Caygill | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. G. Coltman | FSS Brizlee Wood |
| Sgt S. M. Conway | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt G. D. Cottrell | JSSU Falklands |
| Sgt W. A. Devitt | QG Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. P. Findon | 33 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt M. A. Fleming | 3 Cdo Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| Sgt L. Flooks | 56 Sig Sqn (V) |
| Sgt C. C. Gardner | 662 Sig Tp |
| Sgt M. J. Gill | 14 Sig Regt |
| Sgt D. M. Glay | 22 Sig Regt |
| Sgt T. K. Glover | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. P. Goodwin | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt D. A. Hartshorne | 251 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt J. Hogan | JCUFI |
| Sgt N. Middlecoate | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. G. Millar | Berlin HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt W. M. Potter | 30 Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. Ramsdale | 15 Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. P. Ramshaw | 30 Sig Regt |
| Sgt C. J. Spencer | AA Coll Harrogate |
| Sgt D. I. Thomas | 40 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt A. D. Williams | 8 Sig Regt |
| ASgt S. R. Allister | 32 Sig Regt (V) |
| ASgt S. Curley | 9 Sig Regt |
| ASgt C. J. Gleadow | 35 Sig Regt (V) |
| ASgt I. D. Hamilton | HQ Afcent |
| ASgt J. M. Partridge | 28 Sig Regt |
| ASgt P. A. Wicks | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASgt S. P. Woodford | AA Coll Harrogate |

NOVEMBER 1990

| *Name and Rank* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| WO1 (FofS) T. W. Jack | School of Signals |
| WO1 R. A. H. Melville | HQ 12 Sig Bde |
| AWO1 M. H. Barbe | School of Signals |
| AWO1 (YofS) J. R. Tyreman | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| WO2 (YofS) P. M. Curley | SANGCOM |
| WO2 S. J. Dunlin | School of Signals |
| WO2 I. S. W. Little | 16 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (FofS) R. W. Mahoney | 7 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (FofS) T. J. Prince | School of Signals |
| AWO2 P. Griffen | School of Signals |
| AWO2 (YofS) S. M. Little | 19 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| AWO2 D. Payne | 8 Sig Regt |
| AWO2 (FofS) J. P. Thomas-Peter | 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| SSgt S. J. Fisher | 11 Sig Regt Depot Tp |
| SSgt J. Gilmour | FSS Mormond Hill |
| SSgt J. R. Holcombe | 244 Sig Sqn |
| SSgt K. G. Jenkins | 33 Sig Regt (V) |
| SSgt I. P. Matthews | School of Signals |
| SSgt (YofS) J. F. Murray | 8 Sig Regt |
| SSgt (YofS) F. McGibbin | 21 Sig Regt |
| SSgt D. O. McMillan | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| SSgt (FofS) T. R. Norman | School of Signals |
| SSgt R. Robinson | 30 Sig Regt |
| SSgt C. P. Talbot | Comms & Sy Gp |
| SSgt M. J. Wilton | JACIG |
| ASSgt S. P. M. Mitchell | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt K. Baron | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. M. Bartlett | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. A. Bason | School of Signals |
| Sgt G. N. Chadwick | 9 Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. Choules | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. Clark | 251 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt F. Corrigan | 28 Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. T. P. Cummings | School of Signals |
| Sgt R. F. Drysdale | QG Sig Regt |
| Sgt H. R. Evans | School of Signals |
| Sgt M. Finch | 13 Sig Regt |
| Sgt E. J. Fisher | Comms & Sy Gp |
| Sgt A. P. Glover | HQ Int Corps Depot & Centre |
| Sgt A. C. Hunt | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt R. G. Lennox | HQ Afcent |
| Sgt G. L. Lewis | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt C. N. MacKay | School of Signals |
| Sgt A. Marston-Wells | School of Signals |
| Sgt A. Martin | 6 ATAF |
| Sgt M. M. M. McCallum | 642 Sig Tp |
| Sgt S. McDonald | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt D. McKernan | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt R. J. Pickering | 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| Sgt M. T. Sheehan | 71 Sig Regt (V) |
| ASgt K. Clayton | 244 Sig Sqn |
| ASgt R. J. Hood | 249 Sig Sqn |
| ASgt S. P. J. White | 1QO Hlds |

**MOVING?**

**Have you told RHQ? Your *Wire* will be sent to your old address unless you tell us of a change.**

# NOTICES

## CORPS DATES

Please make a note in your diary of the following events for 1991.

Tuesday 14 May—Corps Officers Dinner at the London Press Centre.

Sunday 19 May—Blandford RSA reunion.

Saturday 15 June—Corps Officers Luncheon, Blandford.

Friday 28 June—Freedom of Richmond Parade.

Saturday/Sunday 29/30 June—Catterick RSA reunion.

Thursday 28 November—London RSI Lecture, International Press Centre.

Tuesday 17 December—Corps Carol Service in London affiliated Church.

Further details will be published nearer the dates.

## A CAROL SERVICE AT ST STEPHEN WITH ST JOHN, ROCHESTER ROW, WESTMINSTER

An evening service of Lessons and Carols, is to take place in the Parish Church at St Stephen with St John, Westminster, on Tuesday 18 December 1990 at 1800 hrs.

It is hoped that members of the Corps and their families especially those serving in London TA Regiments, Association Branches, Chelsea Pensioners and Yeoman Warders, will attend this Service in the Corps affiliated London Church. Light refreshments will be available in the nearby Church Hall after the Service for all those who are able to stay.

Those wishing to attend the Service are asked to inform Regimental Headquarters so that seats may be reserved and the refreshments ordered. Since the overall capacity of the Church is only 350, allocations will be made on a first come, first served, basis.

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**244 SIGNAL SQUADRON (AIR SUPPORT) (RED HAND GANG) REUNION**

A 'Red Hand Gang' Reunion, which will be the Squadron's 50th Anniversary will take place on Saturday 15 June 1991 at RAF Brize Norton. This reunion is being planned to enable all ex-members and currently serving members of the Squadron of all ranks to mix together at the reunion.

Anyone wishing to attend is requested to contact **WO2 (SSM) Humble** in writing at RAF Brize Norton OX8 3LX at the earliest opportunity. Or by telephone (0993) 842551, ext 6105.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## EDITOR

The editor of *The Wire* is due to retire from the post in March of 1991. He is also responsible for editing the Journal of the Royal Signals Institution.

The appointment is established as a part-time RO3 post and the pay is supplemented from Corps funds. The candidate would be a retired, or about to retire, officer of the Corps living within a 40 mile radius of London. Further details may be obtained from the Regimental Secretary, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Tel: London District 8241 or STD 071-873-6351.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

**MOD CIVILIAN VACANCIES**

Applications are invited from ex-military personnel and their families wishing to join the MOD civilian staff. Vacancies continually arise in Central London and Outer London for Patrolmen, Storekeepers, Communications and Electrical Technicians, Drivers, Clerical and other posts.

Interested parties should contact: **Steve Morgans** or **Peter Ashton** on 081-854 2242 Ext: 3574.

## CORPS GALLANTRY AWARDS

The Royal Signals Institution Council has recommended that, in addition to the Corps Gallantry Awards Boards that are to be erected in the Museum at Blandford in 1992, a separate set of display boards should be produced recording the foreign gallantry awards won by members of the Corps since 1920. These boards will be located adjacent to the Corps Gallantry Awards Boards.

The production of the list of winners of these awards will require a considerable amount of research in the Public Record Office or in one of the major London Libraries working through editions of the London Gazette. If there are any retired members of the Corps living in London who would be able to spare some time to assist with this task would they please contact **Dr Peter Thwaites**, Deputy Director, Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.

## LETTERS

**From: Lt Col D. J. McLean**

Dear Sir,

Many of you will know that the Queen's Gurkha Signals has dominated the Corps Skill at Arms meeting for some years now. Every year, for at least the past three, the CO of the Queen's Gurkha Signal Regiment and his team captain have offered to shoot at the Corps SAM for honours only. Every year I have replied that in my view the best team on the day should collect the prizes. I get the impression that our Gurkha friends are embarrassed by their success. Perhaps we should be embarrassed by our failure? At the very least it should make us ask, 'what is the Operational Requirement for a Signaller to be able to shoot?'. If we get an answer to that question consider this; in the Parachute Cup competition, teams have to cross two miles of country in 18 minutes before the first target appears. Sadly I have to say that four major and four minor unit teams this year failed to complete this simple task with all their men. So with fitness we fail to maintain even the low standards set. I wonder why?

I know that the best is the enemy of the good but it seems to me that in our business being second best has nothing to recommend it. No one man can put these things right, but together we can! Each one of us can get fit and keep fit and learn to shoot. All it requires is a decision to do something, and then pride and ability will return. The alternative?. Well, we could accept the Gurkha offer. While we are at it we could ask the rest of the world to be good so that our military skills need never be used again and we can go on degenerating. I know what I think, I look forward to seeing what *you* do!

Yours faithfully,

**Derek McLean**

Comdt Signal Wing
School of Infantry
Warminster
Wiltshire BA12 0DJ

(See Corps Shooting results on page 607).

MORE LETTERS APPEAR IN ASSOCIATION NOTES AT PAGE 615



# REPORT FROM ULSTER

XV

**15 Sig Regt**
**BFPO 801**

**RHQ**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **CO** | **Lt Col G. M. S. Shipley** |
| **2IC** | **Maj R. A. Wannell** |

**Adjt, Capt F. P. Roberts, RSM, WO1 (RSM) B. C. Howe.**

A major change took place last month with a change of both the CO and the Adjutant. We send our best wishes to **Lt Col Steve Siddall** and **Jill** who by now are well settled in Washington DC and to **Capt** (now Mr) **Howard Flint** and his wife **Corinne** who are now enjoying the relaxed academic atmosphere of an MBA (or at least **Howard** is—**Corinne** is keeping him in the style to which he has become accustomed!). Welcome to **Lt Col G. M. S. Shipley** and **Capt F. P. Roberts.**

**HEADQUARTER SQUADRON**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC/QM/MTO** | **Maj Ian Buckley** |
| **SSM/MT SSgt** | **SSgt Tam Anderson** |

Since the formation of the Regiment, HQ Sqn has been desperately trying to find its feet and identify itself. It is pleasing to report that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Those who have served in the Province before will understand the complexities that are involved in the forming of a new unit from a number of existing units. For the record, the following departments are now part of the Squadron: RHQ, Comms Branch, Comms Ops, QM Dept, MT and CDA. One or two of the 'new' departments have put pen to paper.

**QUARTERMASTERS DEPARTMENT**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **QM** | **Maj Ian Buckley** |
| **RQMS** | **WO2 John Burgess** |

**SQMS, SSgt Derek Leggat, SNCO Acc, Sgts Kev Tunstall** and **Keith Wightman, Cpls Chris Collin, Sammy Anderson** and **Sig Dougie Gray.**

**POSTINGS IN AND OUT**

We have said farewell to some leading members of the department recently, most notably the RQMS, **WO2 Duncan**. He and his wife **Liz** are well known in the Province as they have been in Lisburn for five years! He is thanked for his sterling work and the effort he put in with the formation of the Regiment. He goes to the School of Ordnance at Blackdown as an instructor on the LSL. We have also said goodbye to **SSgt 'Pathfinder' Billy Ogden** and his wife **Pam** and thank them both for their contribution over the past two and a half years. **Pam** worked tirelessly to clean the 'Peake' after many frivolous parties. We wish them a happy time in 21 Sig Regt and hope they can do for the 'Train' what they did in Lisburn.

To replace these characters, we bid hello to the new RQMS and his wife, **John** and **Lesley Burgess** and **SSgt Derek Leggat**. They join the department at an extremely busy time but hopefully they will still enjoy their tour in Lisburn.

**EXTRA MURAL ACTIVITIES**

The members of this unique department like to take part in social and sporting activities. The QM can be found playing squash (during lunch time) and the RQMS clubbing it with some high ranking officer on a golf course. **SSgt Derek Leggat** has found the ideal running partner ie, the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Brian Howe. Sgt Kev Tunstall** is a regular member of the Rugby team and was recently selected to represent the Corps. **Sgt Keith Wightman** has six children! **Cpl Sammy Anderson** represents the Combined Services at windsurfing whilst the other JNCO in the department, **Cpl Chris Collin** is a keen and competent cricket player. Finally but by no means last, **Sig Dougie Gray**; he keeps up diplomatic relations by flying to Germany frequently to be with his lady love.

**HQ MT**

**Tp SSgt, SSgt Tam Anderson**

Having just arrived from Cyprus and experiencing such a change in the climate, I thought that I should find an occupation that would keep me warm! '*Wire* Notes' suggested my MTO **Maj Ian Buckley**, so here goes.

After a hectic few weeks in which everyone in the MT drove a vehicle (some for the first time judging by the standard), it was decided that a farewell function should be organised to say cheerio to our departing popular leader, **SSgt Dave Forbes**. A fishing trip was the activity voted for, so the necessary arrangements were made at a small town up the coast somewhere. Once the Dutch courage had taken effect, a few loaves eaten and some fish caught, it was decided that someone should attempt to find where the fish were. By a deciding vote **LCpl Davis** was selected. The trouble was that he was not aware of the choice until he was under the sea! However a thoroughly successful recce was carried out and **LCpl Davis** swam to the shore like Duncan Goodhew to the sound of rapturous applause from both the party and the locals.

**FAREWELLS**

We bid farewell to **SSgt Dave Forbes** and **Sig Simon Brice** who are both extremely fortunate to receive postings to sunny Cyprus. Is this setting a trend we ask ourselves. Records take note please. We take this opportunity to wish them all the very best and thank them for their hard work and loyalty over the past two years.

**ARRIVALS**

The Troop would like to welcome **SSgt Anderson**, his wife **Liz**, and **Sig Mathiesen**. We hope that they will all be very happy during their stay in Lisburn.

**PS**

Congratulations are in order for **Sig** 'Doberman' **Broadwell**. He very kindly re-arranged the front end of the CO's car (Bark Bark).

**225 SIGNAL SQUADRON**
**ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES**

We welcome the following new arrivals to the Squadron, **Capt Dave Luckett, WO1 Pete Lang** and his family, **SSgt Jeff Taylor** and his family, **Sgt Nige Watton, Cpl** and **LCpl Longmuir, Cpls McFadden, Kevin Tongs, McRae, Tock Blyth** and **LCpl Wydam Price**.

The 2IC **Capt Ron Clay** and his wife leave us for Berlin. We say farewell to **WO1 Cliff Davey** who goes to 14 Sig Regt on commissioning. **SSgt John McEwan** leaves us for Comms and Sy Gp. **Sgt Taff Evans** disappears shortly to Catterick and then on to the Foremans course. The Squadron sends its best wishes to **Sgt Leslie Swanwick, Cpl Lorna Proctor, Cpls John Smith, Tim Stokes** and **LCpl Bob Hollamby** who leave the Army.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to **Sgt Crossley** on his well earned promotion.

**MARCH AND SHOOT**

After a quick SA80 conversion course under the watchful eye of **Sgt** (Mick) **Tate** the Squadron's team took to Ballykinler ranges for two days practice shooting. The weather was kind so it was an enjoyable time for the team. The team consisted of **Capt Burden, Sgts Holyoak, McCreath, Ian Elborn, Ian Makin, Cpl Dickinson** and **LCpl Rowlinson-Bates**.

On the day the weather was horrendous but nevertheless the team pulled through with a respectable (rather dismal really, but never mind) score. The pistol shoot phase was quite disappointing due to stoppages, misguided bullets and atmospherics. There was also a pretty strong wind!

On the SA80 phase, **Sgt Holyoak** improved the other team's scores because of difficulty in finding his own target.

Overall results for the day: 225 Sig Sqn just missed the Bronze, but beat everyone else!

Special mentions to 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn for an excellent barbecue.

## 233 SIGNAL SQUADRON
## SHQ PERSONALITIES

**Sqn Comd** — **Maj Ian Seraph**
**2IC** — **Capt Pete Stephenson**
**SSM, WO2 Jeff Williams** and **Sqn Clk, LCpl Billy Berkery.**

### FAREWELL AND WELCOME

We bade farewell to our Squadron Commander **Maj Gerry Corbet** on the completion of a very busy tour in the Province, and welcome the new **Maj Ian Seraph** from Rheindahlen. We wish him and his wife **Joanne** all the best for the tour.

### COMMCEN TROOP MANAGEMENT

**Tp Comd** — **Lt Pollock WRAC**
**Tp SSgt** — **SSgt Bottomley**
**YofS, SSgt (YofS) Mackenzie, CDA, SSgt Johnson BEM, Crypto, Sgt Powell** and **Exchange, Sgt Wooding.**

### FAREWELL/ARRIVAL

Recently the Troop has seen many changes, we send our thanks to those who have departed for all their hard work and efforts. We welcome the following: **SSgt Johnson BEM, Sgt Powell, Cpl Curtis,** and **LCpl Armstrong.**

### THE EXCHANGE

A lot has happened in the Telephone Exchange this month, the Regimental MT has moved next door, so we never have any milk for ourselves. **Pte Liza Partridge** has become engaged to **Cpl 'Smudge' Smith** and they are both posted to Germany. We say goodbye to **Sgt Karen Wooding** who is leaving us to be an Admin Assistant and hello to **Sgt Sue Leitch** who will be taking her place as our new boss.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go to **Cpl 'John' Blyth** and **LCpl 'Sandy' Sockett** on their recent marriage; we wish them all the very best for the future. Congratulations also to **Cpl** and **Jill Noott** on the birth of their son **(Kyle).**

### SYSTEMS

Systems have moved—hopefully it will be third time lucky! Anyway, links are still very secure and all the shifties are having a whale of a time!

Farewells to **Sgt Bill Owen,** he is off to Civ Div, **WCpl Charlotte Longmuir** is off to Hong Kong. The **McCormicks** are leaving us. Welcome to **SSgt Pete Warhurst** who is already a workaholic, but, like the rest of us, not by choice.

Once again the Gladiatorial Technicians have breezed the McElvie Trophy with the opposition way behind. Despite being behind in the Pay Scales, we are miles ahead in the sporting department.

### RIGGING SECTION

The Rigging Section would like it to be known that, as we are exempt PT mornings, little has really changed. We still get the 'five minute jobs', courtesy of TOT **Capt Hanifin** which now get passed on to our Chief Clerk **Cpl** Taff **Boucher.**

We have said goodbye to **LCpl** (now Cpl) **Jim Kerr.** We wish him and his family all the best in sunny Gibraltar. We also bid farewell to **Sgt Pete Bagnall** to Civ Div! New arrivals include **LCpl Louie Lewis** (just do not mention the GOC's cook!) and **LCpl Jeffries** both from 9 Sig Regt and **Sig Jasper Scragg.** Finally congratulations to newly wed **LCpl Jeffries** and his wife **Anthea,** all the best for the future.

### INSTALLATION TEAM

This small but very important section has been ticking over at an even pace under the new leadership of **SSgt Pete Warhurst,** (a deep end swimmer) taking over from **SSgt Gillham,** who moves on to Systems Control, and from there to civvy street. He is ably assisted by potential—civvy **Sgt** 'Bill' **Owen** who hopes to come back on Brinton Phase 5, but only if GPT is interested in the best. Other members of the Installation Team who have added that 'personal touch' include **Cpl** 'Tezza' **McIntyre, Sgt** 'Hank' **Potts,** and **Sgt Dave Hunt.**

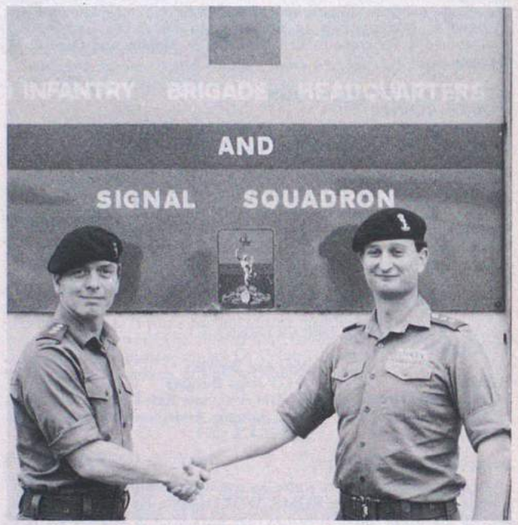
## 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## BFPO 807

### PERSONALITIES

**Sqn Comd** — **Maj David McDowall**
**2IC** — **Capt Iain Standen**
**AO, Maj Lew Godfrey 15/19H, OC Comms Tp, Lt Mike McGinty, RSM, WO1 (RSM) Pete Whitehouse, YofS, WO2 (YofS) Jim Abernathy, RQMS, WO2 Bob Taylor, MTWO, WO2 Stan Duncan RCT** and **CC, SSgt Mike Cole.**

### OPS/PLANS CELL

Late August saw the cell trying to fit in some work around the hectic social arrangements that are an essential part of the 2ICs handover. **Capt Jake** 'Old Sweat' **Thackray** finally handed over to the new boy **Capt Iain Standen** on Friday 31 August.




2IC Capt Jake Thackray *(l)* hands over to Capt Iain Standen

### LE SYSCON

Here we go again, another plunge into the recent events in one of the world's darkest places, namely Syscon 8 Bde!

First and foremost, congratulations are in order for some of our staff. Wedding bells were heard on Saturday 1 August for **LCpl Andy** 'Chuck' **Buckle** and **WLCpl Julie Brook-Dowsett** of Commcen fame, all the best to both of you for the future. Next we have two new 'dads' to announce. **LCpl Dave** 'JC' **Jones** who is now the proud father of a bouncing baby girl, as is **Cpl Pete Gait** whose wife **Andrea** has had a second daughter. Congratulations to you both, and let's hope the kids grow up looking nothing like their fathers!

Welcome to **LCpls Dave Wilson, Paul Tighe** and **Mick Rutherford,** all of whom have recently arrived to swell our ranks and what lucky fellows they are. No doubt within a fortnight you will be recoiling from the delights the job brings, such as Op Liffey 46 part 2 phase 43!

Actually it has been quiet for a while now, with the only event worth recording being the destruction of the Ops/Plans car (a very smart Orion) by **Cpl Shean** 'Mad Max' **Dewar.** It wasn't his fault that someone decided to park his Rover in his boot whilst he was sitting at a VCP! Thanks for the on-scene technical support supplied by **Sgt Phil McMullan** who was heard to send this particular message over the radio: 'Hello Charlie Zero Charlie this is Charlie Three Two Bravo. Contact!—of sorts, over!'

Well that's all for now folks save to say farewell to **LCpl** 'Dusty' **Millar** who has left us for Belize.

### COMMCEN

Well not much has happened in the Commcen over the last couple of months. So we've only got a few hellos and goodbyes to say. First to **Sig Andy Horkins** who has joined us from Lisburn for six months. Hello also to **Sig 'Taff' Herbert** who has arrived from 22 Sig Regt.

Goodbye to **LCpl Nige** (Designer Label) **Flynn** who is off to civvy street. We also say farewell to **Sig Pete** (Plant Pot) **Lee** who is off to the Falklands for four months. And goodbye to **LCpl Dave Hodge** off to sunnier climes in Belize. Best of luck to you all.

Now a few congratulations. To **WLCpl Julie Brooks-Dowsett** who has just got married to **LCpl Andy Buckle** from Syscon (so that's why our shift timings changed!). All the best to you both **Andy** and **Julie.** Also congratulations to **Cpl Carl Budding** and his bride to be **Sharon,** hope all goes well in Germany. And all the best to **Sig Ian Preston** and **Jeanette** on their marriage.

Finally thanks to **Cpl Bill Andrews** for taking the accompanying photo of the 'Commcen Crew' (with the YofS!). Everyone's looking forward to battlecamp!



The Commcen Crew
*Back Row L to R:* LCpls Craig, Hodge, Johnson, Wigmore, Cpl Allen, LCpl Flynn and Cpl Corlett
*Front Row L to R:* LCpl Collins, WLCpl Buckle, Sgt Garnett, YofS Biffa, WPte Kerry and Cpl Budding

### MERCURY CUP MARCH AND SHOOT

**The Scene**

The Royal Signals NI Annual March and Shoot held at Ballykinler.

**The 8 Bde Cast**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Lt McGinty** | The Glorious Leader |
| **SSgt McCue** | The Glorious Organiser |
| **Cpl Roome** | The Shootist |
| **Cpl Forbes** | The Gobby Tech |
| **Cpl Ahmed** | The Token Pioneer |
| **LCpl Rutherford** | The Worlds Quietest Geordie |
| **Sig Goldsmith** | The Admin King |

**The Plot**

After many minutes of training and tens of expended rounds, 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn's answer to the Delta Force deployed to Ballykinler TC ready for the big competition. **SSgt McCue** led the team in its final preparation on the table football in the NAAFI and in the consumption of the special training diet (sic).

The first event was the march itself and all credit must go to **Cpl Sammy Ahmed** for dragging the less able personnel around. **Cpl Neil Roome** should be equally praised for his outstanding efforts on event two, the pistol shoot, where his special forces experience showed. (It's OK **Neil,** anyone can have a stoppage, or two!) The team then progressed to the rifle event where a good all round effort managed to put us into third place overall.

Thanks to all members of the team who put their all (plus their sense of humour) into the day and to those lucky boys who manned the fort while we were away and especial thanks to 3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn for organising what was an extremely enjoyable, though wet, day out.



The Sqn March and Shoot Team
*Back Row L to R:* Cpl Roome, Lt McGinty, Sig Goldsmith and LCpl Rutherford
*Front Row L to R:* Cpl Ahmed, SSgt McCue and Cpl Forbes

### INTER TROOP CROSS-COUNTRY

Friday 24 August was a particularly unusual day in Londonderry, it wasn't raining. There was no wind and even the sun was shining: The RQMS, **WO2 Bob Taylor** (The Organiser) couldn't have picked a better day for the Inter-Troop Cross Country. The teams assembled and with a whistle blast, and a flamboyant lowering of the Union Jack by the OC, the race round the 4.8 mile circuit of Ballykelly airfield began. The course was fast and flat, much to the delight of **Cpl Briody,** who finished first in a time of 27 mins 13 secs setting the standard for the successful SHQ team. The RSM came second, grumbling about being beaten by a bl***y clerk, and **Sig Goldsmith** of MT came third. In the Troop competition SHQ/Bde came first, Comms A came second, QM/MT came third with Comms B last.



The winning SHQ Cross-Country Team
*L to R:* Capt Standen, Cpl Briody, The OC (Team Manager) RSM and Sgt Johnson

### FAREWELLS

The last two months has seen a change over of a number of the Squadron personalities. First the squadron said farewell to **WO1 (RSM) 'Dixie' Deans** who takes over as RSM at 39 Sig Regt (V). We also said goodbye to the Chief Clerk **SSgt John O'Donnell** who leaves us on promotion, and we wish him all the best at 2 Sig Bde. Finally we said farewell to the 2IC **Capt Jake Thackray** who leaves for the School of Signals to pass on his vast knowledge to the gullible on their Troop Commanders Course! Best wishes to you all.

### ARRIVALS

Welcome to **WO1 (RSM) Pete Whitehouse** from Cyprus. He immediately impressed the Squadron with his PT. However, we hope to keep our end up when it comes to Squash and running, (carry on **Cpl Broidy**!).

We also welcome our new Chief Clerk **SSgt Mike Cole** who is no stranger to the Squadron having served here in the past as Orderly Room Clerk. And finally welcome to the new 2IC **Capt Iain Standen.**

Drambuie
THE LIQUEUR YOU PREFER TO BE OFFERED
IN YOUR MESS NOW

# — News from Headquarters —

## Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

### FAREWELL TO COMMANDANT

**Col Peter Burke** ran the gauntlet of some 500 Apprentice Tradesmen, Junior Leaders and Permanent Staff as he was towed from the College in time honoured tradition by the Shire horse Stout.

It was a wet and windy occasion when the College bade farewell and wished **Col Peter Burke** and **Claire** and family every success and good fortune.

He leaves to Command 12 Sig Bde (V) and we congratulate him on his promotion to Brigadier.



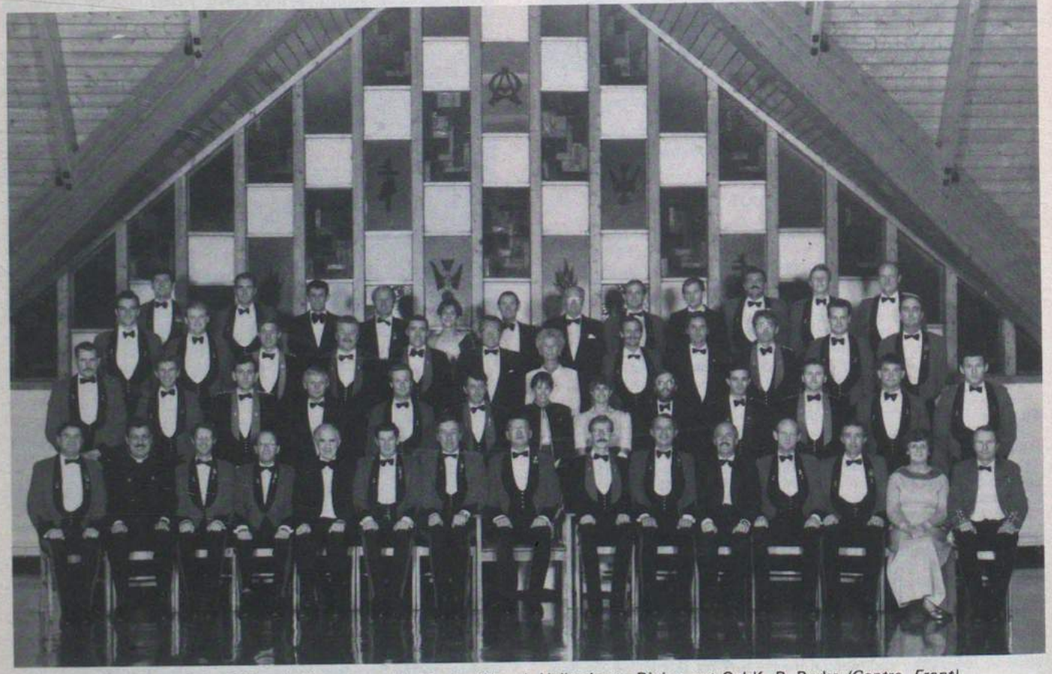
### NORDIC SKI-ING
### CATTERICK DRY SKI SLOPE 21ST ANNIVERSARY

To celebrate its 21st Anniversary the Catterick Dry Ski Slope School held an inaugural Nordic Ski competition on the latest synthetic Nordic Ski track. The event attracted teams from as far away as Scotland (1 KOSB) which included its British team member, **Cpl Muirhead**. The College entered a crack team under the thrusting leadership of its new coach **Lt Guy Ashton**, fresh from 22 Sig Regt.



The successful teams: 1 KOSB, AAC Harrogate and 11 Sig Regt

The competition comprised three events: an individual/team time trial, a relay race and a team pursuit competition. The Apprentice College team managed to finish second behind the 1 KOSB team in every event, thus staking its claim to be the leading UK (if not Army wide) Royal Signals Nordic Ski team. On an individual note **Lt Guy Ashton** finished second in the time trial event. The two day competition proved to be an excellent start to the College Nordic Ski season—next stop Norway.



Members of the Officers' Mess assembled in the Church Hall prior to Dining out Col K. P. Burke *(Centre, Front)*



### EX APPRENTICE VISITS COLLEGE

**Mr Ted Woodley**, now managing director of his own Video and Computer company in Wellington, New Zealand, recently visited the College accompanied by his wife **Lyn**.

**AT Woodley** joined the Army Apprentices' College in the 60B intake and was a member of Penney Sqn for three years, graduating in the summer of '63 as a Line Technician.

During their visit **Lyn** and **Ted** attended the practice graduation parade deputising for the Mayor and Mayoress for the day.

**Mr Woodley** attributes his success in life to the education and training gained during his College Apprenticeship, a view he expressed frequently to numerous Apprentices during his visit. **Ted** thoroughly enjoyed his day as did College members who shared his company.

### ARMY CANOE SURF CHAMPIONSHIPS
### IN SEARCH OF BIG WEDNESDAY

It was with a feeling of deja-vu that we headed southwards down the M6, M5 and onwards towards Croyde Bay.

The purpose of the week-long sojourn in Croyde was to train for the Army Canoe Surf Championships. Base camp comprised three family caravans at one of the holiday sites which pepper the North Devon coastline. The ATNCOs showed their leadership qualities and operator skills in many ways, taking four days before switching the fridge on and attempting to extinguish the gas pilot light.

Training for the event took place at the competition location at Saunton Sands. Continual high winds and stormy weather produced surf conditions to test the best. By the end of day two almost all the ATs had excelled themselves by learning to roll. Worthy of particular mention were the exploits of **ATLCpl Badger** who despite the awesome conditions fearlessly ventured into 'the big stuff' beyond the white.

The competition itself ran from the Friday through to the Sunday. Contrary to expectations the slalom canoes had to compete against the wave skis, albeit that the latter are more manoeuverable: it was no surprise that 10 wave skis reached the three finals whilst only two slalom canoes joined them. This disadvantage had a major impact upon the College's overall performance, since 9 out of its 12 squad members competed in slalom canoes. In spite of the overwhelming odds the College Canoe team gained the following results:-

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st Junior Slalom | — **ATLCpl Wilson** |
| 2nd Junior Slalom | — **ATLCpl Coomber** |
| 4th Junior Wave Ski | — **ATLCpl Hickenbotham** |
| 2nd Junior Team | — **ATLCpls Wilson, Hickenbotham** and **AT Pennicott** |
| 1st Novice Slalom | — **LCpl Marriott** |
| 2nd Novice Slalom | — **Cpl Mitchell** |
| 2nd Novice Team | — **LCpl Marriott, Cpl Mitchell** and **Maj Heritage** |

Although the Junior Trophy was lost to Chepstow, Archie's Boys will be back with a vengeance next year!

### SCOTT SQUADRON
### PERSONALITIES

**OC** — **Maj Gus Boag**
**2IC** — **Capt Rick Mather**

**OC Rct Tp, Lt Andy Duncan, SSM, WO2 (SSM) Pete Jackson, Rct Tp Sgts, Sgt 'Chalky' Atkins, Sgt 'Chippy' Wood, Tp Sgts, Sgt Jim Harris, Sgt Danny O'Brien, SQMS, Sgt Mick Tharme** and **Admin NCO, Sgt 'Mez' Merril.**

### HAIL AND FAREWELLS

We begin by welcoming the 49 recruits of intake 90B who began their apprenticeship on 4 September, we wish them all well for the rigours of Basic Recruit Training and a happy and successful time at the College.

On the permanent staff side we welcome Sgt Merril and family from Aldershot.

### CHAMPION SQUADRON

The College Champion Squadron trophy is hotly contested each term by the four Squadrons of the College. Having won the Competition twice out of the last three occasions Scott Sqn was keen to win the trophy again and fill the gap in the silver cabinet. Having won the Tug of War and Athletics Competitions we were in a good position for the final afternoon's competitions: Initiative Tests, Swimming, Squad Run and Military Skills. A close competition followed but an excellent performance in the Military Skills Competition brought us victory. **ATLCpl Welch** put in an extraordinary performance in the Shooting which assured victory.

### PENNEY SQUADRON
### PERSONALITIES

**OC** — **Maj E. Heritage**
**2IC** — **Capt W. G. House**

**OC Rct Tp, Capt G. W. S. Elliott, CSM, WO2 J. Swain, SQMS, Sgt A. Carmichael, A Tp Sgt, Sgt J. Fradley, B Tp Sgt, Sgt N. Finnegan, C Tp Sgt, Sgt P. Matthews** and **Rct Tp Sgt, Sgt D. Tredwell.**

### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Squadron said farewell to **Jeannette** and **Sgt Terry Oakes** who left us on promotion to 28 Sig Regt, **Claire** and **Sgt Jeff Watts** have also left on promotion to 2 Inf Div; we wish them and their families all the best in their new units. We welcome **Sgt Norman Finnegan** and his wife **Debbie, Sgt Dick Tredwell** and his wife **Carmen**, and **Sgt Stan Matthews** (fresh from EL Tp) and his wife **Julia**; we wish to extend a warm welcome and hope that they enjoy their tour.

### SUMMER TERM OUTING TO BLACKPOOL

Our summer outing was a trip to Blackpool. The Squadron left Harrogate's dismal weather behind to enjoy a day out in Blackpool, where ironically, the weather was equally dismal. For those who had never been to Blackpool before there was much to see and do but everyone enjoyed the visit. Many thanks to **Capt House** and **Sgt Dick Tredwell** for arranging such a pleasurable outing.



A relaxing day at Blackpool for *(l. to R):* ATCpl Tulk, ATs Tarry and Steele

### UK WINDSURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Corps UK Windsurfing Championships were held this year on the Solent at Gosport on 6-8 September. A team to represent the College was entered from Penney Sqn. It consisted of **Sgts John Fradley, Norman Finnegan** and **ATCpl Daryl Tulk**.

As usual the weather was horrendous, the wind blowing force six and the sea very choppy. We spent the best part of a day getting used to these conditions and putting into practice some race tactics which paid off on the following day.

The highlight of the Championships was one race in particular. All three of us got a good start all up front, however, excitement got the better of **Sgt Norman Finnegan**. Finding himself at the front he was overwhelmed by having no-one to follow, so he went the wrong way missing a buoy completely. **Sgt John Fradley** could not believe his eyes. He tried his best with his drill voice, heel stamping and jumping techniques to attract his attention but to no avail. Thanks to **Sgt Fradley** and **ATCpl Tulk** all was not lost. They gained vital positions with good windsurfing during the race, making the team third overall, overtaking many major units and earning an individual plaque each; well done to the Penney Sqn team.

### TECHNICIAN WING

Technician Wing trains 270 apprentice technicians at any one time to the standards required by Royal Signals Training Objectives. This two year apprenticeship covers all the theory required by the Training Objective. The equipment phase of the training is undertaken at 8 Sig Regt. During their apprenticeship the technicians get the opportunity to obtain a BTEC Diploma.

Technician Wing staff consists of two civilian supervisors (HIOs) both ex FofS, eleven civilian instructors (IO1s), nine military technician instructors and is currently commanded by **Maj Cliffe Webb**.



The College Football Squad
*(Forefront):* Georgina Wright (Mascot)
*(Front L to R):* ATMcNeil, ATSgt Anderson, ATLCpls Munro, Briggs, Todd, ATs Deveney, Brocklehurst and LCpl Chester
*(Back L to R):* AT Marsh, ATLCpl Crouchman, AT Howe, ATLCpl MacLoglin, AT Shawcross, ATLCpl McBean, AT Milby and Sgt Wright (coach)

**FOOTBALL—ARMY APPRENTICE CHALLENGE CUP**

Over the weekend 22-23 September the College played host to the Army Apprentice Challenge Cup Competition. Although early in the season much talent was displayed and exciting football played by all the teams concerned. Arborfield had an early exit on the Saturday, beaten 1—0 by the College and 6—2 by Chepstow.

On the Sunday in the final between the College and Chepstow the atmosphere was electrifying. The crowd, enthralled by the action on the field, witnessed a football match played with effort, enthusiasm, skill and, above all, sportsmanship. The final result was in the balance right up until the end when a last minute goal gave the Apprentices from Chepstow a 3—2 win.

**FAREWELL**

We have said farewell to the following: **WO2 (FofS) D. Bailey** to 8 Sig Regt. **Sgt Vaughan**—now an instructor with a large electronics firm. **Sgt Warren**—also to civilian life, and a communications consultant in Yorkshire. We wish them every success. **Mr G. Crossland** retires after 26 years as an Instructional Officer with MOD. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

**AND WELCOME**

We extend a welcome to **SSgt East**—joining us for his last six months prior to taking up civilian employment. **Sgt Roberts**—newly promoted. **Mr Ely**—who joins us from the Royal Navy where he was a Chief Petty Officer, the last 10 years being spent in the Nuclear Submarine Fleet. **Mr Charles**—rejoins us after working in Saudi Arabia.

**JOINT SERVICES DISPLAY (JSD)**

**Sgt Rob Cole** led the Army Apprentices' College contingent consisting of **Cpl Morton** and **Cpl Old** of Commex and 10 apprentices including **ATSSM Anderson** and **ATLCpl Colbeck** of Scott Sqn at the JSD 90 held at RAF Cosford.

The display gave a broad outline of the trades taught at the College. The members of Bradley Sqn also assisted with the RSDT stands. It was generally felt that the display was well worth while and the audience was given an insight to the College's activities.

**BRADLEY SQUADRON**

Quadrant Tp took over from Lightning Tp as the Arena Party for the Royal Tournament at Earls Court. This year the 100th anniversary of the event. The Troop was led by **Lt Tony Urwin** and **Sgt Willie McPhee**. The Junior Leaders were awestruck at their accommodation—32 man prefabricated rooms which were all laid out to house the 2,000 participants. Having settled in, the troop directed by **Cpls Dave Old, Steve Mitchell** and **Mick Van Denenienhausen** prepared for its task as instant 'stage hands' for the next 43 performances. The performances went well, the Junior Leaders being popular with Royal Tournament participants.

**AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY**

As a part of their Independence Day celebrations the American Community at Menwith Hill invited the College to take part in a Flag Lowering Ceremony. On 4 July Quadrant Tp was again selected because of its recent success in the Drill Competitions.

A squad of eight under the command of **Sgt Keith Dobson** were anticipating having to carry out their task before an audience of 1,000 people. On the day poor weather reduced this figure drastically and only a mere handful of spectators were present to witness a truly marvellous display by the Junior Leaders. Much praise was forthcoming for their professionalism at drill, and they were made most welcome by the American Community.



Members of Quadrant Tp fold the flag at the Menwith 4 July celebrations



**WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS COMMANDANT'S FAREWELL**

On Friday 14 September **Col K. P. Burke** was dined out by the Sergeants' Mess. Background music was provided by a local brass band, the White Rose band, and a display of Piping and Drumming was given by members of the College band.

RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Rab Ritchie** Scots Guards presented the Commandant with a farewell gift of an original watercolour and two prints of local scenes. In return the Colonel presented the Mess with a ship's Port Decanter. All the Mess members wish **Col Peter Burke** well in his new post.



WO1 (RSM) Ritchie Scots Guards presents the Commandant with his farewell gift

**SUMMER TERM 90**

The term promising to be a busy one with a full social calendar and a packed schedule, the Mess swung into action. The term started with the wedding of **Sgt Mick Heelan**; congratulates to him and we wish him and **Karen** all the best and hope that all their problems will be little ones.



Wedded bliss for Sgt Mick Heelan and Karen

**OFFSHORE SAILING**
**EXERCISE SEA LEGS II**

In the last issue we had an individual view of the first of the College's Offshore Sailing Expeditions for 1990. It was written by **AT Steadman**, who went on to become the Junior Army Dinghy Champion for 1990.

On Monday 6 August Skippers, Crews and Yachts (Halcyons) were united under the blazing sun at Gosport marina. The well oiled machinery of the Joint Services Adventurous Sail Training Centre went smoothly into operation and the yachts were soon provisioned and ready for the sea.

The 'bumps and grinds' went well and so the fleet put to sea as soon as the skippers (**Col Peter Burke, Maj David Pugh** and **Capt Tim Pender-Johns**) felt that their crew could get back to their moorings safely.

The first night was spent moored to the visitors' buoys in Langstone Harbour. Proximity to the only pub decided the mooring and darkness hid the strength of the moving water when the first rub-a-dub decided to return. It was the Commandant's crew with **Capt Giles Henschel** on the oars. As they pushed off into slack water of an eddy they would have been surprised to learn that the crews of the other two boats had tip-toed to the beach to watch and were now adopting a hull down position behind a low wall. Some 30m from land the rub-a-dub was hit by the 3 knot tide. Keeping immaculate time and not catching any crabs the entire crew was swept majestically past its yacht and down towards the Inner Harbour! It was a late night for Burke's Boys as they endeavoured to return aboard ship.

The remainder of the week was spent visiting all the major maritime ports in the East and West Solent. We also discovered we had to contend with Cowes Week. To see the ocean covered with Spinnakers from Cowes to the mainland is quite an unforgettable sight, particularly if they are all heading towards you and from a distance there appears no way through. As we passed the Royal Yacht we dutifully dipped our Ensign, but it was perhaps too much to hope for an answer.

All too soon the expedition was heading for the Port of Gosport. After sailing over 190 nautical miles in glorious weather and strong, fresh sea breezes another Ex Sea Legs sadly came to an end. Next year we might be more adventurous and enter a boat for the Offshore Races.



Maj David Pugh at the helm, ably assisted by WO2 (SSM) Metcalfe *(right)* and AT Nice

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*New 3in Regulation Pattern with Straps*
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**T. FROST (Saddlers)**
SOUTH PARADE, BAWTRY
DONCASTER, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

# News from Regiments

## Berlin Sig Regt
## BFPO 45

This article will be the last from Berlin HQ and Sig Regt. Not that we are going anywhere; but from 1 January 1991 we shall be known as 229 Sig Sqn once more. 'I didn't know it had changed' I hear you say as those who have corresponded with this unit hardly ever got our title right, we understand your confustion. We can now put to rest (hopefully) those witty one liners that have preceded BFPO 45 for the past few years.

Berlin 229 Sig Regt, The Signals Wall Squadron, BH&SR, Berlin Inf Bde HQ & 229 Sig Sqn, 229 Inf Bde Berlin, 29 Sig Sqn and Those ones not on the hill.

Recent months have been dominated by visits and local events. The Regiment has participated in the Wilmersdorf Friendship Weekend, Bandanza and the Freedom of Wilmersdorf Parade. We have been honoured to receive a visit from **HRH The Princess Royal GCVO** and have also been visited by Comd Comms BAOR.

**VISIT OF THE COLONEL IN CHIEF**

**HRH the Princess Royal GCVO** visited the Regiment and 3 Sqn 13 Sig Regt during her recent visit to Berlin. In the relaxed atmosphere of the Inn on the Pool, HRH met the families and spent several hours with us before she left to visit Bandanza.



The Princess Royal meets LCpl Adam Yafai and his wife Wendy



Sgt Taff Wilce and his wife Ann meet HRH

**WILMERSDORF FRIENDSHIP WEEKEND**

After several days of frantic preparation, the Wilmersdorf Friendship Weekend got into full swing at 1600 hrs on Friday 24 August with opening addresses from **Herr Dohm**, Mayor of Wilmersdorf, **Brig Oliver, Lt Col Collins** and **Lt Col Plummer**.

The Regiment's involvement included the Red Dragon Pub, a teddy stall, a darts stall and a Wheel of Fortune. A Fish 'n' Chip shop provided by the ACC kept Prager Platz alive. The Red Dragon pub, under the expert supervision of **WO2 Bardsley** ably assisted by **WO2 Bailey** and **SQMS Thomas**, proved a great success. Customers were entertained by **Cpl Shotton** and his many songs about Robin Hood, and on Saturday and Sunday evenings by a rock musician.

The teddy bear stall, manned by Comms Sp was completely sold out by midday on Sunday and the darts stall run by Sector Tp ran out of stock soon after that. Brigade Tp's Wheel of Fortune was very successful, particularly on Saturday evening, the Berliners enjoyed **LCpl Whyman**'s interesting, if unorthodox, line in sales patter. All-in-all, the weekend was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

**BANDANZA**

**The Beam Team (Lights)**
**Sgts Dave Whiting, Rab Binnie, Alyn Griffiths, Vince Murphy, Cpls Mark Langton, Mick Stout, Pete Arkwright, Dave Giles, LCpls Mick Hatton, Mick Winning** and **Taff Johnson.**

**The Noise Boys (Sound)**
**Sgts Mick Blakley, Paul Buff, Terry Frankel** and **Bunny Hutchinson.**

**Handset Heroes (The FofS's Name for Admin Comms!)**
**WO2 (FofS) Sid Kassim, Cpls Graham Husband, Bob Shotton, LCpls Dick Pollard** and **Dicky Dickerson.**

The official programme describes Bandanza as a 'Musical Spectacular featuring Military Bands, Pop and Classics, Lasers, Fireworks, Pipers, Morris Dancers, Irish Folk Dancing, Parachutists . . . and around 1,000 performers, including 600 bandsmen' . . . the proceeds of which were to go to Children in Need. Made up of three nightly performances commencing on 6 September the event was held in the Waldbuhne, an open air venue built alongside the Olympic Stadium in the late thirties.

Each evening had a different 'surprise item' (which everyone knew was the Special Guest Star appearance) that included Lisa Stansfield, Leo Sayer, and the Padre's favourite himself . . . Cliff Richard.

The subject of this article is not about music though, fine as most of it was. It's not even about the spectacular firework display that set the upper stage on fire, or the cannon-fire during the finale that ensured everyone went home with their hair standing on end and a ringing in the ears. Nor even the rain, arriving on cue each evening to lend an authentic British atmosphere to proceedings. It includes none of these.

Yes, I know a team of 25 men and women have worked full time for a year bringing it to fruition . . . yes, and a great number of personnel provided technical and practical back-up . . . and yes, scores of 'willing' personnel from units Berlin-wide assisted in many areas, from catering to security, erecting the stage and scaffolding, yes I know all that . . . but no, this is about the dedicated few . . . The Bandanza Crew!

Four days prior to 'curtain up', to use the civvy parlance, we assembled in the drizzle at the Waldbuhne entrance, to be greeted by **Maj Little**, OC 1 Sqn, who was there to ensure that we all turned up!

Once inside the impressive interior, built on the lines of a Greek Amphitheatre (88 tiers of seating holding 20,000 spectators, 190m from the top steps to the stage, and descending 30m (looks a bit like Vogelsang with seats), we were introduced to our new civvy masters.

The Noise Boys skipped away to play with the Sound crew, whilst the day contingent of The Beam Team (who were to discover how inadequately the term 'light' describes the monstrosities they were expected to send skyward).

Light fixtures, projectors, microphones, reflectors, mixers, power units, speakers, radio links, the list seemed endless. All had to be installed, cabled, positioned, re-adjusted, and worst of all, hoisted into areas that required no small amount of effort and ingenuity before they were correctly sited. Some items, like the huge speaker system, were suspended over 40ft above the stage. People tended not to stay below them for any length of time!

All credit to the band members, as 14 hours on a trumpet or any instrument requires more than mere love of the instrument.

Berliners being a hardy breed were unperturbed by the weather, responding enthusiastically to the musical selection on offer, under umbrellas and sheets of transparent plastic.



**HRH, The Princess Royal** received a very warm welcome upon her arrival for the opening performance, . . . the smiling Irish Folk Dancers, some girls only six years old, thoroughly enjoyed themselves despite the rain and mud, or perhaps because of it! Each band trying to outdo the other into the early hours with ad-lib performances and singing, met with good natured derision from the opposition—these were some of the memorable moments.

The highlight for us was our attempt at Morris Dancing having been cajoled into it by the ladies.

As soon as the last performance was over, everything had to be dismantled and packed up. Come 0730 hrs next day and thanks to Herculean effort all round, all that remained was the loading and tidying up before leaving.

Though at times the work involved was not easy, it was performed with good humour and the sight of the spectacular and the atmosphere generated by the thousands who braved the weather made it all very worthwhile. Here's to the next Bandanza!

**FREEDOM OF WILMERSDORF DAY**

Led by the Band of 1 RWF, the Regiment paraded through the streets of the Schmargendorf district of Bezirk Wilmersdorf on the morning of Saturday 29 September. They marched with bayonets fixed to celebrate the granting of the Freedom of Wilmerdorf, to the Regiment in 1986. After inspection and speeches by **Herr Horst Dohm**, Borough Mayor of Wilmersdorf, and **Maj J. O. C. Alexander OBE**, Comd Comms BAOR, a pair of Royal Signals lances was presented to **Herr Dohm**. **Herr Dohm** presented the Regiment with a tapestry of the Wilmersdorf coat-of-arms, which had been woven by handicapped people. A sumptuous lunch followed for the Regiment, families and guests which was held in the Rathaus.

That evening the Corps community in Berlin held a Cocktail party in Stadium Barracks for their German and British friends. Afterwards, the Band of 1 RWF 'Beat Retreat' watched by **Maj Gen** and **Mrs Corbett** and many other distinguished guests. The salute was taken by **Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander OBE** who presented 1 RWF with an Inn sign 'Y Ddraig Goch'.

At the dinner in the Sergeants' Mess, those assembled drank the health of President von Weizacker of the Federal Republic of Germany and our Colonel in Chief. Guests were welcomed by **WO1 (RSM) R. C. Young**. After the speeches the CO presented **Maj Tom Godwin** Para and his wife **Chris** with the traditional farewell 'bears' and wished them every happiness in their retirement in Cyprus. **Tom**'s many friends in Berlin thank him for his friendly help and support and for the magnificent way he ran the Allied Forces Airborne Association Berlin.



The march past lead by OC 1 Sqn Maj Max Little

**HELLO AND GOODBYES**

Farewells go to **SSgt (YofS) Steve Rose** and family posted to 22 Sig Regt and farewell to **Sgt Dave Iverson**. Congratulations to **Diane** and **Dave** on the birth of their first baby.

Welcome to **SSgt (YofS) Les Whittle** and his wife **Jill** to fill the gap left by **YofS Rose**, and also to **Sgt Birchenough** who takes over as Bde Tp Sgt and his family.

## 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
## BFPO 32

**RHQ**

The nuptial season was upon us in force this summer! Congratulations go to **LCpl Dave Cameron** on his marriage to **Barbara, Cpl Andy Hall** on his marriage to **Cpl Lynn Naylor** (now 'the Corporals Hall!'), and **Pte Wendy Bowman** who married **Gnr Mark Chapman** recently.

We welcome into RHQ **Pte Karen Mitchell** who has joined us straight from training. **Sig Andy Little** and **Dean Fisher** joined us for a short while, but have subsequently been sent to 7 Armd Bde Sig Sqn to join the Gulf Team! Stop press: **Sig Little** is now back with us!

We have said farewell to **Sig Taff Owens** who has gone to 201 Sig Sqn and **Mrs Carol Mills** from the typing pool who has gone to Krefeld. We wish you both good luck!

Finally, congratulations to **Sig Hutchings** and his wife **Judith** on the birth of their baby son.

**MASTER OF SIGNALS FAREWELL VISIT**

On Thursday 20 September the Master of Signals paid a farewell visit to the Regiment and spent two hours with us, following a hastily rearranged programme! With the possibility of elements of the Regiment deploying to the Gulf, the original plan was changed and the Master was able to speak to soldiers who are undergoing Op Granby Training. He was also invited to draw September's Regimental Lottery Ticket, the profits of which are going to the Corps Museum Fund. At the end of the visit The Master was offered a helmet and motorbike and was driven down to join the Regimental Officers for afternoon tea. All in all a fun, relaxed visit!



SSgt (FofS) Paul Richardson during the Master's visit to M Troop



Capt Alastair Harwell hoping that the Master draws *his* lottery ticket. He didn't!

**EXERCISE MOSEL TRUNDLE**

The initial plan was to cycle from Verden to the northern tip of Denmark, but changed to Plan B, a visit to the Mosel Valley. This was a self help effort which could not be thwarted! The following took part: **Capt Harwell, Sgt Bungay, LCpls Blench, Robinson, Sig Brownlee, Farnes, Haskins** and **Kaye**.



The team on Ex Mosel Trundle

**VERDEN—HAMELN (130KM)**

On Monday 6 August eight hardy souls left Verden seeking the sun and fun of the Mosel Valley. We reached Nienburg before **Sgt Steve Bungay**, presumably trying to show the Engineers how it should be done, had an argument with the pavement. Undeterred, and with a lighter medical kit, we trundled ever southwards over the North German Plain. Nature is a wonderful thing. This was demonstrated by the fact that, following the record temperatures of the previous week, it rained for the next 10 hours. Our thoughts went out to everyone in the UK facing water rationing. Drenched to the skin (which had turned an unpleasant mottled blue) we reached Hamelin in time to play pinball with the rush hour traffic. At the campsite we quickly erected tents, showered and 'scoffed a compo stew' before carefully avoiding the lure of the outdoor swimming pool!

**HAMELN—MOHNESEE (141KM)**

We woke to beautiful sunshine and our belief that it gets warmer closer to the equator was temporarily restored. After successfully waking all the tourists we left Hameln at 0800 hrs taking the Route 1 over the hills to Paderborn. Just outside Blomberg **Sig Danny Kaye** and **Sam Brownlee** achieved some notoriety, if not their cycling proficency badges, by overtaking a BMW on a particularly steep descent! A quick lunch at Bad Lippspringe was followed by more rain. We reached the Mohnesee Sailing Club which had kindly agreed to suffer us for one night. The bikes were washed down and **LCpl Robinson** carried out basic servicing. One of the advantages of physical exertion is that a beer will send you to bed a contented individual.

**MOHNESEE—WISSEN (133KM)**

The Sauerland is a very beautiful area of Germany which everyone should visit. However, I would suggest that, unless you possess a masochistic streak, a car is essential. Successful cycling in the Sauerland involves not letting your heart and lungs rise any higher than your throat. There was not a cloud in the sky and it was starting to get very warm. While most enjoyed the heat, a few of us, not least **Sig Mark Haskins**, found ourselves doing involuntary lobster impersonations. Factor 25 sun-cream and a liberal application of elastic bandages provided relief. We reached the campsite at Wissen with distinctly wobbly thighs. A shower, another compo stew and one beer was all that was required to guarantee 10 hours sleep.

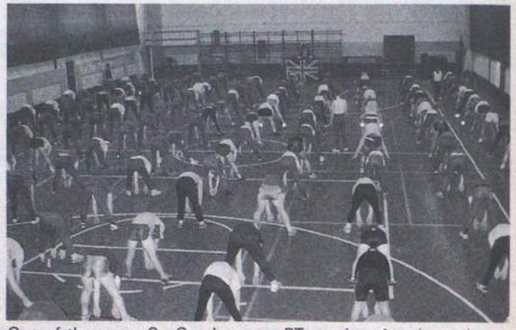
**WISSEN—WINNINGEN (95KM)**

A jaunt over the Westerwald (390km) and we found ourselves staring down over the Rhine Valley. Another hot, glorious day—just the type of day not to be cycling! We crossed the Rhine at Neuwied and reached Winningen, home of the Wine Witch, just after lunch. This time the swimming pool was not overlooked!

The first expedition undertaken by the Cycling Club was voted a great success by all who took part. We are looking at the possibilities of another trip, possibly to Schleswig-Holstein, before the next bout of exercises.

**1 SQUADRON**

The pace of life has changed dramatically in 1 Sqn after the decision was made to deploy us to the Gulf! **Maj Scott Ewing** the Sqn Comd has been leading his Squadron in rigorous military training which has paid off, as we are all now fighting fit and raring to go. The Master of Signals visited at the end of September and watched our preparations, and as we go to print vehicles are rolling out of the gate en route for the Gulf.



One of the many Op Granby mass PT sessions in a heated gym

**GOLF TROOP**
**NEW ARRIVALS**

**Capt Neil Dewar** relieved **Capt Martin Girard** as Troop Commander, **Capt Girard** is now Sqn 2IC. **Sgt Rick Dickson** arrived from Scotland for his introduction to Ptarmigan.

Golf Tp summer camp was spent at the Regimental Ski Hut in Moosbach, Bavaria. Shortly after our return to Verden the troop was stood-to to start training for Op Granby. The training has been comprehensive to the extent that **Sgt Hymas** believes that he is back in 11 Sig Regt. Sandwiched between two hour long PT sessions we have all been receiving military training and tips on working and living in desert conditions.

Finally, a message to JCUNI. Very sorry but **SSgt Dave Bradshaw** is coming with us!

**EAGLE TROOP**
**OC Tp** **Lt Phil Wheeler**

**SSgt Charlie Dubique, SSgt Colin Dawson** and **Sgt Anthony Millard.**

In Eagle Tp it is all change in the seniors. We would like to welcome



The 1 Sqn Op Granby Team with the Master and CO



SSgt Charlie **Dubique** and his wife **Doris, Sgt Colin Dawson** and wife **Angie** and **Sgt 'Taff' Millard** and his wife **Sandra**. While they were settling in **Lt Phil Wheeler** escapted to Sardinia with seven members of the Troop.

**EXERCISE DECI ANTLER**

Eight members of Eagle Tp took part in the above exercise in Sardinia. It started with **Cpl Jeff Foster** showing that he could find a use for the medical kit, before we had left Germany. We arrived in hot and humid weather. After being briefed and 'kitted' out, we left the villa and moved to the Island of San Antocico off the South Western coast of Sardinia. We then started looking for campsites as it became too late to walk. That was to be a regular occurence. Up at about 0600 hrs, walk for three-four hours, then look for a campsite. Some campsites were official, others were not. Some were picturesque inlets, others were not! I don't think the local population expected to see us in their known hideaways. Our diet of Pasta and Tuna became incredibly boring. **Sig 'Woddy' Martin-Woodgate** didn't agree with the local wine. **Cpl Jeff Foster** found another use for the medical pack when he crashed his motorcycle, and **LCpl 'Hammy' Hamill** made friends with a dog.

The second phase of the expedition took us to Arbatax for the rock climbing phase. **LCpl 'Hammy' Hamill** again showed us his adaptability at rock climbing by falling off at the start of an abseil. The Sardinians were amazed by our antics. We joked and jested with them that we were heat training for the Gulf. A phone call on returning to the villa made that a reality. A very enjoyable expedition, with all members coming back tanned, relaxed and rested.

**2 SQUADRON**

During August and September **2Lt Kes Russell** took 21 AFV drivers from the Regiment (15 of them from 2 Sqn) to Canada for battle group training at BATUS with 4 RTR. The reason for this unusual exercise for signallers was that the fourth mechanised company was provided by B Coy 1 Para who of course cannot drive 432's. The problem was solved by providing them with an MT Sergeant **(Sgt Lofty Brint)** and 20 drivers from the Regiment. In a previous contribution in *The Wire* the 2 Sqn writer had stated 'Germany today—tomorrow the World!' but at that time he was unable to forecast that our soldiers would be recalled from Canada during their R & R in order to prepare for operations in Saudi Arabia. Watch out 30 Sig Regt—the title of globe trotters is up for grabs! A third of the Squadron left Verden to reinforce 207 Sig Sqn on 20 September.



2 Sqn boys ready for action!



## 201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 30

**ADVENTURE TRAINING IN THE HARZ**

On Monday 20 August, 24 members of the Squadron travelled to the Army Mountain Training Centre in Silberhutte for a week's adventure training.

The group arrived at lunchtime on the Monday in torrential rain which prevented any climbing or abseiling for that day. It did, however, enable one of the groups under **2Lt Mark Mountford** to use the indoor wall to practise techniques and procedures in preparation for the excellent rock face in the Oker Valley. Another group took the opportunity between the showers to use the mountain bikes to visit Bad Lauterberg some 15km from the centre.

Tuesday failed to bring better weather and the windsurfers were forced to spend the day learning the fundamentals indoors. **Sgt Hoppy Hopkins** meanwhile took a group pot holing, an activity that the inclement weather could not interfere with.

Finally on Wednesday the rain abated and although it was still cold and overcast the hardy windsurfers under **Cpl Taff Jones** took to the water in the Odersee reservoir to put into practice what they had learnt previously. This gave us the chance to witness the hilarious balancing attempts to **Pte Jimmy Endericks** who in the first hour actually spent all of five minutes on the board. **LCpl Roger Bannister** tried in vain to keep dry by limiting his excursions to 10 minute sessions, but these valiant attempts were scuppered when somebody pushed him off the jetty.

Thursday brought beautiful blue skies and sunshine and this at least enabled the climbers to complete a good day's climbing in the Oker Valley.

Friday morning was another glorious day and the groups divided between pot holing and mountain biking. **Sgt Hoppy Hopkins** again led the pot holing, namely crawling on your stomach in complete darkness, 100ft underground through cracks and crevasses not large enough to swing a mouse! Meanwhile the mountain bikers pedalled their way around the Harz taking in the splendid scenery that can best be appreciated in fine weather. The group was a little late getting back mainly due to contributions from **Cpl** 'of course I can read a map' **Pollitt** and **LCpl** 'please don't cycle so fast' **Raybould**.

Apart from persistent rain it was a very successful week. This was largely due to the efforts of the instructors; **Lt Rogers, 2Lt Mark Mountford, Sgt** 'Hoppy' **Hopkins** and **Cpl Taff Jones** whose flexibility and adaptability enabled everyone to enjoy themselves despite the weather.

**SQUADRON SAFE DRIVING COMPETITION**

In preparation for the Divisional Road Safety Competition the Squadron held a safe driving competition to pick a team for the Garrison Finals.

The competition consisted of various obstacles such as driving through a diminishing alley, judging distances and BFG Tick Tests. The overall standard was very high even though **LCpl Nick Basford** attempted to complete the course in the shortest time possible. Everybody who participated gained something from the exercise.

## 207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 37

**SHQ**

All SHQ personnel are now refreshed and on a high after their block leave period. They are now busy preparing for another busy exercise season. The troop welcomes new arrivals into the fold; **Sgt Roberts** and **Sue, LCpl Burt** and **Rose** and **Sig Porter, Sue** and family. We wish them all a happy and successful tour. SHQ would also like to congratulate **WO2 (YofS) Willie Riding** and his wife **Jenny** on the birth on their daughter **Cothele**. Well done to both of you. Congratulations also go to **LCpls Hay** and **Burt** on their very well deserved promotion.

**A TROOP**

With the arrival of **2Lt Marc Mountford** the troop has spent most of its available time planning adventure training weekends. It started with a three day stay in the Harz, top roping and abseiling, with varying degrees of success. Then followed a weekend at Eckernforde.

**WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS**

The troop welcomes **Sig Cattanach** and **Venni** into the troop and also congratulates **LCpl Slade** on his promotion.

**B TROOP**

A quiet two months allowed B Troop more time for their vehicles and they were able to bring them to a very high standard of serviceability. Before going off on block leave, the troop held a barbecue at a local beauty spot. The day was enjoyed by the soldiers and their families with beer and bratties.

**WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS**

The troop welcomes **Sig Black** into the fold and congratulates **LCpl 'Spud' Murphy** on his promotion.

**OPERATION GRANBY**

As we go to press, the Squadron, as part of 7 Armd Bde, has been tasked to deploy to the Gulf. It has welcomed many new comers to its ranks and new Troops have been formed.

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sqn Comd** | **Maj M. J. M. Dyer** |
| **2IC** | **Capt R. A. Mulholland** |

**QM, Capt M. V. Ledwards, Ops Offr, Capt D. B. Hudson, OC A, 2Lt M. Mountford, OC B, Lt I. A. Walton, OC C, Lt S. McConnel, OC D, Lt D. Robson, RSM, WO1 W. Drain, YofS, WO2 W. Riding, FofS, WO2 B. Blondel, MTWO, WO2 J. Pearson RCT and RQMS, WO2 J. D. Cole.**

In two days the Sqn Comd promoted a WO1, three WO's2 and five LCpls—is this a record?

A big welcome from the old '207' to all the new arrivals from across BAOR who have come to form the new '207'. Thanks to all the donor units for men and equipment. A word too for our families who have been absolutely marvellous in coping with all the pressures and disruptions.



7 Bde vehicles starting their long journey to the Gulf



## 212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 36

Some of the Squadron has joined 7 Bde in its move to the Gulf. This is an example of the unpredictable nature of soldiering. Just when it seemed that the Cold War had ended a new adversary has appeared! We wish good luck to those who are off to the Gulf and we hope to see their safe return in the not too distant future.

**WATER SKIING**

At the end of August as a change from the usual football or volleyball, the Squadron went water skiing on a lake about half an hour's drive from Osnabruck. A wire-tow takes skiers round the lake at speeds of up to 40kph. Starting involves crouching down behind the skis holding tight to the handle, waiting for the tow-rope to become taut, at which point you are launched onto the water. At first this is very unstable and there were some spectacular wipe outs, the best being **Pte Helen Ginnelly** (WRAC). When the tow-rope became taut she catapaulted forward, headfirst into the water leaving her skis stationary on the side. After a few attempts however, most people got the hang of it and were careering round the lake. **Lt Dave Robson** spent another hour or so attempting to mono-ski, much to the amusement (and relief) of everyone else. We finished with a barbecue to rejuvenate the tired and very wet skiers.

Overall the day was a great success and we intend to go back to improve our skill.

**FOOTBALL COMPETITION**

On 5 September 212 Sig Sqn hosted a seven-a-side football competition between units at Quebec Barracks where the Squadron is stationed. The competition was played on a league basis.

73 Field Sqn of 23 Engr Regt were victorious, although there were many upsets and surprises on the way to victory.

The Squadron team which came third was: **Sgts Jacko Jackson, Scouse Taylor, Cpl Murph Murphy, LCpl Thomo Thomson, Sig Spats Brodie, Baz Scott, Babs Baber, LCpls Kenny Mount** and **Keith Meadows**.

**CYCLING—WEDNESDAY LEAGUE**

After a short summer break the Wednesday League started up again. The first race took place here at Osnabruck on Wednesday 5 September, over a 10 mile circuit. Unfortunately the weather was overcast and windy but the event managed to attract about 20 riders. For most competitors a sudden hailstorm added to the general enjoyment of summer cycling. Despite this and relatively high winds a number of good times were recorded. **Lt Dave Robson** managed a sub 30 minute time in his inaugural event. **Lt Rob Meinertzhagen** and **LCpl Mo Morris** both achieved a personal best. **WO2 Bob Pemberton** had sold his racing wheels shortly before the event and was using his spares. Unfortunately 3 miles from the end his freewheel exploded but despite this he still managed to finish the course. Results were as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Lt Rob Meinertzhagen** | 25 mins 57 secs | 6th |
| **WO2 Bob Pemberton** | 27 mins 4 secs | 11th |
| **LCpl Mo Morris** | 28 mins 44 secs | 14th |
| **Lt Dave Robson** | 29 mins 29 secs | 18th |

**If you are serving and have a standing order for THE WIRE please keep us well informed 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.**



## 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
## York

**ROUND UP**

On 21 September **Lt Col John Griffin** handed over command to **Lt Col Gordon Hughes**. During his final parade **Lt Col Griffin** was presented with his Div orienteering suit and proceeded to navigate his way to the front gate. There he was presented with a bowler hat and umbrella by **Sig Andy Walsh**.

**INTER SQUADRON TUG-OF-WAR**
**by SSgt 'Stu' Piddock**

The day started with torrential rain and high winds, perfect conditions for an outside Tug-of-War Competition, or so **Cpl Dave Smith** thought as he organised the setting up of the tents. At the weigh-in teams from 1 Sqn, 2 Sqn, HQ Sqn and 210 Sig Sqn all managed to get within the 640kg weight limit (even though 2 Sqn 'B' team had only seven men!). **Sgt Bill Baldison**, Team Captain of HQ Sqn, complained that the other teams all looked bigger and meaner. Team Captains **Sgt Archie Fulton** and **Cpl Nobby Hall** had a chat; the problem was resolved amicably and the teams prepared themselves for the competition. **Mr Pete Harburn**, late of the APTC and the Regiment, kindly agreed to referee the competition. As the day progressed it proved fortuitous that he had brought his wet weather gear with him! The weather did not, however, dampen the spirits of the competitors as each team tried to surpass the others in expletives and grunts. A special mention must go to **Sig 'Fergy' Ferguson** who, as the smallest competitor, seemed to have the loudest voice. As the round robin got under way it was soon realised that the strength lay with the 210 Sig Sqn and 1 Sqn 'B' teams and the pull between them was eagerly awaited. The preliminary rounds went to form and it seemed appropriate that the final pull of the day between 210 Sig Sqn and 1 Sqn 'B' would decide the overall winners of the competition. With a well deserved 2 ends to Nil victory, 1 Sqn 'B' team took the pull and with it four points towards the William Teachers Shield. 1 Sqn finally came clean and revealed **LCpls Jock Reid** and **Chocy Clare** as their Team's secret weapons, both having represented the Corps. The prizes were presented by **Maj Ovenden** and everybody agreed that it had been a good day.



1 Squadron A and B Teams
*Back Row:* Sig Ferguson, Cpl Cassidy, Sig O'Mahony, Sgt Evans, LCpl Oliver, Cpl Hadley, Sig Welsh, SSgt (YofS) Sirr and SSgt Piddock
*Front Row:* 2Lt Wood, Sig Smith, LCpls Reid, Clare, Cpls Wilson, Jude, LCpl Doherty and Cpl Guppy

**2 SQUADRON**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Tony Rock** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Ray Duffy** |

**Ops Offr, Capt Andy Walker, OC Oscar Tp, Lt Gavin Grant, OC Papa Tp, Lt Grant Hume, SSM, WO2 Smudger Smith, SQMS, SSgt Bob Clair, FofS, SSgt Slapper Baldwin** and **YofS, SSgt El Tel Burbidge**.

**AIRMOBILITY**

Since the Airmobile trial of 24 Bde on Ex Key Flight airmobility is seen as the way ahead. To this end 2 Sqn has been tasked with the Multinational Northag Airmobile Division (MNAD) trial. This will explore the concept of a multinational airmobile division operating in the Northag area. It will consist of Belgian, German, Dutch and British elements—all operating under one command.

It has enthusiastically taken on the task of converting from an infantry role to an airmobile role. This has involved a lot of innovative work both on the Combat Net Radio and Ptarmigan aspects of the future set up. **Cpls Paul Clayton, Jedd Bridgeford, Phil Winter** and **Jim Pritchard** have all worked particularly well to overcome major obstacles.

The Squadron has already checked the ability to rig our Rovers for airmobility and has gained some valuable experience in waiting for helicopters that do not exist. Each vehicle 'flew' with the aid of a crane from the LAD, courtesy of the REME. Now that we are 'crane mobile' we are ready for the next step—airmobility.

**EXERCISE LION SUN**

After a day's delay on the sun drenched tarmac at RAF Lyneham, the fighting second left sunny Blighty for a gruelling, company sized infantry exercise in Cyprus—Ex Lion Sun 90.

On arriving at Bloodhound Camp, just west of Episkopi, we came face to face with the Camp Commandant, **Maj Rock**. No one mentioned the PT at 0500 hrs in the holiday brochure! It was designed to acclimatise us to the heat but was cunningly sold to the troops as a way of improving the physique for the R & R later.

At the end of the acclimatisation period the three Platoons went their separate ways—Range work at Dhekelia; Trudos R & R Centre and Bloodhound Camp.

When 2 Platoon, commanded by **Lt Scott Youngson** finally turned up a company was formed under the command of **Capt Matt Hanson**. The exercise came to a climax in a FIBUA scenario where the company attacked a stronghold defended by a mixture of 'notorious criminals', including **Cpl 'Manuel' Travis** and **Sgt 'Castro' Clark**. In the end the good triumphed over the bad—but what happened to the ugly? Apparently **Lt Youngson** was still looking for his orienteering section.

**Cpl** 'Nursey' **Hatton** enjoyed the whole idea so much that he wanted to move on to a real village. However, he was soon distracted by the four day R & R period. The more adventurous struck out for Egypt and Israel but the majority headed for Aya Napa to sample the delights of Nissi Beach. We arrived back in Lyneham at 0430 hrs where it was cold and raining! It was good to be back.

**KOHIMA**

2 Sqn was once again heavily involved with the preparations for the Kohima Weekend. The amount of tentage and 'fatigue work' required seems to increase every year as the event becomes more popular and the plans more ambitious. However, there are many experienced hands in the Regiment and the preparations progressed smoothly. The square was swept by just one man from the AAC—with just a little help from his helicopter. It was still very hard work, made more so by most of the Squadron being away in Cyprus.

We had all been briefed on the background to Kohima and the work seemed a lot easier when we thought of the terrible conditions in which some of the veterans had fought. Of course some had been nowhere near the front but they still talked a good war! For those who do not know of the sacrifices made by the men of the Corps in this campaign a brief history of the battle is given below.

Early in 1944 the Japs pushed across the Chindwin River and surrounded Imphal and Kohima. By March the situation had become critical, for the great Assam base of Dimapur on the Manipur Road was being threatened on all sides. If Dimapur had fallen not only would the Americans, under General Stilwell, have been cut off but the Japs would have seized sufficient supplies to enable them to launch a successful attack upon India.

At the time the 2nd Division was in India but was rushed to Burma by road, rail and air, and wasted no time in starting operations to relieve 161st Brigade and the Kohima Garrison. Within a week the Dimapur—Kohima road had been opened and the Jap advance had been checked. To do all this the Division had taken only 31 days, from the time orders were received in India more than 2,000 miles away. At this time the Japs still held most of Kohima and their positions, dug deep into commanding hillsides, were very strong. The troops had to march by tracks which the Japs had examined and pronounced impassable. They had to work their way through country covered by



Burma—1944

thick jungle and chasms often unmarked on maps, with sides too steep to climb. In the monsoon rain they had to climb mountains which rose 7,000ft, using muddy paths which often ran on slopes as steep as 1 in 1.5. By perseverance and with invaluable help from the Naga tribesmen, who acted as porters and as bearers for the wounded, they reached their objectives. After clearing the heights around Kohima and opening the Imphal road the way was left open for the Division's advance towards Imphal. It was after that that the 2nd Division gained momentum and the Jap retreat became more disorganised until their eventual defeat. On the ridges of Kohima, the Divisional and Unit War Memorials bear witness to the deeds of the soldiers of the Division. In remembrance, members of 2nd Infantry Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment remember the bravery of those who fell during the battle.

The photograph above is of members of the Sergeants' Mess, 2nd Division. It is believed that these are the Warrant Officers and Senior Non Commissioned Officers who fought at the Battle of Kohima. It is hoped to put names to those in the photograph. Can you help? If so, please contact: **Capt R. J. Duffy**, 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt, Imphal Barracks, Fulford Road, York YO1 4HD. Telephone: York (0904) 659811 Ext: 2627.

## 49 Inf Bde Sig Tp

**49 INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL TROOP PERSONALITIES**

**Bde Sig Offr** — **Capt G. J. Complin**
**Tp 2IC/Recce Offr** — **Lt S. S. M. Youngson**
**YofS, SSgt (YofS) Carroll, Tp SSgt, SSgt O'Connor** and **Tp Sgts, Sgts Higgins** and **Roberts.**

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BRIGADE**

**THE POLAR BEAR BRIGADE**

The Brigade traces its history back to the 49th West Riding and Midland Infantry Division which was raised in 1908. The Division saw extensive active service during the First World War and fought at the first and third battles of Ypres, the Somme and the battle of Arras.

In 1940 the Division saw its first action of the Second World War in Norway before moving to Iceland where it adopted its Polar Bear insignia. The Division returned to the UK in 1942 and took part in the Normandy Landings, fighting its way across France and Belgium to capture Arnhem in April 1945.

The Division returned to Nottingham in 1947 as the 49th Armd Div, reverting to an Infantry Division in 1956 before being disbanded in 1967.

The 49th Brigade was reformed in 1982 as one of two Territorial Army Brigades of 2nd Inf Div, with a wartime role of reinforcing BAOR.

Today the Brigade consists of some 5,000 Territorial soldiers spread throughout the UK. The Headquarters is located in Nottingham while the Signal Troop is based in York.

It is surprising that whilst the Brigade is the second largest in the Army it is supported by a *Signal Troop* and not a Squadron.

**EXERCISE POLAR BEAR**

The Troop deployed to BAOR during 3-23 September in an independent role to provide communication and administrative support for the Brigade during its annual concentration.

The first two weeks were spent in barracks at Sennelager Training Centre and the majority of the work entailed admin support for the Brigade HQ.

The Brigade complex was meticulously set up over two days only to be torn down again to protect the Brigade staff from falling artillery following the activation of the Ranges for Op Granby.

The final week was spent in the field which saw a marked improvement in morale (which was probably due to the improvement in food!). The last two days saw the Brigade HQ a hive of activity with visits from **Lt Gen Sir Charles Guthrie** and **Maj Gen Rose**, Comd 2 Div/GOC NEDist and numerous press personnel. The return to York was made interesting by our map reading instructor, **SSgt Pete O'Connor**, who took the scenic route through Harwick via every large town in East Anglia. Did anybody pick up that Teddy by the way!



## 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt BFPO 15

**VISIT OF THE MASTER OF SIGNALS**

On Wednesday 19 September 1990 the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB, MBE, DL** made his farewell visit to the Regiment before he hands over his appointment. It was an important and nostalgic occasion since the Master of Signals commanded the Regiment from 1964-1966.

During the visit he had the opportunity to speak to many soldiers and to see the Regiment at work. 3 Sqn provided a line laying competition, while 2 Sqn gave the Master of Signals the chance to command a Panzer. This challenge was taken on with great enthusiasm, despite the fact that the panzer was driven by an almost over enthusiastic **Cpl Chas Fox**! The visit also included 1 Sqn who were deployed and providing Op Granby communications as well as a tour of the Bradley Centre and our Families Office.

The finale to the Master of Signals visit was a Ladies' Guest Night in the Officers' Mess. This proved to be a most enjoyable evening and a suitable end to a memorable visit.



The Master of Signals with members of 2 Sqn

**OPEN DAY**

The 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt Open Day took place on an overcast and chilly Saturday, 15 September 1990. The event was open to both the British and Germans, and the typically English weather did not appear to deter anyone including the natives from enjoying themselves.

The day was full of interesting and enjoyable things to see and do. The band of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders entertained us with a seated concert and a marching display, and the Blas Orchestra from Bad Salzuflen played alongside, naturally, the Herforder Beer Stand.

A flag race was held between our six Squadrons, which involved disassembling a Ptarmigan communications mast, carrying it over an obstacle course and re-assembling it. Once re-assembled, it was pumped up and a flag hoisted to the top of the mast. After a hard fought competition the winners were 1 Sqn, our Ptarmigan Squadron!

The Tug-of-War Competition was entered by three teams and the eventual winners were 49 Fd Regt RA. **Jonathan Miles** and **Uschi** from BFBS came along to give their support, but **Jonathan** soon found himself dressed in a padded suit and attacked in a dog baiting demonstration!



Fun and Games in the It's a Knockout Competition

There was also an equipment display which included a Chieftain Tank from 5 Innis DG, an Abbot gun from 45 Fd Regt RA, a Warrior from 3 RRF and a Scimitar from 2 Queens. 4 Armd Fd Amb brought along an AFV 432 tracked ambulance which, fortunately, was not used!

The six teams for the Regimental It's A Knockout Competition found themselves covered in flour, eggs, swarfega and washing up liquid. There was, however, plenty of very cold water to clean them up! With senses of humour still intact (just!) at the end of the competition, the MT team celebrated their victory—for the third year running.

A great day was had by all and we would like to thank everyone who helped us to raise the impressive sum of DM 20,000. This money will be going to a number of British and local German charities.

**HQ SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

**OC** — **Maj Peter Goss Glosters**
**QM (A)** — **Lt Col John Richardson**
**QM (T), Capt John Walker, MTO, Capt Derek Cleeton RCT, OC LAD, Capt David Vaughan REME, Families Offr, Capt Frank Dempster, ASM, WO1 (ASM) Dave Melling, RCWO, WO1 Gary Broadwater, BSM, WO2 (BSM) Jim Brotherston, RQMS (A), WO2 (RQMS) Alan Markillie, RQMS (T), WO2 (RQMS) Bill Kelly, TCWO, WO2 Pete Spivey** and **QMSI, WO2 (QMSI) Dennis Delaney.**

**SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING 1990**

HQ Sqn administered and ran this years Skill-At-Arms meeting. This was held on 28 and 29 August 1990. There were some very good scores achieved. Each of our six Squadrons entered a team, HQ Sqn, 1 Sqn, 2 Sqn, 3 Sqn, 200 Sig Sqn and 211 Sig Sqn. The overall team placings were 200 Sig Sqn, 2 Sqn, 1 Sqn, HQ Sqn, 211 Sqn and 3 Sqn. 200 Sig Sqn won convincingly. The SLR individual prizewinners were first **Capt Charnock** 200 Sig Sqn, second **Cpl Craven** 200 Sig Sqn and third **Capt Dakin** 2 Sqn.

The LMG individual prizewinners were first **SSgt Cleary** and **Pte Perry** 200 Sig Sqn, second **Pte Cockburn** and **Dvr Ross** HQ Sqn and third **Sgt Piper** and **LCpl Keith** 1 Sqn.

The Section Match prizewinners were first 200 Sig Sqn, second 2 Sqn and third 1 Sqn.

2 Sqn won the Falling Plate Competition and **Cpl Craven** won the pool bull. Congratulations go to **Capt John Charnock** and 200 Sig Sqn for such a splendid performance.



Capt John Charnock receiving the winning team trophy from the CO, Lt Col A. J. Raper

**CENTRAL GENERATOR REPAIR SECTION**

A year ago the Central Generator Repair Section was created within the LAD. This section comprises 12 Driver Electricians of various ranks, controlled by **SSgt Duncan Hall.**

The section has the five power vehicles. These are crewed by personnel from the section and on field exercises are detached to the trunk nodes as necessary. This pooling of resources in the LAD has many advantages. The DEs work on the same shop floor as the REME Electrician, Control Equipment Technician and Vehicle Mechanics. This facilitates specialist help required when working on the increasingly complex electronic control systems and fuel injection equipments found on modern generators. The DEs have access to the REME special tools and test equipment, and gain experience using it.

The class III DEs arriving from training are initially employed in this section. This gives them a good engineering grounding under the watchful eye of the Staff Sergeant DE and ASM. After six months they are trade tested to class II standard. As Squadron DEs are posted out from the Squadrons, class II DEs from the LAD are moved to fill the vacancy.

The Squadrons carry out their own running adjustments, minor repairs and servicing. All other repairs and major inspections are carried out by the Central Generator Repair Section.

The establishment of the Central Generator Repair Section in the LAD is a success. **SSgt Hall** who ran the section for the first year has recently left the Army for a bigger challenge elsewhere and the section is now run by **SSgt Gary Waters**.

Working alongside **SSgt Waters** are: **Cpls Gaz Pickford, Bob McCormick, LCpl Daz Welch, Sig Souse Hayes, Jock Taylor, Phil Farrar, Brownie Brownson, Ches Chester, Plug Graham, Dave Cox** and **Yorkie Coates**.

Recently the LAD has said goodbye to **LCpl Dave Hutchinson** and **Sig Eastman, Randells, Jobson** and **Weston**, all of whom have been posted to vacancies in the Squadrons. We wish them well in their new posts.

Welcome to **LCpl Daz Welch** and his family who arrived in July.

To **Cpl Bob McCormick** and **Sig Phil Farrar** 'have a nice time in the Falklands over Christmas and New Year'!

**1 SQUADRON**
**SUMMER CAMP**

The Squadron's Adventure training fortnight took place between 1-14 September 1990 at Mercury Lodge, Nesselwang, Bavaria. The Squadron ran five separate activities which included canoeing, windsurfing, mountain cycling, TRA and trekking.

OC Mercury Lodge was the youthful **Lt Dave Welton** RPC supported by **Sgt Simon Tatman**. Their source of local knowledge was very handy when it came to selecting a suitable nightspot to rest after a day's hard work.

**CANOEING**

**Cpl Taff Donovan** attempted to teach a group basic canoeing; well, when he wasn't posing for the video camera. Such skills as the '180° rotation and panic' was performed and mastered by **Cpl Eddie Leek**. On the other hand, **LCpl Graham Keith** mastered the 'I am getting nowhere' stroke. The only casualty of the week was **Cpl Mark Wood** who fell down a hole at the back of Mercury Lodge.

**TRA**

**Cpl Stitch McIntyre** (7 Sig Regt) took the groups through their paces on the slippery slopes at Fussen. After a few introductory climbs, **Cpl McIntyre** took the groups onto a progressive course of VS, VVS and ONINDT (A technical term for 'Oh no I'm not doing that'). On the final day the sadist took a group across the Leche Falls by traversing the gorge.



Sig Pete Hall on the abseil 'Now for the Overhang!'

**TREKKING**

**2Lt Louise Tomkins** took several groups trekking during her one week visit and even tried to throw herself off a bridge. **LCpl Dave Clarke** came to her rescue by laughing and then helping her up to safety. For anyone who is scared of heights the Hindelange/Cletistein ridge is not a recommended route. However, **Cpl Taff Evans** followed very closely by **Lt Tarquin Shipley** managed to conquer the ridge.

**MOUNTAIN CYCLING**

This new and exciting sport proved to be a popular choice. The days outings were supervised by anyone crazy enough to say 'yes'. This sport is definitely not for those who enjoy Sunday driving at 10mph. **Cpl Mark Wood** showed what he was made of, when he took off on his bike and climbed a small hill which took him 45 minutes. After taking a breather, it took him just four minutes to return. It seems that Mercury Lodge could become the new Top Gun training school for mountain cycling pilots.



Sgt Dave Purnell and Sig Pete Hall taking a break while mountain biking

**END OF CAMP FUNCTION**

The Lodge purchased two barrels of beer from the local brewery. A traditional stein glass was used to empty these barrels which served to wash down the excellent three course meal.

The Squadron enjoyed a two week period which mixed a full Adventure training programme with sufficient amount of time for relaxation. The Squadron would like to extend a large thank you to the Squadrons and Regiments that provided instructors for their Summer Camp.

**3 SQUADRON**
**PERSONALITIES**

**Sqn Comd** — **Capt B. F. Williams**
**OC N Tp** — **2Lt I. Gary**
**OC TM Tp, WO1 (FofS) Witts, SSM, WO2 (SSM) Somerville, SQMS, SSgt (SQMS) Woodger** and **FofS, SSgt (FofS) Minton.**

**SQUADRON BATTLE CAMP—HALTERN**

**Directing Staff** — **WO2 (SSM) Somerville** and **SSgt (SQMS) Woodger**
**Sgts Geordie Merrie, Rick Shingler**—Weapons expert, **Dave Mason, Dave Shuttleworth** and **Ako Atkinson.**

The DS deployed on Sunday morning with all the luxuries required to set up a comfortable base camp. Early Monday morning was when the Troops were supposed to arrive by air. Unfortunately due to visibility below 100ft, the Squadron arrived three hours late, by 4 Tonners in convoy. (Sorry guys, the RAF said it will try again next year). The SSM greeted the boys in his normal quiet manner and welcomed them to the battle camp. The sections were taught once again how to set up a patrol base, and were then sent away, into the wilderness for five days. Basic infantry tactics were brushed up, before recces were sent out at night.

CQB was next on the agenda, followed by dry training. An ambush was set at night, completely professional, except for the continual sniffing of **Sig Atherton, Stanley** and **Stimson**.

The next day was another fun day on the fire and manoeuvre range, with concurrent activity display featuring mine laying, demolition, and other things that go bump in the night. Thanks to **SSgt Brown**, 35 Engr Regt for putting on the display. Grenade throwing by **Capt Derek Cleeton**, let every soldier have a 10 second thrill. That night, resup patrols went in search of culinary delights. They picked up dead rabbits, courtesy of the SSM.

The section in defence took place on the fourth day; the DS as usual keenly and sensibly watching the boys give FCO's and shoot! Thanks to the PTIs of 4ADSR, who taught some basic unarmed combat, and to the Regiment's Doctor, **Capt Mike Eaton**, who helped in many aspects of first aid.



A section patrol competition featured many stands, followed by a 3km bergen march and a BATCO test. **LCpl Rutter**'s section unfortunately had **Sgt Merrie** as DS, who in his overspilling keenness, made them carry their bergens 1km closer to the finishing line than the other groups.

The sections now thought that they would have a quiet night, but to their obvious surprise, a JNCO cadre course from the RCT from Verden, had different ideas. All this was part of the master plan, although the SQMSs' Bedford full of kit found in the location was not!

After the CFT on the last day, the Squadron moved onto the next location, 3 Sqn bar.

**NOVEMBER TROOP**
**BYES TO GUYS**

The Troop has lost a few lads, and would like to say goodbye to **LCpl Compton**, who goes to 22 Sig Regt for his final six months. **Sig Danny Castano**, one of the two old trusted RR Ops, left for 1 Inf Bde HQ and Siq Sqn. **Sig Flaherty**, after nine years as a Radio Op, left for further studies and a new life in civvy street. **LCpl Thrumble** swaps jobs with **LCpl O'Hare**, from 16 Sig Regt. Finally, the Troop loses **2Lt Ian Gray**, who goes to RMCS, Shrivenham.

**HI'S TO GUYS**

Only three have joined N Troop; firstly, **LCpl O'Hare** mentioned above. **LCpl Tabor** comes from an interesting job in 14 Sig Regt, and **Sig Dickin** joins the Troop from 8 Sig Regt.



First Aid Training

## 200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 41

So what, you have been asking, has the senior Signal Squadron been up to since the last issue of *The Wire?* We thought of writing some feeble excuse about RSIT prep and following it with several lines of self gratification etc. However, this, fortunately is not the case, read on . . .

**ARRIVALS, DEPARTURES AND PROMOTIONS**

The Squadron welcomes the following into the fold **Sgt Andy Cross REME, LCpl Lee Hyland, Sig Paul Hollyoake, Geordie Park, Shaun Warren, LCpls Dave Taylor, Richard Ramharak, Sig Lee Copeland** and **Cpl Chris Breen**.

Fond farewells and best wishes go to **LCpl Billy Bremner, Sgt Ken Wood** REME, **LCpls Billy Duggan, Taff Thomas, Sig Taff Jones, Smudge Smith, Pte Pat Paterson, LCpl Daz Ariss** and finally **Cpl Bob Inglesant** on promotion to Sergeant.

Also congratulations to **Sgt Stu Hamilton** on his recent promotion.

**OFFICERS AND SNCOs V JUNIOR RANKS CRICKET MATCH**

It was a glorious summer's day when on 16 July two of the least able cricket teams this decade met on Detmold airfield to do battle. The junior ranks won the toss and elected to bat first. The bowling was fast and random. **LCpl 'Nobby' Hall**'s wicket was soon lost for a duck. However, the junior ranks rallied and scored a fine first innings, the sum of which will be kept a secret in order to save embarrassing the bowling elements of the Officers and SNCOs team.

So after tea it was time for the junior ranks to bowl. Their attack was lead by **Pte 'Olly' Oliver** and **LCpl 'Billy' Duggan**. Soon the outcome was becoming obvious, this year, as last year, the junior ranks triumphed. Well done lads, but just you wait until next summer.

**EXERCISE ESKIMO QUADRANT**

This was a canoeing expedition that took nine members of the Squadron 640km down the longest river in Italy, the River Po.

The adventure started on 28 July when the team, lead by **Capt John Charnock**, met up after a hard shooting camp and departed on a 28 hour drive to Berge on the French Italian border of NW Italy. Here in the afternoon of 29 July, we put the boats in the water for the first time. From now on it was to be an enjoyable and often hard slog to the Adriatic sea. Our route took us through some of the most beautiful scenery in northern Italy. From the crystal clear trout filled streams above Torino, past the dams that made the river 1km wide at parts, to the sections of the river that were dried up because of irrigation. Once we passed through the impressive lock at Monticelli d'Ongina it appeared to be plain paddling from there. All the river was navigable by large vessels from this point. We passed south of Milano, through and just to the north of Ferrara. During the trip we ate well. The food was bought by **Cpl 'JC' Craven** and we enjoyed fine barbecues courtesy of **Sgt 'Savoury' Hamilton** and **LCpl 'Tony' Lee**.



Expedition members at the end of their journey
*Back Row L to R:* Cpl Steve Sharp, LCpl Tony Lee, Capt John Charnock, Sgt Stu Hamilton and Cpl JC Craven
*Front Row L to R:* Sig Duggy Lacey, Faz Fazackerley, Steve Crosswell and LCpl Keith Betts



LCpl Keith Betts rides the rapids at Torino

On 15 August we reached Picia, the town where the Po meets the Adriatic. After one day sorting out equipment and another sampling the sights and sounds of Venice we returned to Detmold tanned and tired.

This was the second overseas expedition this year. At the time of writing the third and final group departed for the Pyrenees.

**SQUADRON SHOOTING CAMP**

The Squadron Shooting Camp or perhaps I should say Battle Camp, took place on 23-27 July as Haltern Ranges. Few of us had ever fired such large amounts of ammunition in such realistic conditions. By the end of the week we had all participated in numerous live firing section attacks, night shoots and CQB ranges. The chance to be involved in Stage 5 shoots was an exciting experience for all. Various other stands added variety to the week such as Helicopter drills, the grenade ranges and Soviet weapons.

We finished with a march and shoot which was won by the Sqn Comd's team. A hard but fun week.

**SQUADRON SUMMER BALL**

This batch of wire notes could not pass without the mention about the Squadron Summer Ball. It was an excellent evening, despite the comic, and a vote of thanks goes from the Squadron to **Sgt 'Stuart' Hamilton** and his committee. The picture speaks for itself.



Cpl Bob Inglesant serving the wives his magnificent buffet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GCHQ




## 211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 29

**SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

**Sqn Comd** — **Maj K. J. Hadfield**
**2IC** — **Capt M. D. W. Alexander**

**SSM, WO2 (SSM) R. T. Fairfield, OC A Tp, Capt I. G. Lawrence, OC B Tp, Lt J. C. Gillespie, YofS, WO2 (YofS) C. K. Luckham BEM, SQMS, SSgt (SQMS) M. J. Wood and FofS, SSgt (FofS) M. W. Thomas.**

**SUMMER CAMP**

Nesselwang was once again the magnificent setting for the 211 Sig Sqn Summer Camp. The large body of eager soldiers packed the lodge, but the numbers were soon divided into smaller more manageable groups for the four activities provided. This years activities consisted of mountain biking, canoeing, hill-walking and top rope and abseiling. The Squadron has quite a number of instructors, many of whom have a variety of technical experience. This ensured excellent tuition was provided for any person keen on getting the most out of their chosen activity. Activities were chosen after a three day round-robin introduction to what was on offer. Once the choice had been made, however, the activities soon progressed beyond the basic introduction level.

**THE MOUNTAIN BIKE EXPEDITION**

Preparations for the Expedition started in earnest on 9 August. Stage one of the Expedition involved trying to build eight good bikes from a decidely undernourished ten. After two hours of bike building which involved the use of every tool in the VM's box the group headed out on a 'small' 55km test ride. Who ever said what goes up must come down needs shooting. It should read 'what goes up, goes up and up and up a bit more, and will probably come down about ½km from the end of the journey'. With stage one completed we were keen to begin stage two. This involved a cycle from Nesselwang to Lindau on the Bodensee, a complete circuit of the lake, negotiating Switzerland and Austria en route, then back through Lindau to Nesselwang via the Oberjoch Pass.

**NESSLEWANG—LINDAU**

This was supposed to be the downhill stage of the expedition. But it soon became clear that Expedition leader, **SSgt 'Mad-Mick' Boyle**, was telling 'porkies'. Day one was completed by 1530 hrs and the booby prize for slowest man of the day was given to **Pte 'Tina' Turner** who was eventually brought back in the support vehicle.

**LINDAU—KONSTANZ**

'About the same distance as yesterday lads' said **'Mad-Mick'**. Approximately 80km. Numerous litres of water, a great deal of ice-cream, many a McDonalds and 104km later **SSgt 'Mad-Mick' Boyle** was officially declared an out and out liar. During day 2 a couple of team phrases were born: 'Escargot d'Alpine'—Snail of the Alps, a coveted title given to the slowest team member of the day. In fact **Sgt Lev** 'the Turtle' **Bullen** RAOC claimed no contest and won the competition from the word go.

Base camp was finally set up alongside the River Tungufljot, much to the delight of the flies, the wet weather and **LCpl Budgie Falconer**—this was the first of Budgie's moans that we would grow to know and love; but he does make exceedingly good garlic potatoes.

Right next to the camp the river provided the team with grade 3 to 5 water including numerous stoppers, falls and the canoeists friend—the boulder. First down to the river for a 'bottom' recce was **LCpl Lloyd** who tackled the first boulder with a knee to the groin. This having failed to make much of an impression on the boulder he attempted a drop kick—result, one very bruised canoeist with a determination to outdo the boulders at the earliest opportunity. This slightly strange attitude persisted all week.

The day came when it was time to try stopper drills. This necessitates finding a piece of water which enjoys catching canoeists unawares, holding them sideways onto the river, and doing its level best to capsize them in water that would be better off in a washing machine. First in for a demo was **Capt Mark Alexander**. He was swiftly followed by **LCpl Mac McTiernan** who started well and then made a very passable impression of a canoeist on a spin cycle.

As the standard of the group improved, so the level of water that was paddled got harder and the distance longer. Tricky breakouts, boulder strewn routes and the ever present danger of the capsize all ensured that the end of each day, whilst sat round the environmentally friendly number one burner, the stories abounded. Graphically described was the art of mounting a capsized canoe to save a bruising swim, as perfected by **Cpl Mark Pryke** and **Sig Del Del-Lano**.



The ever present bank support team, aptly named International Rescue, consisted of **Cpl Taff Evans** and **Sig Mick Hawkins**. As the polaris like head of the capsized canoeist broke the surface of the water, the first thing he was likely to see was the orange safety line snaking towards him, accompanied by **Cpl Taff Evans** yelling 'swim this way please'—or something like that!

Secondly came the descent of the River Pjorsa (white), some 50 miles from the base camp. Coach loads of tourists stopped to witness this descent by a group of canoeists they were quite convinced were nuts. Even the injured members of the team were rafted together and sent off down a river moving at over 10mph with huge 6ft standing waves down its whole length. The sight of some peoples faces as they disappeared in the troughs of these waves was only beaten by the whoops of delight as they reached the crest of the next one. All agreed it was a river most of the team would like to paddle again.

The return journey was split into two parts, the safari landrovers driven by **LCpl Lloyd** and **Sig Mick Hawkins** set off on the 750km drive to Seydisfjordur and a two day ferry journey home. The rest of the team, courtesy of **Flt Lt Carl Hodgeson** (the BALO), flew back to RAF Gutersloh.

All in all the aim of introducing canoeists to a wide range of demanding water was achieved, coupled with a visit to a beautiful country that is an adventurous training paradise.



'Why can't I go upstream?'

**KONSTANZ—LINDAU**

'An easy day' shouted **'Mad-Mick' Boyle**, but he had cried wolf too often already. The day passed quickly and **Kev** 'the Turtle' **Bullen**'s title went unchallenged. Other titles that day went to **Cpl** 'Bas' **Paul** and **Sig** 'Del-Boy' **Del-Lano** for 'The Best Kept Hairstyle' and 'The Most Aftershave Worn'.

**LINDAU—IMMENSTADT—NESSELWANG**

The two most successful pack evasion plans occurred on these days. The first involved a twilight map recce and dawn escape, and the other involved lulling 'Mad-Mick' into a false sense of security over a coffee while secretly chaining his bike to the Cafe railings. Despite shouting 'you will not get away with that' **Cpls Volvo Smith** and **Keppie Evans** did.

**HILLWALKING**

This began with a sedate cable car ride to the starting point on the mountain. Here the team was split into the keen 'Chris Bonnington' types, who went with **Capt Ian Lawrence**, and the 'built for comfort not speed' types who went with **LCpl Mick Grey** (7 Sig Regt). The first two days trekking were spectacular in the mountains overlooking Garmisch up on the Austrian border. Unfortunately the weather was not to hold, and by the second night tents pitched by the Lake at Prince Leopolds Hut were caught by the advancing waters. We abandoned ship and were rescued by the owner of the hut who gave us beds for the night.

In the morning we rose to find that our tents were complete with indoor swimming pools, which was luckier than our neighbours from the A and SH who had to go diving to find their tents. Completely sodden equipment brought an unfortunate and abrupt end to an enjoyable variety of walks that had been undertaken during the introduction period and the first two days of the expedition.

**CANOEING**

Following the introduction period, the one or two left in the Squadron who had not seen the canoeing photographs that were hanging in the Nesselwang hut made the brave decision to go 'paddling' (as the 'in' people call it). If only they had known what faced them.



**Sig** 'Ces' **Thomas** was adopted as team driver, and while we strove towards passing the ACU Proficiency Test, he concentrated on getting his driving proficiency test.

The training soon saw other casulties whose apparent injuries suspiciously tended to vary with the whiteness of the water. **Sig Povey** is now being treated for 'white-water elbow'.

After a swift introduction to fast moving water came the sub-aqua canoeing lesson, the swimming lesson and the 'rescue in white-water' lesson (thanks to **Sig Thomas**). While **LCpls Taff Evans, Steve Francis** and a fast learning **John Pendlebury** all grasped the demonstration phase of these lessons (MofI), it was **Sig Frank Workman** who tested to the full the rescue abilities of his instructors whilst paddling a magnetic boat that glued itself to every rock. **Pte Mark Holmes** perfected the half roll (known in the trade as capsize).

During the week's training we managed to reach a peak by surviving the 'Staircase' on the River Loisach and bluffing our way on the Olympic course at Augsburg. Everybody completed the course—some even did it in their boats.

The course concluded with the Inland Proficiency Test and a final period of tuition. Everyone, including **Sgt Andy Pookraj** who still carries the injury today, managed to pass. Our thanks go to our instructors: **Sgt Simon Tatman** (Chief Instructor), **Capt** 'Beast Master' **Alexander, Lt 'Phil' Gillespie** (brightest clothes in NATO) and our very own apprentice instructor **Cpl Mark Pryke**.

**TOP ROPE AND ABSEILING**

As an introduction to this activity the group had to traverse 25m across the Lech Falls which, due to the heavy rain, was in spate and was an awesome sight. Several methods were adopted in crossing this gorge depending on how brave (or mad) the person felt. Nothing impressed the locals more than watching someone adopt the flying jump and leap method over the raging torrent especially when there was nothing but a thin rope for support and a perfectly serviceable bridge next to the group.

The climbs varied in difficulty, from difficult to severe. But a climb could alter its grading just by changing your footwear from a pair of 'Army Daps' to a pair of **Cpl Dave Parkes** ultra sticky climbing shoes. Some people had no difficulty getting to the top of the climb—just getting back down—**Sig Fergie Ferguson**.

**GARRISON YOUTH ACTIVITIES DAY**

The 29 August saw 211 Sig Sqn host this event on Minden North Training Area. Young people from within the Garrison were invited to take part in a variety of military activities which earned the young people a certificate of military achievement at the end of the day.

The most popular stand for all those potential Nigel Mansells was the cross-country driving organised by **Cpls Smudge Smith** and **Hamish Milne**. AFV 432s, Stalwarts, 4 ton Bedfords and landrovers were driven over an arduous 2km course which sent the blood pressure rising. White knuckles often had to be prized from the dashboard at the end of each journey.

The day was organised by **Sgt Terry Crane**.

**EXERCISE REYKJAVIK QUADRANT—ICELAND**

**Leader** — **Capt Mark Alexander**
**2IC** — **Flt Lt Carl Hodgeson**

**Cpls Taff Evans, Brian Naylor, Mark Pryke, LCpls Budgie Falconer, Mac McTiernan, Lloydy Lloyd, Sig Del Del-Lano, Mick Hawkins, Fergie Fergusson and Pte Mark Tunley.**

After a year of planning the 12 man team from the Squadron left Minden for the whitewaters of Iceland to canoe in a country renowned for its contrasts.

**Capt Mark Alexander**'s previous experience of Iceland conjured up images of huge glaciers, active volcanoes, geysers and hot water lakes—not to mention the blonde 'viking' ladies.

The first leg to the Danish port of Hantsholm was completed without episode—the trouble began when the Expedition Leader **Capt Mark Alexander** introduced the team to their accommodation on the ferry for the three day crossing—the sun deck! Never before have deckchairs been used in so many different ways, by so few happy canoeists, for so long.

An unexpected stop in the Faroe Islands meant that the whole team could strike it off their list of places to visit in the future. The reason, as outlined by **Pte Mark Tunley**, was 'who ever heard of a country where there are no pubs and you have to order your one case of beer a month before you want to drink it!'.

Eventually the team arrived at Seydisfjordur in NE Iceland and began an 18 hour drive to the first river in SW Iceland near the capital Reykjavik. The journey was split up by a quick paddle on a superb iceberg lake, Jokulta. The water was ice cold, but the spectacular 80ft icebergs ensured the experience was one to remember—especially after dragging a canoe 30ft up one and completing a very rapid seal entry.

## 7 Sig Regt
## BFPO 15

**1 SQUADRON**
**PERSONALITIES**

**OC** — **Maj Tim Watts**
**2IC** — **Capt Brian Greenwood**

**SSM, WO2 Chuck Walker, YofS, SSgt (FofS) Simon Lock, FofS, SSgt (FofS) John Thomson, SQMS, SSgt Ken Jones, Ops Offr, Capt Kim Evans, SSgt HQ Tp, SSgt Graham Reith, TN 021, Lt Kevin Francis** and **SSgt Clive Doughty, TN 022, Lt Lee Smart** and **SSgt Kev Winkles, TN 023, Lt Kevin Atkinson** and **SSgt John Grandison, TN 024, Lt Colin Hinsley** and **SSgt Paul Shenton** and **TN 025, Lt Stuart McConnell** and **SSgt Steve Tupling**.

**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

There have been many newcomers to 1 Sqn over the past months. **SSgt (FofS) John Thomson** has recently taken over from **SSgt (FofS) Joe Meggitt**, who has moved on to 28 Sig Regt, **SSgt Reith** has arrived to take up his role with HQ Tp and **Lt** 'Smiler' **Hinsley** has been posted here from RMCS Shrivenham. Farewell to **Sgt Laws** who has gone to 21 Sig Regt, and **2Lt Jules Marsh** who completed his SSLC and has now gone to university via Belize. Good luck to all those who have left.

**PAGE TROPHY—INTER SQUADRON SWIMMING AND WATER POLO**

Under the guidance of **SSgt Anderson** 1 Sqn team was assembled at a very cold Friebad somewhere in Germany. A day later, at a very hot Hallenbad, the Squadron's budding 'Duncan Goodhews' were set to do battle against the other four Squadrons. The Squadron swimmers were undefeated in all events, bar one, and inflicted a crushing defeat. Swimmers included **Capt Kim Evans, LCpl Alan Peel, Sig Dougie Douglas, Andy Clarke** and **LCpl Titch Glover**.

Next was the water polo. After easily winning the league we met HQ Sqn in the final. Credit must go to **Cpl Read** for some excellent goal scoring and **SSgt Anderson** for his 'whale like' presence in our own goal. The Squadron won its second trophy in the day and earned many valuable points towards the Page Trophy.



The Regimental Water Polo Team, who were runners up in the Divisional Championships thus qualifying for the BAOR finals
*Back Row L to R:* Sig Yields, Douglas, Capt Evans, Sig Clarke and LCpl Drabble
*Front Row L to R:* Cpl Reed, LCpls Bairstow, Jones and Sgt Day

**VISIT OF MAJOR GENERAL J. O. C. ALEXANDER OBE**

**Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander OBE**, recently made his first visit to 7 Sig Regt since taking up the post of Commander Communications BAOR. The visit included the presentation of LS & GC Medals to four members of the Regiment: **WO2 (QMSI) Bob Cardy, WO2 (FofS) Gig Plumb, Sgt Andy O'Shea** and **Cpl Ian Harley**.



The General also made two sporting presentations for parachuting to **Capt Glenn Harwood** and **Sgt Sammy Cook**. **Capt Harwood** was awarded the Embassy Award for Excellence for advanced free fall parachuting. An extremely keen sports parachutist, **Capt Harwood** has jumped more than 320 times, and has represented the Corps' Blue Helmets parachuting display team on many occasions, including displays in Belize and Cyprus.

**Sgt Cook** took up parachuting relatively recently, attending the Joint Services Free Fall Parachute Course at Bad Lippspringe Parachute Centre in November 1989. Since then he has become a committed free fall parachutist and was the first person to be awarded the Wagstaff Cup for the best novice parachutist.



Sgt Cook, who was awarded the Wagstaff Cup for the best novice parachutist

**RUGBY TOUR**

In September, the Regimental Rugby Squad undertook a 16 day rugby tour of Wales, with the purpose of putting together a team capable of winning some major competitions in the 1990-91 season.

The tour unfortunately got off to a bad start, with a defeat of 16—3 in our first match, against Llantwit. However, after a few good coaching sessions under **SSgt Martin George**, the team fast improved, and we won our second match against Ystraginlais, 16—12.

The next game we played was against Welsh Mid Districts who were probably the best opponents we would face in Wales as their team is drawn from all the junior Welsh Clubs. The team did indeed prove to be a formidable opposition; however, the Regimental team put up a excellent performance, and at half time was winning 10—9. In the second half, however, the Welsh team switched tactics, with the result that they ran in several times to make their final score 38—15.

Having put up such a good performance, the team began to grow in confidence, and we overcame our next opponents, Dunvant, with a crushing score of 24—4.

Our final game against Pontardulais was played with half of the team suffering with flu. The play ebbed and flowed with the Welsh making more headway and leading 19—7 going into the last quarter. However, our team fought back to 19—13 with two minutes to go, and with a try and a conversion by **SSgt Trevor Keates** the team made the final score 19—19.

The tour was a great success, and the foundation has been laid for a good, well balanced squad for the forthcoming season.

**EXERCISE YOGI BEAR**

After a year of planning, 12 venturers set off for the land of opportunity to begin one month of adventurous training in California, Nevada and Arizona.

Day one saw the party split by flights and by a lack of US visas, resulting in seven stalwarts in Washington DC and the other five still on the wrong side of the pond, annoying the American Embassy. Those in the US found shelter in a convenient US Marine Corps bus and became their fortunate guests for two days at Henderson Hall, next door to the Pentagon.

The two parties were reunited two days later and set off for Baltimore Airport in two chauffeur driven 'stretch' limos. Moving swiftly onto the West Coast via Las Vegas Airport, we hired our transport and drove all day through Death Valley and onto the Yosemite National Park, famous for its glacier formed valley and sheer rock faces. Staying on the valley floor, we spent 10 days rock climbing, learning from scratch in most cases. On our first introduction to the rock face, most of the team members looked up in awe at the smooth walls which we intended to attempt at the end of this phase. The ensuing comments ranged from plaintive pleading, to downright abuse. Needless to say, after five days on the nursery climbs, almost all were champing at the bit to attack the more technical and spectacular climbs. One of these was 'the Grack' which included a 30ft traverse with no hand or footholds and a 300ft drop below, demanding absolute trust in the 'sticky' rock-climbing boots that we had all bought.

After this, Ex Yogi Bear moved on to Phase 2 and the main objective—Mount Whitney in Sequoia National Park, at 14,495ft the highest point in the USA. A nine man team set off from the Ranger Station to set up a base camp at Iceberg Lake, (aptly named). The next morning, a six man team was left after a cold night looking up at the towering 2,000ft cliff face. After an initial enthusiastic burst, progress slowed to a snail's pace as the team came to the infamous 'tower' and 'fresh air' traverses with nothing but fresh air and a drop of 1,200ft.

Throughout the climb, the team suffered the extremes of being baked on the sunlit rockfaces to freezing in the windswept shade as the sun tracked across the sky. Darkness descended quickly around 2100 hrs to find the team still six pitches short of the summit. The next section was climbed in the pitch black with much consternation from the climbers, not least the leader.

'We're all going to die', could be heard wailing up from those below. With much bullying and cajoling from the lead, however, everyone climbed or was dragged up the penultimate step of the 'Giant's staircase', a ledge just large enough to accommodate all six climbers. We then settled down to an excessively cold night, awakened every hour by a rockfall as **Sig Davies** kept rolling off the ledge in his sleep, stopped only by his safety rope.

Some seven hours later we greeted a spectacular sunrise, and continued our ascent. We gained the summit by 1230 hrs and started down the West Trail after a brief pause and photo call. The walk-off took another five hours before we met up with the base camp team which was in the process of organising a search party for us.

After a few days sampling the culture of Long Beach (particularly the cultures of the yeast variety brewed in beer), we moved on to the next stage, arriving via the desert at the Grand Canyon with the intention of white water rafting down the Colorado rapids. Unfortunately we were unable to do this as permits were fully booked up until 1992. So, instead, we hiked down to the Grand Canyon floor along the Bright Angel Trail.

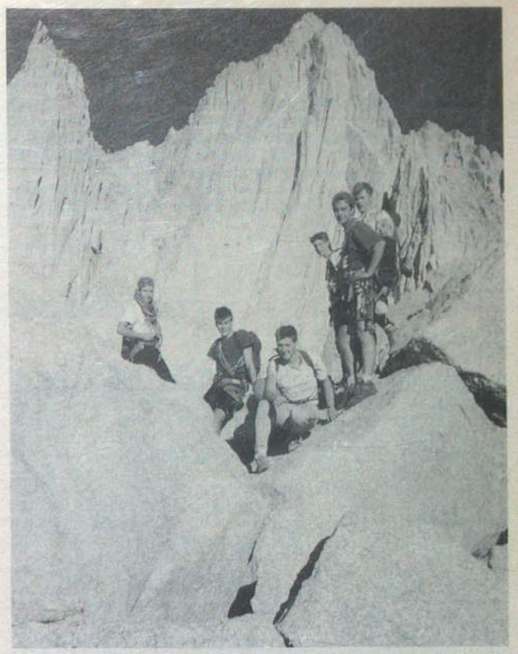
After sleeping in the Baker Desert we drove to the Hoover Dam, where we tried to persuade the authorities to allow us to abseil down the dam wall. Unfortunately, the Federal Office was not too keen on the idea and we decided to move on before it could resolve its confusion over British eccentricity.

After an admin period in Las Vegas, we returned the rented minibuses and flew back to Washington DC via Phoenix, Arizona, to the generous hospitality of the US Marine Corps. We sustained our only injuries of the expedition on the last day during a game of American football with our hosts—**LCpl Buchanan** dislocating his shoulder and **Lt Smart** being kicked twice in the head. From there the expedition ended as it started: confusion! Our special thanks go to our guardian angels in the Central Charter office, **Cpls Wood** and **Paton** (RAF).

The expedition members were: **Lt 'Billy' Smart, Sgts 'Sshh' Smith, 'Mature' Hughes, Cpl 'Crik' Egerton, LCpl 'Gland' Buchanan** and the seven dwarfs—**Sig 'Happy' Howard, 'Sleepy' Slinger, 'Sneezy' Cruikshank, 'Bashful' Abbot, 'Bird' Manley, 'Jody' Hudson** and **'Taff' Davies**, the cliffhanger.



1 Sqn summer camp. Day one, on top of the first peak and it's all smiles



Ex Yogi Bear: Lt Smart, LCpl Buchanan, Sig Davies, Cruickshank, Slinger and Manley in front of Mt Whitney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# 8 Sig Regt
# Catterick Garrison

**INTER SQUADRON SUMMER SPORTS**

The Squadrons' of the Regiment have competed this summer for the Austin Rover Trophy in Athletics, Tug-of-War, Swimming, Waterpolo, Volleyball, Cricket, Softball, Tennis throughout the season. Congratulations to all participants.

Once again 1 Sqn won the trophy having accumulated 37 points. The Squadron won every competition except for the waterpolo. The final results were as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 Sqn | 37 pts |
| TTS | 30 pts |
| HQ Sqn | 26 pts |
| 2 Sqn | 22 pts |
| 3 Sqn | 17 pts |

**EXERCISE BED END**
**by Sgt Andy Cannadine**

On a glorious Friday in late July, **Sgts Steve Walker** and **Andy Cannadine** set off with a team of students, members of the permanent staff and civilians from the Rotherham area on an intrepid jaunt into the unknown, on a mission known only to themselves. The team was to push a hospital bed from Rotherham, South Yorkshire to Skegness, Lincolnshire, in aid of the Rotherham Region of the National Deaf Children's Society, covering a distance of some 86 miles. Our objective was to reach Skegness clock tower by 1400 hrs on Sunday.

The mission was sent on its way by the pupils from a nearby school for deaf children. Phase 1 covered some 20 odd miles through Rotherham, Maltby, Bawtry and our rest spot for the night, Gringley-on-the-Hill. A pretty eventful day, to say the least, a traffic jam here and there and an RTA (not planned for) but our safety Rover driver, **Sig 'Stevo' Stevenson**, decided for himself that our mission had that certain something missing—a bent wheel on the bed. That was soon put right and we plodded on, gathering donations from the public on the way. Our destination for the night was reached at around 2000 hrs, where the admin party of **Cpl John Hart, LCpls 'Biff' Baker** and **Steve Barker** had laid on a barbecue and a suitable watering hole.

By 0800 hrs on Saturday morning we were back on the road, bobbing and weaving through the traffic, ducking and diving through the streets of villages and towns, collecting as we went. The miles on the bed were clocking up as we wound our way through the countryside, Gainsborough, Slough, Market Rasen and on to Chapel St Leonards. Morale was kept high by the escapades of **Sig 'Finney' Finnegan, 'Webbo' Webster** and **'Pip' Roberts**. Again, the team was met by a hot meal and suitable refreshments for the night.

Sunday morning saw us all, including the advance party, set off on the final leg of the exercise—the 6 mile stretch from Chapel St Leonards to Skegness. A few minor injuries had been incurred (sore feet, legs and heads) but we all arrived with smiling faces. A warm reception from the general public greeted our arrival. Our dead-line was not quite reached but 1500 hrs was close enough. Many thanks to all those concerned in raising a grand total of over £2,048.00.

**EXERCISE DELTA BRIDGE**
**by Sgt Steve Walker**

Ex Delta Bridge all started with a phone call from a **Mr Colin Stracher** of North Yorkshire Dales National Parks, to **Sgt Steve Walker** requesting manpower to demolish a 96ft footbridge over the River Wharf at Starbotton, nr Buckden. After a few phone calls by **Sgt Steve Walker**, transport, food and sleeping bags were arranged.

At the bridge we had to wait for the scaffolders to turn up from Harrogate. As it was a really hot day the lads decided that shorts and T-shirts were in order, plus a swim in the river. After about an hour four chaps turned up with the scaffolding. They took one look at the lads and said, 'You wouldn't get us in there' but the lads had other ideas and all four went in—with a bit of help!

Once the scaffolding was up we could go to work on the bridge. By the end of the day the bridge had been completely demolished apart from the main beams (six beams in all), each being over 30ft long and 1ft by 2ft deep. On Tuesday morning, after a brisk walk to the bridge, out came the chain saw to finish off the job. After the beams had been dismantled, all the wood had to be sawn into logs for distribution to elderly people. Whilst the logs were being sawn, a few of us set about levelling the concrete pillars and re-capping them. This job meant that the electric jibbers (jack hammers) came out.

**Sgt Steve Walker** dropped one over the scaffolding about a foot from the water, still plugged into the generator! By Wednesday we were well ahead of schedule, much to **Colin Stracher**'s amazement. Had the concrete been quick setting, we could have rebuilt the bridge there and then. Thursday came all too quickly. After a couple of hours work in the morning clearing up we said goodbye to the locals, with a big thank you from the Caretaker of the Village Hall for leaving it cleaner than we had found it! The lads really enjoyed it and look forward to the re-build in the near future.

**DALES SCHOOL FETE**

On Saturday 15 September, P Troop sent a team of volunteers to the Dales School Fete; a local school for handicapped children. The object of the exercise was to set up a small obstacle course as well as a small telephone network to form part of a fund raising fete.

The equipment used had been 'borrowed' from various departments around the Regiment and when set up it seemed quite a formidable course for the children to attempt. To that end **LCpls Jim Harding** and **Pete O'Conner** had a trial run with **LCpl Harding** achieving a time of 42 secs, a very fast time (so we thought).

The fete was scheduled to start at 1400 hrs but due to popular demand, the obstacle course opened at 1330 hrs with **Cpl 'Bruce' Lee** and **LCpl 'Janner' Wilcock** as officials and **Sig Paul Ralf** as timekeeper.

The WRAC contingent arrived to take over the running of the course with **Ptes Ali Findley** and **Chris Giles** ensuring everything was under control. Together with **Pte 'Taff' Watkins** and **Sig Stuart Sanderson**, they ensured that the remainder of the afternoon went off without a hitch. After the last 'run' **Sgt Dave Henry** worked out the winners and their times with the 14 years and over clocking an incredible time of 21 secs, the 10-14s achieving 24 secs and the 5-10 year group 39 secs; needless to say **LCpl Jim Harding** was last seen running around the field claiming the times were fixed. Sorry **Jim**, the times were correct!

The total raised from the fete was over £1,500.00 and combined with the cheque for £251.00 raised by P Troop in various sponsored events, will help to purchase some of the special equipment needed by the school.

A special thanks to **Mr Ken Poskitt** from the Regimental MT and **WO2 (QMSI) Wayne Cooper** (NZ Army) from the Gym, who helped to ensure that the event was a great success.




Cpl 'Bruce' Lee hands the cheque over to the headmaster, Mr Fritz Rab, surrounded by LCpls Harding, Wilcox, O'Connor and Sig Ralph

**EXERCISE DELTA SPLASH**
**by Sgt Steve Walker**

Ex Delta Splash took the form of a sponsored raft race held on 1 September, across Rother Valley Country Park, South Yorkshire. It was in aid of the National Deaf Children's Society (Rotherham Region). The team consisted of six men plus a 'Damsel'. The object of the race was to run approximately 50m, jump on the raft and paddle across the lake, drink a can of beer, pick up the damsel and paddle back across the lake to the start.

Everything was going according to plan until we arrived at the lake and saw all the purpose built, or should I say custom built, rafts. When asked where ours was I said, 'We are just about to build it!'. The civilian participants could not believe their eyes as the planks of wood, oil drums and rope were unloaded. It is a good job we had **Capt Shelagh Macleod** with us as she helped to tie the knots. All the civilian teams stood laughing at us saying that it would never float but we proved them wrong (even though it went better upside down!). Although we came last a good time was had by all, especially Saturday night when a pie and peas supper and disco was held in the hall of Wickersley School. Approximately £120.00 was raised from this event for the charity.

The team members were: **Capt Shelagh Macleod** (Damsel), **Sgt Andy Cannadine, Cpl 'Rev' Revill, LCpl 'Biff' Baker, Sig Glen Brown, 'Huey' Ellis** and **Cpl John Hart. Reserve: Sgt Steve Walker.**



**GREAT NORTH RUN**

On Sunday 16 September 1990 two coach loads left the Regiment and headed towards Newcastle-upon-Tyne and the Great North Run.

At the back, rubbing shoulders with the likes of **Sir Jimmy Saville**, stood **Lt Col Hunt** (honorary member 3 Sqn), **WO2 (SSM) Young** 3 Sqn and **Sig Knowles** 3 Sqn. All wondering how and why they came to be there. It wasn't as though we could even see the start, that was some three quarters of a mile in front of us. The starting gun went but, we didn't, in fact it was some 10 minutes before we crossed the start line.

The route was lined all the way by cheering Geordies. The density of runners, mixed with the good humour of the spectators, made the atmosphere electric.

At the 10 mile stage it was, however, obvious to the runners that crowd participation was secondary to the pain of a hot, sticky day and that whoever had designed the course, had had mountaineering in mind. Finally, South Shields appeared on the horizon and the finish. It must be the longest mile in existence! However, all who started finished and the monies collected en route for charity was cashed up.

A day to remember, another medal and certificate for the wall.

Must train next year!

## SOME NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS



The first WRAC Tele Op (Radio) begin their training. Ptes Barden, Duffy and Tracy with the rest of OR761BR



SSgt (YofS) B. Williams receiving Corps colours for Badminton



Cpl Riglar receiving his award for outstanding achievement from Lt Col T. McK Stoddart. Cpl Aimer also received an award



QGSigs Driver Linemen, Sgt Indra and Cpl Nar, receiving awards for outstanding achievements from Lt Col Young. Sgt Santa QGSigs looks on

# 11 Sig Regt
# Catterick Garrison

## HQ SQUADRON
### CATERING STAFF TO THE RESCUE

Eight strongmen called at the National Garden Festival in Gateshead to compete for a special super strength trophy. A planned buffet lunch proved inadequate for the muscle-packed contestants—so the Catering Corps came to the rescue. **Sgt 'Arfu' Medcalf** and **Pte 'Tomo' Tomlinson** were summoned to satisfy the appetites of the world's strongest men. They served up eight meals, each main course consisting of two 12oz pork chops, potatoes, pasta, tomatoes, peas, carrots, coleslaw and salad, with a 1½lb chicken and a basket of fruit as optional extras.

## 1 SQUADRON
### 4 TROOP

**Lt Steve Wheatley, Sgt Geoff Hodgson, Cpls J. R. Ewing, 'Shorty' Green, Ian Holt** and **Tony Pope**.

August saw the Troop bidding farewell to **Sgt** 'Scottie' **Sherrard** who left us for 14 Sig Regt. Our best wishes go with him and **Jackie, Scott** and **Ashley** on their posting.

Course No 0690 was the first undertaken by the Troop using the new CMS(R) format which meant, among other things, longer exercises; a mixed blessing for some. In common with the old syllabus the Troop undertook a charity event (a bed-push) raising £1,050 for a Newcastle Children's Ward. The Pass Off Parade was reviewed by **Brig T. H. Wheawell**, Deputy SOinC who gave a frank and relevant speech and presented the following awards:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Best Student | — | **Sig Nicholas** |
| Best Shot | — | **Sig Salter** |
| Best Endeavour | — | **Sig Dingsdale** |
| Best Section | — | 3 Section **(Cpl Ewing)** |

These prizes were a reflection of the high standard achieved within the Troop, the best student award in particular being very difficult to allocate, there being some six close contenders for it. The best endeavour prize was hard won as well, the decider in both cases being two excellent performances on the final exercise.



2 Section 4 Troop



1 Section in ugly mood



Sig McDonnel puts the finishing touches to his couchette

### 5 TROOP
### (ADULT RECRUIT INTAKE 9010)

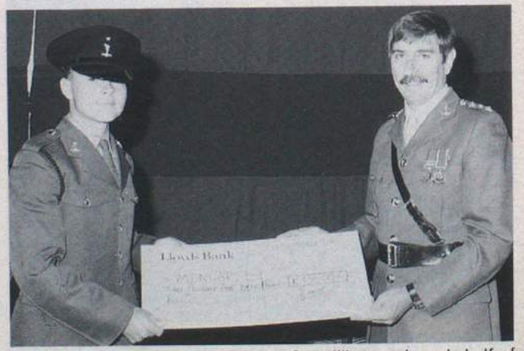
The last 10 weeks have seen another regular adult recruit intake through the hallowed gates of Helles Barracks and into the 'tender loving care' of the Troop Permanent Staff.

Apart from a couple of non-arrivals all appeared bright and reasonably early on the first Monday of the course. It should be noted here that **Sig Tindale** showed enthusiasm beyond the call of duty by arriving the day before.

The course progressed with its usual ups and downs and the occasional pulling out of hair (their own I hasten to add) by the staff. This goes a fair way toward explaining **Cpl Steve Crawford**'s ever thinning top.

The Troop charity sponsored event was a 10 mile walk at the start of a thoroughly enjoyable external leadership training weekend. The Troop managed, with the invaluable support of families and friends, to raise over £300 for the worthy cause Mencap, well done all.

5 Troop passed into the Corps on 14 September with a parade in very warm conditions that many parents and friends thoroughly enjoyed. A mention here for **Sig Jock MacGillvray** who fainted during the reviewing Officer's inspection but after a very short period returned to his place in the Troop to a well deserved spontaneous round of applause from the spectators.



Sig Atherton presents a cheque to Capt Illingworth on behalf of Mencap



After the parade the Reviewing Officer, Commander Headquarters Training Group Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison, **Brig M. W. H. Roberts OBE** presented prizes to the following:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Best Shot | — | **Sig Price** |
| Best Endeavour | — | **Sig Crossley** |
| Best Recruit | — | **Sig Whitehead** |

5 Troop cadre now goes into an R & R phase (and don't we deserve it?) before starting with another regular recruit intake in early October, we can hardly wait—honest.

### RICHMONDSHIRE TRIATHLON

Following the success of the Richmondshire Triathlon 1989, a further event, based at Newton-le-Willows school took place in July. The course, which had been carefully 'weighted' to suit cyclists, consisted of a 1,000m swim, 42 miles cycle, and a 7½ mile run, plus a standard event of roughly half that distance.

In spite of some shortcomings, the Regiment team did possess some talent, the cycling prowess of **SSI Martin Mariner** and **Cpl Al Gregory**, the running fitness of **WO2 John Sharkey** and the wit and wisdom of **Cpl Pat Vella** and **Lt Steve Wheatley** who had been pressured into taking part, again this year!

The competition began in the morning and progressed in a reasonably low-key manner throughout the day, the swimming pool more akin to a foot-bath and only able to accommodate three swimmers at a time. As the competitors left the pool they were faced with a cycle tour of picturesque Wensleydale which, for most, was by far the hardest, and longest part of the event.

Although the temperature was in the high sixties (pretty hot for North Yorkshire), the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) 'Dougie' Douglas** donned what looked like his wife's pacamac and took off on his bike with this garment trailing in his slipstream, looking like a wind-blown Batman. **Cpl Pat Vella**, shot off in hot pursuit only to be overtaken in the standard event by his boss, probably the best cyclist in the competition, **SSI Martin Mariner**.

By 1700 hrs all the teams had finished. As the timings were collated it emerged that the 'A' team had triumphed again, winning the elite section, whilst **SSI Martin Mariner** aided and abetted by the caped crusaders **RSM Douglas** and **Cpl Pat Vella** had come a close second in the standard course. The triathlon was an enjoyable, though gruelling day, doubly enjoyable for fielding two strong teams from a stretched and numerically weak cadre.



Cpl Gregory, WO2 Sharkey, WO1 (RSM) Douglas, Lt Wheatley, Cpl Vella and SSgt Mariner

**RESULTS**

**Winners 'Elite': Cpl Al Gregory** 2 hrs 48 mins—Joint 4th, **Lt Steve Wheatley** 2 hrs 55 mins—Joint 7th and **WO2 John Sharkey** 3 hrs 22 mins—21st.

Standard Event

Second Place: **SSI Martin Mariner** 1 hr 30 mins—Joint 8th, **Cpl Pat Vella** 1 hr 47 mins—38th and **WO1 (RSM) Dougie Douglas** 2 hrs—43rd.

### LEADERSHIP WING

Current research shows that *Wire* articles are read by two groups of people; those who have just left the Unit in question, and want to see what their mates are up to, and those who are about to go to a Unit and want to know what to expect. I hope that this article will bring back happy memories for those who have already attended the Royal Signals Leadership Course, without giving away anything of value to those who have not.

Leadership Wing is based in Scotton Hall, a delightful Victorian residence situated in picturesque Vimy Barracks. Apparently the Marquis de Sade never commanded the Wing, but many of his interesting attitudes to Phase III Training have been incorporated into the programme. Students practise a variety of skills, including written and verbal communication, fitness, team exercises, fitness, appreciations and oral orders, fitness, command tasks, a tactical exercise and er . . . fitness. Students leave the course after five weeks, and most agree that the experience has been worthwhile; our 'Old Boys' include several Yeoman and Foremen of Signals, a handful of Captains and Lieutenants.

In line with policy, there will now be a paragraph featuring obscure nicknames and 'in' jokes; these are carefully designed so that those who were there can relive the happy times.

The Flog; **Harry** and **Colin** (bless 'em); **Lucy; Staff Salter**; Boxing, Appreciations to the Board; Admin in the Field; 'listen to the brief'; Sweatshirts; the superb cuisine in Vimy Barracks; 'more effort less miles'; Ex Lambs Head; the Command Task area; Ex Black Cat; Adventure Training in Dent; the end-of-course do; the CO's closing address . . .

We would like to point out that attendance on the best leadership training course this side of brain implants can be yours simply by asking whoever does course bids. You know you'll like it . . .



Black Cat

# 13 Sig Regt
# BFPO 42

**RHQ PERSONALITIES**

**CO** — **Lt Col A. M. Wallace**
**2IC** — **Maj G. R. Elliot MBE**

**Adjt, Capt J. S. Lugg, AAdjt, Lt J. Collis, RSM, WO1 (RSM) Dobson, Trg YofS, WO1 (YofS) McMahon** and **Chief Clerk, WO2 (ORQMS) Barbe**.

**ANGLING**

The Royal Signals Angling Championships were held on 12/13 September on the River Maas a few kilometers due south of Nijmegen. The team championship did not work as planned, however, the Regiment was placed third with **Capt George Stubbings** achieving second in Section, **Cpl Dave Harrison** and **Sgt Paul Edon** fourth, **WO2 Tony Lunney** sixth. Perhaps next year.

However the Individual championship the following day proved more fruitful with **Capt George Stubbings** winning the championship by a clear margin of 8kgs. **Sgt Neal Taylor** came 13th and **Sgt Paul Edon** 15th.

**1 SQUADRON**

During the August break **LCpl Taff Kerr** participated in the Welsh 75kg Powerlifting Championships.

Unknown to us we had a champion in our midst, as he made a clean sweep and won outright. His achievements were: Squat—160kg, Bench Press—105kg and Dead Lift—210kg. Well done **Taff**.

**1 SQUADRON**
**BRAVO TROOP 24 HOUR SPONSORED SWIM**

For the second year running this sponsored swim took place at the Birgelen Pool.

The event was similar to last year except that the Troop had assistance from the Squadron.

At 1600 hrs the Squadron Commander's wife **Mrs Ann Doherty** sounded the air horn and off to a flying start went **Cpl Chas Roberts** to complete the first 15 minutes of the 24 hour marathon. As day turned into night and the temperature dropped only slightly we prayed that the weather conditions would be better than last year; our prayers were answered. All through the night the weather was calm and apart from a short drizzle at dawn, good. The wives provided hot drinks and sandwiches which were much appreciated by everyone. Spirits were very high and as time went on last year's efforts were being overtaken. Thank you to all those who turned up in the small hours and boosted morale. More people turned up in support and at this juncture we needed it. The barbecue started at midday and a children's It's a Knockout competition was organised by **SSgt Chestnut**. By the time this was over the place was crowded with people waiting for the finish of the swim. At 1600 hrs exactly, **Mrs Sue Wallace** sounded the air horn and **SSgt Dave Smy** breathed a sigh of relief that the swim had ended successfully.

The total distance covered was over 37 miles and the total cash raised was DM4200; the money being split between the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund and the RAF Hospital Wegberg Children's Ward.

Many people, too numerous to mention by name, gave up a lot of time to ensure the complete success of this event, so I take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for all their hard work and time; maybe next year we can do even better.

**H TROOP**

The football season started early for the Troop team this year as it played a warm-up game organised with the local sports club. The Troop represent MTV Dannenberg in the local German league, playing the majority of games at the weekend.

With the restrictions on teams from the East playing in the league having been lifted, MTV took the opportunity to invite teams from Osterburg and Doemitz to Dannenberg to play in friendly matches.

The Troop was able to field a strong team and wasted no time in getting down to business with **LCpl 'Fossie' Foster, Pte Dave McNiel, LCpl 'Spam' Davies** and **Mr Russ Coop** of the Civilian Watch Guard scoring. Doemitz' only goal of the game was a tremendous piece of Anglo German relations by **LCpl 'Jim Leyton' McKinna**. Plenty of entertaining football was played by both sides in the true spirit of the game and we look forward to welcoming more teams here throughout the coming season and enhancing our friendships in the locality.



Royal Signals Detachment Commanders Course No 6



# 16 Sig Regt
# BFPO 35

**EXERCISE KIESTA BACKSTOP**
**by Sgt P. A. Fluck**

Ex Kiesta Backstop was 16 Sig Regt's adventurous training exercise in Kenya.

The team consisted of **2Lt Mark Hanby, 2Lt Moi Watson WRAC** (promoted to Lt during the exercise and, yes, she did get the beers in), **Sgt Phil Fluck, Cpl Jackie Owen, LCpl Sarah Withington, Sig Pete O'Sullivan, Steve Humphries** and **Pte Debbie Watts**.

The team set off from Dusseldorf, looking forward to a month of activity, with the main objective to climb Mt Kenya, at 17,000ft. This, in itself, would take five days, but because of the altitude required several days of acclimatisation. You don't go to Kenya without visiting the world famous game parks, nor overlook the opportunity to experience Kenyan daily life. And there was R & R to fit in.

Ex Kiesta Backstop did not however, start as planned. The flight from Dusseldorf to Nairobi, via Milan, Rome and Jeddah, was deplayed for eight hours at Rome airport thanks to an Air Traffic Controllers strike! This was quickly put behind us as we neared Kenya. On arrival at Nairobi airport, in the small hours, our hosts from the British Army Training Liaison Services Kenya were there waiting for us.

After a good sleep, acclimatisation began. Nairobi at 5,500ft stands higher than anything in Britain. At this height the air is thinner, and you have to breathe harder to supply the body with the required level of oxygen. You feel it most of all when physical exertion is necessary so, for the first couple of days, everything was taken at a leisurely pace. The body does adapt, if given time, and it was essential it did because of the arduous climbing that lay ahead.

Then there was a second setback, after a weekend of rioting most areas were placed out of bounds to us. This meant that we were severly restricted in our movements, and we therefore decided to spend more time acclimatising and visit the game parks at Amboseli and Tsavo West.

Hiring a guide, a team set off on the great four day Safari. In this part of the world the animals are truly wild, and to see elephants (with tusks), zebra, giraffe or wildebeest is as common as ducks on a pond in Britain. These animals are wild and will bite without warning. Of course you are safe in the vehicle apart from the monkeys who clamber all over it looking for food and tourists hands to bite. After an excellent four days camping in the middle of the safari parks we had good news at last. The clearance was given to climb Mount Kenya.

Two days after our return to Nairobi we set out in our attempt to conquer Kenya's own mountain. We carried everything with us, five days food, fuel, tents and kit—the bergens were very heavy. There are three main routes up Mt Kenya; we chose the arduous, swampy Naro Maru route. You can drive half way up the mountain, but we decided not to; we wanted to keep the challenge and achievement intact and so we didn't hire porters (although some members regretted it later) but for safety we did hire Crispus, a local guide.

Mackinders Camp, which lies just below Point Lenana, our first objective, shares space with a glacier; at 14,000 plus ft even the equator gets cold, especially at night. If the cold doesn't cause sleepless nights the altitude will—and did. The climb was arduous from the word go and most team members experienced the stress of physical exertion done at altitude. The headaches were worst at night, no matter how tired you were. On top of this the walking is much more strenuous, as muscles demand more from less oxygen. All the exertions were worthwhile just to see the unbelievable views at that height.

The objective to climb to Point Lenana was successfully achieved by **2Lt Mark Hanby, Sig Pete O'Sullivan** and **Steve Humphries** after a three hour break at the Top Hut. None of us will ever forget the feeling that being at altitude gives you.

We descended by the same route and after an uneventful descent we arrived back at the Naro Moru lodge, looking forward to a well deserved and painfully overdue rest. The best night's sleep in days was our reward on return to Nairobi and Kahawa Barracks.

Having regained some semblance of normality and the checking of the personnel's physical condition we moved on to trekking at Lake Naivasha. This was successfully and peacefully achieved by all team members without any undue problems. The assault on Mt Kenya obviously stood us in good stead and anything would have seemed easy by comparison. The camping routine was second nature and walking with lighter packs was so simple. For the final week we travelled to Milindi via Nairobi/Mombassa overnight express and then by the River Bus, an experience in itself. Milindi is approximately 60 miles north of Mombassa—the Kenyan coast stretched for miles. We didn't use the Army's R & R centre as planned, but took advantage of a very special offer made to us by the proprietor of the Jambo Village.

The village, run by an Italian family, with Italian speaking locals was everything we dreamed of and more. All the local amenities were enjoyed, swimming, snorkeling, riding and many more. For five days we were looked after superbly. Anglo/Kenyan relations were enhanced by all, especially **Pete** and **Steve**, although the Anglo/Italian relations were slightly upset by us Brits beating them in the mini Olympics. The village was very informal, restful, friendly and altogether excellent value for money, which was true of the whole trip.

**CRICKET SEASON**

The Regiment has had a very successful season under the management of our very own **SSgt** 'Mickey Stewart' **Thomas**.

The season started with our first game against neighbours 28 Sig Regt, which was to be our only defeat in the RCZ Div 1 League, a rather costly one as they went on to win the league and we had to be content with the runners up spot.

In the RCZ Cup competition we were drawn away to 21 Sig Regt in the first round in which we won by 56 runs, and so it was to 13 Sig Regt for the semi final. Here we were put into bat and managed a measly 96 runs, however some tremendous bowling reduced 13 Sig Regt to 46 all out.

On to Rheindahlen where we travelled to play Rheindahlen Garrison, the current BAOR Champions, in the final. Having been put into field we had every confidence of doing well. However, with the first delivery of the match our BAOR bowler **LCpl 'Taff' Lenny** fractured his foot and had to leave the field. This was a blow for the side. However, we managed to contain Rheindahlen to 176 in their alloted 40 overs. A poor start by the Regiment seemed to have put the game well beyond our reach, but a good fight back by the middle order batsmen put us back in with a shout. Forty runs required and 8 overs left but it was not to be. The loss of a few more quick wickets meant we were down to 160 for 9 with no other batsmen as the 12th man was not allowed to bat.

So the season ended with us having only lost two games. The squad for the season was: **Maj Bushell, SSgt (YofS) Harden, SSgt Taff Thomas, Sgts Tiny Phillips, Bagsy Bain, Cpls Nat Jennings, Jeb Stewart, Nige Weir**, 'I'm the Umpire' **Jenkinson, Pete Fowler, LCpls Taff Lenny, Cass** 'Fines' **Caswell, Wolly Woolston, Stevie Randall, Geordie Dunn, SAC Ian Cuthber** (11 SU Det RAF) and last but, not least, our loyal scorer **Cpl Slip Skivington**.

Noticeable achievements during the season were the selection of: **LCpl Taff Lenny** for BAOR, R Signals BAOR and (BR) RCZ; **LCpl Cass Caswell** for R Signals BAOR (BR) RCZ and BAOR trial list; **Sgt Tiny Phillips** for R Signals BAOR and (BR) RCZ and **JT Ian Cuthbert** for RAF(G).

Congratulations to all the above for their fine achievements both in their representative selections and their efforts for the Regiment, along with the rest of the squad. All in all a very good season.

**INTERNATIONAL MONCHENGLADBACH MILITARY COMPETITION**
**by WO2 (SSM) B. Davies WRAC**

At the crack of dawn on Saturday 14 September 1990 two teams of four from 1 Sqn left SHQ and headed for the German TA Barracks in Monchengladbach to take part in the 7th International Monchengladbach Military Competition (IMM) 90. The competition involved regular and reservist teams from the USA, Canada, Germay, Netherlands, France, Belgium and the UK.

Having competed in the first IMM many moons ago, I was keen for our teams to do well and show everybody what we were made of.

The Corps team, number 14, consisted of **Cpl Rab O'Hara** (Team Captain), **LCpls 'H' Horsley-Wright, Jason Budding** and **Sig Stevie Reeves** and were the first to report at 0617 hrs. After I'd made sure they were all awake, I said goodbye to them at the first stand, situated in the barracks, where they were locked in a room to encounter recognition of uniforms and aircraft, Geneva Convention questions and photographs of landmarks taken from the air. It was a difficult start for my very fit but, not so knowledgable, team of young men.

Next it was the WRAC team, number 21, consisting of **Cpls Anne Carthy** (last minute volunteer) **Chris King, Bernie Smith** (Team Captain) and **LCpl 'Tet' Tettersell**. They had slight problems with the Geneva Convention as to whether a POW should be allowed to keep his 'thermos flask'—only later to discover that the thermos flask was actually his respirator,—only a small hiccup!

Both teams were then driven separately to the next set of stands at JHQ Rheindahlen, the indoor range for pistol shooting and tank recognition. The guys had done well with the expertise of **Sig Reeves** on tank recognition, the girls scoring high points on the shoot.

From JHQ the teams had to negotiate a 10 mile course, interspersed with various obstacles and tasks. The men did particularly well on the water crossing, completing it only two seconds slower than the fastest time of the day. The girls managed to stay fairly dry.

At stands 14-17 located at Arsbeck Ranges both teams competed well in the SLR and LMG Shoot, the girls also gained top marks on the First Aid stand, using lots of sympathy and TLC.

Luttleforst quarry was the setting for the final stand, where the Bundeswehr had set up a gruelling course. **Cpl O'Hara** and his team covered the last leg in under an hour, overtaking several teams. They completed the assault course in a fast time, with mud up to their thighs, worn out but satisfied and smiling at 1200 hrs.

**Cpl Smith** and her team arrived over one hour later, with a very white looking **LCpl Tettersell**, nursing an injury to her leg. My worst fear was, could they now complete the assault course as a team, in a faster time than 13 Sig Regt female team, whom I'd just watched complete the course in five minutes, a hard time to beat? **LCpl Tettersell**, teeth gritted, said 'there's no way I'm giving in now'. It was truly a valiant effort; through the hanging tyres, over the 12ft wall, watching **Cpl Carthy** swing back and forward several times over the water and thick mud. It was nerve-racking. With me screaming 'Let go and jump for it', at which point the whole team burst into a fit of hysterics; it was good to see that a sense of humour still prevailed. They carried on under the barbed wire (no rips or tears, the QM's will be glad to hear) and a race back against time. We'd beaten 13 Sig Regt by 30 seconds, a tremendous result, which was rewarded by doughnuts and cola courtesy of **Pte Gilliland**.

The evening saw us at the Town Hall in best uniform, (much to the teams moans and groans), awaiting the results with anticipation. The time was taken up by my buying well deserved beers and discussing the days events with the other teams.

The girls were led to believe by **Cpl Smith** that they were positioned just below 13 Sig Regt but the results were not complete. Eventually, the results were announced, the men although highly placed were unfortunate not to win a trophy, the girls, however, were announced Female 1990 winners with the WRAF Reservists in second place and 13 Sig Regt in third place.

**Cpl Smith** collected the trophy and hoisted it high. I was one very proud SSM.



*L to R:* LCpl Tettersell, Maj Harris, Cpl Carthy and WO2 (SSM) Davies
*In front:* Cpls Smith and King

## 1 SQUADRON
## FAREWELLS

On Monday 17 September the Officers and Senior Ranks of 1 Sqn held a dinner night in the WRAC Sergeants' Mess in order to bid farewell to **SSgt Paul Stevenson** and **Sgt Sue Leitch**.

**SSgt Stevenson** is leaving the Squadron on promotion and is posted to 28 Sig Regt. **Sgt Leitch** is leaving the Squadron on posting to 15 Sig Regt where she will join her husband.

The Squadron welcomes their replacements, **SSgt Merv Cox** and **Sgt Ellen Pomeroy**.



Maj J. A. Harris presents Sgt S. Leitch with her farewell present from the officers and senior ranks of 1 Sqn, 16 Sig Regt





## 2 SQUADRON
## EXERCISE OBERLAND BACKSTOP

Ex Oberland Backstop left for Switzerland on 13 August 1990. The destination was Adelboden, a small village at 1,400m in the Berner Oberland. Adelboden is the typical tourist image of a Swiss Alpine village: clean alpine air; green pastures; outstanding views of the Alps; and stylish wooden chalets. This was to be the expedition base camp for the next 10 days. The aim of the expedition was to carry out a series of high altitude treks in order to develop the leadership, endurance and self-confidence of the soldiers taking part. the expedition comprised 10 men from F Troop, **Capt Mike Stapleton, SSgt Alec Hamilton, Cpls Roy Gradwell, Kenny Sappleton, LCpls 'Shed' Wood, Willie Young, Sig Scott Landells, Willie Rushton, 'Ninga' Rudman** and **'Albert' Tatlock**.

The journey was uneventful and the expedition arrived in Abelboden around 1900 hrs. After booking into the hostel, everybody received their initial shock—the accommodation consisted of a 'Matrazenlager', essentially a wall to wall mattress—an ideal way to make friends and influence people. Mouse sightings also did nothing to improve the initial first impressions. Fortunately the situation improved rapidly as people familiarised themselves with their surroundings, namely the local bar, which happened to be in the basement of the hostel.

The first day in Adelboden began bright and early with **SSgt Alex Hamilton** going for a run (alone!) at 0630 hrs. Breakfast was at 0730 hrs. An administration period was declared until 1030 hrs in order for the expedition to do some essential food shopping and for the expedition leader, **Capt Mike Stapleton**, to liaise with the local guides. Shortly afterwards the expedition commenced an introductory trek—'an easy day lads'. This was to allow expedition members to accustom themselves to their new equipment. The 'easy day' finished some seven hours later. The initial trek proved more than a shock for some. The expedition had encountered all four seasons of weather conditions and everybody was beginning to wonder what they had let themselves in for. The trek began in Adelboden and went up the valley up to Engstligenalp (1,950m), via Bundihorn (2,039m). Lunch was eaten on the Alp while sheltering from a torrential downpour. The return down from the Alp took in Engstligenfaeel, a spectacular waterfall.



The Guide, SSgt Alex Hamilton, Sig Ninja Rudman, Capt Mike Stapleton and Cpl Kenny Sappleton, atop the Wildstrubel (3,243m)

The next day **Alec** didn't go for a run! However, to give him his due, he did go to the local bakery at 0645 hrs for the bread rolls. The trek planned for today proved to be the most arduous on the expedition. Unfortunately, the weather was again poor, but as the Boss explained, 'this is adventure training'. The trek began once again from the hostel and led up to the Schwand Faelspitz (2,025m), then a traverse across to Hempliger (2,438m). The weather did not help, obscuring the spectacular views which help to take your mind off the continual upwards grind. From the pass we left the signposted route in order to climb along the rocky ridge up to Albristhorn (2,762m). The peak was reached at 1300 hrs and we had ascended more than 5,000ft in about four hours, no mean feat considering the overall distance covered and the discomforting weather conditions. Lunch was a rather hurried affair, visibility was about 5m and everybody was chilling off quickly after a hot climb. The trek was far from over. The route back followed the ridge to Hahnenmoospass (1,957m) and then back down into the valley to Abelboden. The trek along the ridge was a bit disconcerting with drop offs on either side. The occasional cross in memory of some unfortunate mountaineer did nothing to improve your confidence.

Facing a near mutiny, Thursday was declared a rest day—for some. The 'lads' that is **Kenny**, the 'Shed' **Willie** (Junior), **'Albert', 'Ninja'** and **Scott** went sightseeing in Interlaken. The Boss and **Roy Gradwell** had other ideas. Tempted by a comment in the local guide book that Gsuer (2,709m) should only be climbed by experienced mountaineers led by a guide, they decided in the best of adventure training spirit to go it alone. Halfway up Gsuer both these intrepid mountaineers wished they had invested in a guide.

Luckily they never mentioned this to each other and consequently kept climbing. After many soul searching moments they reached the peak. It was for both a moment of personal exhilaration, which quickly deserted them as they considered the return journey.

Friday's trek was regrettably cancelled. The weather was horrendous and the expedition had to settle for a valley walk to the Cholerenschlucht and Pochtechessel. In the afternoon everybody went swimming in the Hallenbad at Frutigen.

The following day the weather took a turn for the better. The expedition set off in high spirits to climb to the Lohnerhutte (2,171m), and then traverse across the west face of the Gros Lohner to Engstligenalp. This seemingly innocent walk, however, had some surprises in store. People began to smell a rat when we passed a sign warning that the route was only for keen mountaineers. **Willie Young**, in particular, did well to conquer his fears. We reached the Lohnerhutte by 1130 hrs. After a quick lunch the Boss and five 'willing volunteers' were off to climb another peak, this time the Mittaghorn (2,678m). The climb took just over an hour and was a very satisfying achievement. A quick photo session on top was followed by a rapid descent in order to rejoin the others for the remainder of the traverse. The traverse from the hut to Engstligenalp was easier than expected, although the sheer drop off continually to your right hand side did produce more than the odd dizzy moment. An unexpected rockfall caused a nasty moment when a rock the size of a football narrowly missed **Alex**'s head. Finally arriving at Engstligenalp the expedition decended to the valley by cable car.

Sunday was a day of rest and preparation for the climax of the expedition, the ascent of Gross Lohner (3,049m) on Monday and Wildstrubel (3,243m) on Tuesday.

An early start on Monday. The guide met us at Engstligenalp at 0730 hrs for our ascent of Gross Lohner. The chosen five for today's adventure were: the Boss, **'Shed', Albert, Willie** (Junior) and **Scott**. The guide set a very steady pace and everybody settled down for an enjoyable 'walk'. Apprehension increased along with the wind strength. The 'walk' slowly turned into a scramble, and then on reaching a seemingly impassable crag we were all roped together. The Boss was frantically trying to capture those moments of unadulterated fear on everybody's face with a video camera that was strapped to his chest. Once roped on there was no turning back and we made good time reaching the summit at about midday. The view was spectacular and the guide pointed out all the major peaks in Europe. A well deserved lunch on the top was followed by a careful descent back to the alp.

Reveille on Tuesday was at 0400 hrs. The group for the ascent of Wildstrubel were: the Boss, **Alec, Kenny, Roy** and **Ninja**. Due to the early start we stayed the night on Engstligenalp in a Matrazenlager. Breakfast was a rather subdued affair, as you would expect at that time in the morning. The guide met us at 0445 hrs and after a quick brief on the equipment we set off. The pace was again steady but due to unusual climatic conditions the temperature was very warm and the first two hours were uncomfortable. At a little over 2,500m we reached the glacier and stopped for a quick rest. Krampons and harnesses were donned and we were roped together. Initially the going over the glacier was easy, but as the gradient increased and the snow turned to ice the going became treacherous. The Boss still valiantly 'videoing' suffered a confidence bruising fall, damaging the video camera in the process. The weather was by now closing in and we were thankful to reach the summit in time to take a quick glimpse of the scenery before we were enveloped in cloud. The temperature dropped startingly fast and we quickly had lunch, although it was only 0900 hrs, before heading off down. Two and a half hours later a well

exhausted group celebrated yet another successful climb at an Alpine restaurant.

The following day was spent packing and moving to Berne for a days sightseeing and before returning to Wildenrath. Everybody had gained something from their experiences and the aim of the expedition had been achieved.

## 3 SQUADRON
## 'N' TROOP—RAF GUTERSLOH

### NEW DIGITAL TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

After some years the exchange is finally in and working to everyone's delight. The planning and preparation of the past two years has paid off. (The Troop and Bielefeld Tels office are once again the best of friends). The project was made easier by having computerised records (thank you **Flt Lt Brian Mitchell**) and a programme written by **Cpl Tony Attwater** (now Mr) which enabled the Troop to assist the DBP. It was made harder by having to change everything to three wire working from two wire! In addition to the new exchange we now have a revamped syscon which has made a vast difference to working conditions and quality of life for the duty mushrooms in the cellar.



'Not deep enough lads' Comd 4 Sig Gp giving his expert opinion on trench digging at RAF Gutersloh

### NW AND SE PILOT BRIEFING FACILITIES

Both of these pilot briefing facilities have been completed, the pilots and engineers having now mastered the new BT technology that we have installed for them. Both dispersals needed major cable diversions involving a lot of digging and swearing. Commander 4 Sig Gp **Col Peter Chaddock** came to check the work and he recalled his days here as an Airfield Troop Commander.

### COMINGS AND GOINGS

There have been many new arrivals and departures: Farewell and good luck for the future to: **Sgt Dave James**—35 Sig Regt (V), enjoy your weekends, **Sgt Steve** and **Freda Gerrish** to ACPO for a well earned rest, **Sgt Taff Cummings** to School of Signals via a BFT, **Cpl 'Budgie' Parrett** and **Cpl Tony** and **Jan Attwater** to civvie street—every success. **LCpl Bert Reynolds** and **Sig Mesmer** to the sun in Belize and **Cfn Hurst** to Bulford.

### WELCOME

A warm welcome is extended to: **Sgts Jim** and **Betty Jenkins, Roger** and **Ann Calton, Cpl Bob** and **Helga Crossley, LCpl Al** and **Carmen Richie, WLCpl Jane Pulsford, Sig Sid** and **Debra Crowton, Taff** and **Jane Rees, Shane McKeown, Gordon Cavanagh,** Boy **George Edwards, David Beattie, Julian Davidge, Neil McMillan, Andy Hunter, Iain Reynolds, Jason Harris, Dean McCash** and our tame VM **Cfn Steve Kefford**. We hope you all enjoy your stay with the Troop.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congatulations to: **Sgt Scouse Sartorious** on promotion to Sgt, **LCpl Al Minton** on promotion to LCpl, **Sig Taff** and **Jane Rees** on the birth of their son **Matthew, LCpl Mark Sherwood** on his marriage to **Gabrielle.**

### SPORTING FRONT

Football—played two, won one, lost one, **Cpl Telford** broke an ankle (he played a stormer for two minutes).

### GOLF

The Intrepid Troop Golf Team travelled to the Rear Combat Zone on 31 July to do battle for the Inter Troop Golf Trophy. It was a very close contest and an excellently organised event (well done OIC Golf). The team consisted of **Capt Gary Mason, Cpls John Telford, Mark Bullivant, Simon Bullivant, LCpl Mark Sherwood** and the team captain **Sig** (now LCpl) **Al Minton**. An eventful day, the OC hit himself in the eye with his ball (Sand Bunker) breaking his glasses, his playing partners (CO and **Capt Williams**) spent five minutes picking glass out of his eye muttering 'Thats a two shot penalty'. **Cpl Telford** changed his grip several times and found one he liked for the last nine holes. **LCpl Mark Sherwood** surprised himself and played well all day. **Sig Minto** played so well that he gained promotion on the spot in the Clubhouse, a great end to a great day. Oh by the way we won the trophy so we'll see you at the sharp end next year.

## 4 SQUADRON

Sports kit was donned and we prepared for a gentle run. The route had been chosen by **Capt Jeremy Tod,** but surprise, we soon found ourselves in the woods opposite camp (groan). However there was a reason for this drastic course which was soon revealed. We were on our way to the Station Gymnasium where, a few less than serious games of volleyball and football were played.

After a refreshing shower we made our way back to the Squadron, where the smell of freshly cooked bacon and eggs gave the hint that breakfast was unavoidable.

Five-star service accompanied a Five-star meal all the trimmings. The meal was cooked by **LCpl Newman** assisted by **LCpl Heap**.

We then went to the Station Golf Course. Having been divided into three teams of three and issued with a variety of irons and putters we set out for the first tee and a 'better ball' competition to be held over nine holes.

This part of the day had been organised by our 'Regimental' golfer **WO2 (SSM) Joe Fairbairn**, who had devised all sorts of things to handicap us further, including using the revetments dotted around the course. A cracking drive on the first by **Capt Duncan Warne** saw his team take an early lead but the SSM's team, dominated by the Sqn Comd soon replied.

The standard of golf varied considerably and consistent play even more so but one of the highlights was seeing **Sgt Al Coleman** making the third green look like Blackpool beach as he removed all the sand with his ball.

The competition at the ninth hole saw a narrow victory for the Sqn Comd's team of the SSM and **Sgt Al Coleman**. We made our way back to the clubhouse thinking that all the activity had now finished.

A direction to change back into boots, denims and T-shirts by **SSgt 'Geordie' Bincliffe** brought astonished looks but keeping with the spirit of the day everybody did as instructed apart from **Capts Duncan Warne** and **Jeremy Tod** who promptly disappeared from the Golf Club at the rate of knots.

### EXERCISE GUIDED MARATHON 1990
**by Sgt A. Young**

With much support, it was decided to make money for Guide Dogs for the Blind. Sponsors were sought everywhere and many Regimental members wanted to help and we received several answers from our adverts in local papers and in the Midlands and, in particular from one lady, **Maureen Carvell**. All our publicity lead to a healthy response for sponsorship including Jaguar Cars and P&O European ferries.

Many thanks to Pickfords who transported all the sponsor clothing from the Jaguar Works in Coventry to Ayrshire Barracks in Monchengladbach. The kit arrived only four days before departure. The vehicles were collected only a few hours before departure and to the team's credit, everything was loaded in time for a pre-departure photo call with the CO.

After the photo the lead vehicle sped off 10kms down the road and the cyclist/runner was followed slowly by the pursuit vehicle. This was it, no turning back now! Each vehicle was issued a running rota and a changeover of the cyclist/runner took place every 5kms. Surprisingly good time was made by all the runners due to the flat ground and the fact that the cyclists pulled the blindfolded runner at a greater pace than normal. The only difficulty was that, when blindfolded, there was no sensation of time.





*Back row (left to right):* Sgt John Ashley, Sig Scouse Hudson and Sgt Chippy Chapman
*Middle row (left to right):* Sgt Frank Branson, Sig Ian Herriot, LCpls Dave Gallagher, Steve Brownley, Sgt Stan Haynes, LCpls Dinger Bell and Dave Robinson
*Front row (left to right):* Sgt Andy Young, Cpl Kev Jarvis, LCpls Pete Curtis and Eric Francis

Continuous running was very stressful after twice round the rota, but determination, courage and the thought of getting to the ferry at Zeebrugge a whole 24 hours early, kept everybody going. The arrival time at Zeebrugge was 1030 hrs on 1 September.

P&O ferries excelled themselves by providing shower facilities and a captive audience. The ferry crossing itself was a good opportunity to beg for money. The Jaguar mob led by **Sgt Stan Haynes** started in earnest and before retiring for the evening he and a few members of the team had raised £120.

The Captain woke the team from well deserved slumber to inform us that the boat would dock in one hour. After a quick wash and a hearty breakfast the team met at the minibuses.

The A45 proved a long up hill climb for the runners with much traffic. By the time the team had reached Northampton traffic had built up to rush hour capacity with a couple of miles tailback. The Northampton police asked us to move on. We therefore, reluctantly, moved on six miles which was one leg for a pair of cyclists/runners. When the traffic subsided, running re-commenced unhindered all the way into Royal Leamington Spa and to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association HQ. Not forgetting the 6 miles that we had to skip the team went to the local municipal athletics track to complete the distance.

The run finished at 031445B crossing the front line of the GDBA 24 hours ahead of schedule. The time was right for a quick clean up and a couple of days R & R for all concerned.

A lot of publicity had been given to Ex Guided Marathon in the town of Leamington Spa. Many public houses had arranged collection afternoons/evenings for the team to attend.

One lady in particular did extremely well for the team by raising £200 and also a collection evening at the Star and Garter Pub. This was a particularly fine effort; many thanks to **Maureen Carvell. Connie Patrickson**, wife of **SSgt Ray Patrickson** also did us proud by raising money from within the Regiment.

At the final publicity event photographers and reporters from many local papers came to see the 14 Corps soldiers who had completed the charity run. To their surprise 16 Royal Signals soldiers were there. They were **Mr Bill** 'Pops' **Reeves** 89 years young, a founder member of the Corps in January 1920. **Pop** was a visual signaller in the Khyber Pass in 1921 and an instructor in Catterick in the subject of electricity and magnetism in 1940. **Pop** suffers from Glaucoma, which can cause blindness. Maybe our money raised will provide a dog for him eventually. The other was **Mr Cyril Foster** 76 years young who is the secretary of the Coventry Royal Signals Association. **Cyril** was called up on Christmas Day 1944 and later served as an operator in Germany. His weekly wage was 24 shillings and no LOA! Thanks to you both for making the photographs and the visit to the Association so worthwhile and interesting.

The aim of the run was to raise £1,500 for charity. To date, some £1,700 has been raised so the event has been an unqualified success. **Sgt Young** and his team are justifiably pleased with their efforts.

### INTER SQUADRON BASKETBALL COMPETITION

The Regimental Inter Squadron Basketball Competition provided an excellent day of sporting activity with each of the five squadrons entering a team.

3 Sqn and 2 Sqn started the competition off and provided an entertaining battle, the two sides being separated only by some superb outside shooting by **LCpl Jones** of 3 Sqn.

All the teams in the competition played with maximum effort; of particular note was HQ Sqn with their new found star **Maj Locke** who must have clocked up twice as many miles on the court as anyone else.

It soon became clear that 3 Sqn had the slightly stronger team in the competition. However 1 Sqn nearly upset the final outcome when they stormed into a five point lead in their match against 3 Sqn. With the crowd giving 1 Sqn maximum verbal support 3 Sqn struggled to stay in touch. It wasn't until a quick change of tactics, changing the defence to 'man to man' marking, and some good shooting from **Sig Holmes** that 3 Sqn managed to close the gap and finally win both the game and competition. Thanks to **Sgt Matless** for organising the competition and to the referees **FSgt Griffiths** and **SAC Anderson** for their expertise.

### RAF WILDENRATH RELAY RACE

Each year the Station organises a relay race as part of 'Battle of Britain' Sports Competition. The race is a four man relay, each person completing a 2.2 mile road circuit. This race is very competitive but 4 (SH) Sqn gained the prize for the second year running with a magnificent team effort. However, the greatest competition is amongst the veterans (over 40's) teams. Last year's winners were HQ Sqn and they fielded a strong team again this year as the RAF were very determined to take the trophy. After a close race the HQ Sqn team, led by the CO, managed to retain the trophy.

### LATE ENTRY OFFICERS

Various attempts have been made in the past months to lift the accolade of having the most Late Entry (LE) officers and the longest period of accumulated LE service. 21 Sig Regt has now decided to join the fray with what we believe is a winning entry. Our LE officers as at 1 September 1990, their appointments and service are:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Maj Andy Locke** | 21C | 30 years 9 months |
| **Maj Ken Davies-Stewart** | QM | 34 years 1 month |
| **Maj Tony Hewett** | OC HQ Sqn | 28 years |
| **Maj Tony Whydell** | OC 3 Sqn | 31 years |
| **Maj Andy Hickling** | OC 4 Sqn | 21 years |
| **Capt Gary Mason** | OC N Tp | 26 years 3 months |
| **Capt Dave Wright** | OC L Tp | 25 years 7 months |
| **Capt Mike Kerr** | OC K Tp | 24 years 5 months |
| **Capt Lenny Carr** | OC H Tp | 25 years |
| **Capt Taff Williams** | OC G Tp | 27 years 9 months |
| **Capt Len Harvey** | 21C 1 Sqn | 27 years 5 months |
| **Capt Bill Ritchie** | Ops Offr | 26 years 5 months |
| **Capt Geoff Chaloner** | Tech Adjt | 28 years 1 month |
| **Capt Brian Billsberry** | ACPO | 25 years 1 month |
| **Capt Frank Kemp** | OC LAD | 31 years 5 months |
| **Capt Cliff Webb** | Pmr | 17 years 9 months |
| | TOTAL | 430 years |

### FAREWELL DINNER

On Thursday 30 August, the Warrant Officers and SNCOs of the Regiment said farewell to the CO **Lt Col P. Whitemore.** A commemorative photograph was taken at the Dinner, a copy of which was presented to him afterwards. The CO took the opportunity of promoting **SSgt Stu Mullen** to WO2; **Stu** is now on par with his wife who is SSM 2 Sqn, 13 Sig Regt. The night was rounded off with a few games courtesy of **Sgts Andy Young** and **Ned Kelly,** which made a fitting end to a very successful evening. We wish **Col** and **Mrs Whitemore** all the best for the future in their posting at Blandford.



The RSM, WO1 Jeff Ashwell presenting Col Whitemore with a photograph of the Mess Members

# 30 Sig Regt
# Blandford Camp

**DEPLOYMENT TO THE ARABIAN PENINSULA**

On Thursday 9 August 1990 30 Sig Regt was called upon to deploy to the Gulf. By the early hours of Friday morning the first contingent of about 40 men led by **Capt Steve Felton** had deployed to Saudi Arabia.

By 15 August there were 77 men deployed in Saudi Arabia and 43 men in Oman, a total of 120 men in four different locations.

After the initial push to mobilise some of the Regiment the deployments started to slow down with people going out at a steady rate, and reports on life in sunny Saudi started to filter through.

One of the dets wrote: 'The det consists of only six 30 Sig Regt personnel who are adequately sorting out everything. Bit of a shock landing from Herc having to hide our guns as we're not really here, and then finding we had to pitch our tents in the Sheraton, can only say this is the best looking trench I've come across especially when in need of a cool off. Description of area: the biggest sandpit you've ever seen and its hot damned hot!'

Doesn't sound at all bad! We now have just over 200 men in seven locations providing satellite links back to the UK. The equipment we are using is 501, 502, 322 HF and a couple of 521s, which seem to be working well apart from overheating problems!



Working hard to prepare the vehicles for sunnier climes

**EXERCISE PURPLE VENTURE**

In June the Regiment deployed to Cyprus on Ex Purple Venture. The aim was to practise the set up of a Joint Force Headquarters to enable staff personnel to experience what would be involved.

After a month the Regiment had deployed three 502 SATCOM dets, one 521 HF det and a number of tactical radio dets. The manpower was provided from all the squadrons under the command of **Maj Mark Perry**. A small RHQ deployed to administer the JFHQ and this consisted of the Sqn Comd, Adjt, Tfc Offr and RSM.

The first part of the exercise consisted of a Commex for the satellite dets and a 2 Sqn radio exercise run by **Capt Neil Stevens** The radio dets deployed to different areas on the island and opened up on both VHF and HF nets for approximately 24 hours before moving on to the next location. By far the most popular location was bivvy site C. This was a sandy beach location with a cafe/bar within 200 metres.



Sig Wiffen and Cpl Russ Darlington working their radio det remoted in to a 'Radcon' set up as part of the JFHQ

Needless to say not much compo was consumed at this site and everybody managed to find the time to visit the det set up there.

Next we set up a JFHQ at RAF Akrotiri and later moved to Dhekelia. With some help and advice from the other Royal Signals units in Cyprus this all went fairly smoothly with the exception that we had to pretend we were in a Hercules for the flight onwards. In actual fact we were in a bus!

A special mention should go to a couple of people on the exercise. To the RSM who managed to lower his golf handicap by one or two. To **LCpl Mac** 'Rat Catcher' **MacKenzie** who encountered more than just line under the floorboards at Cape Gata and to **Sgt Deano Poole** who missed his return flight to UK.

Quote of the exercise from **Sig Vince Newton**: 'I wish I had a uniform like the one the Adjt has got: Blue shorts, green tee-shirt and flip-flops!'



Capt Neil Stevens seen here on a camel in Egypt

**HEADQUARTER SQUADRON**
**PERSONALITIES**

**Sqn Comd** — **Maj E. J. P. Kellett**

**SSM, SSgt P. A. Horton, SQMS, SSgt M. K. Archer, Sqn Clk, Miss M. Lloyd and UFO, Mrs M. Lightheart**

Last year it was Op Prosperous, this year it is Op Granby (wonder what next year's will be called?). As usual the Squadron is working flat out to ensure that the logistic support for those being deployed is of the highest standard. Despite all this the Squadron still finds the time to do PT and military training four times a week just in case it is deployed (who will hold the fort if we go?).

The Squadron welcomes **WO2 Simpson** and his family and **SSgt (SQMS) Martin Archer** and his wife **Janet**. We hope they enjoy their tour here. Fond farewells go to **WO2 Brian Mower** and his family on their departure to civvy street and **SSgt Paul Horton** on his move to the Training Wing.

**REGIMENTAL INFORMATION TEAM (RIT)**
**PERSONALITIES**

**Team Manager** — **Ssgt Paul Horton**
**Team Captain** — **Sgt Steve Welding**

**Team Members, Cpl Bob Bundy (Apr-Jul 90), LCpl Jez Jezzard, LCpl Dave O'Shea (Jul-Aug 90), Sig Scouse Carvill, Sig Ted Heath, Sig Steve Raftery and Sig Taff Richards**

The Regimental Information Team (RIT) attended a total of 24 events before its tour was terminated because of the Gulf crisis. (They could have waited till the end of the season!) Despite the interruption the team once again had a successful tour and large attendances of the general public at most of the events gave the Corps and Regiment much publicity.

Almost immediately after their return to Blandford, **Sgt Steve Welding, LCpl Dave O'Shea**, and **Sig Taff Richards** and **Scouse Carvill** were deployed to the Arabian Peninsula (Good luck guys).

**TRAINING WING**
**PERSONALITIES**

**Trg WO** — **WO2 Stew Campbell**
**QMSI** — **WO2 Jack Goodwin**

**Trade Trg, Sgt Tony Allen, Mil Trg, Sgt John Fisher, Gym, Sgt Larry Tullett and Clerk, LCpl Billy Smart**

The Training Wing has gone through a very turbulent time with **WO2 Jeff Ellis** leaving on promotion to WO1 to be RSM 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt and **Sgt Tich Howitson** leaving on posting to 8 Sig Regt in the same week. We wish them and their families success and happiness in the future.

As well as moving everything in sight (even if it was screwed down), Pre-RSSSC/RSDCC, New Arrival Assessment, Guard Training and all the rest of the normal commitments, Op Granby training has been thrust upon us. No longer do people just pop in for a coffee, as remaining for longer for 30 seconds inevitably results in being given a lesson to teach. **Sgt Sammy Lee** has become something of an expert in the gorier side of First Aid in hot climates and **Sgt John Fisher** is still trying to work out which end of the shovel digs a trench, it's just as well the JCB operator knew which end of shovel to use. All in all a busy time for everyone but we are keeping our heads above water thanks to the rest of the Regiment giving us every assistance. The Wing welcomes **WO2 Chris Edler** and says farewell to **WO2 Stu Campbell** who moves to be RQMS General.

**TM TROOP**
**by Sgt Annetts**

As readers can imagine, Op Granby has not left TM Troop unaffected! Not only have we despatched many of our number to the Gulf regions but the requirements of training on new equipments (not to mention re-building some old ones!) have been a particular drain on the normal maintenance programme. It has been some time now since weekends and evenings were times of leisure!

There's just about enough time to say farewells and hellos. Firstly, all our sympathies go to **WO1 (FofS) Bob Thompson** on not only having to miss all this fun and excitement but having to do so in Hong Kong—and with a commission to boot! Many congrats from the few of us left in autumnal Blandford. Also gone are **Sgt Ray Edge** and **Cpl Toye**—fare thee well fellows.

Welcome to our two new FofSs—**WO1 Paul Wood** (sorry about your having to leave your job in HK early!), and **SSgt Garry Annetts** (at least if you submit *The Wire* Notes you stand a better chance of having your name spelt correctly!). Also welcomes are extended to **Sgts Nigel Bell, Glenn Sherman** and **Tim Wynn** and to **Cpls Karl Scaife** and **Stu Phillips** (NB: Memo to OIC M&RO—thanks for sending us TWO **Cpl Stu Phillips**'—it should make life much easier around here!).

One most important piece of news—**LCpl Soulsby**'s marriage shortly before deploying to sandier climes; congratulations to both you and **Deborah**—we hope that all your married life in the Army will not suffer from the same degree of turbulence as the first 48 hours!

**MT**
**by LCpl Popowicz**
**PERSONALITIES**

**MTO** — **WO2 Ellis**

**MT Sgt, Sgt I. Johnson, ED Sgt, Sgt F Worgan and Clk, Mr. R. Duncan**

**ARRIVALS**

The troop would like to welcome the following lucky guys, all from 8 Sig Regt. **Sig Williams, Sig Warden** and **Sig Heslington** and back from Cyprus, our own BFBS, **LCpl 'Pops' Popowicz**.

**DEPARTURES**

Recent departures include **Sgt Mick Mulhearn, Sgt John Fisher** and **Sig Daz Taylor**: our best wishes go to you all.

Having just returned from Cyprus, I wondered what life would be like back in the Regiment. I did not have long to wait to find out it was much the same as I had known it or to discover that I was to escort **LCpl Geordie Cullen** on his Det Commanders Course in Catterick.

Having recovered from that shock, I discovered that we were to deploy to the Gulf. Two of our members were selected to go.

The rest of the MT has been kept busy, but is still smiling.

Finally, congratulations to **Sig Bradley** on his promotion to LCpl.

**QM DEPARTMENT**
**PERSONALITIES**

**QM** — **Capt Bill Olive**

**RQMS Tech, WO2 Stan Wise, RQMS Gen, WO2 Neil Duncan, G1098, Sgt John Carpanini and Misc Acct, Mrs Sharon Ferguson**

The Quartermaster's Department has also been stretched with the events in the Gulf. At present four members have 'set up their stall' in Dhahran, they are **Capt Bill Olive, Sgt John Carpanini, LCpl Robbo Robertson** and **Sig Jock Campbell** (on loan from 1 Sqn). Other than this the main event has been the handover of the RQMS. **WO2 Brian Mower** (Mr Corps/Army Hockey) has finally decided to call it a day and handed in his hockey stick. After four and a half years of managing the Corps and Army Under 21 teams with a bit of work thrown in, **Brian** handed over to **WO2 Stan Wise** who, fresh from the hustle and bustle of 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, hoped to settle into a nice quiet post in England!! **Brian** will be sadly missed by the department and we wish him and his family all the best for the future.

**1 SQUADRON**
**PERSONALITIES**

**OC** — **Capt Ian Hunter**

**SSM, WO2 Gerry Knight, SQMS, Sgt Kevin Flagg and ORs, 30**

As can be seen from the breakdown of the Squadron, there are not too many of us left. Those who are, are on call for deployment.

Life revolves around the RAF letting us know what is going where and when. When we do hear, everything is a mad rush. This all stems from different interpretations of 'Notice to Move' (NTM). Whilst we take it to mean the length of time between being notified to move and actually rolling out the gate the RAF treat it as the time between receiving the 'go' and take off time. The situation will surely improve as we begin to speak the same language.

**CLASS 3, BLANDFORD CAMP PLAYGROUP**
**by Sue Phillips**

It seemed like a good idea at the time—abseiling in aid of the playgroup, 26 September seemed a long way off. But, when the day finally dawned the reality of what we had to do hit us and the butterflies set in. However, anything men can do . . .

The side of the single soldiers accommodation block looked like the north face of the Eiger as we sat at the bottom waiting for the first one over.

Our supporters cheered as she stood on the edge and walked backwards off the roof. Then to gasps of horror and disbelief she fell sideways and hung upside down against the wall. There were murmurs of 'Right, that's it, I'm not going over for love nor money' (or words to that effect!). But, she was soon put right by our wonderful PTIs and the event duly recorded by an enthusiastic photographer who kept telling her to smile. One by one we went down, with no injuries, much pride and a feeling of great achievement.



The fearless women of Blandford who risked life and limb to dangle from the soldiers block for the playgroup
Lt Liz Wise *(on the far right)* was responsible for persuading them to do it!

# 31 Sig Regt (V)
# Hammersmith

**HEADQUARTER SQUADRON**

With the appointment of **2Lt John Russell** as Comd RHQ Troop at Hammersmith, **2Lt Peter Thomas** to Support Troop at Southfields and **Maj John Robson** as Sqn Comd to the whole shooting match (to coin a phrase), the Squadron looks well set.

Ex Smoke Screen at Hawley Lake gave **WO2 (AQMS) Mick Cordingley** the opportunity to put the Squadron some way ahead (in fact over 30 minutes) of the rest by masterminding an improvised water crossing during the fun competition which was the objective of the weekend.

Support Troop continued this success during Ex Autumn Lad by setting a new record for hang gliding using only a freak gust of wind and a 12×12 tent. So as to introduce a degree of difficulty they took off at 0300 hrs without lights! At least they managed to land where they took off—RAF Stanmore Park.

15 September saw the smokescreen lifted on Ex Smokescreen, the best kept Regimental secret of the year. **Trg Maj Alan Duncan** had planned a fun weekend but would not disclose what was involved. So we all turned up at Hawley Lake, lined up in order of height by the RSM and split into random teams.

First event was an obstacle course . . . under a net . . . over a pole . . . looked simple enough . . . but wait . . . we had to wear a flipper on one foot and a combat boot on the other (the men couldn't get them on and the women couldn't keep them on). Then followed archery (no one was any good at this), driving blindfold and a variety of sporting events.

After lunch came orienteering between stands, from assault boat racing to blindfold stretcher racing. Saturday night was a party and 41 Sqn treated the Regiment to a display of their sock dance (hang a sock on each ear). Sunday saw rafts built out of barrels and planks, with varying degrees of competence, paddled across the lake, also with varying degrees of ability; there was some cheating. What happened to half the life-jackets?


**DON'T SAY GOODBYE**
**SAY HELLO.**

If you're about to leave the Services the prospect of Civvy Street could be as daunting as it is exciting. After all, you've got to resettle, make new friends and generally take on a new life.

Why not say hello to The Royal British Legion. We can be a great help by providing a link with the past and a friendly social environment with sporting and recreational facilities for people with similar backgrounds to your own.

And, of course, your membership will ensure that we're always there to help ex-servicemen and women in need.

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**41 SQUADRON (V)**

The Squadron has finally acquired its Drill Hall after renovation. The last six months saw training in portacabins and garages. So we had a 'New Hall—Big Ball Party' to celebrate a new roof, new toilets, new kitchen and new electrics. The hall was packed, the band and disco played on and the hall was well and truly christened.

10 October brought the end of an era—41 Sqn bade goodbye to its first female Sergeant Major, **WO2 Jan White**. Her discipline, humour and orienteering skills will be much missed. In her place, back comes **WO2 Maurice Byrne**—her predecessor—and now her successor.

Early October brought Ex Autumn Lad, one of two annual Brigade exercises. It will probably be remembered by most of 41 as the car park exercise. Both K Troop and N Troop (under new management) were sited in car parks. K Troop shared its with a red mini that got there first but looked great under a cam net. N Troop shared its with the RCP. The two Troops also swapped resources. K lent radio relay-man-cum-powerman-cum-lineman multi-purpose **Sig Paul Russell** to N in return for his sister, **Pte Debbie Russell** to work the switchboard and keep **Cpl Nick Tuck** company.



WO2 (SSM) Peter Lovett whipping up enthusiasm for runway clearance for next record attempt

**83 SQUADRON (V)**

After a final scurry around for bits of kit not used for three months, 83 Sqn was Oxfordshire bound for the first exercise since camp—Ex Autumn Lad.

Having avoided the M25 car park and dodged the obstacle course that was the M40 before they dug it up, we arrived at our location at about midnight.

The thought of setting up the site at that hour was not met with much enthusiasm, but after some piping hot tea and egg banjos supplied by our new SQMS, **Sgt Andy Raynsford**, and with a full moon providing excellent illumination, things got moving. **Lt Tom McCappin** disappointed us all by refusing to perform his 'Scottish werewolf in London' party trick.

The Lineys tramped off into the undergrowth—new man **Sgt Frank Simpson** soon decided that digging trenches with 2 Queens Regt was infinitely less exhausting than Line laying.

The radios were set up under radio relay control, manned by **Sgt Mick Connaughton** and everyone worked throughout the night to establish communications, under the watchful eye of Foreman **Ray White**, the new technical 'asset' to the Command Post.

Saturday dawned and as A Troop was not communicating with anyone, the new Squadron Commander, **Maj John Ruske**, set off to investigate, and to visit B Troop's relay. Three hours later, A Troop was speaking to the world again and **Sgt John Hickey** sighed with relief.

Well done to **Sgt Tricia Kent** and **Pte Jeanette Martin** who bravely took on an eight hour shift in the switchboard. **Cpl Derek Fairs** was upset at being denied the honour of switchboard duty, even after volunteering. He did, however, receive the 'Golden Blanket' award (for sleeping the most whilst on exercise) to compensate.

All in all 83 Sqn continue the good work seen on Ex Calm Fence in June—this together with the enthusiasm of the new members of the Squadron resulted in a very successful exercise.



# 32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)
# Glasgow

We have had a hectic couple of months with the visit of the SOinC **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook** and his wife **Jilly**, Parades firming our affiliation with HMS *Renown*, escapades with the East Park Home for Handicapped Children and of course keeping the Irish element—69 (NIH) Sig Sqn—'The Horse'—under close supervision, not always successfully so!

**AFFILIATION PARADE**

'Attend Ships Divisions please—as the Inspecting Officer'. What's that? With our CO—**Lt Col Mike Anderson** paraded in best rig to Inspect the whole complement of HMS *Renown* at Rosyth and present Medals for Service in the Gulf, LS & GC and Polaris Pins and carryout a full inspection of the Boat and all its equipment.



The CO Lt Col Michael Anderson inspecting the Ratings of HMS *Renown*

**EAST PARK HOME**

On Saturday 1 September 1990 the Regiment hosted the East Park Home and Staff to a day out at Queen Victoria School, Dunblane. In total some 60 people arrived by special coaches hired by **WO1 Ron Hamilton**. The whole day was orchestrated by our Padre **John Silcox** and the Matron **Mrs Eleanor McCreadie**. A bouncy castle proved to be highly popular as was our very own clown **WO2 Rab Campbell** of HQ Sqn. He is an undoubted star and a natural performer. Well done to all who attended, cooked, wheel-chair raced.

The Regiment raised over £600 which was presented to the Matron for the Home.



Our Regimental Clown, WO2 (SSM) Rab Campbell entertaining the children of East Park Home

**VISIT BY SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF**
**MAJOR GENERAL R. F. L. COOK**

'Fix a good programme' said the CO. 'Oh crikey' groaned the Adjutant **Capt Peter Campbell**. Anyway fix it he did and along with 242 Sig Sqn a superb visit was put together. All areas of Scotland were visited culminating with a day at Garelochhead Training Camp and a Reel Party in Jardine Street. The SOinC watched the Officers getting to grips with Conrad under the eagle eyes of our Yeoman **WO2 (YofS) John Chilcott** and PSI of 52 Sig Sqn—**SSgt Tony Reynolds**. OC 52 Sig Sqn **Maj David Harvey** was seen lifting (yes lifting) a section of the Conrad mast.

Later that night 26 officers and wives sat down to dine in Jardine Street and reel to our Pipes and Accordion Duo.

**CIVILIAN STAFF**

We welcome **Mrs Karin Fulton** the new AA in HQ Sqn and **Mr Nick Cassidy** to RHQ. Congratulations to **Mrs Sandra Johnstone** (and **Iain**) on the arrival of their first baby **Victoria**. **Mr Gary Steen** of QM Dept and his wife **Gayle** also have been busy since the arrival of baby son **Lee Martin**. Congratulations to **Irene Middleton** who recently married **Steven Hendry**. A mention to **Mrs Betty Warren, Mrs Hazel Coleman** and **Miss Connie Buntain**, who, with the rest of the civilian members of the Regiment, continue to render sterling service.

**MILITARY WORKERS**

Training Wing continues to push out the paper (when they are here). **WO2 (YofS) John Chilcott** supported by **SSgt Jill Naughton, Sgts Paul Caygill** and **Andy Smith** have been busy with our Trade Training Week at Scarborough.

Farewells have been said recently to **WO2 (FofS) Dave Andrews** and family to civvy street on pension, **SSgt John Lamb** and **Cpl Russell Clark** on pension as well, and, of course they have all settled in the European City of Culture 1990.

**SSgt Tony Reynolds** and family have firmly settled down. **SSgt Pete Crawley** and family are in the process of unpacking and busy learning Glaswegian. **Sgt Ian Richardson** is busy hunting lodgings in Aberdeen and awaits his language course. **SSgt Steve Estell** the new REME PSI is busy too getting to know the Regiment.

**CONGRATULATORY**

Congratulations to the QM **Capt Mick Besant** on gaining an A Grading on his Service Funds Accounting Course recently. **Maj Ann Sweeney, Capts Peter Campbell** and **Morna Strachan** are congratulated on passing their Service Funds courses.

**NOTICE**

**Mr Stuart Anderson**, ex Sgt, ex 28 Sig Regt, is still with us and would like any old friends visiting Glasgow to pop in. **Stuart** can be found in the Clothing Stores during working hours and you know where most evenings. Please bring money!



2Lt Annette McCandless in Chile on Op Raleigh

# 33 Sig Regt (V)
# Liverpool

**WRAC RECRUITS COURSE GUILDFORD**
**PERSONALITIES**
**Lt Angela Tiffin**
**2Lt Jackie McGrellis**

As young Subalterns at 59 Sqn we tend to get a lot of hassle and very little reward. However, we experienced one of the real perks of the job when we went to see six of our girls pass out at Guildford on 29 June: **Ptes Christine Beetham, Collette Bray, Gaynor Hodgson, Shirley Hopkins, Cathy McGunigal** and **Siobhan O'Niell.**

We set out from Liverpool at 0500 hrs, stopped at a small garage in Guildford to change into our No 2's and arrived at the gates of the Queen Elizabeth Barracks at 1000 hrs, only to be informed that the parade was not until 1400 hrs. (What was that **Sgt Wilby**—'the parade is at 1030 sharp and don't be late'?) After a quick change back into civvies we headed for Guildford town centre in search of a Pizza Hut and to kill a few hours.

It turned out to be an excellent day though, the sun shone all afternoon and the parade went off without a hitch. We ended up playing 'mum' to the girls since none of their families had been able to attend.

All of the girls said they thoroughly enjoyed the course (there must be some mistake there!), so much so that, on their end of course critiques, they all put a unanimous 'we don't want to go home'. In fact **Ptes Beetham, Hopkins** and **McGunigal** were so impressed that they have applied to become Regulars as Tele Ops (Data). Luckily we won't be losing the other three girls who are now undergoing their Trade Training; **Ptes O'Neill** and **Hodgson** are also Tele Ops (Data), while **Pte Bray** has opted for Radio Relay Tp.

We would like to thank all the girls for making a couple of hassled 'subbies' very happy.



*Left to Right:* Shirley Hopkins, Cathy McGunigal, Christine Beetham, Gaynor Hodgson, Siobhan O'Neill and Collette Bray

**EXERCISE LONGHAUL**

Advertised as a 'short bimble up Snowdon', now known as 'Snowdon the hard way'. The Squadron was divided into two teams, those who drew the short straws were introduced to the Horseshoe Pass by the Training **Maj Peter Bowles**. This turned out to be quite an experience for those of us who had not climbed a mountain before!

The scenery was superb although not a lot was seen from Grib Goch as most peoples' eyes were firmly fixed on the rock face searching out the next foothold. Entertainment was provided by **Maj Bowles** who knew 'a little story' about most of the crags we climbed, and a few others. Unfortunately for the said Major the first rest stop turned out to be disastrous as **Mrs Bowles** had filled his flask with Milton cleaning fluid and so the emergency pack of Jelly Babies had to be broken into to remove the taste.

We finally met up with the rest of the Squadron who had taken the Watkin route and were rewarding themselves with a pint of Mild at the Snowdon Hostelry.

An impressive performance was given by the Training Major's two sons, **Jonathan** (13) and **Andrew** (10), who accompanied us and displayed that agility of the young, particularly on the way down, although a comment was passed that perhaps Daddy should have taken up fishing! Those who had just returned from Nijmegen with sore feet and 'nappy rash' did very well but it was mentioned that a jar of vaseline would not have gone amiss.

**NIJMEGEN 1990**
**TEAM PERSONALITIES**
**WO2 (SSM) Jim Forbes** (Team Captain)
**Sgt Mark Lahorgue** (Medic)
**Sgt Garry Fogg** (Admin/Bike Orderly), **Cpls Tommy Ryder, Chris Murphy, LCpls Ian Stone, Eddie Owings, Chris Williams, Sig Billy Douglas, Ian Marrison, Paul (Mad Dog) Bermingham** (80 Sqn), **WPte Michelle Kearley** and **Kerri Peers.**

Once again after many months of arduous training, 59 Sqn took to the road to Nijmegen for the fourth time. Due to unforseen circumstances, four reserves had to be called in at the last minute to complete the team namely, **Sgt Garry Fogg, LCpl Eddie Owings, Sig Ian Marrison** and **Paul Bermingham** from 80 Sqn.

After travelling by road to Sheerness, then to Vlissinghen and three changes of train, the team finally arrived at Nijmegen at 0100 hrs on Sunday. Where was the tent city of previous years? It had been replaced by pre-fabricated blocks complete with bunks, mattresses and lights! Apart from the new look 'Nijmegen Hilton' nothing much had changed.

After settling in on Sunday and Monday the team checked and adjusted their webbing and weights then set off for the opening ceremony where they were represented by **Cpl Chris Murphy**. After the ceremony the team managed to secure an empty bus to take them back to Heumensoord, only to find that the Police, who had confiscated the keys which had been left in the ignition, had lost them! It took them over an hour to get them back.



*Left rank:* WPte Michelle Kearley, Sig Paul Bermingham, LCpls Ian Stone and Chris Murphy
*Right Rank:* WPte Kerri Peers, Cpls Chris Murphy, Tommy Rider, Sgt Gary Fogg, Sig Ian Marrison and Sgt Mark Lahorgue

On day one, the team set-off in high spirits led by **WPtes Michelle Kearley** and **Kerri Peers**, this was the first time the Regiment had ever been represented by the WRAC. The first day finished with no injuries and few blisters so the team were able to socialise with the other teams in the International canteen.

Day two saw the first twinges of pain from sore feet and aching muscles. Those who had marched before began to wonder why they had come back!

Day three laid to rest the myth that Holland is flat, the seven hills took their toll but the team was still intact.

After a few 'kind and coaxing' words from **SSM Jim Forbes**, and with groans that could be heard back in Liverpool, the team set out on day four to the sound of the pipers playing Black Bear. After two hours of marching **LCpl Chris Williams** suddenly noticed he had lost one of the lenses from his glasses, he found it again at the second rest stop crushed to pieces in the bottom of his boot! 'I wondered why my feet were hurting' said a bemused **Chris**. As the temperature rose higher and higher, the atmosphere became more and more electric and the team went from strength to strength.

While preparing for the final march past **Pte Kearley** happened to mention that she liked flowers, by the time the march past had finished she could hardly walk for the bunches of flowers she had been given. One bunch came from our ex **SSM Steve Donoghue** who had come over with his family just to see 59 cross the finish line.

As the team climbed aboard the bus back to Heumensoord for the last time, comments like 'if I hear **Col Jack** again I'll scream', and, 'thank God for the Lyke Wake Walk' were heard.

See you at Nijmegen next year.



On the weekend of 22/23 September, all four squadrons of the Regiment moved to Holcombe Moor in Lancashire to compete in the Regimental Military Skills Competition.

As usual, the Quartermaster, **Maj Bob Fortune**, was heavily involved moving stores and tentage into the area on the Friday, ably assisted by three TA volunteers who could get time off from work.

Each squadron was invited to enter three teams of eight consisting of one young officer/officer cadet, one SNCO and six ORs. Unfortunately on the day numbers attending did not quite match the requirement, with most squadrons only managing to enter two teams.

The competition was made up of nine stands which consisted of Map Reading, Communications, Grenade Throwing, NBC, First Aid, BFT, Written Appreciation and Night Navigation.

The BFT stand was run by the Regimental PTIs, **SSgt Frank Hale** and **Sgt Ronnie McCormick**, both of HQ Sqn, based in Huyton. Part of the BFT included the new Krypton Factor assault course which is very different in design from most other courses. Even tackled with skill it does not exempt you from getting completely soaked and this was discovered by all competitors except **Capt Malcolm Bradbury** (PSAO 42 Sqn) who, after trying out the 'swinging logs', decided enough was enough.

**LCpl Debbie Gannon** of 42 Sqn (Manchester) proved that if the men could do it, so could she and, completed the course in record time. You would never have guessed that she is a bank clerk during the week!

With the weather being kind to us, the weekend was a complete success and, was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The competition ended at lunch time on the Sunday with the statisticians, **WO2 Marie Watkinson** and **SSgt Taff Roberts** hurriedly making ends meet with figures to produce the winning team.

On this occasion it was the HQ Sqn 'B' team consisting mainly of LAD personnel led by their OC, **Capt Jimmy Jackson** that won the day narrowly beating 42 Sqn 'A' team from Manchester.

Preceding the cup presentation, the CO, **Lt Col Rick Brown** presented our new recruits with their attestation certificates. They were:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Carl White** | HQ | Huyton |
| **Anthony Blackhurst** | HQ | Huyton |
| **Raymond Horn** | HQ | Huyton |
| **Kevin Tatton** | HQ | Huyton |
| **Kim Lightfoot WRAC** | HQ | Huyton |
| **Peter Stubbs** | 42 | Manchester |
| **Nigel Verdon** | 80 | Chester |
| **Andrew Cannon** | 59 | Liverpool |
| **Gerald McCoy** | 59 | Liverpool |
| **Thomas Radley** | 59 | Liverpool |
| **John McAdam** | 59 | Liverpool |

We wish them every success in their TA career and hope they will enjoy serving with the Regiment.

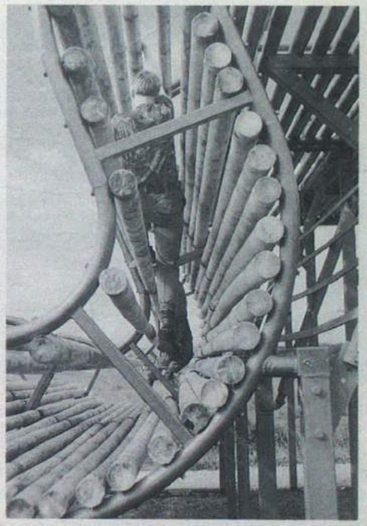
**ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES**

We have said our farewells to **Sgt Norman Middlecote** and his wife **Irmgard** who have left us on posting to 8 Sig Regt. We wish them both 'bon voyage' and hope they have enjoyed their TA experience with us.

We welcome **SSgt Brian Clark** and his wife **Jeanette** to Huyton from 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt. May they look forward to happy days in Scouseland.



Recruit Nigel Verdon receives his certificate from the CO



So what do I do now? LCpl Paul Jennings (42 Sqn)



The 80 Sqn 'B' team exhausted after the Command Task

## 34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V) Middlesbrough

**WELCOME**

To **Lt Col Spencer** (CO), **Maj Tim Mountford** (Trg Maj) and **SSgt (YofS) Gary Shakespeare** (YofS) and their families and wish them all a happy and successful tour.

**FAREWELL**

Good wishes are extended to **Lt Col Macklin**, his wife and family who are posted to Blandford. To **SSgt (YofS) Pat Halfpenny** and his wife who are posted to 7 Sig Regt.

**TA/NATIONAL GUARD EXCHANGE**
**USA**

In June this year **SSgt Mick Pollard** and **Sgt Kevin Turrington** were on an exchange tour at Camp Dodge, Iowa, USA with 34 Sig Coy, United States Army.

The following is a brief account of their two week tour.

**EN ROUTE TO USA**

The journey started at the TA Centre Darlington where **Sgt Kevin Turrington** waved farewell to loved ones and assured his wife that he had been 'ordered to attend'. On to Carlton Barracks in Leeds to pick up **SSgt Mick Pollard** who was champing at the bit.

The overnight stop at Brize Norton saw them staying at Gateway House and having finished breakfast wondered what their next breakfast would be. Hash and eggs 'sunny side up' no doubt.

On arrival at Dulles Airport, Washington DC, a quick change and on to St Louis and from there on to Des Moines the State Capital of Iowa and home of A Coy 234 Sig Bn. We had arrived.

**CAMP BEGINS**

The Camp or Annual Training as the National Guard call it was not a field exercise as we know it but a system of qualifications and evaluations. The training was to test their effectiveness to carry out their wartime role within the battalion which is to provide communications in Urban areas. A team of evaluaters tested their ability to provide communications, both voice and teletype, as well as their ability to defend themselves.

During this phase the Company was taking possession of new radio equipment. This will take another couple of months to complete but once completed it will be the first National Guard Unit to receive the new MSE Radio.

The soldiers, male and female, have to undergo six weeks basic training, complete a 15 day annual training camp and train for one weekend per month. The Company strength is recruited from the State of Iowa but the majority come from the city of Cedar Rapids about 120 miles from Des Moines.

The Battalion HQ is at Cedar Rapids, an impressive building which accommodates all four Companies.

The HQ of the National Guard is located at Fort Dodge and is very much self contained for training. It has a large wooded area for tactical training, its own ranges and an area for training instructors on heavy tracked vehicles.

The Company having proved its worth at communicating, moved onto phase 2 which is similar to our own bounty testing. All ranks, both male and female, must fire the M16, this includes the officers with the exception of the Company Commander who fires a pistol. All ranks had to pass a two mile timed run and pass a fitness test that included sit ups and press ups. The following military skills tests were also carried out, First Aid, NBC, section attacks and aircraft recognition.

**STANDDOWN**

At last a day of rest, although this day turned out to be as hectic as the camp had been.

The soldiers families visited and this was a fun for all day which ended in a barbecue.

It was during this day that we met **Gen Lawson** the National Guard Commander and **Col Peterson** who controls the National Guard expenditure for the state of Iowa which has 8,000 servicemen and women out of the country's total of 500,000 Troops. The National Guard makes up 60 per cent of the US military forces and has its own air force with modern fighter jets.

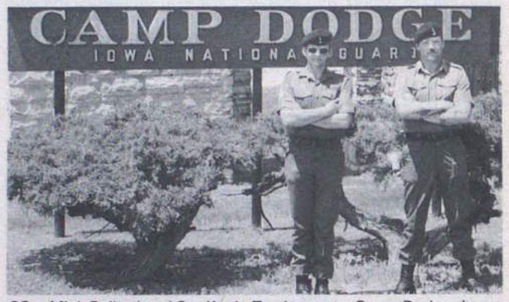
**ENDEX**

Unfortunately it all had to come to an end, but it was an experience that we shall never forget. We travelled half way around the world to discover that the American National Guard is very similar to our own Territorial Army.

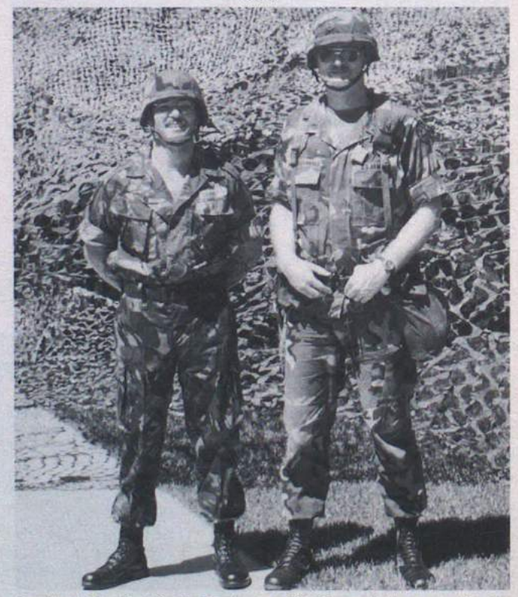
A further visit to the USA was undertaken by **Maj John Lambton** (the new OC of 49 Sig Sqn) to 319 Sig Bn based in Stockton (no not Cleveland but California). A four day mobex was followed by a communication exercise in which 319 fielded their new microwave equipment. The day off was a visit to San Francisco—so all in all a bit like a UK camp. (Pull the other one!)



Maj J. Lambton with M203 Grenade Launcher at 319 Sig Bn




SSgt Mick Pollard and Sgt Kevin Turrington at Camp Dodge, Iowa, USA



On the left is Sgt Kevin Turrington 6ft 2in and 14 stone. On the right is a US National Guardsman SNCO



**HQ SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sqn Comd** | **Capt Bert North** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Stan Phillips** |

**PSI, SSgt Stu Thompson, SQMS (NRPS), SSgt George Wright** and **SQMS (TA), SSgt Bill Smith.**

**EXERCISE NORTH SEA**

Once a year the Squadron is able to get away from supplying support to the other Squadrons and spend a weekend supporting itself.

This year we combined training with pleasure and took our families along. The site chosen was Rowlston Camp near Hornsea, a pleasant camp and training area with limited accommodation and facilities close to the sea.

The advance party consisting of **SSgt George Wright, LCpl Arthur Warner, Sig Shaun Watson** and **Pte Kim Clarke** set off on Friday evening and prepared the camp in anticipation of the main party, which included many wives and children, arriving on Saturday morning.

Many activities took place with the Ranges proving a great success with the adults as many of them had a chance to fire the SA80 for the first time. The children had a superb time on the bouncy castle with **Sgt Kath Waldon** acting as 'Chief Bouncer' and evicting the grown ups such as **Pte Angie Vickers** and **Mrs Donnella Wright** who, in fact, are not much bigger than some of the children. The cooks were rested this weekend with lots of volunteers to cook and wash up. **Sgts Jacqui Hughes** and **Ena Hall** cooked a very suspicious looking lunch on Saturday but despite its appearance, it proved to be most palatable. With a trip to Hornsea Pottery and Field Sports organised for the Sunday the weekend proved a great success.

And last but not least in our bumper notes; Annual Camp 90. The first week was spent at Fremington on military training which included rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing, walking, sailing, orienteering, NBC, First Aid and Fieldcraft. There were rather a lot of arm injuries requiring the issue of slings (or was it a way of avoiding saluting) **Capt Alan Watts, WO2 Stan Phillips, SSgt George Wright, Sgt Jacqui Hughes, Pte Wales** and **Pte King?**

In the second week we held a communication exercise in Devon, then Dorset, Staffordshire and finally to home locations. The Padre became a Sky Pilot when he persuaded RAF Chivenor to take him on a one and a half hour trip in a Hunter aircraft around Wales and included a few dog fights for good measure.

**BANDSWOMEN KAREN WATTS WEDS**

The Band provided the music at the marriage of one of its members, Bandswoman **Karen Watts** to **Mr Andrew Breckon** which took place in the Methodist Chapel at Hutton Rudby, near Stokesley, North Yorkshire on 26 May 1990.

The ceremony commenced with a fanfare for the bride. Members of the Band inside the chapel provided the music throughout the service.

The photograph depicts **Mrs Karen Breckon** (alias **Watts**) demonstrating to her husband **Andrew** just what he has let himself in for. Also in the picture is **Mrs Kath Watts** (**Karen's** mum), a Bandswomen with 34, with other members of the Band.



*(Left to right):* Bdsm Read, Bdsm Goodwin, Mr A. Breckon (Groom), Bdsm Jakstins, Bdwn Watts, Bdwn Karen Watts (Bride), LCpl Rutter, WO2 McTominey and Bdsm Annesley

**Bandsman Neil McTominey**, a member of 34(N) Sig Regt Band with the Band Fanfare Team on the occasion of his marriage to **Miss Melanie Walker**.



*(Left to right):* Bdsm Goodwin, Bdsm Read, LCpl Holmes, Bdsm McTominey, Bride, Bdsm Annesley, Bdsm Mason, Bdsm Bertram and WO1 (BM) Dodd

# Don't be disappointed!

**Matter for publication *must* reach the editor six weeks before the publication date, ie by 15 December for the February issue, 15 February for the April issue, and 15 April for the June issue. These are the latest dates and copy arriving earlier will be helpful.**

# 35 Sig Regt (V)
# Sutton Coldfield

**AUTUMN SHAKEDOWN**

During the weekend 5-7 October the Regiment deployed on Ex Autumn Lad a Brigade level exercise. The exercise simulated a BAOR deployment and we found ourselves in a number of field locations establishing communication to our own and other TA Signal Regiments from the North West and South East. This was the early Autumn shakedown to ensure lessons from Annual Camp had not been forgotten and to check that the equipment and its operators were still in good working order. The Regiment performed to its usual high standard and links were established quickly and efficiently.

It goes without saying that the success of Brigade, Regimental or Squadron exercises depends very much on attendance from our volunteer soldiers who often give up their free time to attend and this weekend was no exception as a high turnout throughout the Regiment was reported. **Capt Jo Fathers** of 95 Sqn wished she had stayed in bed though—**Jo** after a restful night's sleep cocooned in the new (how do I get in the bag) sleeping system found herself alone in the middle of nowhere; very quietly in the earlyhours her Access Node moved location without her. Rumours abound that hubby **Maj Paul Fathers** stage managed the incident and can expect appropriate retribution! Meanwhile Access Node 63/64 (89 Sqn) some miles away were trying to come to terms with sharing their location with a rather large and menacing bull. Unfortunately for them the bull persisted in scratching various parts of its massive frame on every vehicle it could find (day and night). For the remainder of the weekend man and beast shared a corner of a field in uneasy harmony.

Visitors to the exercise included Comd 11 Sig Bde (V) **Brig Conrad Garton** and his new Deputy Comd **Col G. C. Mitchell TD, ADC**.

**PERMANENT STAFF ARRIVALS**

A belated welcome to the new RSM **WO1 (RSM) John Hyde** and wife **Julie**. We wish them both a happy and rewarding tour with the Regiment. We also extend a warm welcome to the following: **SSgts (YofS) Jim Large, Andy Hunt REME, Chas Ward** the new PSI of 58 Sqn, **Sgts Dave James** the new PSI HQ Sqn, **Chris Gleadhow** the new PSI 89 Sqn, **SSgt Val Murray WRAC**, RHQ, and also to RHQ **Sgts Aiden McCloud, Kevin Wright** and **John Roberts**. Finally a most welcome arrival in the shape of a bouncing baby girl to **Sarah** and **Lance Byrne**—many congratulations from all members of the Regiment.




RSMs handover/takeover

**FAREWELL OLD FRIENDS—THE LONG GOODBYE**

Over the last few months we have also said farewell to some long and faithful friends most of whom have left a lasting impression (favourable) on the Regiment. On promotion we have said goodbye to **SSgt Mac McCluskey**, and **Sgts Alan Balderstone** and **Clive Williams**, we are confident they will prove to be an asset to their new Units. On normal posting we said farewell to **Sgt Dave Ross** and on discharge we bade a particularly sad farewell to **SSgt (YofS) Chris Aslett** and to **Cpl Andy Clarke** who plans to join 89 Sig Sqn as a TA soldier. Finally we also said farewell to the LAD PSI **SSgt Pete Marsh. Pete's** devotion to duty exceeded all expectations when he accompanied his LAD on exercise during his final weekend with the Regiment. Not surprisingly he leaves us on promotion together with the Grand Weetabix award.

**EXERCISE BEANO BREAK—PERMANENT STAFF ADVENTURE TRAINING**

Once again the permanent staff deployed on their annual jaunt to take a well earned break in an effort to recharge their depleted batteries and prepare themselves for the remainder of the training year. As **SSgt Dennis Jevons** reports this year the permanent staff broke the usual tradition of venturing to the rugged but beautiful Lake District and opted for something far more challenging and exciting—adventure training on the Dorset coast at Wyke Regis Tented Training Camp courtesy of the Royal Engineers (were their batteries really that flat).

The week started well and we were blessed with excellent weather which made our water based activities that much more pleasant than we expected, although one or two still went up the creek without a paddle. Much to the consternation of our resident sailing instructors **WO2 (RQMS) Admiral Fitzgerald** and **SSgt Stoker Arnot** there was a notable absence of wind. They even press ganged our friendly windbag **SSgt Trev Loughton** to try and put a bit of wind in the sails. Needless to say **Trev** did not cooperate and his comments are unprintable. As well as attempts at sailing, the more adventurous and daring amongst us took part in rock climbing and abseiling under the expert guidance of **Sgt Graene Wilkinson**. There is absolutely no truth in the rumour that the rock climbing was spent negotiating shingles on the beach. In fact as **Sgt Dennis Jevons** (yours truly) will testify this mini mountaineering turned out to be quite an experience and found much to his discomfort that if you slip the rope goes tight, the harness rides up and strangles your—time to move on to the next activity with **Dennis**'s voice wailing in the wind 'Give me some Slack' and which had noticeably risen a few octaves.

During the week quite a few hidden skills surfaced unexpectedly; our volunteer cook **Pte Chrissy Castle**, who fries a mean egg, also showed an aptitude for rock climbing and we also found a budding Duncan Goodhew in our midst (well the hair style is almost the same) in the form of **SSgt Bob Heaselgrave. Bob** showed us all up in the swimming pool but he really must improve his diving style before next year! At the end of this enjoyable and thrilling week we returned to our TA Centres batteries fully charged ready for anything but looking forward to next years breakaway!



Cpl Michael Bannigan hard at work at Access Node 63/64



Endex—Cpl Steve Phillips, Sig Russ Sharman, Michael Brough and Richard Lewandowski



**NIJMEGEN MARCHES 1990—48 SIGNAL SQUADRON**

It was back in October 1989 that 48 Sqn decided they would muster and enter a team in the Nijmegen Marches and become the first team ever from 35 Sig Regt (V) to take part in this gruelling four day foot mincing exercise.

After months of planning and preparation our team of toughened young souls (soles) arrives at Nijmegan; an air of confidence prevailed and they clearly couldn't wait to get started and show their mettle. The team was led by that champion of Beano Break **SSgt Dennis Jevons**, notably the only team member with a Nijmegen medal and he took seven years to pluck up the courage to go back and do it again. During the registration phase each member of the team received a booklet with the title 'Unbounded Walking Pleasure' no it wasn't a wind up. By the end of the march the only person prepared to do justice to the title was **Cpl Brown** who also had the distinction of being the only team member not to get a blister. The team was much the better for the sensible inclusion of two WRAC in the shape of **SSgt Karen Baugh** (Guest member from 58 Sqn) and **Cpl Carol Eden.** They were always bright and cheerful and never moaned (well not loud enough for the team leader to hear) but they certainly boosted morale by their presence.

Throughout the exhausting four days the team spirit was excellent and never faltered, much to the credit of all members; that is not to say that problems weren't encountered, a number were, but everyone still pulled together to overcome difficulties and mutual support and encouragement was always evident in this courageous team. In particular **LCpl Simon Bloom** (then Sig) deserves a special mention; he experienced some difficulties on the first day and ended up on first name terms with the medics, he received what he perceived to be major surgery on his feet twice a day but still managed to smile and win through against all odds.

Finally special thanks to the remainder of the team: **Lt Chris Heaton** who was promoted Whinge Commander Day three, **Sgt John Bagnall** team song writer, **Sgt Stan Green** the only member capable of marching behind **Bomber Brown** for four days, **Cpl Dave Beck** who was awarded the Golden Blanket, **Cpl Tony Skehan** who had the pleasure of marching behind the WRAC. **LCpl** (then Sig) **Faulkener** got anything for swops, **Sig Tony Fellows** honorary member of the Norwegian contingent and **Sgt Pete Pederson** the team bike orderly who kept the team topped up with water and was like a mother hen at every stop.

48 Sqn are now the proud owners of a Nijmegen March Team Medal. Will they go back again next year? Will it take another seven? Will other teams from the Regiment join them? Watch this space!



The Proud Team less absent members Cpl Beck and Sig Fellows who were receiving urgent medical attention

**ANOTHER TRUE STORY**

A civilian Admin Officer, who shall remain anonymous, was asked by her PSAO 'Could you please dig out the authority to take private cars to Blandford for the Brigade Study Period?' After a break of 10 minutes the Admin Officer returned and said 'I'm sorry but I cannot find Private Car's documents'.

WHO FIGHTS FOR THE SOLDIER WHEN THE SOLDIER CAN'T FIGHT?



When a man has given his youth and strength to help us, it's our privilege and duty to help him and his loved ones when in need – even if he's still in the Service.

And when a Serviceman leaves the Army, Navy or Air Force, he and his family may have to face problems never encountered before. In fact, he may, in the defence of his country, have become disabled or have left behind a widow and children who desperately need advice and help.

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SOLDIERS' SAILORS' AND AIRMEN'S FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

## 37 Sig Regt (V)
## Bristol

**43 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)**
**ADVENTUROUS TRAINING**

In July the Squadron deployed by coach to Capel Curig in North Wales for a fun weekend. The fun commenced with the arrival of the main party in the early hours of Saturday morning, a 'do it yourself' breakfast a couple of hours later and a mini bus trip to the hostel at the foot of Snowdon.

The thought of fun and excitement diminished rapidly for **LCpls Lynn Brailey** and **Alison Irish** when the PSAO **Capt Peter Clarke** pointed out the route to them. Crib Goch is not the most enjoyable route to the top of Snowdon unless you are a mountain goat! The weather was superb and thoughts turned to the more senior (rank and age) members of the Squadron who had conveniently taken their holidays abroad to escape the 'fun' weekend. Having reached the top, and everyone succeeded in achieving this, relief showed through in many forms, **Lt Chris Thompson** tasting the cold beer before his men, in case it was contaminated.

It was good hard fun followed by canoeing and orienteering on the Sunday.



Snowdonia—Exeter Tp members
*L to R:* Cpl Taylor, Pte Davine, Sig Brooks, Sgt Bradley, LCpl Mardon, Cpl Abernethy and Pte Reece

**SQUADRON SHOOTING TEAM**

The Squadron shooting team ably led by **Lt Chris Thompson** won the RSAAM.

The WRAC team of **Cpl Lin Reeve, LCpl Sue Palfrey, Ptes Margaret Shackleton** and **Cathy Reece** won the SMG shoot outright.

For the record the other members of the team were, **Sgt Gerry Huxtable, Cpls 'Gilly' Dawkins, Steve Bond** and **Sig 'Seb' Coe.**

**NEW SQUADRON MEMBERS**

The Snowdonia weekend eased new members into the Squadron routine.

Keeping up the fun theme. **Sgt Gerry Huxtable** and **Cpl Steve Bond** listening to Radio 1 during the military communications exercise 'Western Approaches' with the REME. They will obviously give it 'foive'.

**FAREWELLS**

Long term members who have left for pastures new are **Sgts Sharon Brailey, Vince Mann, Cpl Rob Richards** and **LCpl Mike Chinn.** We wish them well.

**Cpl Lin Reeve** has moved to 57 Sig Sqn (V) in Bristol, a sad loss to us.

**NEW MEMBERS**

We always welcome new members. It is a hobby with Pay and Purpose. Why not give it a try when you have settled in to 'civvy street'.



Ex Western Approaches
*L to R:* Sgt Huxtable and Cpl Bond

**REGIMENTAL SHOOTING TEAM 1990**

Following this year's limited success at the SWDist SAAM in May we kept our commitment in terms of personnel and range days to a bare minimum before taking on the weight of the other TA units at Bisley on 14/15 July. Despite minor disasters in the first Match, where the moving 'men' flashed across at three times the speed of the Warminster targets, our Rifle Team proved its worth by achieving a very close fourth place in the Mullens Trophy leaving a host of good Infantry units trailing in their wake. **Sgt Head** began his efforts with some very high placings and it was only in the latter stages of the individual Rifle competitions that his lack of training overtook his natural skills. **SSgt Campbell** supported well with the SMG but our shortage of 9mm ammunition was evident in our placing: now how did HQ RAOC manage to win that Match so convincingly?

This year the team improved dramatically in the Wessex Cup giving us a fine chance of taking the coveted North Irish Militia Trophy for the best non Infantry Unit. However, it was not to be, one name missed off a squadding card robbed us of a good placing in the Volongdis LMG Match and a valiant shoot in the China Cup Section Match was not sufficient to redress the loss. Nevertheless, we were close third (streets ahead of the fourth) and could return to our three Districts with a sense of achievement. All that is needed for greater success next year, and even a return to the top five TA units at Bisley, is an active, able non firing TA Team Captain and a similar level of support to this year (with some SMG ammunition thrown in!). The Mercury Cup was again easily ours, but surely other TA Signal Regiments could provide more of a challenge—*down goes the gauntlet!*



TARA SAAM—Bisley 1990
Regimental Shooting Team
*Back Row L to R:* Sig Richard 57 Sqn, Sgt Head 53 Sqn, Cpl Walker 53 Sqn, Sgt Newton 53 Sqn and Maj Reed Trg Maj
*Front Row L to R:* Cpl Bond 43 Sqn, Sig Heenan 57 Sqn and SSgt Campbell 67 Sqn
Winners — Mercury Cup; 3rd — Non Infantry Team Overall; 4th — Mullens Trophy Rifle Match



## 38 Sig Regt (V)
## Sheffield

**PERSONALITIES**

**CO** — **Lt Col P. W. Acda TD**
**2IC** — **Maj D. B. Wing TD**

**Trg Maj, Maj R. P. Etherton, Adjt, Capt J. Hindle, QM, Capt K. E. Russell, RSM, WO1 (RSM) P. F. Budden** and **Chief Clerk, SSgt (ORSQMS) D. Paterson.**

The Regiment's close links with Stocksbridge Engineering Steels gave the CO, Adjutant, and RSM a chance to visit their Sheffield Works where they were given a conducted tour of the Company which produces high quality steels for the world market. **Mr Peter Thompson** the Personnel Director of Stocksbridge Engineering Steels is well known in the Regiment and presents the trophies at the Annual Regimental March Competition.

Local GP **Maj John Hunting** retired recently from military service after 29 years. Affectionately known by all as **'Doc' Hunting**, he joined the TA in 1961. In 1967 he was promoted to Major and in 1968 he joined 38 Sig Regt (V) at 87 Sig Sqn, based at Triumph Road, Lenton.

One of the founder members, for the past 22 years **'Doc'** has played a vital role in the safety and training of the soldiers in the Regiment. Never a person to shun style, **Maj Hunting** has been known to take his Rolls Royce out on exercise and camouflage it with undergrowth along with the rest of the military vehicles.

**John** is in practice in Nottingham and is also the MO at Chilwell Station. He is married to **Diane** and they have two children. He will be sadly missed by all in the Regiment, but particularly by those at Nottingham, and we all wish him a long and happy future.



Maj John Hunting being presented with his statuette on retirement by the Sqn Comd Maj Mike Petty
*Photo by Courtesy of Forman Newspapers Ltd*

**46 SIGNAL SQUADRON DERBY**

This month has brought both good and bad for 46 Sig Sqn.

The good news is that we have gained four passes on a recent TA Staff Sergeants Course at Catterick. We take this opportunity to say well done to **Sgts Penny Burns, Ron Wilbraham, 'Big Al' Whittaker** and **Martin Lennon.**

Also in the good category we welcome into the fold **2Lt Sally Forrest**, congratulations on your excellent achievement at Sandhurst.

The bad news is that we say farewell to our 2IC **Capt Peter Mitchell** who leaves us to take up the Regimental TOT appointment. (Rumour has it that since being with 46 Sqn, **Capt Mitchell** has learnt to smile.)

We also say farewell to **Capt Sally Reading** who leaves to take up the appointment of 2IC with HQ Sqn in Sheffield. **Capt Reading** has served with 46 Sqn for the past 14 years. During that time, she has been OC Recruiting and most recently OC 54 Bde Sig Tp amongst many other appointments. **Capt Reading** has taken many of our Squadron members sailing and we hope that she will continue to do so in the future.

Lastly we say farewell to our Regular PSI **Sgt Brian Adams** who moves on to 22 Sig Regt. **Brian's** extrovert nature and operator knowledge will be sadly missed, as will his willingness to help all and sundry in the TA.

Our OC, **Maj David Etherton**, recently won a crate of bubbly for best score in the Commanding Officer's Pistol Competition. The photograph shows **Maj Bob Etherton**, the Regimental Training Major, (brother of **Maj David Etherton**) and **Capt Anne Etherton**, OC Leicester Det (wife of **Maj David Etherton**). Please PB 11 post any future Ethertons to 32 Sig Regt (V) and save our sanity!

Congratulations to all our recently promoted Squadron members including **SSgt Phil Mellor, LCpls Julie Chapman ACC** and **Karen Brown ACC.**

Our thanks go to 87 Sig Sqn for a great evening of volley ball. The final results were:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Male winners | 46 Sig Sqn |
| Female winners | 87 Sig Sqn |
| Mixed winners | 87 Sig Sqn |

We look forward to a return match at Nottingham.



The Etherton Trio

**64 SIGNAL SQUADRON SHEFFIELD**

It is not an exaggeration to say that Sqn Comd **Maj David Rigley** has had to move to a larger office in order that he may accommodate the latest trophies which the Squadron has won. After winning so many prizes at the Regimental Skill-at-Arms Meeting, surely no more could come our way?

But, we do other things besides win prizes. A recent weekend saw us out on Fulbeck Airfield trying our hardest to be infantrymen and women. Perhaps 'infantrypersons' is the correct term? A wet first night got us all into a sufficiently mean mood to take on anything the next day. **LCpl David Hawley** transformed himself from a technician into a rambette (using the appropriate tool kit) and was seen at least once auditioning for the re-make of the movie. Basha construction developed from an art into an exact science due to the excesses of the weather, although for one ageing captain, ex-infantryman and eccentric Squadron personality, it never seemed to rain enough. Everyone enjoyed the training, particularly the fire fight, when even our regular PSIs, **SSgt Paul Skinner** and **Sgt Chippy Wood**, came out to play 'enemy'.

However, back to winning prizes. At the Regimental March more trophies were added to the bulging cabinet. The winning male team consisted of **2Lt Bill Carr, SSgt Andy Garlick, Cpl Trevor Grant, LCpls Ken Wilson, Griff Griffiths, Simon Parkin, Sig Paul Burditt** and **Chris Smythe.** The winning female team was **Sgt Gill Whitehouse** (team captain), **2Lt Jayne Boulton, Sgt Hilary Horton, Cpl Jane Bullas, LCpls Debbie Alton, Jane Pygott, Pte Julie Pullen** and **Andrea Bilton.** Worthy of special mention are **Sgt Sam Abdulhusein** and **LCpl Paul Parker** who trained the teams. Warm weather didn't help the walking, and to keep up the Squadron tradition of the old sweats being in at everything, they entered a team led by **Sgt Jim Mees.** The 'oldies' consisted of **Capt David Anson, Sgts Mickey Rooney, Mick Gooding** and **LCpl Mick Agus.** The team was ably assisted by the younger **Jimmy Mees** and ex-Squadron-now-aircraftswoman **Nicki Robinson.** The last two were needed to bring the average age down to under 35 and carry the stretcher. This team didn't win any prizes but did get round without casualties.

They might have been faster except for having to stop to recharge pacemakers, oil tired muscles, eat ices and look at the scenery.

**87 SIGNAL SQUADRON NOTTINGHAM**

Fearless **Capt Diane Allen** plunges off Trent Bridge, a 10m drop into the icy waters of the River Trent to launch the start of National Physiotherapy week. **Capt Allen,** who shortly completes her first year with 87 Sig Sqn at Nottingham, is a keen canoeist, and took the opportunity to gain publicity for the Physiotherapy week. The week was designed to create awareness of the Physiotherapist's role both in and outside the Health Service.

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| | |
|---|---|
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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 |
| TRANSFER OF ASSETS | —to the next generation |

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### 93 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)—BLACKBURN AND MANCHESTER

When the call went out for commcen trained personnel to assist on a major NATO exercise, interest was generated among the Squadron ranks. The Commando Regiment (RA) asking for assistance was to operate in Norway for eight weeks so for the majority of volunteers although the spirit was willing, time off could not be obtained. However four of our WRAC were able to obtain a month off work and so **SSgts Gwen Kennedy** and **Diane Feest** and **LCpls Wendy Clark** and **Barbara Brown** set off. Plymouth was the first port of call to collect winter combat clothing and, most importantly, thermals! Next to Brize Norton for the flight to Norway and finally to Setnesmoen Camp in Norway which was base camp for the Commando Regiment.

The commcen turned out to be a hut in the middle of the camp which was not ideal but was soon converted to a working area. Traffic began flowing immediately and the initial shock to the volunteer soldiers of handling 'real' high precedence instead of exercise drill traffic was soon overcome. During her month there, **SSgt Kennedy** achieved her life time ambition of a trip in a helicopter, courtesy of the RAF, and here are the photos to prove it. As shift working was in operation, the off shift personnel were able to take advantage of instruction in skiing and winter survival training and the Squadron has been promised a demonstration of igloo building when we next have a severe winter.

All too soon it was time to return to the UK and the not so fast and furious life as a volunteer communicator. But experience of traffic handling and commcen routine for an extended period such as this is invaluable and is impossible to simulate on a weekend exercise. The impression was so great on **LCpl Wendy Clark** that as this article goes to press, she begins a year's regular service in a commcen in Germany.

The end of August saw the end of an era, for the Squadrons when **Capt 'Ted' Hall** retired from the post of Admin Officer. **Ted** has served for 43 years, the last 20 as AO in 93 Sqn. He has been a pillar of strength to this unit and to our District and Units. From all the Officers, Seniors and other ranks of the Squadron may you have a long and happy retirement and if this is your swan song, then the swan swam well!



SSgt Gwen Kennedy being 'secured' in the helicopter courtesy of the RAF



## 40 Sig Regt (V) Belfast

### THE CLONAVER FISH HUNTERS

Wednesday afternoon of the 20 June saw one of the very rare occasions when the Officers of the permanent staff were able to take a sports afternoon. The TM, QM, Adjutant, PSAO and RSM under the command of NRPS Guard Commander, **Cpl Jim McFerran**, departed from Clonaver TAC with their buckets and spades for the seaside resort of Bangor, Co Down in search of promised 'tons of fish'.

Our ship headed out into the briny and the mood of the group was tense as the tackle was prepared before reaching the fishing area. After four hours of frustration and a few beers the total catch was three mackerel and one dogfish.

It was confirmed by the astounded boatman that in spite of his brand new electronic fish-finding device this was the smallest catch he had ever witnessed in 30 years of fishing in that area.

### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Farewells are extended to the Adjutant, **Capt Mickey Weston**, MTWO **WO1 Dave Sparkes** and YofS **SSgt Keith Ratcliff** and a warm welcome to Adjutant **Capt Alastair Sykes**, MTWO **WO1 Rick Logan** and YofS **SSgt Paul Willimont**.

### EXERCISE SCOTCH MIST—HQ SQUADRON

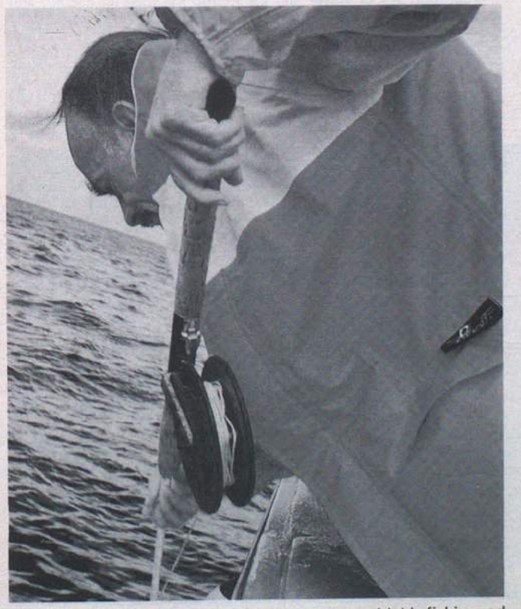
3 August saw the start of the annual Squadron weekend exercises to Scotland with HQ Sqn leading off on the first run.

The exercises went without a hitch with the advance party leaving on Friday morning and the remainder in the evening by coach for the bonnie banks and braes of Ayrshire.

The two hour ferry crossing was uneventful and after a quick change into uniform at Stranraer, everyone was ready for the night orienteering part of the exercise.

After snatching 40 winks, the Saturday training began with a pyrotechnics demonstration on the beach given by the RSM, **Ian Urquhart** and SVWO, **Artie Cahoon**. This was followed by SLR practice and a map reading exercise in the afternoon using landrovers.

The exhausting day finished with a hearts and minds exercise to sample the delights of Ayr prior to returning to Stranraer and Belfast the next day.



Trg Maj, Maj Jack Amberton tries to spear one with his fishing rod

## THE ROYAL SIGNALS 1991 CALENDAR

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The Royal Signals 1991 Calendar, which will be available in late October 1990 has a space daily for jotting appointments and is intended to grace any wall in the office, the crew room, or at home. It will make an excellent Christmas Gift or Christmas Draw Prize and at £4.50 (13.00DM) is a modest price to pay for a present which will be appreciated for 365 days of the year. This is, in Army terms, a unique undertaking and an excellent way of expressing to your colleagues, family and friends your pride in Royal Signals.

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## 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215 Sig Sqn) Tidworth

**PERSONALITIES:**
**OC** — **Maj Tony Russ**
**2IC** — **Capt Steve Turnbull**
**RSM, WO1 (RSM) Fred Payet, Adjt, Maj Simon Firbank, QM, Capt John Hornby, TCO, Capt Matt Matthews, Tfc Offr, Capt Dave Gilchrist, OC A Tp, Capt Neil Longley, OC B Tp, Lt Mark Billingham, OC C Tp, Capt Martin Prodger, FofS, WO1 (FofS) Tom Sharp, RQMS, WO2 (RQMS) Des Faherty, YofS, WO2 (YofS) Keith Glasby and Chief Clerk, SSgt (ORSQMS) Paul Addison.**

**WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS**

We welcome **SSgt Johnson** who has joined us from 243 Sig Sqn. From AAC Harrogate hello to **Sig Barber, Bevis, Dunn, Garner-Jones, Gill, Jones** and **Nicholls** (thanks Harrogate!). We also say hello to **LCpl Leask** and **Sig Costano** from 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, **Sig Devlin** from 8 Sig Regt and **LCpl Codling** from 9 Sig Regt.

Meanwhile we bid farewell to **SSgt (YofS) Bill Stack** on posting to Hong Kong, **SSgt** 'Legs' **Ockenden** posted to 45 Fd Regt RA Workshops, also posted from the LAD is **Cpl Chris Grant** to SEME(T). Also bon voyage to **Sig Jason Cade** (4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt), **Sig Will Davies** (14 Sig Regt) and to life in civvy street to **Cpl Nick Bannister, Cpl Scott Carpenter** and **Pte Alan Gibbins.**

**EXERCISE DRUIDS DRAKE**

Ex Druids Drake was the main exercise for the Brigade in 1990. It was also the end of a series, and brought together all the training from the other exercises throughout the year. For the Squadron it was a fairly slow moving exercise (three changes of command in 10 days!) but nevertheless important as most of the UKMF was deployed, and there was a live enemy on the ground. The exercise took place on 'The Plain', (Salisbury Plain Training Area), with one of the main highlights being when Step-Up (Bravo Tp) were attacked by a mysterious infantry section. Step-Up, always being ready, beat off the attack, taking two prisoners. The exercise culminated with a dismounted Brigade attack, and the RSM with a happy band of Signallers (mainly SNCOs!) created an impromptu dismounted Bde Tac HQ complete with defence section. All rumours that this was a Brigade main escape committee are probably false!

The exercise wasn't as boring for the Lineys. Having laid the whole Brigade Line Plan, some 50kms of quad, they then spent a week replacing the damage done by the CVRTs of 13/18 RH, and had to write off about £13,000 worth of line.

As far as Main HQ was concerned the highlight was drinking the only brew made by the Yeoman **Keith Glasby** during 1990! Speaking of brews **Cpl Paddy Irwin** say's he's still owed money for the coffee fund, and those concerned should pay up or else . . .



Cpl 'Robbo' Robson's section pounds its way around the stretcher race

**EXERCISE LION SUN 9**
**2 Troop's View**

The long awaited day had arrived; Standford Swallow and Druids Drake were behind us. The date was 30 July, the time 2300 hrs, the location Alpha Tp Garages. This was it, the start of Ex Lion Sun 9, the Squadron's long awaited 'holiday' in the sun in Cyprus was about to start.

The 'holiday' was in six phases. The first was the deployment, care of the RAF, which by now we were well into. The second was Mil Trg, the third Adv Trg, the fourth more Mil Trg, the fifth escape and evasion (sorry, R & R), and finally the recovery.

Our accommodation in Cyprus was the five star luxury 'Radio Sonde Hotel' in Episkopi Garrison, known throughout by various names as 'Tenko', 'Colditz', 'Alcatraz' and a number which are unprintable here. Once our two days acclimatisation were complete we were thrown into the Mil Trg package. This included FIBUA, Section and Platoon Attacks, Patrols, Ambushes, and various other non-holiday type activities. Once this phase was complete the Troop moved to the ESBA for four days on the ranges doing the usual ATDs. This package also included a one day practice breakout to Ayia Napa. With the ranges complete it was back to Tenko for the 'Holiday Duties' phase which included hotel porters (guard) and duty Taxi driver.

Phase 3 arrived, beginning with a package tour to Troodos Mountains for three days. The remainder was spent topping up the sun tans on Happy Valley beach, while playing volley ball and various other sports and adventure training. The long balmy evenings were filled with cultural trips to the bright lights of Limassol. The opportunity was also taken for a few liaison visits to the local police!

Phase 4 was the Turner Trophy, and Squadron camping holiday. The Turner Trophy is the annual inter-section military skills competition, and was begun this year with stretcher race (or walk, depending on the section). The bogey time was 8 mins 24 secs, set by the officers and seniors the evening before, in a competition won by the seniors. A certain officer, no names mentioned (OC C Troop), promised to buy the beers if any team beat this time. Five teams did, but no beer has appeared yet!

Well done to **Cpl Mayer** and his section for winning overall, and particularly to **LCpl Goodson**, who on this third attempt has actually managed to be in a winning team. The Squadron camping holiday, sorry exercise, followed. This began with an overnight nature ramble through scenic rural Cyprus. Once 1 Troop finally found out where they were, and more to the point where they were supposed to be, the main part of the exercise began. This involved various patrols, OPs and ambushes around the training area. While the other Troops were moved by Wessex helicopter, we had to make do with the famous '4 Ton Bedicopter'. Instead we were given the chance to carry out a pursuit patrol using a sniffer dog. Unfortunately the dog had even less interest in the exercise than **LCpl Dicky Bird**, and therefore led us all over the wrong valley. The exercise finally ended with a company attack on Paramali village. Once this was complete, and the enemy were finally (and repeatedly) destroyed Endex was called and the mass breakout for Ayia Napa began. Three days later everyone made it back, more or less in one piece, and the recovery to UK began. Despite many rumours the exercise finally ended on 28 August when everyone arrived back in Tidworth, glad to be in a more pleasant climate.

**RASAAM—BISLEY 1990**

Team composition: **WO1 (FofS) Tom Sharp** (Captain), **Sgt Nobby Nevill, Sig Toby Masters, Scott Barrie** and **Pte Lee Milward.**

After little more than one day's training on the MMTR the shooting season did not start well, and qualification for RASAAM 90 was only achieved by default. With this in our minds we turned up for Corps/SAAM 90 hoping to up our standards, and morale.

The week went surprisingly well, with some good placings in the Para Cup, SMG and Pistol. This helped to perk us up in time for the shooting mecca of Bisley, in its centenary year.

On arrival we decided that the kind of hospitality of the 'Inns of Court' was far too expensive for us poor soldiers, and so sought accommodation courtesy of HM tented lines. The following 10 days competition brought many trials and tribulations, culminating in a best of third place in the Gun Pairs for **Sgt Nevill** and **Sig Barrie**. This was a fine achievement against a majority of LSWs.

To sum up the team worked well, but may have achieved much more had it not had the distraction of the World Cup to contend with!



## 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

**PERSONALITIES**
**Sqn Comd** — **Maj M. W. Edwards**
**2IC** — **Capt J. Turner**
**Ops Offr, Capt S. R. Workman, Admin Offr, Capt J. Aspinall, RSM, WO1 (RSM) M. A. Granitza, YofS, WO2 (YofS) McCrindle and CC, SSgt (ORQMS) Richards.**

**CAYTHORPE**

On 26 September, 10 soldiers from the Squadron, under the watchful eye of the QM, **Capt Fred Bancroft**, left Arnhem Barracks each carrying 40lb bergens to embark on a 174 mile march in aid of charity. The march took them to Caythorpe in Lincolnshire in time for the 1st AB Divisional Signals Reunion, held annually in that tiny village. The weekend itself was a huge success, with a very good turnout from the old boys.

The coach party comprising about 20 men from the Squadron arrived at midday on the Saturday to a warm reception. Large groups of ex members of the Squadron/Regiment greeted the serving members as they disembarked unceremoniously from the coach—in previous years the arrival has taken the form of a para drop onto nearby Grantham DZ. It did not take long before every young soldier on the trip knew how Arnhem was won or lost, depending on the narrator.

At 1345 hrs, the main street of Caythorpe began to fill up with villagers, serving and ex members of the Airborne Signals, to welcome the 10 marchers. On cue, they arrived at the outskirts of the village. Their spirits were high even though their feet were sore. The tumultuous applause from those lining the street drowned out **Sig Scott** as he piped them into the main street. Under the leadership of **Capt Fred Bancroft**, and the watchful eye and organisation of **Capt John Aspinall**, the 10 marchers completed their march.

Through generous sponsorship and vigorous collection techniques en route, the team raised £2,274 for the Para 90 Appeal.

The team comprised: **Capt (QM) Fred Bancroft, Cpls Mat Wigley, Chris Brown, Stu Archer, Clive Smith, LCpls Woodward, Oliver, Lawn, Coates** and **Day.**

**CAYTHORPE MARCH**
**A MARCHER'S VIEW**

We set off on Sunday morning before the rest of the Squadron returned from leave. The first day was to be the first of two 30 mile stints, four 25 milers and a 14 miler which made up the 174 miles to Caythorpe. Spirits were high as the Reporters from the local rag took their photos and the lads set off. Conversations amongst the marchers was as usual jocular and loud, mostly directed at **Mat Wigley** and **'Coatsie'** who up until the day were only supposed to be collecting money through towns, but found themselves tabbing, taking the flak and looking for a shop that sold insoles.



174 miles to go. The team set off for Caythorpe



At the outskirts of Caythorpe *L-R:* LCpls Day, Coates, Cpls Brown, Wigley, LCpl Oliver, Capt Bancroft, LCpl Lawn, Cpl Archer, Smith and LCpl Woodward



Maj Gen Deane Drummond and Maj Lewis Golden pictured with the Squadron's representatives at Caythorpe

By the 15 mile point it was like the retreat from Moscow with the heat and the hard road surface taking it's toll already on the lads feet. All felt strong and fit but constant road slapping in CBH found weak spots in the toughest feet. No one was jacking though, not on the first day, you'd never live it down, and drastic measures were undertaken to keep going. Improvised insoles of deathpacks and toilet roll were good—but not that good! Even **Scotty**, the Highland Piper, found it tough going. All concerned were relieved at the first nights stop near Reading. **J. J. Day** was fully employed that night especially with specialist treatment of blisters, using his own recipe of talc and tinc benz—RMA 3?

The following day's marching really showed how different tabbing on roads is from cross country walking. The inherent problems revolved almost entirely around foot comfort. By the end of the second day there were some very sore looking plates. **Chris Brown** and **Ollie**, not to mention **Matt Wigley** were showing signs of wear and tear and although the QM was looking very strong physically, he was certainly wearing thin mentally. It was generally felt that sooner or later he would surely crack altogether.

The end of day two marked the start of the party. The whole Squad got down to the local after the barbeque and felt a whole lot better after a few beers kindly donated and gratefully received. After a late night and early breakfast and new kit distribution from **Coatsie** the third day began.

Although this was possibly the worst day for feet, it was the turning point of the march. With only 75 miles to do that day the feeling was 'easy'. Takings in the collection tubs had rocketed as blokes began to feel as if the world owed the Airborne Charity at least a few coppers. Heads were well and truly up by now. By the fourth day thoughts were almost off feet and on to Grinstead instead. Admin back up had been at an unprecedented standard until now, no one commented on it as yet as it had all been so smooth and painless that no one had noticed it. In fact it remained at that standard throughout the week and it must be said that it was a major factor in the overall success of the event.

Each night stop had been accompanied by the best sort of good humoured fun, not once did any problems arise from the lads or from locals, although there was still doubt as to why **J. J. Day** was using up so much talc?

Meeting people en route who had served in the Brigade or the old Division was greatly enjoyed by everyone, a real treat. Two stop overs meant the hospitality of ex Para Regt soldiers one now owning a pub and the other a night club. They could not have made the lads more welcome and enjoyed themselves as much as the blokes, I suspect.

The final days' march, only 14 miles in all, included 3 miles up a dead straight road from Grantham. With a Para 90 display at Grantham there was a lot of publicity, and people were stopping in their cars to put money into our tubs. A few no claims bonuses came very close at times.

Marching into Caythorpe line abreast behind the pipes was a great moment. We all felt full of pride for the old boys that we'd done it for and as the coach party handed round the beers, full of congratulations, we felt outstandingly proud of the blokes we'd marched with who had showed every bit of the guts and determination, humour and joie de vivre that is infectious and can only be associated with the Airborne soldier!

With the stroll over and done with, the serious work began; this took the form of the annual soccer 'grudge' match between 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and Caythorpe FC. Five members of the marching party got straight into their football kit to play against a strong Caythorpe side. Owing to some outstanding footwork with sore feet and formidable fitness, the Squadron team opened up a 6—1 lead by full time.

Everyone enjoyed the rest of the day, especially **Lt Dave Rose** Royal Australian Signals whose comment on the overall weekend was 'strewth'. Thanks, **Dave**, for that!

Early the next morning, everyone prepared to go to the church service. The **Rev Hugh Middleton**, as usual, took the Service in the beautiful village church. To ensure that everyone got to church on time, **Capt John Aspinall** marched the Squadron's contingent and the old comrades through the village. **Maj Gen Deane-Drummond CB, DSO, MC** took the salute. The General was pleased to meet several members of the Squadron, afterwards. He had been 2IC 1st AB Div Sigs at Arnhem.

**SPORTS SCENE**

The Squadron entered a slightly weakened team in the Brigade Cross Country Championships, but nevertheless fought off some strong opposition to take the Minor Unit title.

In the UK Corps Windsurfing Championships **Cpl Fred Hargreaves** finished as Best Novice, and the Unit team, comprising **Maj Mark Edwards, Capt Steve Jones** and **Cpl Fred Hargreaves** came second in the team event, after the two officers got lost! I'm not saying a word.

**FOCUS ON ALPHA TROOP**

**Tp Comd** — **Capt Steve Vickery**
**Tp SSgt** — **SSgt Eddie Grattidge**
**Tp Sgt, Sgt Dougie Craig.**

In the summer the Troop gave a warm welcome to three new arrivals from training. For **Sig Al Coombe, Mark Evans** and **Rob Scott** this warm welcome developed into a roasting at the hands of the Pre-Para staff. **LCpls Paul Corcoran** and **Des Eldridge**, fresh from 22 Sig Regt, were also sent on Pre-Para to be barbecued—good character building stuff, added **Cpl Stu Archer**.

Welcome back to the 'Boys from Belize'. **LCpl Ian Crooks** and **Sig Mad Mount** returned from the jungle adventure, following the arrival of **LCpl Bohanna, Sig J. D. Hogg** and **Mo Morris**. Good luck to them.

The Troop extends many congratulations to **LCpl Paul Corcoran** and wife, **Karen**, on the recent birth of a baby daughter. Congratulations also to **Sig Steve Binstead** and his wife **Terry** upon the arrival of twins, a boy and a girl. Also to **Capt Scott** and **Lindsay Workman** on the arrival of **Charles**, a brother for three years old **James**. Congratulations to **Cpl Douggie Craig** on promotion to Sgt; however the Troop would be grateful if his fan club could telephone after 1700 hrs! Well done **Cpl Dave Kennedy** on passing P Coy—almost a member of the brotherhood, although it does help if you can tab away from the DZ instead of being driven away in an ambulance.

Ex Suman Warrior, a CPX in Malaysia, involved the majority of the Troop. After a series of vaccinations, which would make Tetley Tea bags shudder, the Troop left from RAF Lyneham in September.

**BELIZE TOUR**
**by Sgt Andy Dawson**

I arrived in Belize on 19 March at a very hot and sticky Airport Camp three weeks before my Rear Link Det to take over from **Sgt Jim Hanlon**. He met me with the normal 'you're my replacement' smile, and we then drove at Mach 3 to Holdfast Camp, my home for the next six months! I was soon settled in and three weeks later met the new RLD as they emerged from the VC10, blinking in the sun. Whilst in Belize we were attached to the 1st Bn The Royal Highland Fusiliers and operated from three locations: Holdfast Camp—**Sig Andy Mount**, Rideau Camp—**Cpl Trev Bailey** and **Sig Andy Chapman** and Salamanca Camp—**LCpl Crooks** and **Sig Scouse Holdsworth**. We got on well with the Jocks, and once we had mastered the Glaswegian accent could even communicate.

The tour went well with most of the Rear Link Det completing a jungle course and everyone getting two weeks R & R. **Sig Andy Mount** was the only one who returned with a battle scar, and now wears T shirts!



## 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Sig Sqn) Colchester

After block leave we spent a few frantic days spray painting vehicles and preparing equipment in readiness for the Gulf. Several individuals were drilled, jabbed and documented in swift succession prior to heading South and we wish them all well in their travels. The season of change is upon us. Farewell to **WO2 (YofS) Dennis Prince** who is off to BDS Washington with his family and **WO2 John Manley** to civilian life. In their places we welcome **WO2 (YofS) Stuart Little** and **SSgt Simon Windus**.

**OSCAR MAIN HQ TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

**Tp Comd** — **Capt Alistair Ross**
**Tp SSgt** — **SSgt Andy Waldron**
**Tp Sgt, Sgt Paul Morgan.**

Following the Brigade CPX the last few months have been fairly quiet. Everyone returned refreshed and keen for work, after a period of block leave. **SSgt Andy Waldron** has been away on his advanced drill course allowing **Sgt Paul Morgan** to jump into the hot seat.

**ARRIVALS**

After a re-organisation within the Squadron, we welcome the following from the now disbanded Papa Tp: **Cpl Mick Angove, LCpls Ray Hitchen, Sid Mayell, Lloyd** and **Sig Sugden**. We also welcome **LCpl Mac Mackenzie** and his wife **Jill** from 22 Sig Regt, **LCpl Martin Burkinshaw**, and **Cpl Tony Taylor** and **Andrea** from 12 Armd Bde. The new boys from training include **Sig** 'Gweedow' **Giddens** and **Sig John Thomson**.

**SPORTS**

As well as entering the cross-country League and the hockey six-a-side competition members of the Troop have been for a days down hill skiing at the Suffolk dry ski slope in Ipswich. The dry skiing was an enjoyable day away and ideal for beginners, but you can't beat the real thing!

**NOVEMBER (REAR HQ) TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**

**Tp Comd** — **Lt Neil Holden**
**Tp SSgt** — **SSgt Derek Deegan**
**Tp Sgt, Sgt Chris Warnes.**

**EXERCISE PANTHERS STRIFE**

The Troop went to Salisbury Plain with the rest of the Squadron to take part in Ex Panthers Strife. Within hours of reaching the 'holiday chalets' it was off into the cold for three days and nights led by **Lt Neil Holden**. The first phase required living in Platoon harbour areas with what we could carry. The night navigation proved to be a little unpopular as the nominated section JNCOs found a hugh FIBUA complex had been built and nobody could find it on the maps. An enjoyable time was had by nearly all and a lot of lessons were learnt especially as to what kit was necessary and what was superfluous. Certainly, **LCpl Mark Coombs** must have had trouble shaving judging by the size of the mirror he carried.

The exercise culminated with most of the Troop being used as umpires within the new German FIBUA complex and everyone soon realised that house clearance is a very slow business.

**NEW ARRIVALS**

Welcome to **Cpls Ian Foster** and **Perry Tubb, LCpls John Evans** and **Steve Whitfield** from Papa Tp. **Cpl Tony May** has joined us from 16 Sig Regt and **Sig Tony King, Aaron Marsh** and **Nicholas Healey** from AA Coll Harrogate. May you all have a happy tour.

**DEPARTURES**

As usual someone has to go and this time we say farewell and good luck to **Cpl Kev Graham** to Civvy Street—all the best. **Sgt John Leach** has also left us for 1 R Anglian RLD—all of a mile away.

**SPORT**

The Corps Autumn Golf meeting was held in Catterick Garrison this year, with a total of four rounds of golf being played over two days. **Lt Neil Holden** and **SSgt Scouse Deegan** had a very enjoyable time representing the Squadron and **SSgt Scouse Deegan** came first in his Division—well done.

## 238 (London) Sig Sqn Chelsea Barracks

**BATTLE CAMP**

Yes it's that nasty phrase that seems to crop up every year. It was off to a small camp by the Channel tunnel site. I don't think that OC Oscar Tp, **Capt Corcoran**, who was OC Battle Camp, had seen so many of his Troop in one place before. **Capt Corcoran** had a team of instructors including **WO2 (SSM) Al Parry** and **SSgt Lisa Twigg** from our own Troop. How could she gas her own troops in the gas chamber! Everybody arrived by coach and as we got off the SSM shouted 'BFT, get changed'. Once that was over it was the usual briefs and everybody was split up into sections. The first couple of days were spent going around different stands learning a few new things and the crustier ones having our memories jogged about things we had all but forgotten. I think a lot of the girls surprised the lads as they really got stuck in. Congratulations to **Pte Sue Day** on gaining best student on our week. On the whole, everybody seemed to enjoy the exciting week.



Cpl Lynch enjoys the outdoor life

**ALL ARMS AIR DEFENCE RANGE DAY**

In June of this year **WO2 (SSM) Al Parry** tasked **Cpl John Lynch** to organise an All Arms Air Defence training period for the Squadron. After much organising of lessons on the theory and just a little grovelling to outside agencies it culminated in a live shoot at Larkhill Ranges on 20 September.

Twenty members of the Squadron, both male and female, travelled down to Larkhill by bus to take part in the shoot using a remote controlled aircraft target known as MATS A. The practice was conducted by **WO2 (SSM) Alun Parry, SSgt Geoff Baldry, Cpls John Lynch** and **Taff Bryant**, and although none of the aircraft was actually shot down most did come back with holes in the sides and the day was declared a success.

The only dark cloud of the day was the absence of the hot meal which **Sig Taff Phillips** had been detailed to collect from the Cookhouse and deliver to the range. This unfortunately had not arrived by the time all the ammunition was expended but the bus party said they were sure they saw **Taff** setting up a soup kitchen on the Embankment with two Norwegian containers full of stew and half a dozen loaves of bread!

# 244 Sig Sqn (AS)
# RAF, Brize Norton

**PERSONALITIES**
**OC** **Maj A. J. Hutt**
**2IC** **Capt A. J. Wood**
**SSM, WO2 (SSM) G. A. Humble, RQMS, WO2 (RQMS) C. B. Charlton, YofS, WO2 (YofS) K. F. Pywell, FofS, WO2 (FofS) S. K. Whitwood, Chief Clerk, SSgt G. Smith, A Tp Comd, Lt A. J. Clewlow, B Tp Comd, Capt P. W. Glibbery (and Ops Offr), C Tp Comd, Sgt I. Druce and D Tp Comd, SSgt C. Gopsill.**

**FAREWELLS**
To **Sgt Chris Geelan** and family gone to sunny Cyprus (with his golf bag). **Cpl Alex** 'Seadog' **Semple** and family to Balado Bridge. **Sig Mick Curril** to civvy street. **Bob Chatfield** also to civvy street, and last but, not least, **LCpl Tam Pirrie** to a 'laid back' posting 'Shape'. A big thanks for all the hard work put in.

**HELLOS**
To the new MT Sgt **Sgt Kev Wilkinson** from the School of Signals. **Cpl Lambert** and **LCpl Des 'Chesty' Holroyd** join our ED Bay. New additions to our hard working LAD Section are **Cpl John Wright** and **LCpl Smith.**

**CONGRATULATIONS**
To **Willy Wilcock, Gaz** 'Rebel Lad' **Paterson** and to **Smudge Smith** on their recent promotions to LCpl and **Cpl Pip Giddings** on passing his DMIs Course successfully.

**ALPHA TROOP**
The year began once again in the frozen wastes of Central and Northern Norway. Throughout eight weeks deployment there were many notable moments, but none more so than the courageous efforts of the Alpha Tp Ski Team. Certainly **Cfn Gaz Paterson, Sig C. J. Barker, LCpl Jase Foulger** and **Lt Ade Clewlow** demonstrated many new styles of Alpine Skiing. **Cpl Mark Whiting** and his wife **Maria**, and **Cpl Mark Hayward** and his wife, **Pauline** have since left from 1 and 4 Div Sig Regts respectively.



Sig 'Foxy' Clink, Will Dryden and Chris Clayton travelling north through the Arctic Circle


Never trust an ED to check your wheel nuts!

Just home from the Arctic and many of the Troop flew to Cyprus for deployment in Air Support Communications.

After extremes of Arctic and Mediterranean climates within a month, the Troop deployed to Baumholder. The location was a large training area and range for the 75,000 US Servicemen and dependants based in the town. Located south of the Mosel Valley, the Troop provided air support communications for Ex Ardent Ground 90, a NATO Artillery and Offensive Support live firing exercise. Whilst there, the Troop discovered a life-sized statue of 'Jimmy' in the nearby town; held two barbecues and had five days R & R at the end of the exercise! One adventurous group, otherwise known as **LCpl Hayes, Sig Chick, Deary** and **Cfn Gaz Paterson**, went off to Amsterdam. The second team spent a more relaxed two days in Krefeld with 16 Sig Regt.

**WELCOMES**
To **Cpl Macdonald** and family, **Cpl Birtle** and family, **LCpl Hutchings** and **Sig Clink, Gibson, Wright** and **Close**. Good to see you all here. Of course, farewell to **LCpl** 'Harry' **Dimelow**—a message from the Troop . . .

**HMS *CUMBERLAND***
**Sig Duckworth**
**SAC Al Williams** from TCW (our RAF counterparts) and I headed for Plymouth to join HMS *Cumberland*, a newly commissioned Royal Naval frigate in which we were to spend the next 10 weeks. On arrival we were welcomed by the ship's Radio Operator.

The next day we set sail, straight into an exercise, which took us to Gibraltar. We stayed there for six hours before sailing for New York via The Azores and Bermuda which took us five days. Between shifts it was a case of visiting the flight deck and sunbathing.

After New York the next port of call was Toronto. We spent nine days there, and the only way to describe it—*fantastic*.

With many regrets we set sail for Bermuda and another exercise and two weeks of sun. The exercise completed, we returned to Canada, this time to St John's Newfoundland. Then, we sailed for home.

If you ever get a chance like this one, jump at it; an unforgettable experience.



# 254 Sig Sqn (UNFICYP)
# BFPO 567

**SHQ**
**PERSONALITIES**
**OC** **Maj J. G. Peck**
**2IC** **Capt P. J. Watt**
**SSM, WO2 W. Henderson, SQMS, SSgt (SQMS) D. Forbes, CC, Sgt A. B. Rose, Stores Acct, Sgt R. Clatworthy, FSO Clk, Mrs J. McGhie** and **Typist Mrs S. Hiscock.**

September heralded the arrival of the new 2IC **Capt Jon Watt**; we hope you have a good tour.

**Capt** 'Windsurfer' **Giles** leaves in November for the dizzy heights of Sandhurst. We all hope you enjoyed your tour and best wishes for the future.

It is with regret that we say farewell to **SSgt Colin Alexander** his wife **Andrea** and son **Craig**. Have a good tour in Lippstadt **Colin**, SHQ has been very quiet since you left!

**COMMCEN TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**
**OC Troop** **WO2 (YofS) D. Mac Taggart**
**Tp Sgt, Sgt I. Thornton-Granville, Day Cpl, Cpl S. Gill, A Shift Cpl, Cpl A. Hall, B Shift Cpl, Cpl G. Horabin** and **C Shift Cpl, Cpl G. Purves.**

**DEPARTURES**
A fond farewell to the following members; we wish them luck. **Cpls Gill, Hall, Horabin, LCpls Fullerton, Rick Rear, Sig Jase Bridges, Conti, Edisbury** and **Mike Stoneman**. Congratulations to **Mike Stoneman** on his recent engagement.

**9 SIG REGT FETE**
254 Sig Sqn were tasked with providing a 'Grenade Throwing Stand'. This was successfully organised by **Cpl 'Scouse' Horabin** aided and abetted by **Sig 'Doobs' Rodgers**. Competitors had to throw dummy grenades into rings which varied in points value. Prizes were kindly donated by Carlsberg Brewery and Coca Cola whom we thank for their generosity.

The event proved to be a great success and all money collected was donated to the Royal Signals Museum Appeal.

**TECH & LINE TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**
**OC Troop** **WO2 (FofS) G. Whiteford**
**Tp Sgt, Sgt A. Broadbank, Tech Sgt, Sgt S. Norris, Line Sgts, Sgts P. Jennings** and **P. Norrie.**

A warm welcome to **Sgt Pete Edge, Cpl K. F. S. Kingsford-Smith, LCpls Johno Johnson** and **Greg Hagel** and **Sig Shuggy Wray** and **Doug Lowe**. A fond farewell and thanks to **Cpls Adie Toye, Stu Phillips, LCpl Lambie Lamb** and **Sig Frank Roux.**

The Troop 'Day Out' went well. It began with the Go-Kart Race which was won by **Sgt Alf Norrie**—who thought he was at Blackpool on the Dodgems, **LCpl Colin** 'Bondu' **Mackay** was runner up with **Cpl Laurie Casci** still learning to drive. The second part of the day was to have been a visit to the brewery at Limassol but this was cancelled so we all headed for a bar on Mt St 'Hilarious' Hilarian. I am glad to report that we all managed to stagger off the mountain and finish off a super day trying to play a game of skittles.

**CONGRATULATIONS**
Well done to **Cpls Laurie Casci, K. F. S. Kingsford-Smith** and **Colin Mackay** on their promotions to Corporal.

We also warmly welcome our youngest member of the Troop **Kiri Anne Norris** who entered the world on Sunday 16 September, our congratulations to her proud parents **Simon** and **Anna.**

**RADIO TP**
**PERSONALITIES**
**Tp Comd** **Capt Mike Purcell**
**Tp SSgt, SSgt Mick Halford** and **Tp Sgt, Sgt Jerry Gervais**

**ARRIVALS**
The Troop would like to welcome the following new members: **Capt Mike Purcell, MCpl Jim Kelly, Cpls John Pappas, Andy Delaney, LCpl Steve Rose, Sig 'Isaac' Newton, Stu Mallett, Rod Noble, Paul Parsons** and **Bruce Thornton.**

**DEPARTURES**
To those who left recently, namely **Lt Steve Gaunt, Cpls Bill Clark, Jess Veullieux, LCpl 'Dougie' Douglas, Sig Tim Vanandel, George Cowan** and **Bob Giddings**. Our good wishes go with them all.

**9 SIG REGT SUMMER FETE**
On a bright and sunny Saturday, six members of the Troop namely, **MCpl Gilles Beaupre, LCpl Steve Rose, JUO Grant Peden** (UOTC), **Sig George Cowan, Herbie Hancock** and **Bruce Thornton**, were 'selected' for their Rousting abilities to represent the Troop at the 9 Sig Regt Summer Fete. They decided a Coconut Shy would be the best idea. Due to the fact that coconuts are only available in Cyprus at Christmas some bright spark suggested Melons. The mess was pretty awful and only one person actually managed to knock one down **SSgt Mike** (I've been practising) **Halford**, of, would you believe, 254 Sig Sqn. A total of £116 was raised and donated to the Museum Appeal.

**EXERCISE PANDORAS BOX**
The Troop was also involved in Ex Pandoras Box which was conducted in three phases. The Troop provided LO's and part of the defence platoon for the Commcen. The exercise went well and a special mention must go to the SSM for the stealth shown by his defence platoon, the way they moved from corner to corner was an inspiration to us all.



Exercise! Exercise! Exercise!
Cpl Taff Walters guarding the sandbags

**DANCON MARCHES**
On the weekends of 15/16 and 22/23 September the Dancon Marches were held. Most of the troop took part in one of the weekends. Each day consisted of a 25km march; unfortunately they didn't tell us that on the first day 20kms of it were a steady climb—straight up a mountain. The view was great and, so were the blisters but, we persevered! The second day wasn't so bad, even quite pleasant. However, they did put a few small hills (they felt like mountains) in the way.

At the end we all sat down and had a beer and waited for everyone else to stagger in. After parting with four pounds each for a 'T' shirt depicting the event we were able to convince ourselves that we had all had a wonderful time!


Dancon March Successes
*L to R:* Capt Jon Watt, OCdt Grant Peden, MCpl Beupre, Cpl Walters, Sgt Gervais and LCpl Rose

# 259 Sig Sqn
# BFPO 53

**THE BIRD MAN GOES HOME**

Since the last issue of *The Wire* we have seen the departure of our resident Ornithologist **Maj Colin French**, who also put some time in as the Squadron Quartermaster, Golf permitting, during his tour with us. We are also pleased to see his wife **Joan** who flew into Cyprus just to attend his 'Gozome' (farewell party for the uninitiated). **Maj Lynn Relph**, the Squadron Commander was outstanding in the role of Cilla Black, for the first the Quartermaster knew of Joan's visit was when she knocked on his door at 0500 in the morning. Surprise! Surprise! We wish Colin congratulations on his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel and hope that he and **Joan** will have a happy stay in 8 Sig Regt. We will treasure the photograph of James the Giffin Vulture!

**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURE**

Welcome to our new Quartermaster **Maj Ron Collins** and **Ann** and to **Sgt Chris Geelan** and his family and bon voyage to **Sgt John** and **Betty Davidson** and **Cpl Paul Berney** who leave us on posting. The best of luck in your new units.

**EPISKOPI TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**
**Tp Comd** **Capt Frank Running**
**FofS, WO2 (FofS) Dave Gunn, Tp SSgt, SSgt Tam Tulloch, RR Sgt, SSgt Adge Watkins, Project SNCO, Sgt Steve Moore, Systems SNCO, Sgt John Marsden** and **Exchange SNCO, Sgt Dave Bradford.**

**HELLOS**

The last few months have seen changes in the Troop and we welcome **Sgt Tony Taylor** from Catterick, **Sgt Shawn Wilde, Cpl 'Johnah' Jones** and his wife **Beverley. Cpl Dave Laverie** and **Jannie** and **Cpl Dave Murphy**. We also welcome back **Sig Neil Wells** and **Melhuish** from Mountain Tp and **Sig Evan Galloway**.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to **SSgt 'Tam' Tulloch** and **Christine** on the birth of their son **Jamie, Sgt 'Marc' Findon** and **Jeanette** on the birth of their daughter **Lauren, Cpl Lawler** and **Dawn** on the birth of their son **Declan** and to **Sig 'Fudge' McPhee** and **Jacky** on the birth of their daughter **Sinead**. It must be something in the beer! Also congratulations to **LCpl Tommo Thompson** on his promotion to Corporal.

**FAREWELLS**

We say goodbye to the following: **Cpl Paul Gorman** and family, **Sgt Bob McDonald** to his FofS selection and Belize, **LCpl Wareham** and family and **Sig Andy Howe** both out to try their luck in Civvy Street. We wish them well!



Episkopi Tp-September 1990

**AIRFIELD TROOP**
**PERSONALITIES**
**Tp Comd** **Lt Tim Craven**
**FofS, WO2 (FofS) Terry Waites, Tp SSgt, SSgt Nick Phillips, CRISP, SSgt George Myerscough, Exch, Sgt Tony Pinsent, Systems, Sgt Pip Piper** and **Projects, Sgt Ken John.**

**PROJECT CRISP**

Who or what is CRISP? To the uninitiated, it stands for Cyprus Radio Relay Installation System Project, or to those in Akrotiri it is known as the replacement for the ageing Strowger Exchange. Of course, it makes sense; you know it does. The Troop's CRISP team commonly known as the 'Walker Brothers' alias **SSgt George Myerscough** and **LCpl Dave Jenkins**, have found that the project has had more false dawns than Sugar Ray Leonard has had comebacks. However the dawn is on the horizon and permitting moritoriums will be upon us soon. CPD Blandford have helped by saving an old building in Episkopi from destruction and giving us sound advice on where we were going wrong! So, all being well 'Old Faithful' should slip quietly into retirement as the new ISDX takes over. I wonder!

A special thanks must go to **Cpl Dave Slater** from CPD for the assistance he offered us. On his departure he was presented with a Squadron plaque in appreciation of his efforts.



Airfield Tp and Party 1 of 81 Sig Sqn (V)



**NEW ARRIVALS**

We welcome **Sgt Pip Piper** and his wife **Wendy.**

**DEPARTURES**

We say farewell to **Sig Mick Lawlor** and **Sharon,** and to **Sig 'Taff' Ingleson** and **Jackie** on retirement to Civvy Street.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to **Sig Trevor Johnfinn** and **Dionne** on their marriage; also to **Sig Andy Maylett** and **SACW Debbie Taylor.** The first 20 years are the worst!

**MOUNTAIN TROOP**
**by Sgt Bennett**

**PERSONALITIES**
**Tp Comd** **Lt Nick Walker**
**FofS, SSgt Dave Alexander, Tp Sgt, Sgt Bennett, RR SNCOs, Sgt Ballin, Sgt Chambers** and **TE SNCO, Sgt Quinn.**

There has been a large turn round within the Troop, so say farewell to **Sgt Steve Ferguson** who leaves the Army to join the Omani Air Force, **Cpl 'Bully' Bull** who goes Belize and **Sig Moore** and family who join the ranks of 21 Sig Regt. A special mention to **Lt Murray Coleman** now in BAOR, he will be sorely missed on the Cyprus Cricket pitches.

We would like to welcome to the Troop **Lt Nick Walker, Sgt Billy Chambers** and **Tracey, Sgt Tony Quinn** and his wife **Jan, LCpl Mick Gotheridge** and his wife **Sharon, LCpl** 'Brenda' **Brennan** and our new FofS, **SSgt (FofS) Dave Alexander** and his family. We wish you all the very best in Mountain Tp.

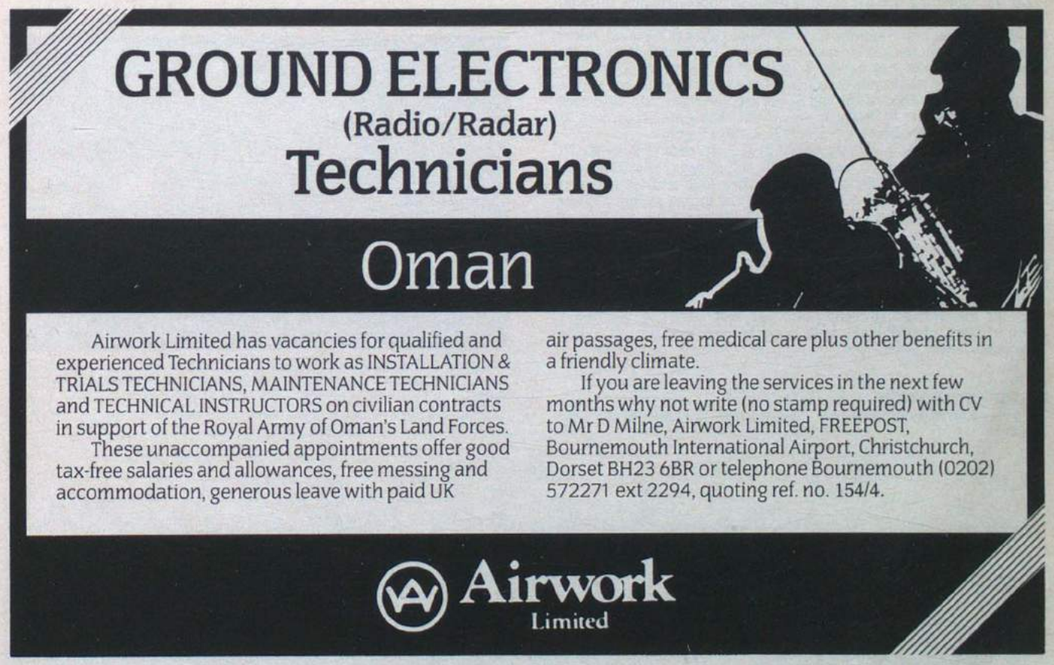
We have now won all three events in the CO's Cup against the RAF sections, so we're looking good for regaining the cup this year.

**Lt 'Tiny' Coleman, Sgt Chris Ballin, Cpls 'Binksy' Binks** and **'Bully' Bull** were members of the winning team in the Brain of Troodos Competition held annually by 280 SU. The fact that Mountain Tp was asked to repair the buzzer system the day before the final had nothing to do with their memorable win; they did actually win on brain power. Which all goes to show that not all officers and technicians are on the right grid square but wrong planet!

Congratulations to **Sig Ali Watkins** on his recent marriage to **Paula**; best wishes and have an enjoyable tour.

**VISITS**

We were very pleased to play host to **Lesley Goodwin** who was visiting relatives on the Island. She works on the PVR, Discharges and Courses desk at Manning and Records and was shown around Episkopi Tp and Airfield Tp. **Lesley** could be forgiven for thinking that mosquitoes had taken a human form! Jesting aside it was a pleasure to show off to one of the girls who look after us so well. Sorry no pictures—**Lesley** had the only camera!

## Tayforth Universities Officer Training Corps

**PERSONALITIES**
**RSO** **2Lt Mike Doyle**
**Signals PSI** **WO2 Dave Chrystal**

The first major event of the year was Ex Dales Challenge held at Catterick in November. The journey down started off slowly but became quicker once **Kevin** (just call me Nigel) **Struthers** found the accelerator pedal.

In March came *the* competition—Ex Lightning Strike at Blandford. This was the first time we had flown down and an hour by plane was greatly appreciated as against 10 hours by mini-bus. For **Des O'Hanlon** it was his second flight, but only his first landing. His only previous flight was for a parachute jump!

The next major exercise was the Signal Cadre, again held in a small hut in Barry Buddon. The aim—to send and receive morse at 5 wpm—in only four mornings! So after breakfast the Signal Tp would trot off from the little hut and be bombarded with morse training tapes, guess the intro competitions and a JUO with his own version of the phonetic alphabet eg 'Julio and Romiett'. After going through hell on earth we were all relieved when the day came to put all this into practice. So we erected our dipoles and merrily got down to ditting and dahhing to Germany and Cyprus. Many thanks to 200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn, 202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn and to 262 Sig Sqn for being there on the other end and putting up with our morse.

Finally we come to our annual camp, this year held at Otterburn. We started off with a FIBUA exercise at Whinny Hill, Catterick. We had a fantastic time and everyone will have many memories of kicking in doors and climbing through windows, well trying to.

On the Signalling side the exercise made us appreciate how difficult it was to work in an urban environment. With command and control being stressed at every opportunity, the Signal Tp was certainly under pressure to maintain communications. Tac HQ found itself in the unusual situation of not having a shortage of operators. Every day another casualty would join the ranks of the walking wounded and be transferred to Tac HQ. At the end of the exercise Tac could have been renamed 4077th M*A*S*H*. It was quite remarkable the speed at which these cripples became 'expert??' Radio Operators.

Our end of camp dinner was graced by the presence of **Brig M. W. H. Roberts OBE**, who was warmly welcomed. The Brigadier presented the Lightning Strike team with their long awaited tankards for achieving second place. Other events at the dinner included **Fiona McKinnon**'s appointment as Signals JUO. We wish her the best of luck!

Well that wraps up this year for us, next year the boss **(WO2 Chrystal)** has many weird and wonderful things planned eg a link across the length of Scotland, winning Lightning Strike and many others.

As for me, I'm going regular and you may have the 'privilege', 'honour', 'misfortune' (take your pick) to have me as your Troop Commander next year.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

To **Roz Farrell** who is this year's winner of the Signaller of the Year Trophy.



The Tayforth Signals Cadre
Barry Buddon
*Back Row L to R:* OCdt Sean Ferguson, WOCdts Cathy Gill, Claire Graham, Ruth Cunningham, Roz Farrell, WO2 Dave Chrystal, 2Lt Joe Watling, OCdt (now JUO) Al Veitch and JUO Tony Matheson
*Front Row L to R:* JUO Dave Cathro (Instructor), WOCdts Mags Hendry, Victoria Black, (now JUO) Fiona McKinnon, Linda Baikie, Helen Pitt, JUO Jackie Lockhart and OCdt Rich Prime



Another amusing message has just come in WOCdt (now JUO) Fiona McKinnon operates the radio teleprinter loaned by 8 Sig Regt whilst receiving advice from *(l to r)* WOCdt Helen Pitt, OCdt Sean Ferguson, JUO Tony Matheson and JUO Dave Cathro
Tayforth Signals Cadre 1990



## THE ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

| | |
|---|---|
| Admiral | Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB MBE |
| Commodore | Col W. Roper |
| Vice Commodore | Lt Col C. K. Powell |

**Rear Commodores: Offshore, Lt Col A. W. Cudlip; Dinghies, Maj V. T. Smedley; Windsurfing, Lt Col C. D. McK Kemp**

**Secretary Maj G. M. Lewis-Taylor.**

**UNIVERSAL 500 1990**
**THE HARD RACE IN THE SOFT SOUTH**
**by Capt T. C. Wadey**

The race is 500 miles of sailing and running, about 420 of them under sail and 80 on foot. It takes the form of a series of sailing legs interspersed by runs of differing lengths: 10, 20 and 30 miles and the Lympstone assault course. The rules regarding the make up of the crew, the yacht and the conduct of the race are complex but favour a crew of three sailors and three runners sailing a large boat with a shallow draft. With a lot of forward planning and in the vain hope of finding a sponsor we chartered a 43ft Barracuda called *Kraktit*. The plan looked doomed by a lack of sponsor, but was rescued at the last minute by the boats owner, **John Stubbs**, allowing us to use the boat carrying his advertising.

The crew was **Capts Mark Castle-Smith** and **Tim Wadey** and **Maj Mark Butler** (sailing), **Capt Nick Bateson, SSgt Dave Carr** and **Cpl Nick Withers** (running). The shore back up crew consisted of **Capt Graham Norton, Toni Butler**, and the owner **John Stubbs**. Whilst we sailed the legs of the course they drove ahead to take care of any admin and recce the area (Pubs received very close scrutiny I hear). They also gave the runners food and drink at prearranged points during the runs. More on this essential task later.

After three days of removing the surplus contents from the boat we motored out to the start at 1600 hrs on Saturday 25 August. The line was laid in the Hillhead area and having made a clean start we had to reach East along the beach to the first mark before starting the long beat to Salcombe. In generally light airs it took until the next afternoon to beat there and put the two **Nicks** ashore for a 20 mile run.

We were sixth boat to arrive but the runners made up two places during the run. This was in spite of losing the control card after the first checkpoint. All of the runs followed the format of an orienteering event with controls where the card was punched along the route. In spite of backtracking and searching they failed to find the card and lost about 30 minutes revisiting controls. Both the runners arrived back at the boat in Dartmouth suffering from their run.

The sail to Exmouth proved to be frustrating in light airs and against the tide. **SSgt Dave Carr** was on deck during part of the night and could not believe that we were serious about rowing the boat. Two mad men in a rubber dinghy towing 13 tons of boat is a sight few have ever seen; **Dave** still thinks he was hallucinating. After about 30 minutes the breeze filled in and gave us a pleasant early morning sail into the Exe at low water. We felt our way into the channel between mudflats and sandbanks with the runners hopeful that we would not go aground and so extend their run. We anchored just off the camp at Lympstone for an enforced break before all three runners did the Marines' Endurance Course.

The runners put up an excellent performance, as the fastest overall on this leg, but were beaten for the leg prize by a rule that reduced a team's time by 10 minutes for extra runners. The real battle was beginning to start between the Sappers on *Rumour* and ourselves. During the course of this run there was a small race with our team




*Kraktit* before the start, Dave Carr, Mark Butler, Tim Wadey, Nick Withers and Mark Castle-Smith at the helm

catching up from behind and overtaking the Sappers. Negotiating the Exe Channel was no easier on the way out as now all the mud was covered in water.

The next sail, to Alderney, was marked by light airs which did not suit the Barracuda. Although we left just before them, the eventual race winner, *Universal Heartbeat* overhauled us after a few hours leaving us to race against the Sappers in *Rumour*. The wind had swung around during the night so we had to beat all the way to The Channel Isles. The proposect of a cold beer kept the sailors going. We arrived in dead heat with *Rumour* and the two groups of runners raced each other ashore in the rubber dinghy to secure the advantage of being first to set off. I am glad to say ours won by a short head.

This time **Nick Bateson** ran with **Dave Carr** and shook off the Sappers early in the run. Having done the fastest time over the 10 mile course **Dave** said he had enjoyed the view and demanded to know why we had not bought him fish and chips! **Nick** collapsed in to his bed.

The next leg of the course took us from Alderney to Fowey in variable conditions. We set out in a dying breeze with the tide against us. We held our position but crabbed North, picked up the tide in no wind and drifted with it towards the separation scheme (a nautical motorway) in mid channel. As the tide turned we could just see one of the mid channel marker buoys, and decided to anchor out of the main shipping channel (in the central reservation) to stop us spending the night going backwards. It was about 60m deep and we used most of our rope to anchor, about 100m of it. As the tide turned the next morning the runners awoke to the groans of the sailors winching this and the anchor off the seabed. There were no volunteers from below until the anchor was up. That mornning the wind slowly filled from the West, so yet again we had to beat. However as the weather worsened and the wind got up so Barracuda began to speed up relative to the other smaller boats. Having lost touch with the rest of the fleet it was heartening to slowly overhaul the lighter boats which had been able to make better speed in the light airs. Our shore crew had spent two days in Fowey and wanted to move on. They annoyed us with the news that *Universal Heartbeat* had reached with a favourable breeze all the way back across the Channel taking at least 18 hours out of us. In spite of all of the other yachts close to us taking different courses we all arrived in Fowey within an hour of each other.

The increase in wind marked the change in fortune at sea and the runners reinforced this by overtaking all the other runners ahead of them. **Bateson** and **Carr** ran at night beaten only by a crew that ran in daylight and having gone ashore in fifth place they re-embarked in second. *Rumours* runners had a slight problem with navigation costing them about two hours. Our shore party also had navigation problems and missed the runners at a critical point in the 30 mile run. They arrived at Cawsand just in time to wave goodbye as we hoisted the spinnaker.

Although two boats left within minutes of us they soon fell behind as the yacht powered downwind in over 20 knots of wind. A competition soon developed between helms to achieve the fastest speed; it was won by **Mark Butler** with 13.2 knots. We carried the spinnaker all the way to the entrance to Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight. This included a few gybes as the wind swung around and reaching up the back of the Shingles Bank in shallow water to keep out of the adverse tide. I was on the helm as we entered the Solent against the tide, forcing us to sail close to the beach. The Skipper chose this moment to look up. His comment is unprintable.

It was nearly midnight when the runners stepped ashore on the Isle of Wight for the final long run. The course was 10 miles in a circuit out to the Needles and back. Due to total indecision and nobody willing to admit defeat all three runners completed this leg. Again they ran in darkness and beat the time set by the Universal team. They were eventually beaten by the Sappers trying to make up for the previous run.

Tensions were running high as we left the harbour on the final sail back to the Hamble. We knew that whilst we would finish in second place on the water *Rumour* could still catch us as she was ahead of us before the stop in Exmouth. At this stage the wind was not strong but it was steady with us and if it died it would die astern of us first. By the time we got to the approaches to the Hamble the breeze was very light. We all hoped that nothing had changed behind us to favour *Rumour*.

The race has a final twist in that the last run, a mere three miles has to be run by the skipper! **Capt Mark Castle-Smith** was accompanied by **Capt Nick Bateson** for this short run up the river bank and was given support from the boat as we motored back up to the Universal Boatyard.

Having moored, there followed a tense hour's wait until the non arrival of another boat signified that champagne could be opened, and we could celebrate having come second.

Our results were as follows: Overall—second, Running—second (by 8 mins), and Sailing—second.

Our thanks must go to the owner of *Kraktit*, **Mr John Stubbs** without whose support we would not have been able to enter.

## WINDSURFING



The team windsurfers showing off four of the new Corps boards!

The highlight of this end of season report comes from BAOR where I am reliably informed that we have successfully defended our Inter-Corps BAOR title. Full details of the result are still awaited but happily I can report that the Corps retained its title having beaten off a closely fought challenge from our old foe—the REME. The team representing the Corps at the Dummersee on 17/18 September was: **Maj Jo Fletcher** (Capt), 202 Sig Sqn; **Capt Mike Stapleton**, 21 Sig Regt; **Sgt Ritch Carey**, 13 Sig Regt; **Sgt Andy Elliott**, 21 Sig Regt and **Sgt Dave Pickersgill**, 22 Sig Regt.

The Corps has now won this event for three of the previous four years, accurately reflecting our strength and overall supremacy in windsurfing, particularly in BAOR.

### CORPS UK CHAMPIONSHIPS—RESULTS

The Royal Signals UK Championships were held at Browndown Camp, Lee-on-Solent over the period 6-8 September 1990. Regrettably the Gulf conflict had a bearing on the turnout which was low with only 15 individuals competing.

Conditions were quite extreme with the first day providing force 5/6 with frequent gusts up to 30 knots. Two individual races were sailed although it must be said that 50 per cent of the fleet failed to finish either of them! More enjoyable perhaps was the experimental slalom race organised in the afternoon. A lot of thrills and indeed spills particularly at the gybe marks made for an exciting event.

Friday morning dawned with even stronger winds and it was decided to postpone sailing as the wind was forecast to be moderate.

Happily a good force 4 with the occasional gust enabled a further three individual races to be sailed, thereby guaranteeing an accurate and competitive result with the discard system invoked.

Regrettably the promised force 3/4 on Saturday never materialised which made the team event difficult to organise. A first race was managed, although the call for a 'shortened course' was heard more than once during the latter half of the contest! Two further attempts at races which commenced in fickle winds of 6-8 knots had eventually to be abandoned, when the wind dropped to a feeble 2-3 knots! The strong tidal flow running in the Solent made beating up wind a virtual impossibility and keeping a tally of drifting windsurfers spread across the Solent became increasingly difficult, even with the relatively small fleet. The detailed results were:-

**Overall Individual** (Five Races)

| | | Overall Posn | Pts | Weight Class Posn | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cpl Anderson** | 15 Sig Regt | 1 | 4¾ | Hvy 1 | 3 |
| **Sgt Maw** | 8 Sig Regt | 2 | 9¾ | Lt 1 | 3 |
| **Sgt Pett** | 8 Sig Regt | 3 | 10¾ | Hvy 2 | 8¾ |
| **Capt White** | 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) | 4 | 15 | Hvy 3 | 10 |
| **WO2 Gillett** | 8 Sig Regt | 5 | 17 | Lt 2 | 8 |
| **Maj Edwards** | 5 AB Bde HQ & Sig Sqn | 6 | 21 | Hvy 4 | 14 |
| **LCpl Hall** | 1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn | 7 | 29 | Hvy 5 | 21 |
| **Capt Atkinson** | 239 Sig Sqn | 8 | 41 | Lt 3 | 19 |
| **Cpl Hargreaves** | 5 AB Bde HQ & Sig Sqn | 9 | 42 | Lt 4 | 20 |
| **Cpl Kendall** | 8 Sig Regt | 10 | 50 | Hvy 6 | 28 |
| **Capt Richardson** | 249 Sig Sqn | 11 | 59 | Hvy 7 | 31 |
| **Cpl Ellwood** | 249 Sig Sqn | =12 | 60 | Lt =5 | 34 |
| **Cpl Foord** | 249 Sig Sqn | =12 | 60 | Lt =5 | 34 |
| **SSgt Chorlton** | School of Signals | =12 | 60 | Lt =5 | 34 |
| **Cpl Whitehead** | 249 Sig Sqn | 15 | 65 | Lt 8 | 36 |

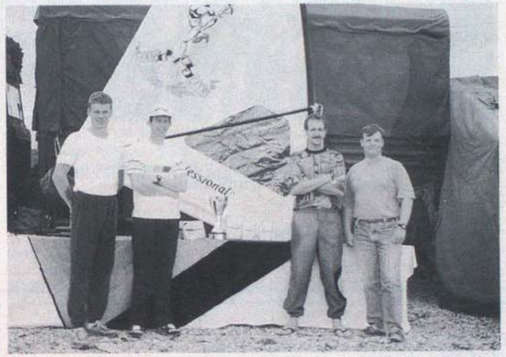


**Individual Awards**

Overall and Heavyweight Champion — **Cpl Anderson**
Heavyweight Runner Up — **Sgt Pett**
Novice — **Cpl Kendall**
Lightweight Champion — **Sgt Maw**
Runner Up — **WO2 Gillett**
Novice — **Cpl Hargreaves**
Best Veteran — **Capt White**
Best Guest — **Cpl Foord** (REME)

**Unit Team** (1 Race)

| Team | Windsurfers | Pts By Sailor | Pts By Team | Team Posn |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 Sig Regt | **Sgt Maw** | ¾ | | |
| | **WO2 Gillet** | 3 | 10¾ | 1 |
| | **Sgt Pett** | 7 | | |
| 5 AB Bde | **Maj Edwards** | 2 | | |
| HQ & Sig Sqn | **Capt Jones** | 4 | 15 | 2 |
| | **Cpl Hargreaves** | 9 | | |
| AA Coll | **Sgt Fradley** | 6 | | |
| Harrogate | **ACpl Tulk** | 8 | 27 | 3 |
| | **Sgt Finnegan** | 13 | | |
| 249 Sig Sqn | **Capt White** | 5 | | |
| | **Capt Richardson** | 13 | 31 | 4 |
| | **Cpl Ellwood** | 13 | | |



A proud 8 Sig Regt team pose with their trophies. *Left to right:* Sgt Pett, WO2 Gillet, Sgt Maw (First unit team) and Cpl Kendall (best heavyweight novice)



The worthy Overall Champion, Cpl Sammy Anderson receives his award from the Yacht Club Commodore, Col W. Roper. It was most fitting that Cpl Anderson sailing in his last Corps Championships should achieve this result before he leaves the Corps. All Corps Windsurfers wish him the very best for civvy street—he will be missed on the water next year

## — Sport —

## CORPS SHOOTING RESULTS BISLEY 1990

### TEAM MATCHES—MAJOR UNITS

| Match | Pos | Unit | Trophy |
|---|---|---|---|
| Roupell | 1 | QG Signals | Maresfield Cup |
| | 2 | 7 Sig Regt | |
| | 3 | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt | |
| Whitehead | 1 | QG Signals | SOinC's Cup |
| | 2 | 7 Sig Regt | |
| | 3 | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt | |
| Association | 1 | QG Signals | Cheylesmore Cup |
| | 2 | 7 Sig Regt | |
| | 3 | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt | |
| Whittaker | 1 | QG Signals | 247 Sig Sqn Bowl |
| | 2 | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt | |
| | 3 | 7 Sig Regt | |
| SMG | 1 | QG Signals | Champion Team Bowl |
| | 2 | 7 Sig Regt | |
| | 3 | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt | |
| PARA Cup | 1 | QG Signals | Catterick Trophy |
| | 2 | 7 Sig Regt | |
| | 3 | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt | |
| LMG | 1 | QG Signals | Matthews Cup |
| | 2 | 7 Sig Regt | |
| | 3 | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt | |
| Section Match | 1 | 7 Sig Regt | Col Comdt's Cup |
| | 2 | QG Signals | |
| | 3 | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt | |
| Team Snap | 1 | QG Signals | Cowsill Bowl |
| | 2 | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt | |
| | 3 | 7 Sig Regt | |
| Falling Plate | 1 | QG Signals | Falling Plate Trophy |
| Major Unit Championship | 1 | QG Signals | Champion Team Trophy |
| | 2 | 7 Sig Regt | |
| | 3 | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt | |

### TEAM MATCHES—MINOR UNITS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Roupell | 1 | 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn | R Signals Aldershot Cup |
| | 2 | 238 Sig Sqn | |
| | 3 | 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn | |
| Whitehead | 1 | 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn | Hulton Cup |
| | 2 | 238 Sig Sqn | |
| | 3 | 249 Sig Sqn | |
| Association | 1 | 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn | Telegraph Bn RE Cup |
| | 2 | 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn | |
| | 3 | Comms and Sy Gp UK | |
| Whittaker | 1 | 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn | Hassell Trophy |
| | 2 | 238 Sig Sqn | |
| | 3 | 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn | |
| SMG | 1 | 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn | 18 Regt Trophy |
| | 2 | 211 Sig Sqn | |
| | 3 | 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn | |
| Para Cup | 1 | 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn | HQ 1 Sigs Cup |
| | 2 | 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn | |
| | 3 | 249 Sig Sqn | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| LMG | 1 | 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn | Singapore Cup |
| | 2 | 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn | |
| | 3 | Comms and Sy Gp UK | |
| Fire Team Match | 1 | 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn | AER Cup |
| | 2 | 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn | |
| | 3 | Comms and Sy Gp UK | |
| Team Snap | 1 | 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn | Trg Bde Assault Cup |
| | 2 | 249 Sig Sqn | |
| | 3 | Comms and Sy Gp UK | |
| Minor Unit Championship | 1 | 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn | Worrin Cup |
| | 2 | 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn | |
| | 3 | Comms and Sy Gp UK | |

**TARGET RIFLE SHOOTING ANNUAL REPORT**

1990 has been a good year for Royal Signals Target Rifle Shooting. We have seen consolidation of our position in the sport—there are now more members of the Regular Army Team from Royal Signals than from any other Corps or Arm. We have also seen the emergence of a new generation of shots who have made a name for themselves this year and who should continue to improve in future seasons.

Results are:

**Inter Corps TR Match**

The Corps Team consisted: **Capt J. E. Body**—School of Signals (Capt), **WO1 (FofS) T. J. Sharp**—1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, **Sgt S. K. Rideout**—22 Sig Regt, **Cpl P. J. Alden**—16 Sig Regt and **Maj R. J. Hoole**—19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (Res).

The team finished fifth out of twelve teams after a fraught match beset with equipment problems. **Maj Hoole** shot exceedingly well to take the prize for Top Reserve Team member.

**Army Target Rifle Championships**

This match was shot at Bisley during the Regular Army Skill at Arms Meeting and attracted most of the known Army Team shots. The Corps was represented by Unit Teams from the School of Signals and 22 Sig Regt. Results: Short Range TR Team—School of Signals—2nd and Long Range TR Team—School of Signals—1st (The Kolapore Goldfields Cup).

**Individual Sniper**

After leading this match throughout the competition, **Capt Body** was beaten by the UDR by one point in the very last detail. Medal winners were: 2nd—Silver—**Capt J. E. Body**; 5th—Bronze—**Cpl M. O'Brien** (School of Signals).

**Sniper Team**

**Capt Body** and **Cpl O'Brien** finished half way down the order of merit. They were the only non-infantry competitors entered in this match.

**NRA National Meeting**

The Corps Team for the NRA National Meeting consisted of: **Capt J. E. Body**—School of Signals (Capt), **2Lt T. D. Smith**—QG Signals, **2Lt D. A. Naden**—3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, **Sgt S. K. Rideout**—22 Sig Regt, **Sgt Navindra Gurung**—QG Signals and **Cpl P. J. Alden**—16 Sig Regt.

Both **2Lts Smith** and **Naden** shot well throughout the Meeting and lost their Target Rifle Tyro classification early on. **2Lt Naden** shot the only HPS of the Team on the Century Match and was awarded an NRA HPS Cross in addition to his other medals. **2Lt Smith** and **Sgt Navindra** were both shooting for the first time with new rifles purchased by the Hong Kong Rifle Association—this was reflected in their high scores.

**NRA Sniper Match—The Entente Cordiale Gold Cup**

**Capt Body** shot well in this match but was unable to retain the Gold Cup for a second year. He finished in third place, one point behind the winner, **M. Khalek** of the Republic of Niger (who finished second last year).

**Selected for Army Teams**

The following Corps members have represented the Regular Army this year: **Capt Body, 2Lts Smith, Naden, Sgt Rideout** and **Cpl Alden.**

**Nominations for Corps Colours**

The following individuals are nominated for Corps Colours: **Capt Body, Sgt Rideout, Sig Tekbahadur Gurung, Sgt Navindrabikram Gurung, Sig Nirmalkumar Gurung** and **Narhang Rai**.

**Capt Body** has been selected to represent the Regular Army on the Army Tour of Kenya in October and November 1990.



# TENNIS

**CORPS TENNIS 1990 INTER CORPS LEAGUE—ROYAL SIGNALS RUNNERS UP**

Following the success of winning the winter league the Corps tennis team achieved further success in tying for first place with the RAMC/RADC team in the major outdoor Summer League.

In the play-off which finally decided the outcome of the league the RAMC/RADC, with three current Army squad members defeated the Corps by five rubbers to three. **Capt Gary Mason** pairing with **Capt Billy Miles** at least had the satisfaction of defeating all three opposing pairs. This was our best result in many a year and was gained by the enthusiasm and commitment of individuals such as **Maj Nigel Moore, SSgt David Hall, Cpls Mick Hill, David Petty, Sig Andy Dowsett** and the invaluable support and play of **Lt Col Brian Chubb** and the fast rising talent of **Capt Gary Mason**. This combination of youth and experience and a competitive spirit has placed the Corps team at the top end of the Inter Corps League.

**ALTA SUMMER LEAGUE**

| | |
|---|---|
| RA | 9 |
| RE | 10 |
| R Signals | 18 |
| RCT | 11 |
| RAMC/RADC | 18 |
| RAOC | 8 |
| REME | 8 |
| RAPC | 16 |
| RAEC | 8 |
| ACC | 0 |
| WRAC | 0 |

In the play off for first place the Corps played RAMC/RADC. The latter won by 5—3.

**ROYAL SIGNALS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Our own Corps Championships were marred by the only poor weather conditions of the season with one day completely ruined. 28 Sig Regt provided 10 entrants thus enhancing the entry by a third. With 31 entrants a good competition was enjoyed by all.

**ROYAL SIGNALS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mens Open Singles | |
| Winner | **Capt G. Mason** |
| Runner-Up | **Maj N. Moore** |
| Mens Open Doubles | |
| Winners | **Capts G. Mason** and **W. Miles** |
| Runners-Up | **Lt Col Chubb** and **Maj N. Moore** |
| Inter Unit Doubles | |
| Winners | **Cpls Petty** and **Hill** (30 Sig Regt) |
| Runners-Up | **Cpls Coleman** and **Taylor** (28 Sig Regt) |
| Ladies Open Singles | |
| Winner | **Cpl McNair** |
| Runner-Up | **Mrs Mason** |
| Ladies Open Doubles | |
| Winners | **Capts Wheatley-Price** and **Lee** |
| Runners-Up | **Mrs Powell** and **Mrs Atkinson** |
| Mixed Doubles | |
| Winners | **Lt Col Chubb** and **Cpl McNair** |
| Runners-Up | **Cpl Petty** and **Mrs Atkinson** |



Capt Gary Mason Corps Singles Winner 1990



**ARMY CHAMPIONSHIPS 1990**

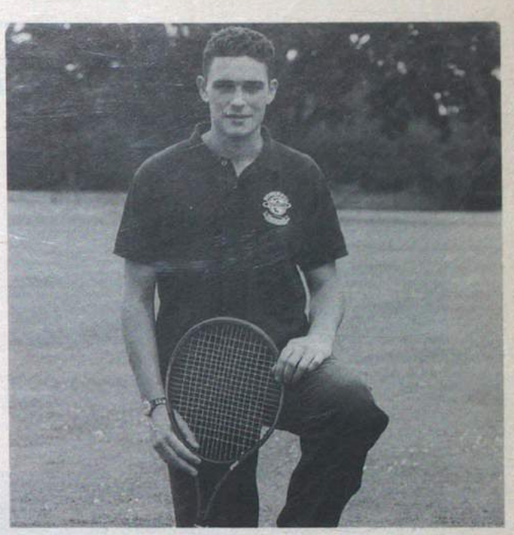
In trying to compete in the major events as individuals the success story is limited. The one individual success was that of **AT Hutchings** of AAC Harrogate winning the Army U21 title. Yours truly **Capt Billy Miles** also managed to reach the last eight in the open mens singles but was defeated by the current Army Champion **Capt Nigel Watts** of the Army Air Corps. What was good to see was the turnout of Corps players in the Army Championships, far exceeding any other Corps with a total of 12.



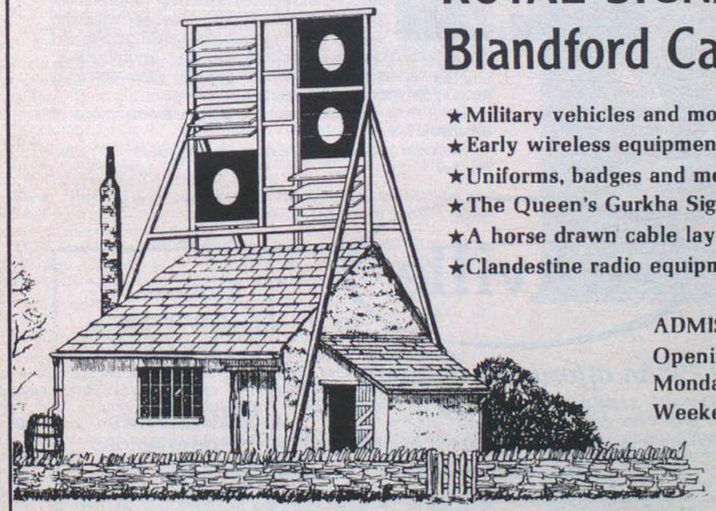
Army Championships 1990
*L to R:* Capt Mason, SSgt Hall, Cpl Sedgfield, Majs Crane, Moore, Capt Wheatley-Price, Brig Gordon, Maj Telford (wife of Maj P. Telford), Cpl Petty and Capt Miles

**REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS—ARMY**

Two players have played for the Army on several occasions this season. They are: **Capts Gary Mason** and **Billy Miles.**



AT Hutchings Army U/21 Champion 1990

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# THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

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**Chairman and Treasurer: Major General P. D. Alexander CB, MBE**

**General Secretary: Colonel A. N. de Bretton-Gordon** — **Assistant Secretary: Major G. Schofield MBE**

**Welfare Secretary: Mrs P. J. Haw** — **Administrative Officer: Miss J. L. Wade**

**Association Office, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Tel Military System: London District 8245. STD 071 873 6355. Welfare Secretary (direct line) 071 630 0801.**

## DERBY BRANCH

In March we held our Annual dinner dance, entertaining 126 guests. It was a pleasure to have **Col A. Hawksworth TD** Honorary Colonel of 38 Sig Regt (V) and his charming wife, also **Lt Colonel** and **Mrs Glanville** deputy Sheriff of Derbyshire as our Guests of Honour.

After the wine and sherry assembly we enjoyed a six course meal excellently prepared by the cooks of 46th Sqn and served by six members of 620 Duffield Sqn ATC and three members of the WRAC. After an interesting and witty speech from **Col Hawksworth** the evening was rounded off with a disco to the accompaniment of lively patter from **Cpl M. Adam**. From the numerous compliments we have received, one can say that the evening was a great success and our thanks go to **WO2 (SSM) R. Ward.**

AGM held in March, the serving committee was re-elected, this being approx six years with the same officials.

We said farewell to our serving member **Sgt B. Adams** and his wife and wish him good luck on his tour of duty in Germany, fortunately for us he printed our dinner menus for 1991 before he departed! We welcome back into the Branch **Sgt H. Sullivan** and his wife who are now settling down in civvy street, after 22 years in uniform.

News of our TA Branch members: **Sgt** and **Cpl Ryan Gilbank** are the proud parents of a son, **Cpl** and **Mrs Snow** now have a daughter, **Cpl** and **LCpl Fletcher** are patiently waiting for November to know what their baby will be, and **Cpl** and **LCpl Westbrook** are delighted to announce they too will become parents in 1991. **Cpl R. Corbett** has at last given up his batchelor status and married **Cpl Pam Ward.**

Our Committee member **LCpl Westbrook** with the assistance of 46 Sqn organised a sponsored collection during a Regimental walk on the Cleveland Way raising £430 for the Leukaemia Research Fund. Well done **Karen** and thanks to you and our young members for giving your time and effort to such a deserving cause.

In September three of our members were guests of the Squadron at its Annual Camp held at Longmoor. They were pleased to meet up with some members of Sheffield Branch. Their experience over the Knife's edge in the 432 APC did not mix too kindly with the liquid refreshments they had indulged in the night before at the mess function! They say many thanks to all persons concerned, for an enjoyable and entertaining visit.

In October two of our officials attended by invitation the Derbyshire Legal Service at the Cathedral.

In November, on Remembrance Sunday, we laid a wreath at the Corps Cross in the TA training centre.

We are sorry to hear our Secretary **Joy** is going into hospital and will not be around for several weeks. She has informed our sick visitor of her favourite chocolates!

The Committee thank the Squadron Commander and all members of 46 Sqn for the use of their facilities, and treasure the happy relationship which exists between us and hope it will long continue.

## EAST LONDON BRANCH

The Branch held a buffet dance on 13 October at 36 Sig Regt (V) at Wanstead, the last time the event will be held at this venue as the present Headquarters is due to be demolished in the near future. We take with us many happy memories of social occasions held there.

We thank **Lt Col C. P. Conlon,** CO 36 Sig Regt (V) and his officers for much support in the past and look forward to continuing those ties in the future.

Our buffet dance was very well attended, all tickets being sold. Everyone enjoyed a splendid evening.

**Maj Geoff Dyer,** our President was, unfortunately, unable to be with us but we appreciated his message of good wishes and success for the evening.

Music was provided by P. J. Sounds, the buffet by our friends from Ilford Branch, Royal British Legion and the bar was provided by members of the Regiment; everyone did a grand job.

The evening was concluded by the lowering of the Branch Standard by Standard Bearer, **Fred Backhouse** and the playing of the National Anthem.

Special thanks to our Social Committee, led by **Maj Barry Greenwood** for much hard work in organising the evening, not forgetting all the help given by their ladies.

## GUERNSEY BRANCH

Thirty-nine members and guests assembled at the Royal Hotel in St Peter Port on the evening of 11 September in order to bid farewell to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of Guernsey, **Sir Alexander Boswell KCB, CBE** and **Lady Boswell,** whose five year term of office expires in October. Also present were **Sir Alexander's** ADC **Capt David Hodgetts** (Queen's Regiment) and his wife **Christina.**

Following the loyal toast the party repaired to the Gardeners' Bar, where chairman **John Rudkin** presented **Sir Alexander** with a crystal decanter, inscribed with the Corps badge and a message of goodwill, four glasses and a tray. In thanking the Branch, **Sir Alexander** said he'd had close association with the Corps throughout his career from the time when as a 2Lt he had struck up a friendship with a 2Lt in the Corps who is now a Major General—whilst serving in Korea. With a touch of humour, His Excellency described how, years later, when he was a Divisional Commander, a new item of Signal equipment was being installed at Divisional HQ. There were three divisions which could have trialled it, his was the one selected, for, as **Sir Alexander** quipped, 'They looked at the Divisional Commanders, chose the dimmest one and gave the honour to me, thinking that if I could handle it, then anyone could!'



Sir Alexander and Lady Boswell

## READING BRANCH

**MEMORIAL TOUR OF NORMANDY, JUNE 1990**

Led by **Alan Foot** (Branch Chairman), three members, **Pauline Tennant** (Secretary), **Les Foot** and **Bill Yates** embarked at Portsmouth on 2 June for Normandy.

On our first full day we visited Port-en-Bessin and the Sunday Market. Prominent were cheese and fish stalls. The trawlers were unloading their catches right behind the stalls; a very different scene from 1944 when the town was liberated on D+1 by the British 47 Cdo, after advancing westwards from Arromanches.

Our next port of call was the remains of the four-gun Le Chaos Battery at Longues-sur-mer. 1,500 tons of bombs were dropped around the gun emplacements, and on D-Day morning HMS *Ajax* fired 114 6in rounds in 20 minutes at 7½ mile range to silence the

115mm German naval guns in 6ft thick casemates. The remains of the guns are still there as a reminder to all.

St Come Observation Point is on high ground to the east of Arromanches where the remains of the Mulberry Harbour can still be seen. Arromanches Museum is a must for visitors, with a scale model of the harbour as it was during the Liberation.

On 18 June 1944 there was a very bad storm causing 8ft high waves and winds of 30 knots, lasting four days. The Harbour was severely damaged, but the main breakwater and sunken blockships held, and sheltered 500 small craft. Mulberry was repaired and gave valuable service during the Liberation. On our way back to Branville we visited the British War Cemetery at Ryes where over 900 troops including 13 Signalmen were buried in the first few days.

On Monday morning we made an early start to visit Utah and Omaha beaches, invaded by the Americans on 6 June 1944. On our way there we called at Ste Mere Eglise, made famous when the American 82nd Airborne Division landed in the area, some in the middle of the square. **Private John Steele** landed on the church tower and hung all night playing dead. An hotel is named after him. 6 June is now a fête every year, when a dummy of paratrooper **John Steele** is hung on the tower. In the US Airborne Museum is the C47 Argonice in its own hangar, along with many exhibits of the airborne drop. At Ste Mere Eglise we were privileged to meet detachments of present day US Rangers and Airborne troops, along with a military band flown in for the D-Day memorial services.

Our next visit was to the German War Cemetery at La Cambe, one of six in Normandy where 57,000 are buried. It is a very sombre place to be, with small red stones and no flowers, unlike the British war cemeteries.

The American cemetery at St Laurent overlooks Omaha Beach where most of the 9,000 Americans buried here were killed; 14,000 others were returned home at the request of their next of kin. It is an impressive memorial, with a reflecting pool and a Chapel. An American Colonel there invited us to come back on the morning of 6 June to join them in their memorial service where many high ranking NATO Officers, Diplomats and **General Eisenhower**'s son attended—we were pleased to accept.

Utah beach, the most westerly of the five landing beaches, 4km long, sand with dunes and a few causeways leading towards their first objective Ste Mere Eglise, linking up with their Airborne forces.

Our next visit was the Artillery Battery on the cliff-top at Pointe du Hoc commanding both Utah and Omaha beaches. The Battery was made up of six casemates each holding a 155mm gun, the enemy's biggest. The 2nd Ranger Battalion scaled the 100ft cliffs just after 18 US bombers had dropped their bombs on the Battery, and completely pulverised the concrete casements. The remains of the gun position are still there today with grass growing over the craters.

The next day found us on our way to the eastern end of the invasion beaches. The Merville Battery of four, 100mm Howitzers commanded the Orne estuary. The task of capturing the battery was given to 9 Para, commanded by **Lt Col Otway** who trained his troops in the countryside near Newbury, using bulldozers to make a mock-up of the battery. Due to heavy cloud on the night of 5 June, out of 750 men only 150 gathered at the RV point. With these **Col Otway** attacked the battery which was captured in 20 minutes, at a cost of half his men either dead or wounded. The Signal Officer withdrew a battered pigeon from his battledress and this bird took the news back to England.

We next visited the Ranville War Cemetery with 2,562 graves—2,151 British and 42 Royal Signals. We were greeted by the sound of Scottish pipes, and there was **Piper Bill Millin** who led **Lord Lovat**'s No 1 Commando over Pegasus Bridge at 0500 hrs on D-Day, to relieve **Maj John Howard**'s glider troops. It was a privilege for us to shake his hand, and just one more highlight of our tour.

From Ranville on to the Orne Canal Bridge, now universally known as 'Pegasus Bridge', we joined many ex airborne men on this 5 June 46 years on, and in the Gondree Cafe, which was the first house to have been liberated in Europe, we met the first man to land in Europe; that was **Maj John Howard** of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. It was another great privilege for us to shake his hand and to chat with this famous officer, also a one time Oxford policeman, now in his 80's. We took many photographs and visited the spots where the three gliders landed, now marked with concrete bollards. The two Airborne Regiment's pony mascots were there, one black, one white. We had lunch and spent some time in the museum next to the cafe.

Then on again, **Alan** doing all the driving to Juno Beach where the Canadians landed. Here there was heavy fighting and many casualties. The Canadian War Cemetery at Beny-Reviers, in the village of Beny-sur-mer, is where 2,048 soldiers are buried, all but five Canadians, killed during the early days of the advance towards Caen. The village itself was taken in the early afternoon of D-Day.

Day five of our tour was the 46th Anniversary of D-Day 6 June. This turned out to be a most moving day which I will always remember. In the morning we joined the Americans at St Laurent War Cemetery for their memorial service. Contingents of American Rangers and Airborne Troops, Canadians, French, Belgian, Dutch and British Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders were formed up on two sides of the reflecting pool. Many high ranking NATO Officers and Diplomats arrived, along with **General Eisenhower**'s son. Many wreaths were laid and speeches made. The American band played, and on the stroke of noon four Tom-Cat fighters flew over from the aircraft carrier *Eisenhower* sailing in the channel. The rain continued all day.

We went on to Bayeux, first to visit the museum de la Bataille de Normandie, spending a very interesting three hours. Over a cup of tea in the restaurant we met a fellow signalman from Reading, **Bill Collins**, a potential new member of Reading Branch. Next to the museum is the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Memorial which bears the names of 1,805 members of Commonwealth forces who have no known grave.

On across the highway we went to the impressive War Cemetery which has 4,648 graves carefully tended by the Commission's local French workmen. At the Cemetery's memorial we laid our two poppy wreaths; one on behalf of Reading Branch and one on behalf of the Association. On this, the 46th Anniversary of D-Day, it was fitting that we remembered the many servicemen who gave their lives, especially those Corps members who were in the front line.

Many Normandy veterans hold an annual parade in Arromanches. There are many memorials to see, guns, tanks, Division and Regimental plaques. Looking out from the museum through the rain we saw again the remains of Mulberry Harbour.

On now to Hermanville War Cemetery which proved to be the most moving evening of the tour. As dusk fell people started to gather, old and young, French and English, serving soldiers and officers, old soldiers and veterans at the gates of the cemetery, which holds 1,005 graves on the edge of the village. This is where the British 3rd Division (the Iron Division) landed on Sword Beach. Here we met our friends of the 3rd Division Signals Association Reunion Club, and their secretary **Ernie Bayley**. Out of the dusk came the sound of a Scottish piper leading the village children, each with an armful of flowers, to the cemetery. After the service, where a Royal Artillery bugler sounded the Last Post and Reveille, the children led by the piper laid a flower on each of the graves, a most moving sight to end our day five of the tour, and the anniversary of that Longest Day.

Thursday 7 June we left Branville to visit Sword Beach and Ouistreham at the mouth of the River Orne. It is famous because **Lord Lovat**, commanding the British 1st Special Service Brigade, passed through here on his way to Pegasus Bridge led by his piper **Bill Millin**. Next we paid a visit to Colleville-Montgomery, renamed to honour our famous Field Marshal. This town, along with many other memorials, has the museum of No 4 Commando. La Breche, Hermanville is in the centre of Sword Beach where the 8th and 185th Infantry Brigades landed to push through to Caen 8 miles inland, meeting heavy German resistance. Caen was finally taken about 45 days later. Then on to the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Douvres La Deliverande where among 1,123 graves we found that of **Alan**'s uncle. This was another moving moment of our tour. It is understood this was the site of one of our military hospitals, and this is probably one reason for the establishment of a war cemetery here.

After lunch we spent the afternoon visiting the city of Caen. We took many photographs of this modern city and visited the Memorial Museum of Peace, opened on 6 June 1988. It takes three to four hours and is well worth visiting, with exhibits from each year from 1914, showing the rise and fall of the German Empire during and between the two great wars.

Now it was back to our Garden Club bungalow for our last evening meal, and to pack for our journey home, via Le Havre, to Portsmouth on board *The Pride of Le Havre*.

To me this tour was the most moving and memorable week of my life, thanks to our leader **Alan**. It is incredible the number of places of interest we visited in a week, and we were welcomed everywhere by the French people.

Still at school when war was declared in 1939, I finished my army career in Rangoon. All my post war interests and reading have been about Burma and the Far East, but there was another war, just as devastating.

## CORPS EVENTS

**All members are asked to see page 550 for details of Corps/Association events scheduled for 1991.**



## ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during September 1990:-

| | |
|---|---|
| RSA Liverpool | £100.00 |
| Bequeathed by Mrs M. P. E. Glass | £41.16 |
| Mr R. H. Blizard | £35.00 |
| In Memory of Mr Ollie Oliver | £25.00 |
| In Memory of Brig P. Hobson | £15.00 |
| Certa Cito Branch | £10.00 |
| Abingdon School CCF | £3.00 |
| | £229.16 |

The following donations were gratefully received during October 1990:-

| | |
|---|---|
| HQ & 83 Sig Sqn 31 Sig Regt (V) | £134.00 |
| 254 (Unficyp) Sig Sqn | £100.00 |
| Anonymous | £50.00 |
| Glossop & Dist OCA | £25.00 |
| J. Gatehouse | £20.00 |
| H. Liley | £14.00 |
| 16 L of C Signals | £10.00 |
| Gillespie | £5.00 |
| | £358.00 |

## THE PRIME MINISTERS RECEPTION ON 11 SEPTEMBER 1990

**from: L. S. Palmer CEng, MIEE, MSCTE**

The reception for approximately 200 people was given by the Right Honourable **Margaret Thatcher FRS, MP**, for veterans who had served with the BEF in 1915 and Dunkirk in 1940. Representatives from all three services were invited and four of us represented the Corps.

The veterans who attended were **Bill Farendon** and **John Perks, Lt Col Ron Shore** and myself. I should like to thank everyone for their efforts on our behalf in particular the School of Signals and 31 Sig Regt (V) for arranging our transport which made the visit so pleasant.

We were not allowed to take pictures, but I shall remember the look on **Bill Farendon**'s face when we pulled up outside No 10.

For those of us who are never likely to become MP's it was a truly great occastion. Every one of us was introduced to the Prime Minster by name. Food and drinks were served in unlimited quantities and everyone had a good time. Some much better than others!

When the current political situation is taken into account it is remarkable that the Prime Minister found time to give such a reception.

It was a memorable evening. As we left we were presented with a first day cover envelope on which were set out the Gallantry series of Royal Mail stamps. The date was the 50th anniversary of the George Cross.

The picture of **Bill Farendon** and myself was taken in the garden of the Milverton Nursing Home at Surbiton where **Bill** lives at present.



*By courtesy of Mike Jones, Surrey Comet*

## 1ST AIRBORNE DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT OCA—46TH REUNION

On 1 September 1990 the High Street of Caythorpe village echoed to the sound of marching feet.

This time however it was the team from 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn who had completed the 174 miles from Aldershot and arrived right on time at 1430 hrs. A 'Piper' from the Squadron led the way to applause from on-lookers. What a coincidence that the finishing line was outside the Waggon and Horses where mine hosts **Val** and **Geoff** dispensed refreshments to the team and their admin staff free of charge.

A great effort, all in aid of Para 90. Well done lads. The final total is not known at the time of going to press but it will be in excess of £1,500. **Val** and **Geoff** also organised a raffle for Para 90 which raised £90—had a 'happy two hours' with half price drinks on Sunday which all boosted the funds for Para 90.

**Bill Creswick** and **Dickie Appleton**, hindered by **Frankie Young**, worked very hard to ensure everyone had a bedroom albeit not every one was en suite! The lighting around the War Memorial, bunting up, the sound system, the bar! not forgetting the Regimental march was all down to these chaps. Our thanks to them all.

At 1900 hrs 105 people entered the hall, to the accompaniment of 'Begone dull Care'. An excellent meal was enjoyed—**Paddy Perry** brought everyone up to date with the happenings of the past year—welcoming members and their wives from all corners of the earth. **Bill Marquand** had been travelling since 0400 hrs from the Channel Islands. Great to see you again **Bill. 'Hocker' Spivey** delivered an excellent speech after which we toasted 'absent friends', sadly several members have died during the last 12 months.

Thanks to everyone for being so generous in buying raffle tickets and supplying the prizes! **Iris** and **Angie**, aided and abetted by **Rene, Josie, Brian, Harry, Danny, Jaqueline** and **Lewis** sold and folded all the tickets before the draw was made by **Shirley Middleton**. The grand sum of £140.50 was realised for the funds. Sincere thanks to everyone. £54 was also raised by sponsors of the marchers.

**Rene** and **Iris** then began selling Christmas Cards in aid of 'The Cloggers', a group who travel each year to Arnhem to pay their respects at Oosterbeek cemetery.

A great evening with the 'Old and Bold' mixing with young Airborne soldiers. We even managed to resurrect **Arfer Belcher** from Spalding! The lamps were swinging until the early hours. An unusual plaque was presented by the Old and Bold to **Capt John Aspinall** which depicted the old title with the new cap badge.

Sunday morning everyone formed up at the Eight Bells with the Serving contingent leading the parade, the OCA, led by **Maj 'Nobby' Clark. Maj Gen Tony Deane-Drummond** took the salute outside with **Lewis Golden** and **Ken Ridley-Jones** on the saluting dais with him. Standards from Grimsby and Lincoln PRA and RSA Lincoln were on parade. A very impressive turn-out.

The Service was conducted by **Rev Hugh Middleton**. The names of the Fallen were read by **Frankie Young** and we are all grateful to **Mr Alan Ritchie** from Waddington for sounding Last Post and Reveille. A wreath was laid. After the service serving members of Airborne Signals formed a Guard of Honour with Standard Bearer and the Piper played as the congregation left the church.

Members and friends joined with us for the service and were invited to join us at the buffet in the village hall, at a price! Many memories were recalled as small groups of chaps with their wives gathered together—time appeared to have gone back 46 years for everyone. We were so pleased to see so many of the wives of our departed members attending. **Margaret Whippy** sadly had to cancel at the last minute.

So another year had passed. The 'Old and Bold' would like to thank everyone from 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn for all their help and support which makes our reunion so successful, our thanks also to the villagers and publicans who make us so welcome and last but by no means least—The Staff at Caythorpe Court—'The Stables'—without whom none of this would be possible. God Bless you all.

The provisional date for 1991 is 7/8 September but **Gerry Perry** will confirm soonest.

## HORA HENA, EKALA AND KANDY

**From: Mr Harry Moore**

This year's Reunion which took place at the Belmont Hotel in Leicester was attended by 95 people. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening. We were privileged to have **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL** and **Mrs Badcock** with us on this occasion. **Gen Badcock** was our OC Ceylon Army Signals.

Details of next year's reunion will be published in *The Wire* in due course and we hope that even more ex members will be able to join us.

**Maj Gen Badcock** writes:-

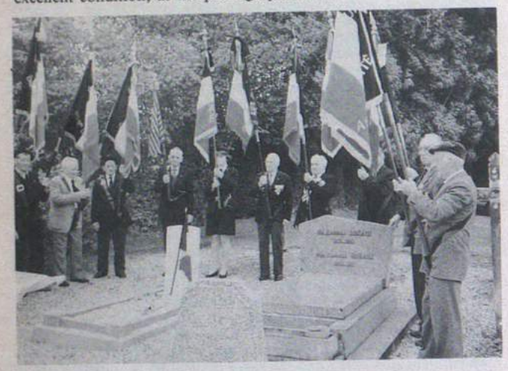
'Last night **Gill** and I attended a reunion Dinner/Dinner Dance at the Belmont Hotel in Leicester for all those who had served in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) during or after the end of WW2 and particularly for those that had served in the High Speed Wireless Squadron located at Ekala (TX) and Hora Hena (Receivers). The first of those reunions had been organised two years ago by **Mr Moore** who was at the time a Signalman. It started with about 30 members and is now over 70 strong, nearly all National Servicemen. Amongst these are/were **Maj Gen Tony Tighe, Brig Arthur Dowell, Lt Robin Jennings** and yours truly as the OC Ceylon Army Signals (as a 22 year old Lt, Temp Capt, Acting Major!).

There were 95 people there last night, some from as far afield as Stirlingshire and Falmouth, 56 chaps and 39 ladies nearly all accommodated in the hotel for the occasion. As you can imagine, it was an evening full of reminiscences and good comradeship with some surprising memories of events and people that one had forgotten. Nearly everyone I spoke to, and very few were regulars, said that the Corps has the most wonderful family spirit and they were proud of having belonged to it. Most are now retired but their occupations spread from being the Curator of a Museum (an expert on Spode porcelain and lecturer on the QE2) to a Cinema Organist at Bournemouth with a handful of Bank Managers, B Telecom, postmen and those in business.'

## LCPL FRED SILLITOE

Each year, in the French town of Cambremer, a ceremony is held to mark the liberation of the town on 21 August 1944 and to honour the memory of **LCpl Fred Sillitoe**, who is buried there. It is the only British grave in the cemetery and the townsfolk, led by **Monsieur B. Grunwald**, care for the grave and hold a short service in his memory every year.

**Mr Stan Delo**, brother-in-law of **LCpl Sillitoe**, heard of this annual mark of respect and he and his wife were present at the ceremony this year. They were able to meet the people who have kept the grave in excellent condition, as the photograph shows.



## MAJ E. P. HUGHES



**Maj Ted Hughes** retired from 21 Sig Regt 21 years ago, and has kept in touch with the Corps mainly through his membership of the Middlesex Yeomanry Association. To celebrate 55 years with the Corps he had a ride over the Barossa training area at Sandhurst where he is a member of the saddle club. Our pictures show him in training at Windsor on a Royal Horse Guards Troop Horse in 1935 and on *'Escort'* a Blues and Royals Troop horse, earlier this year. Older members of the Corps who served in Cyprus in the 1960's may remember 259 Sig Sqn Polo Team and the Corps Polo team, both of which he captained during 1962-1964.



## LT COL ARTHUR HEMSLEY MBE TD ED

We are delighted to have renewed contact with **Lt Col Arthur Hemsley**.

**Lt Col Hemsley** enlisted into The Queen's Royal West Surreys in 1911 and transferred to RE Signals during the 1914-18 war and to Royal Signals on the Corps' formation in 1920.

He was born in 1893 on 16 May. Is he the oldest surviving member of the Corps?

## HELP NEEDED

Retired NCO/Officer wanted for voluntary help with Signal section at Epsom College CCF. Parade afternoons on Wednesdays. Contact **Maj Hampshire**, Contingent Commander at Epsom College, Surrey. Tel: (0372) 720554.

## CAN YOU HELP

**Mr Eric Boyce** of the Coborn Arms, Coborn Road, Bow, London E3 would like to get in touch with comrades of his while serving with 1 Sqn, 18 Army Group Sigs in Cologne in 1953/54. Please write to him at the above address.



# LETTERS

**From: Maj Gen D. R. Horsfield OBE**
Dear Sir,

**THE CHINDIT MEMORIAL**

A Memorial to commemorate the Chindit Operations in 1943 and 1944 was unveiled by **HRH The Duke of Edinburgh** on 16 October. It stands on the river side of the Ministry of Defence at the Rochester Terrace end. **Brig Claude Fairweather CB, CBE, TD, DL**, Chief Signal Officer of the Chindits, was there and I represented the Corps as a Colonel Commandant who took part in the Burma retreat and the Imphal Plain operations. I was never a Chindit.

We had a perfect afternoon for the ceremony and it was a joy to be met by a cheerful and bustling Karen officer who had everything well under control.

In 1942 he was cut off on the east side of the Sittang in the earliest battles and subsequently served with Force 136 in SAS type operations and with the Chindits. Meeting him brought back memories of my arrival in central Burma from Egypt to take over **Gen Slim's** Corps Signals, such as it was. There were Karen and Kachin operators with the unit and splendid men they were. At a time when news from Burma was nearly all bad it is good to recall the quality of the hill tribes. They left us at some point before we reached Assam.

The march past took an unusual form. As jungle formation was single file, it was in single file that the veterans marched past the saluting base. Those seated on the raised platform included **Col Wingate**, son of the founder of the Chindits, **Brig 'Mad' Mike Calvert** and **Sir Robert Thompson**. The latter, though an airman, won both the MC and the DSO in Burma. He subsequently made his name heading the Malayan Ministry of Defence and as an Internationally respected expert on guerilla warfare.

It is right that the Chindit contribution should be remembered by this new monument and it is worth strolling round the Ministry of Defence and seeing the fine collection of memorial sculpture which is displayed. It may start with **Sir Walter Raleigh**, but it is mostly connected with more recent affairs.

Yours faithfully,
**David Horsfield**

**From: Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin**
Dear Sir,

**KOREA**

Readers who served in Korea (and perhaps some who did not) may be interested to know that the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders held a Reunion Weekend on 7-9 September at Stirling Castle to mark the 40th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean war.

I was invited as a guest to represent 27 Inf Bde Sig Tp while **Lt Col Reggie Jeffes** (BEME) represented HQ 27 Inf Bde. The Middlesex Regiment sent a party of 10 which included their Commanding Officer at that time, **Andrew Man**.

With representatives from 3 RAR and 16 (NZ) Fd Arty Regt strong memories were evoked of our subsequent Commonwealth Brigade Title, although I did not see anyone there from 2PPCLI or 60 (Indian) Fd Amb.

I wonder whether the Corps should mark the 50th Anniversary to include all who served during those hostilities?

Yours faithfully,
**Peter Baldwin**

**From Mr J. C. E. Prentice**
Dear Sir,

**ROYAL SIGNALS MARITIME DETACHMENT**

I was most interested to read of the activities of the Royal Signals Maritime Detachment on page 526 in the October issue of *The Wire*.

We of the Ship Signal Sections in Combined Operations were probably the forerunners of this unit. I prefer the title we were allocated, as the title of the Maritime Detachment was similar to that used by the RASC.

As a member of a Ship Signal Section I served aboard Royal Navy ships for over two years and covered over 80,000 miles on a variety of seas and oceans.

Our initial training was a Dundonald Camp at Troon in Ayrshire and, as far as I am aware, our role was innovative in Royal Signals communications operating from ship to shore. Operating from a Headquarter ship which was initially Company HQ as the assault platoons went ashore, then as Battalion HQ, as soon as Company HQ was established ashore, and so on in the chain of command until we became GHQ. Once GHQ was established ashore we passed signals from them back to Operations Command.

After training I was posted as Sergeant in charge of a section divided in two, one part on a Royal Navy Frigate and part including myself on HMS *Goathland* a destroyer. Both ships had been converted to HQ ships. The Captain of HMS *Goathland* was none too pleased at the conversion as he considered his was a fighting ship, and although we were practising for the D-Day landings he took the ship out into the English Channel hunting for German E Boats. On these excursions the Signal Section and the RAF Wireless Section, were detailed to the ship's magazine to load shells into the hoists feeding ammunition to the guns on the upper deck.

A week prior to D-Day I was relieved by another Sergeant and told to report to Dundonald Camp. I was given embarkation leave and instructed to report to the CO of the 4th Ship Signal Section aboard HMS *Lothian* which was a 10,000 ton merchant ship, converted to a Headquarter ship and Landing Ship Infantry (Large).

The ship's complement consisted of the Royal Navy crew, a large contingent of RN communication ratings, a Royal Marine Flotilla to man the landing craft, over 100 RAF wireless personnel and the Royal Signals section of a Major, a Lieutenant and 54 NCO's and Signalmen. The ship was also the Admiral's Flagship.

We sailed with six other merchant ships converted to LSI's (L) and were known as Force X. Out in the Atlantic Ocean the Admiral informed us that we were joining the American 7th Fleet in the Pacific War Zone to assist in the landings of their assault troops.

In March 1945 half the section was dispersed to other units but the other half, including myself, were posted to another ship similar to HMS *Lothian*, HMS *Persimmon* which we joined in Bombay. We now became part of the British East Indies Fleet and were assigned to take part in the landings on Rangoon, Malaya and Sumatra.

It was in the port of Emmahaven in Sumatra that we were paraded on deck with the ship's company to witness the arrival of a party of Japanese officers led by Maj Gen Yahagi, Chief of Staff of the 25th Japanese Army in Sumatra, who came aboard ship to surrender his troops.

We returned to Bombay and I was promoted to SQMS to take charge of a technical store and become the senior NCO of 218 Combined Operations Unit on Mahd Island near Bombay. I was responsible for training programmes for Regimental Signallers who were sent to us with their amphibious vehicles (DUKW's), giving them exercises in assault landings with ship to shore radio in speech and Morse code.

We were passing on to a new generation of peacetime soldiers what had been learnt from our experiences at sea, a training procedure which was a concept not known before World War 2, with all three services operating together, which had been adopted to operate in a variety of theatres of war, from North Africa to Normandy and the Pacific, and in the South East Asia operations.

Our radios aboard ship were Naval B28's which had a large range of frequencies, or, they could operate on set crystal frequencies. We slept in Naval hammocks, were issued with a daily rum ration or 3d a day in lieu. We were under Naval authority but maintained Army discipline.

Yours faithfully,
**J. C. E. Prentice**
**(ex SQMS)**

22 Duncryne Place
Kenmure Grove
Bishopbriggs
Glasgow G64 2DP

**From: A. H. Miejers**
Dear Sir,

**15TH SCOTTISH INFANTRY DIVISION**

I write this letter in the hope that your Association can help me.

I am a member of the Netherlands Army in the rank of Sergeant-Major and very interested in the history of the liberation of North-West Europe during the 1939-1945 War. Special is the 15th Scottish Infantry Division, which took part in the liberation of my country during 1944-45.

One of the units in this division was the 15th (S) Divisional Signals.

A couple of years ago I started to collect all sorts of documentation and material about this division with the intention of preserving this part of the history for the present and the next generation.

I am keenly interested in hearing from veterans, who may have (all sort of) articles, books, photos, etc (wanted only to make a copy), or even can give me some information about life in their division.

If one of your members is ever in the Netherlands, he is always welcome to visit my house, and take a look at my collection.

I much look forward to some response from a couple of these fantastic soldiers who made it possible for us to live in liberty.

Yours faithfully,
**A. H. Meijers**

Wagenhoeve 44
NL-3992 PD Houten
Tel: 03403-73731

## THE BLACK JERBOA

**From: Mr R. Haslam**

Dear Sir,

Reference the letter from **Brig Gen E. W. H. Huntley** in October issue of *The Wire*, page 441. The enclosed snap portraying **Busty Flecknell**, myself and **Andy Beagley** was taken by **Brig Gen W. H. Huntley** when we were signalmen together in 7 Armd Div.

A typical Western desert scene; note the wash bowl and stand made up of petrol tins. I still have my shoulder flash, the black jerboa, of 4 Armd Bde.

Yours faithfully,
**R. Haslam**

7 Brentford Avenue
Bolton
BL1 6EW




**ROYAL SIGNALS DIARY 1991 NOW AVAILABLE AT MUSEUM SHOP BLANDFORD CAMP**

The 1991 Corps Diary is now available for sale. It is of a similar pattern to last year. The outer Cover (6in × 3½in) is in Blue Elkatex with two Gilt corner Mounts and a matching ribbon Marker. The Diary is 'a Fortnight to View' and includes a Forward Planner, Memoranda and Telephone index, European Holidays 1991, Three Year Calendar, Main Ferry Crossing Routes, Vintage Wine Chart, Intercity Routes and much more. The cost of the Diary is £2.20 including postage and packing. Bulk orders are welcome and will receive 10% Discount, (minimum order of 50 for Discount).
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## REUNIONS

**A TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

The Association's Aldershot Branch issues a cordial invitation to all past and present Members of the Corps and their wives to join them at a seasonal function on Friday 14 December — 1200 hrs for 1230 hrs.

If you would like to attend this event at the Royal Aldershot Officers Club contact **Lt Col D. Crookes OBE**, 110 Field Way, at a seasonal function on Friday 14 December—1200 hrs for 1230 hrs.

**2 WAR OFFICE SIGNALS**

Plans are afoot to reunite all former members of 2 War Office Signals who served in Dover or in Portsmouth at a Reunion in Dover in 1991. Anyone interested in attending should write to **Ken Flint**, 'Caburn' 77 Lydia Road, Walmer CT14 9JY for further information. Please enclose sae for reply.

**DENBURY NEWTON ABBOT JUNIOR LEADERS REUNION**

The Triennial Reunion in and around Newton Abbot will take place on the 27 and 28 September 1991.

The programme will cover Friday evening and all day Saturday.

The reunion will be on much the same lines as 1988 when approximately 100 attended and this may well be the last reunion under the present system so it is hoped that all the regular attenders and some new ones will be able to make the dates.

Any enquiries in the meantime to **Sam Ward**, 56 Seymour Road, Newton Abbot, South Devon. Tel: (0626) 52101 or daytime (0392) 51056.

**4 (INDIAN) CORPS SIGNALS**

The 43rd annual reunion dinner will be held at the Victory Services Club, London W2 on Friday 26 April 1991. Anyone who served with the unit and wishes to attend should contact **Ted Marsh**, 30 Blakes Way, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN23 6EW. Tel: (0323) 411346.

**ETHIOPIA PILGRIMAGE 1991**

A special pilgrimage to commemorate the campaign in Ethiopia is being planned by the Royal British Legion for March/April 1991. All enquiries should be addressed to: The Royal British Legion, War Graves Pilgrimages, Royal British Legion Village, Maidstone, Kent ME20 7NX. Tel: (0622) 716729/716182/717172 (24 hours). In this connection anyone knowing the present whereabouts of war widows, **Frances Olive Lampitt (Sgt Donald)** or **Doris Gertrude MacSweeney (2Lt Timothy)** is asked to advise **Mr Piers Storie-Pugh**, Head of Pilgrimage Department.

**50 INDIAN PARA BDE SIG COY**

**Col (Retd) S. Upadhyay**, a former CO of 50 Indian Para Bde Sig Coy, wishes to invite former members of this unit to a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Company which was the first Indian Airborne Signal Unit. Former members seeking further information should contact: **S. G. Yardley**, 31 Greenfields Road, Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 8EW. Tel: (0384) 271263. **George Yardley** would particularly like to contact the following ex-members: **Capt M. G. Bell, Lt S. K. Hodgkinson, Capts (TMO) A. Callaghan** and **(QM) Davy**.

## REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

The Association, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Employment, 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 the services are available to them throughout their working lives.

Our Employment Officers are situated in Branches throughout the United Kingdom and they maintain close contact with local employers and Jobcentres. Their addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Unit/Ship Resettlement Officers; Jobcentres and local telephone directories.

From 1 April 1989-31 March 1990 the Association assisted 10,584 men and women with their resettlement and placed 5,030 in employment. Of those placed 2,275 were men and women from the Army and 203 were from the Corps.



## THE LATE BRIG R. A. BAGNOLD OBE FRS

A Memorial Service for the late **Brig R. A. Bagnold OBE FRS** will be held at 1100 hrs on Saturday 26 January 1991 at St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, Trafalgar Square, London WC2. No tickets are required.

## DEATHS

**Chetwynd—Mrs E. Chetwynd**—wife of **Maj D. Chetwynd**—died 19 October 1990.
**Darling—Lt Col T. Darling**—died 12 October 1990.
**Dexter—LCpl J. T. Dexter**—served 1931-1939—died 1990.
**Grinham—Dvr E. N. Grinham**—served 1940-46—died 19 October 1990.
**Harris—Sgt T. Harris**—died 26 September 1990.
**Hollingshead—Maj A. E. Hollingshead**—died 24 April 1990.
**Holmonroyd—WO2 F. G. Holmonroyd BEM**—served 1977—died 19 October 1990.
**Pitt—Sgt J. S. Pitt**—served 1920-1945—died 19 January 1990.
**Shilvock—CQMS L. W. Shilvock**—served 1937-1946—died 11 July 1990.
**Wilkinson—Sgt C. J. Wilkinson**—died 1990.

## OBITUARIES

**Beckett—Harold John Beckett**. All members of the Corps, past and present will be saddened to hear of the untimely death of **Cpl 'Paddy' Beckett** which occurred in Belfast on 30 June 1990. He enlisted in the Corps in 1961 and served in Germay, Cyprus and Northern Ireland. He left the Army in 1970. His high sense of duty and community spirit endeared him to many and he was as popular in civilian life as he had been in the Corps. He was a caring family man and a good friend and will be remembered with pride by all those who knew him. Our sincere condolences go to his widow **Isobel** and his daughter **Kathryn**.

**Bonnor—Sig E. W. Bonnor**. The notice in the October issue should have read 'he followed a career in London Transport *for 30 years*'. The error is regretted.

**Sgt J. D. Button**—Enlisted as a Junior Leader at Denbury on 8 August 1960, and after qualifying as a Commcen Operator at Catterick was posted to 16 Sig Regt in BAOR. Following tours of duty with 30, 7 and 22 Sig Regt, he then moved to 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. After qualifying as a Data Telegraphist he returned to BAOR to 2 Div Sig Regt. In 1975 while with 8 Sig Regt he went on an exchange visit with the Royal Australian Signal Corps, and spent an exciting six months in Canberra. He left the Army in 1978. He then embarked on a new career with HM Customs and Excise reaching Executive Officer rank. He died peacefully, following illness on 10 October 1990. We send our sincere condolences to his sister, **Mrs Margaret Smith**.

**Collier—Sgt F. J. H. Collier JP—Jim Collier** served in the Corps during the war. He was taken prisoner in Singapore and subsequently worked on the Burma Railway. He was a member of 43rd Wessex Division TA for seven years before transferring to the Corps. After the war he became involved in numerous business enterprises in Southampton and was also a very active member of the community, serving on the Parish and District councils. He was a life member of the Royal Signals Association and also the Royal British Legion and a one time chairman of the local Poppy Appeal Fund. In all his pursuits he was ably supported by his wife **Mabel** and daughter **Eileen** and sons **Malcolm** and **Terry**. He will be sadly missed by his very many friends and also by members of Southampton and West London Branches of the RSA. He died on 24 September 1990, aged 76 years.

**Davies—Col L. J. D. Davies TD** was commissioned into the Corps in December 1939. Having qualified as an engineer in the GPO, he was very involved in the setting up of communications for 5 Corps Signals, both in London, and the South West.

After a short spell with the OCTU at Mons Barracks, Aldershot, he was appointed Signal Officer to 159 Inf Bde, and afterwards to the War Office Directorate. He landed in Normandy in June 1944 with 5 Special Wireless Group, was later Liaison Officer to 1st Canadian Army.

When the Territorial Army was re-formed in 1947 he joined 49th Armd Div Sig Regt (TA), subsequently taking command in 1958, and seeing the Regiment through its Centenary, and its' amalgamation with other units to form 49 (Yorkshire) Sig Regt. In 1975 he became the Honorary Colonel of its successor unit, 34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V), and for six years was very involved in its activities.

Apart from his award of the TD, he was Mentioned in Despatches in 1945, and received the Queen's Jubilee Medal in 1977.

From 1971 to 1975, and from 1987 until his death, he was President of the Leeds and District Branch of the Corps Association, and he also re-activated the Harrogate Branch, of which he was an Honorary Vice-President.

He died on 10 August 1990, after a distressing illness, which he bore with the same brand of courage he displayed as a soldier.

**Dixon—Cpl K. O Dixon. Ken** joined the Corps in 1950 and trained as a wireless and switchboard operator. He served in Egypt and the Far East and was awarded the GSM.

He left the Corps in 1959 and settled in Beverley, Hull. He died on 11 October following a long illness. We send our condolences to his wife **Rose** and their six children and to his family. (His brother is a former Sergeant of the Corps).

**Gould**—It is with great regret that we announce the death of **Frank Gould**, in Catterick, at the early age of 52. He joined the Corps in 1955 and retired in 1981 in the rank of Sergeant. During his 26 years with the Colours he saw service in Germany and Aden. In the 1950's he was well known for his football prowess and amongst other achievements played for the Corps in goal. On returning to civilian life in 1981 he settled with his family in Scotton, near Catterick, and was employed in Catterick Garrison and continued his long association with the Corps. Our sincere sympathies are extended to his wife and family.

**Jackson—Mrs Frances Fulford Jackson** died on 5 August 1990, at the age of 96 years.

The widow of the late **Col W. F. Jackson OBE MC TD**, who took the 49th (West Riding) Div Sig Regt to War in 1939, she took a great interest in the Regiment, its' successors, and the Association, and attended every function possible, until failing eyesight prevented her from doing so. She gave generously in her help to others. Her charm and loving personality will be sorely missed.

**Smith—ex WO2 Gordon Smith** died suddenly on 26 September 1990, aged 63 years. **Smudge** served in the Corps from 1946-1969 in Catterick, MOD, Kenya, Singapore, Cyprus and Vienna. During his service he had been with the Corps Band and spent some time as a vehicle mechanic. However, he was better known as a clerk and his last tour was as Chief Clerk, 8 Sig Regt. He was a life member of the Royal Signals Association and had continued a close relationship with the Corps by his employment with the Accommodation Services Unit in Catterick until his death. He leaves a widow, **Cilla**, daughters **Trudy** and **Pam**, sons-in-law **Maurice** and **Royce** and grandchildren **Andrew, Leon, Belinda** and **Yvette**. *(Maurice is an ex Royal Signals White Helmet and Royce is still serving in the Corps as a WO1 in Cyprus. Andrew is serving with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps at Tidworth.)* A wonderfully kind and loving father and a much adored father-in-law and grandad. He will be sadly missed by his family and all who knew him.

**Wilson—Maj Norman Wilson 'Tug'** enlisted in the Corps in May 1924, at Maresfield, and was one of the vanguard of young soldiers who helped to make the change to Catterick in the subsequent years, and before he sailed for India in 1926. After a short spell in the UK, he returned to India in 1937, and having gone through the ladder of Foreman of Signals, he was commissioned as a Lieutenant (TMO) in 1941 and served in the Burma Campaign.

After the war he transferred to the TA, and retired in the rank of Major from the 49 (Yorkshire) Sig Regt (TA) in 1962. He was a member of the RSA Association, and the Burma Star Association.

He died on 10 August 1990.

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**If there is a Branch of the Association near to your present address and you do not belong to a branch, why not drop a line to the Hon Secretary of that Branch requesting details of joining the Association (if not already a member) and also the venue of their meeting and other social activities. They will make you very welcome.**

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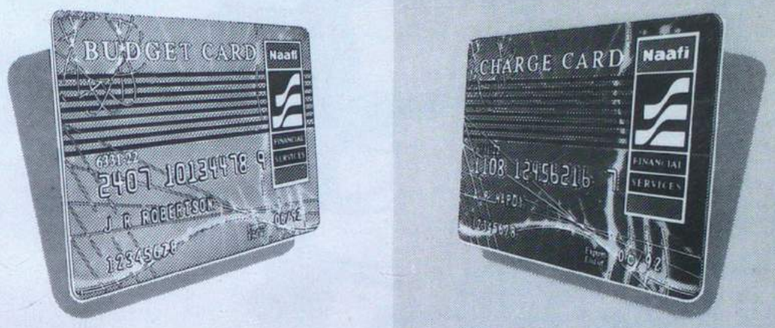
# Choice of Credit in a Moment




Budget Card with the Fixed Payment Plan or Charge Card with the Flexible Payment Plan.

Both cards come with instant credit facilities (subject to status).

The card of your choice will provide you with the wide range of goods and services available at your local Naafi Families shop, Services' shop or Financial Centre.

Join now for the Financial Flexibility you need.

**THE CARD OF THE MOMENT**

Naafi
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Naafi, London, SE11 5QX

Written quotation on request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