THE Wire

February 1995



The Royal Corps of Signals 75th Anniversary

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The Royal Signals Magazine

February 1995 Vol. 49 No: 1

The Wire

All correspondence and matter for publication in **The Wire** should be addressed to **The Editor, The Wire,** RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD
Tel No: London District Ext 8428 and 8433
STD 0171-414 8428 and 8433
Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of February, April, June, August, October and 10th December for publication six weeks later.

All enquiries regarding subscriptions/despatch should be made to ext: 8426

Subscription rates 1995 (Bi-monthly) (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, and Dec). Individual: Yearly **£9.00;** Bi-monthly **£1.50.**

Remittances should be made payable to Royal Signals Corps Fund

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NEW YEAR HONOURS

MBE

Major M. D. Fogg Royal Signals
Warrant Officer Class 2 D. O. Allen
Acting Major L. Wood Royal Signals
Staff Sergeant G. J. Stoker

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Our Front Cover picture shows Sig R. P. Jones at Maresfield in 1920 or 1921. He was Army and Imperial Services Light Weight Champion in 1926 and 1927. When he left the Army in the late 1920s he became a State Registered Nurse and worked as such until his retirement. Mr Jones visited the Corps Museum in September 1993, a very sprightly 92 years old.

Our Back Cover picture shows 'The Cable Wagon' at work. A bronze centrepiece of the Cable Wagon has been commissioned to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Corps and will be held in the Officers' Mess in Blandford.

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ROYAL SIGNALS OPERATION BANNER TOUR 1994
201 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj A G Brand**
2IC/Ops Officer	**Capt David Cathro**
AO	**Capt Kes Russell**
SSM	**WO2 Steve Rook**
Asst Ops Offr	**SSgt (YofS) Paul Rose**
IO	**SSgt Dave Gill**
Panther Tp Comd	**2Lt Roger Ayers**
Panther Tp SSgt	**SSgt Jimmy Burns**
Cheetah Tp Comd	**Lt Colin Horton**
Cheetah Tp SSgt	**SSgt Micky Newell**
Kiwi Tp Comd	**Lt Richard Craig**
Kiwi Tp SSgt	**SSgt Colin Dawson**

Early in 1993, 1st (United Kingdom) Headquarters and Signal Regiment was informed that it was to undertake the first Royal Signals Operation Banner Tour in the Infantry role for many years. According to the Corps Museum curator, **Maj (Retd) Roger Pickard**, the last time the Corps undertook such a deployment as a Squadron was in 1973 when **Maj Rollo Rumford** commanded 260 Sig Sqn in Portadown as part of 36 Heavy Regiment Royal Artillery. Perhaps it was time for the Royal Signals to show they could still undertake the Infantry role and carry it off professionally and with style. The role the Regiment was nominated to fulfil was Maze Prison Guard Force from October 1994 to January 1995.

The first decision to be made was how to form the sub-unit and who would command it. It was decided to use a Ptarmigan Squadron as opposed to a composite body and this turned out to be the best way of tackling the problem. The manning strength required was around 150 and this fitted a Ptarmigan Squadron with a slice of the Regimental Echelon. **Maj Brand** took over the 201 Sig Sqn in January 1994 with the bulk of the Squadron who were to train for the tour already in place. The PGF Sqn formally formed on 1 July after placing all their vehicles in light preservation in June. The Regiment also received eight volunteers from 16 Sig Regt, one from 7 Sig Regt and an armourer from 35 Engineer Regiment to complete the ORBAT.

Unlike many Cavalry and Gunner units who undertake such tasks, life in the Divisional Signal Regiment could not grind to a halt. The GOC expected the busy exercise programme to carry on; the rest of the Regiment could still end up in Bosnia! The Squadron therefore had to train itself by forming a small training cell based on the Ops Officer, **Capt David Cathro** and the Assistant Ops Officer and **SSgt (YofS) Paul Rose**. They did a magnificent job of putting together a full and demanding programme which was to take the Squadron through the training phase that lasted from 1 July until the advance party deployed on 16 October. Interspersed throughout this period was the package put together by the Security Operations Training Advisory Team (Germany) (SOTAT(G)).

The format of the training run by SOTAT(G) is based on the principle that a unit trains itself once the whole Squadron has attended a mandatory three day introductory period. The Commanders, OC to Cpl level are then taken away and taught up-to-date tactics and procedures to enable them to train their own men. Herein lay the first problem, namely that a unit usually has expertise built up over the years through roulemont tours. We had none. The OC SOTAT(G), **Maj Mark Turner** Scots Guards, did not, however, see this as a problem as the Squadron had the motivation and eagerness to learn, and in his opinion were not tainted with the arrogance of 'done it, seen it, can't teach me no more', which they sometimes detect in more experienced units; this apparently leads to a unit that does not reach its full potential.

Having completed the Commander's Cadre SOTAT then provides a number of specialist cadres on ECM, Civilian Military Vehicles, All Arms Search Techniques and other such specialities required by the unit. Thereafter they provided a team to assist in barracks for three weeks and finally work the Squadron up during three days urban and three days rural training and a thoroughly outstanding four day range package. The training went exceedingly well after a number of observations at the outset. The infantry instructors noticed that the individual skills of the soldiers were of a low standard. They were all bright enough, had the requisite leadership skills, but they lacked the type of personal skill inbred into the infantry such as making and breaking cover and how to move tactically. Given a section attack, the mechanics were good but the individual skills were poor. As the soldiers were from a wide range of backgrounds and age groups it could only be assumed that in Royal Signals training we were trying to run before we could walk. This might not have been a problem for a unit who was going to guard the Maze and patrol a relatively quiet TAOR. However, it was at this time that we were visited by the Deputy Commander 39 Inf Bde, **Col Mick Webb**, with the news that the Squadron's role was to change substantially. Due to the current climate in West Belfast the Brigade required extra resources in the Woodbourne area, which was the hottest in the Brigade patch at that time. The three Squadron sabre troops were to rotate through Woodbourne in support of 2 Para. This changed the training emphasis and would put Royal Signals multiples on the streets of West Belfast for the first time ever. A wave of euphoria went through the men with a sudden dawning that they were going to have to be good to hold their own with the Paras. A new mood was born and an even more serious approach to the task developed. It was not 'just' the Maze any more. Life took on a new meaning!

On the advice of **Maj Mark Turner**, the Sqn Comd approached the CO, **Lt Col Dennis Mills**, and asked him to get an NCO from the Infantry who had recently completed Junior or Senior Brecon to help improve the basic skills. The short notice requirement was not appreciated by the RHF who picked up the commitment but they sent a bright young LCpl, actually a Gordon Highlander, **LCpl King**, who was very highly regarded in the Battalion and fitted all the requirements. He accompanied the Squadron on Regimental Battle camp for two weeks and did a fine job of taking the soldiers from basics to fire and manoeuvre during live firing practices on Stage 5 ranges. The tactics he taught, I am sad to say, were new to all of us but reflected the infantry's lessons from the Gulf and the modern thinking taught at Brecon. The keenness of the signallers and their eagerness to learn was obvious to all and was remarked upon very favourably by our 'Scottish mascot'. He was amazed at the progress, a reflection on the true quality of our soldiers and their intelligence. More to the point, by the time we returned to SOTAT they also remarked on the amazing difference in the standard of personal skills. From then on, the men only had to learn the specific Northern Ireland Skills, which they did admirably, receiving much praise from SOTAT for the final levels achieved. Towards the end of training the Squadron had a farewell visit from **Maj Gen Cordy-Simpson** who also remarked at the professional outlook and aura developed in such a short period. The Squadron set out to impress and achieved its aim. Very favourable reports preceded the Squadron to Northern Ireland and 39 Inf Bde looked forward to its arrival.



Maj Gen Cordy-Simpson talks to the men on their return.
L to R: Sgts Shiels, Cpl Joyce RAMC, Cpl Lloyd, Sgts Murphy and Cawson

Shortly before we deployed the IRA announced its cease-fire. But would it last? Soon after the Squadron deployed, changes were announced in the method the Brigade was to undertake the Maze Prison Guard. The Squadron was to be returned to Germany by the end of November. Was this the shortest ever Operation Banner tour? Probably. However, all three sabre troops were to get their first rotation through Woodbourne. Working with the Parachute Regiment turned out to be a pleasant experience. The Paras were extremely professional and took the teams under their wing, imparting years of experience in a short period. The Paras attitude to the men can only be described as outstanding; it took every one by surprise. The men quickly adapted to the routine of operations around the Maze itself which also proved to be interesting for the short period the Squadron was there.

Before the Squadron returned to Germany it had two very successful visits from the CLF, **Maj Gen A. de C. L. Leask**, and the GOC, **Lt Gen Sir Roger Wheeler**. Both remarked favourably on everything the Squadron had achieved, albeit in such a short time-span. The Squadron acquitted itself well and built up a good reputation. Once again the Royal Signals proved, that given the right training, the Corps' quality soldiers could be employed in any role.

The Squadron returned to Germany on 24 November and marched in to greet their loved ones to the sound of a piper. This was appropriate as the training was predominantly conducted by soldiers and officers from Regiments who take a pride in their pipes and drums. The Squadron was not, however, let off the hook that easily and undertook continuation training in January 1995. It will remain on seven days notice to move as an Operation Banner trained unit for a specified period of time. This was not, of course, the original plan and is why it is fortuitous that the deployment was undertaken by the bulk of a formed Squadron as opposed to a composite unit. The Squadron thoroughly enjoyed the training, remarked upon by most of the soldiers as the best they had ever done in their career. The deployment, albeit a short one, was also an enjoyable experience for all concerned.



Rover Group about to deploy
L to R: Maj Brand, Sgt Wilson, WO2 Rook, Sgt Henderson RLC



A Panther Tp Multiple about to go on patrol
L to R: (Rear) Sigs Warrender, Lowe, Cpl Klepparg, Sig Dutton (Front) LCpl Parkinson, Sig Bryan, Sigs Perkins and Whitehead

COMBINED SERVICES CAVING ASSOCIATION
by Lt A. R. Harrison

In 1994, the annual Combined Services Caving Association expedition tackled one of the largest caves in Europe, the Geoffre Berger, near Grenoble in France.

A number of Corps soldiers took part in this expedition, two from 16 Sig Regt and some from Northern Ireland launched from JHQ.

Monday 8 August saw us arriving after the long drive at our campsite. High on a plateau above Grenoble I had the feeling that things were going to be interesting. We were 10km from the nearest village, had no water supply (except for a bowser) and somewhere in the region of 130 people due to turn up! Over the following day our own mini version of a refugee camp took form, tents of all shapes and sizes became dotted all over the hill top. Meanwhile the first cavers had disappeared down below ground to start rigging the cave, no mean feat with 12km and over 1,000m of descent ahead of them.

Wednesday saw us finally established in site and a mixed R Signals, RAF and civilian team laying the 6km of cable from the camp site down to the cave entrance (eventually this would extend right the way down to Camp One some 500m below the surface). In the evening people were starting to become frustrated, the phone simply would not operate over the distance, not a problem though as **Sig Sean Watson** trundled off down to the supply truck and remerged with a couple of trusty old 405s brought along on the off chance. Problem solved and just in the nick of time, a 'flood pulse' (caused by earlier torrential rain) went through the cave trapping a number of people underground and resulting in others arriving at the surface late, cold and wet. Having a working phone system allowed food and emergency supplies to be despatched to the cave entrance.

By the Friday the cave was fully rigged and 'opened for business', some very tired riggers emerging into the daylight for the first time in three days. A chance now for us mere mortals to get to grips with what has been described as the 'Annapurna' (for the rest of you mere mortals that's a very big hill!) of the caving world. **Sean** and I started gently, practising on the first few pitches and then building up over the days, by our fifth trip we were becoming confident and descending far in the void–unfortunately too late to reach the bottom as the de-rigging team had already started. Still we reached the top of the Balcony pitch, 700m down and got to see some amazing sights such as the 'Hall of Thirteen' and passages in which you could not see the roof. **Sig Sean Watson** is to be congratulated on doing so well on what was essentially only his second proper caving trip!

So if someone offers you the chance to go caving don't say no–after all not all caves have 'Cheese Presses' in them–get out and discover just how varied they can be.

Sig Sean Watson reaches the top of 'Ruiz' while ascending out of the cave

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NEW MUSEUM PROJECT GRAND HERITAGE LOTTERY

The fourth Grand Heritage Lottery was drawn on 9 December 1994. Of the major prize winners, **Mr Taylor** is a retired officer, **Mr Lynch** bought his ticket from his fiancée's father, who is the chairman of the Newcastle Branch of the RSA, and **Mr Jones** is a civil servant employed at HQ 2 (NC) Sig Bde.

Over 31,000 tickets, worth £15,512, were bought with £4,000 in Prize Money to be distributed and expenses of £984, the profit will be £10,528.43. One of the £25 winners, who remains anonymous, has asked for their winnings to be ploughed back into the project appeal. If he, or she, reads this–thank you!

The Museum Project is forging ahead. Construction started on 30 November and the brick 'feature' on the NAAFI square beside the Headquarter Block is now no more. The tarmac is being rapidly removed and we expect the plinth for the new wing to be in place before the Christmas break starts.

We learned recently that the North Dorset District Council has approved a grant of £8,000 towards our project, the second largest donation from sources outside the Corps. We have applied for, and hope to receive, more significant grants now that work has started and we have reached the 'point of no return'.



Cpl Jock Reid, a well known member of the Blandford Project Presentation Team, drawing the first ticket in the fourth lottery

BRIAN STEPHENS RETIRES

Brian Stephens retires on 17 February 1995 after 34½ years as a Civilian Troop Draughtsman, and later as PTO based at Pembroke, with 241 Sig Sqn. **Brian** joined Royal Signals in 1960 as a Cartographic Draughtsman with the then 631 Sig Tp (Works), and has served under 17 OCs. He was the last in post of the original establishment of 28 Civilian personnel.

ROMAN TROOP 2 SIGNAL REGIMENT RAISE £700 FOR SICK CHILDREN

Soldiers who asked for donations in return for letting people out of York Garrison have raised £700 for the children's ward at York District Hospital.

Soldiers from Roman Tp 2 Sig Regt based in York visited ward 17 at the hospital and presented a cheque. They were watched by 11-month-old **Chloe Simpson**, a patient on the ward, and her mother, **Julie**.

The money is to be used to buy a syringe pump for the ward which allows medicines and fluids to enter the body at a controlled rate.

The signallers also raised money in a series of events including a basic fitness test over a two-mile route followed by a combat fitness test of about 10 miles. They ended the day with a night exercise on Strensall ranges practising section attacks.



Pictured with the cheque on York District Hospital Children's Ward are *L to R:* Sig Paul Lomas, SSgt Andy Terry, Sig Steven McNally, Cpl Eddie Leek, LCpl Paul Lester, Sig Matt Witham, Cpl Pete Blagg, Cpl Kev Allen and Sgt John Walsh. Front row: baby Chloe Simpson, her mother Julie and Student Nurse Rebecca Owen

Photograph by Chris Barker

Don't be disappointed!

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MOVEMENTS

OFFICERS
JANUARY 1995

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col M. J. Anderson	HQ RAO
Lt Col M. J. Dent	JHQ Implementation Team
Lt Col T. G. Inshaw	DGCIS (A)
Maj P. A. Brown	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj M. C. Burke	DGCIS (A)
Maj G. J. Cary	HQ DPTS
Maj M. R. Complin	15 Sig Regt
Maj J. B. Connolly	DGCIS (A)
Maj M. Cost	DES 3 DGES (A)
Maj N. D. Couch	249 Sig Sqn
Maj J. W. Dakin	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj K. G. Danby	HQ Multinational Div Central
Maj N. R. Davies	2 Para
Maj M. Davis	DRA
Maj M. A. Eaton	DRA
Maj M. J. M. Emslie	55 Sig Sqn (V)
Maj R. O. N. Evans	DG POL & SP
Maj A. A. Ewell	HQ NI
Maj E. M. Flint	215 Sig Sqn
Maj J. M. Gale	HQ RAO
Maj R. P. Giles	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj P. K. Gorford	HQ CSSG (UK)
Maj R. J. Healey	DI24 (A)
Maj E. Heritage	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj S. C. Johns	DGCIS (A)
Maj N. Keen	HQ UKSC (G)
Maj A. E. Kendall	HQ DSF
Maj R. W. Lapslie	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj G. R. Leyland	43 Sig Sqn (V)
Maj I. W. Mackenzie	MS PB11
Maj A. J. Madsen	237 Sig Sqn
Maj G. R. Mason	Depot Tp
Maj S. J. May	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj A. W. T. McComb	9 Sig Regt (R)
Maj C. D. McGrory	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj G. J. McNeill	AA Coll Harrogate
Maj I. A. Noble	Depot Tp
Maj J. G. Peck	Depot Tp
Maj W. M. Rattray	SANGCOM
Maj J. E. Richardson	HQ ARRC
Maj L. Rix	The Royal School of Signals
Maj A. G. Ross	HQ UKSC (G)
Maj I. W. R. Seraph	32 Sig Regt (V)
Maj S. R. Sharman	HQ UKSC (G)
Maj P. C. Smurthwaite	The Royal School of Signals
Maj M. A. Stevenson	Queen's Gurkha Signals
Maj K. P. Thornber	259 Sig Sqn
Maj T. C. Wadey	225 Sig Sqn
Maj I. D. Westerman	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj A. J. Wood	MOD DGGWLS
Capt M. W. G. Adams	The Royal School of Signals
Capt T. J. S. Allen	The Royal School of Signals
Capt A. D. M. Angus	AA Coll Harrogate
Capt M. Baines	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt G. W. Barber	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
Capt D. J. M. Bizley	35 Sig Regt (V)
Capt T. C. Cooper	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt K. J. Doyle	15 Sig Regt
Capt S. Gregory	15 Sig Regt
Capt P. A. Harlow	36 Sig Regt (V)
Capt R. J. Healey	DI24 (A)
Capt D. J. Kinnaird	259 Sig Sqn
Capt I. G. Lawrence	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt S. R. Mannings	604 Sig Tp
Capt A. J. Parsons	218 Sig Sqn
Capt R. J. Quinlan	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt J. L. Smart	40 Sig Regt (V)
Capt N. S. Stevens	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt J. E. Swindells	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt J. R. Tod	35 Sig Regt (V)
Capt M. A. Walker	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt P. J. Watt	HQ 143 (WM) Bde
Capt J. C. Williams	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt S. R. Workman	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt A. R. Basker	The Royal School of Signals
Lt D. J. H. Boxhall	16 Sig Regt
Lt P. E. J. Drew	30 Sig Regt
Lt S. C. Glover	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt W. J. Kirby	7 Sig Regt
Lt K. A. Owen	259 Sig Sqn
Lt P. E. J. Rennie	The Royal School of Signals

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WOs AND SNCOs
DECEMBER 1994

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 YofS M. P. Purves	7 Sig Regt
WO1 G. L. Richards	The Royal School of Signals
AWO1 FofS S. E. Hatfield	The Royal School of Signals
WO2 D. J. Cox	The Royal School of Signals
WO2 FofS R. Hamilton	Depot Tp
WO2 FofS S. C. Johnston	Electronics Branch REME
WO2 T. Malley	321 EOD Coy
SSgt R. K. Hughes	JCUFI
ASSgt T. W. Abbott	21 Sig Regt (AS)
Sgt I. Blair	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt N. Chatterton	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. Clarke	2 Sig Regt
Sgt A. M. Coughlan	280 (UK) Sig Sqn
Sgt M. O. Dullaghan	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt W. J. English	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt A. S. Garlick	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt K. B. Green	2 Sig Regt
Sgt M. A. Holloway	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt A. Kempton	238 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. I. Larrad	Depot Tp
Sgt P. A. Leach	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt J. Martin	251 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. M. Moodie	602 Sig Tp (SC)
Sgt J. P. Morgan	7 Sig Regt
Sgt K. P. Mullen	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt L. E. Mundy	16 Sig Regt
Sgt S. R. Nobbs	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt M. Openshaw	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
Sgt S. A. Parkin	SHAPE Sig Gp
Sgt A. J. Pearce	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt D. G. Perch	28 CDT TRG Team
Sgt W. R. Poulton	237 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. Rahman	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt D. A. Richardson	2 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Richmond	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt J. P. Rutland	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Sgt P. Scantlebury	642 Sig Tp
Sgt S. J. Swithenbank	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt M. R. Wallace	223 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. C. Watkins	CDO LOG Regt RM
Sgt A. S. Yates	The Royal School of Signals
ASgt D. P. Coussons	33 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt M. Hurren	AA Coll Harrogate
ASgt G. G. Moody	AA Coll Harrogate
ASgt M. P. Pryce	237 Sig Sqn
ASgt J. T. D. Wright	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt

JANUARY 1995

WO1 FofS I. Hugill	30 Sig Regt
WO2 A. N. J. Ashwell	223 Sig Sqn
WO2 D. J. Butler	HQ UKSC (G)
WO2 S. J. Chudleigh	14 Sig Regt (EW)
WO2 YofS P. J. McInally	HQ RAO
WO2 P. E. Small	223 Sig Sqn
AWO2 FofS I. D. Flippance	35 Sig Regt (V)
AWO2 FofS S. A. Overton	The Royal School of Signals
AWO2 FofS N. H. Smikle	9 Sig Regt (R)
SSgt YofS A. J. Branson	36 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt A. M. Carver	The Royal School of Signals
SSgt FofS S. P. Davis	7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207)
SSgt C. M. Dennis	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt S. A. Dickson	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt M. J. Harvey	21 Sig Regt (AS)
SSgt P. B. Haynes	642 Sig Tp
SSgt FofS P. S. Hodson	225 Sig Sqn
SSgt J. S. Hogan	9 Sig Regt (R)
SSgt J. P. Johnston	The Royal School of Signals
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SSgt P. H. Matthews	The Royal School of Signals
SSgt A. McGhee	9 Sig Regt (R)
SSgt G. Melding	Comms and SY GP (UK)
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ASSgt G. Wharton	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt M. Applegarth	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt D. W. Bailey	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt K. W. Barker	30 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Barran	Depot Tp
Sgt D. J. Bright	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt K. A. Cable	Depot Tp
Sgt A. Crabtree	16 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Cappleman	11 Sig Regt
Sgt A. R. Dawson	2 Sig Regt
Sgt K. E. Dowber	243 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. C. Ellison	8 Sig Regt
Sgt T. Fleet	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt S. M. Foreman	280 (UK) Sig Sqn
Sgt R. G. Foster	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt C. Gibbons	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt M. Goor	Depot Tp 11 Sig Regt
Sgt S. N. F. Graham	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt J. W. Graham	9 Sig Regt
Sgt S. Hamilton	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt G. Harbage-Brown	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt B. Hardman	55 Sig Sqn (V)
Sgt T. C. Hopkins	4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204)
Sgt S. D. Johnson	1 BN REME
Sgt M. Jordan	223 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. R. Langton	1 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210)
Sgt N. A. McGregor	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
Sgt S. A. McInally	223 Sig Sqn
Sgt N. G. McKenzie	16 Sig Regt
Sgt C. S. Morgan	24 Airmob Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210)
Sgt S. P. Norris	7 Sig Regt
Sgt M. D. Roe	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt K. R. Sharp	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt P. J. Sinderberry	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt G. Skinner	Depot Tp
Sgt J. S. Speirs	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt G. Steel	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (213)
Sgt J. A. Sullivan	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt P. B. Szeremeta	38 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt G. J. Thompson	Depot Tp
Sgt R. Tong	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt J. D. Walton	16 Sig Regt
Sgt N. Wheatley	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. G. Williams	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
ASgt M. P. E. Angrove	The Royal School of Signals
ASgt A. M. Chester	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
ASgt K. L. Chester	The Royal School of Signals
ASgt T. Davies	The Royal School of Signals
ASgt E. J. Head	1 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215)
ASgt P. D. Joyce	35 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt P. McNeilly	30 Sig Regt
ASgt K. Resoan	Sig Gp HQ LANDCENT
ASgt D. P. Sheerin MBE	1 Staffords
ASgt S. L. Wright	237 Sig Sqn

The Wire
SUBSCRIPTIONS BY DIRECT DEBIT

- Many of you have converted to the Direct Debit system but failed to cancel your Standing Order.
- For your 1995 Wire subscriptions the Accounts Department will be able to adjust your Direct Debit contribution to retrieve the correct amount for this year.
- Please ensure that you cancel your Standing Order before 1996.

DEATHS

Baylis–Maj Greta Baylis MBE–Served 1945-74–died 17 November 1994.

Binns–Dvr K. A. Binns–served 1939-46–died 22 November 1994.

Bridgwater–Maj S. E. Bridgwater TD–served 1933–died 22 November 1994.

Cleland–Lt Col J. A. Cleland–served 1941-73–died 19 November 1994.

Conway–Lt Col M. J. Conway–served 1929-55–died 1 November 1994

Cook–WO2 R. J. Cook MBE–served 1936-63–died 18 November 1994.

Cooke–Lt Col T. T. S. Cooke–died 3 October 1994.

Dolby–Capt F. H. Dolby MBE MM TA–served 1939-46–died 28 December 1994.

Gahan–Maj W. J. Gahan–served 1943-82–died 26 December 1994.

Gould–Maj A. Gould–served 1921-55–died December 1994.

Griggs–Sig D. R. Griggs–served 1956-58–died 14 December 1994.

Grint–SSgt E. A. Grint–died 22 October 1994.

Johnson–WO1 (FofS) K. Johnson–served 1950-1975–died 21 November 1994.

Mawson–Maj C. Mawson–died 27 November 1994.

McMullen–Maj T. McMullen–served 1958-90–died 12 December 1994.

Newton–Sig H. H. Newton–served 1935-46–died 17 November 1994.

Nicholson–Maj J. R. N. Nicholson TD–served 1930-57–died 6 December 1994.

Oliver–SSgt R. A. Oliver–served 1961-84–died 21 December 1994.

Stork–Maj F. A. Stork–served 1941-73–died 28 January 1994.

Thorpe-Tracey–Sig S. E. Thorpe-Tracey–served 1940-46–died 3 January 1995.

Topple–Brig M. R. Topple CBE–served 1952-89–died 5 January 1995.

Wark–Capt A. K. Wark–served 1942-47–died 28 October 1994.

Williams–Sgt G. L. Williams–served 1941-46–died 15 December 1994.

OBITUARIES

Neve–Ex-WO1 (RSM) Ron Neve. It is with deep regret we inform you of the death of Ex **WO1 (RSM) Ron Neve**, on 16 November. He served in the Corps between 1935 and 1948 and was also a member of the Burma Star Association. Our thoughts are with his family.

Oliver–SSgt Robert (Bob) Oliver died at his home on 21 December 1994 after a brave fight against cancer. He joined the Corps in 1961 and retired in 1984. He served in units in UK and Germany and also in Northern Ireland; 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)), 1, 2 and 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt, 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Hull Recruiting Office and 21 Sig Regt. He is sadly missed by his wife and family.

Ward–Maj A. V. K. Ward. Ken Ward joined the Corps just before the outbreak of World War 2. He trained as a Lineman, and during the war years served in units in London, Italy and the Azores. Three years in Catterick and Harrogate were followed by service in GHQ Signal Regiment in Singapore, 1948/51. Returning to UK **Ken** had a short spell with a TA unit in Darlington, followed by a move to Berkshire. He married his wife **Brenda** in Grimsby in 1952.

The Mau Mau troubles saw **Ken** on his way to Kenya for five months. From there he moved to Malta with his family.

Promotion to WO1 saw **Ken** serving as RSM with the TA in Glasgow; with 8 Sig Regt in Catterick, and then again with the TA in Birmingham.

Commissioned Lieutenant (QM) in 1964, **Ken** was Quartermaster in Bulford; Colchester; Malta (234 Sig Sqn), and BAOR–16 and 28 Sig Regts. He retired after almost 37 years service, in the Spring of 1976, and settled in Bourne in South Lincolnshire. He joined Axiom Housing Association in Peterborough, as a Housing Officer; eventually gaining promotion to Housing Manager.

He retired from Axiom in September 1988 after twelve and a half years valuable service, chalking up a very active working life of almost 50 years. He was Secretary/Treasurer of Peterborough and District Branch of the Royal Signals Association for 18 years; Treasurer of Bourne Conservative Association and a member of the Royal British Legion and Probus Clubs. He was a keen caravaner, and an excellent cook. His love of opera and military band music saw him attending concerts the length and breadth of Britain. He was also a keen photographer.

Ken died suddenly on 17 September 1994 after a short illness, and we all convey our sincere condolences and best wishes to **Brenda**, **Caroline** and **Lesley**.

NOTICES

CORPS DATES–1995

9 March	Corps Guest Night (TBC and may be postponed to coincide with the opening of the Single Centre), Blandford
8 April	Royal Signals Association, Branch Representatives' Meeting and Annual General Meeting, Duke of York's HQ
3 May	Morrison Cup (UK), York
28 June	Princess Royal Day
2 September	Corps Luncheon (North), Catterick
12 October	Master's Guest Night including Hon Colonels Briefing, Blandford
3 November	Corps Scottish Dinner, Glasgow
9 November	Field of Remembrance, Westminster
23 November	Royal Signals Institution London Lecture, London
13 December	Corps Carol Service

CORPS 75TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

4 July	Corps Dinner, London
7 July	Colonels Commandant Dinner, Blandford
8 July	Corps Luncheon, Blandford
9 July	Royal Signals Association Reunion, Blandford

660 SIGNAL TROOP
(EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL)

There is a continuing need for Royal Signals Tele Op(R) to be employed with 660 Sig Tp (EOD) as ECM operators. The Troop currently has vacancies in the rank range LCpl-Cpl to serve in EOD support work in UK locations. Vacancies for Sgt-SSgt occur from time to time.

If you wish to volunteer for this different type of employment, contact your Unit Orderly Room who will apply through D Wing, RSMRO. Selection courses lasting two days are held five times per year at the Troop HQ in Didcot.

GARDEN OPEN DATES

Maj (Retd) Harvey Blizard will be opening his garden to the public again this year on the following dates:

23 April, 21 May, 25 July and 27 August from 2 pm to 5 pm and on 1 October from 2 to 4 pm, at Sea Close, Cannongate Road, Hythe, Kent. These events are in connection with the National Gardens Scheme, proceeds are for charity and **Maj Blizard** usually donates a portion of the money collected to the Royal Signals Association Benevolent Fund.

MILITARY CEMETERY– DURBAN (STELLAWOOD)

During Her recent tour of South Africa **Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal** visited the cemetery at Durban (Stellawood). The Colonel in Chief was able to see the graves of:

Moore, Sig James Edward, 14212499
72 Op Sec died March 20 1943 aged 35.
Son of **James R. Moore** and **Ellen Moore** of Liverpool and husband of **Elsie Moore** of Childwall, Liverpool.
(European Section Block F Grave 339).

Salisbury, Sig Reginald Charles William, 2388926
Died 18 August 1943 aged 33.
Son of **Walter** and **Ellen Louisa Salisbury** of Cambridge.
(European Section Block F grave 396).

The Princess Royal was most pleased that the graves are being so well cared for.

Sadly, we have no records of either of the relatives, but if there is a reader who may know of them–please let RHQ know.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you are a regular *Wire* subscriber please keep us informed of any change of address.

FOR SALE



208 SIGNAL SQUADRON PLAQUES

On 8 June 1993, 208 Sig Sqn reformed from 3 Sqn 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt during a parade reviewed by the Corps' Colonel in Chief, **HRH The Princess Royal**. One month later the Regiment was retitled 1 (UK) Armd HQ and Sig Regt. The Squadron's current role is the provision of an element of the Army's tactical mobile telecommunications network known as Ptarmigan. It comprises three identical 'Trunk Node' Troops and a supporting Squadron Headquarter's Command Post, and is based in Herford, Germany.

The design of the Squadron motif is based on its former history and present day existence. 28th Commonwealth Inf Bde Gp Sig Sqn was formed at Butterworth, Malaya on 1 October 1955. This title was later shortened to 208 (Commonwealth) Sig Sqn by the time it moved to Taping in June 1957. Four years later, it moved again, this time to the newly completed Camp Terendak in Malacca and there it stayed until its disbandment in early 1970. It was based in Malaya the whole time, although it conducted exercises and operations in support of 28th Commonwealth Inf Bde all over the Malay Peninsula, in Thailand, Borneo and Australia.

The motif depicts a tiger against a divided backdrop of light and dark blue. These were the colours used in the background of the 28 Bde's own motif. The tiger epitomises the very real dangers of the wild animals encountered by the Brigade when in the 'field'. The tiger also symbolizes the wild cat theme that runs through the Squadron's present day Troops known as Jaguar, Lynx and Puma.

A Squadron plaque has now been produced using the motif as the central theme. Any former member of 208 Sig Sqn who wishes to obtain a plaque should contact the Squadron Second in Command. Each plaque is accompanied by the above explanation and costs £12 which includes postage and packaging, made payable to the Central Bank 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

LETTERS

From: Brig J. H. Griffin, Comd, The Royal School of Signals
Dear Sir

May I thank **Brig John Hart** for the best wishes he sent to us all at Blandford in his letter on the Corps Official Farewell to Catterick (*Wire* December 1994).

I too was touched by the immaculate and moving farewell parade of 8 Sig Regt despite never having myself served at Catterick. But, in addition to the various farewell events, thanks are also due to the Commanding Officer and his staff for the very professional way they have tackled the considerable task of transferring equipment, documents, Corps memorabilia and indeed officers, soldiers and families of the permanent staff to Blandford.

As the massive building project at Blandford progresses and the New Museum building foundations are laid, there is an air of anticipation, perhaps even restrained excitement. While the loss of Catterick is sad there will be many advantages to the family of the Corps having a single home. Despite funding difficulties and delays I am confident that Blandford will be a tremendous facility of which the Corps will be justly proud. It is difficult to imagine what the atmosphere will be like when we are up and running, but it will be a positive hive of activity and definitely no sleepy hollow!

However, as **Brig Hart** writes, in the end it is people who matter, and our young officers and soldiers should be itching to get through their training and out into the field where our professional reputation is earned. Blandford will be a first-class Royal Signals Centre which the whole Corps family will now pass through, learning the basics of their craft, returning often on courses or the staff to meet old friends, and renewing acquaintanceships.

I hope the retired Corps will come to look on Blandford as their new home. The current and future generations of the Corps will need their 'parents' and 'grandparents' at home to pass on the Family history, ethos and lore!

Yours sincerely
John Griffin

From: Richard L. Cartwright
Dear Sir

In the December 1994 issue of *The Wire*, the passing of **Lt Col Don Ellison** was reported, such sad news. My sadness was intensified by the absence of any tribute to this most distinguished and respected soldier.

It was in January 1937 that I arrived in Rawalpindi on posting to 1st Indian Divisional Signals. In a matter of days I belonged to 'K' Section. My Section Sergeant was **Sgt Don Ellison**. Soon, there followed the 1937 Waziristan operations when I remained in 'K', and continued so doing until the outbreak of the war. Throughout my service in the Corps I, at no time, served under a more respected NCO. His standards and sublimity, together with his leadership, won him the respect of all of us in 'K' Section. His name was revered, not just in the Section, but widely amongst members of the Corps spread across Northern Command (India). Many a young Signalman endeavoured to emulate him. The era was one which produced many fine, and outstanding senior NCOs, but **Don** was second to none. If the history of 'K' Section is ever written, it would be apparent to any reader that the pillar of its outstanding efficiency, and reputation was its Section Sergeant–**Don Ellison**.

During the war, and the subsequent years, I was unable to obtain news of **Don**. Yet, I knew beyond doubt, that he would be giving that same unstinted loyalty, leadership, and devotion to duty as he did in 'K' Section; for he knew nothing different.

In recent years, **Don Ellison** became a member of our Indian Signals Association. In April 1993 he attended our annual reunion and dinner. There, my great privilege was to be seated at his right hand side.

Don has died, but not our memories of him. To those of us who served in 'K' Section during those far off, pre-war years his name will always be remembered with great respect and affection. When, in future years, we of the Indian Signals Association gather for our reunions he will be mentioned by at least one of us in the course of our conversations. That, I promise.

I will remember **Don Ellison** as the soldier 'par excellence' and as an unaffected gentleman.

Yours faithfully
Richard L. Cartwright

The Swanage Railway Co Ltd

operates a steam railway 25 miles south of Blandford. In recognition of the substantial amount of work undertaken by The Royal Corps of Signals since 1984, the railway is pleased to offer

CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL

To all Corps members and their dependants posted to Blandford

By obtaioning a SWANAGE RAILWAY STAR CARD previously only available to permanent local residents within the Isle of Purbeck, holders will be entitled to one third off normal Swanage Railway train services. The card costs £5.00 and is valid for two years.

Further details on the Star Card and the many special events held at Swanage can be obtained by contacting:

The Passenger Services
Swanage Railway
SWANAGE
Dorset
BH19 1HB
Tel: 01929 425800

For information on the military involvement within the Swanage Railway Project, and The Royal Signals Mercury Group please contact:

SSgt F. E. Roberts
Mercury Group Secretary
4 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (204)
BFPO 36

THE PURBECK LINE

REPORT FROM ULSTER

XV



HQNI and 15 Sig Regt BFPO 801

CO	**Lt Col A. H. Johnstone**
Adjt	**Capt P. J. Watt**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) D. A. Deegan**

COMMS OPS

Despite the major changeover and upheaval within the last three months Comms Ops remains the focal point for all comms. The ceasefire has seen no let up in hard work with all those little jobs that we kept putting off now on the agenda. The new Day Shift Supervisor **Sgt Andy Chubb**, recently arrived from 2 Para in Holywood (Lisburn not USA), has already started to tear his hair out with the nightmare of looking after a complex shift roster and the Yeoman's many admin points. Our congratulations to the baby of the shifts **LCpl Tony Clarke** on his recent marriage to **Ashley**.

NORTHERN IRELAND CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

In the depths of winter we deployed to Ballykinler to take part in the NI Cross Country Championships–lots of sand dunes and lots and lots of wind and rain were promised as is the norm for Ballykinler. A total of 260 individuals, both men and women were taking part so a mad initial dash was expected. **Cpl Sue McCall** APTC set a good pace for the ladies early on with **Cpl Paula Matheson** pressing close behind. On paper 25 Engr Regt, 1st and 2nd Bns Para Regt and the ladies of 3 R Irish could not be beaten. However, both the ladies' and men's teams gave them a good run for their money. We did manage some noteable achievements: **Cpl Sue McCall** retained the individual NI Ladies Championship, **Cpl Paula Matheson** led the ladies team to be runners up and the men's team managed a creditable fifth place overall out of 16 major units with a fine run from **WO2 John Harden** RA coming in as second veteran.



HQNI and 15 Sig Regt–Cross Country Team 94/95
Front row (*L to R*) SSgt Carpanini, Cpl Pankhurst, LCpl Webster, Cpls McCall, Matheson, Helm and WO1 (YofS) Benson
Back row (*L to R*): SSgt Ward, Sgt Ross, Sig Calloway, LCpl Allen, Cpl Stroudley, SSgt Cheetham, WO2 Arnold and WO2 Harden. Absent from photograph: Maj Hall RE, Cpls Maughan, Armstrong, King and Sig Ewings.

MT DEPARTMENT

As usual the MT have been busy with the day to day driving details. **Sgt Salla** has just qualified on his MT SNCO Course so watch out! However, the trips out continue, despite the winter nights creeping in. A fishing trip organised by **LCpl Scott Barrie**, for those not on detail, proved most successful. Deep sea fishing in the Irish Sea was certainly a new experience.

QM DEPARTMENT

We have lost **Cpl** (now Sgt) **Rob Bayliss** on posting and **Cpl Foat** took his money and ran, without replacements of course. Also on his way (again) is **SSgt Paul Haynes,** this will allow us the opportunity to congratulate **Cpl Paul Elwood** recently selected for promotion to Sergeant–and, note, someone who will actually stay here. Once again we wish **Spike**, **Debs** and the children best wishes for the future–this time in Gibraltar. We also congratulate **LCpl Alex Dack** and his wife **Kay** on the birth of their daughter **Donna Jo**. As if that isn't enough he's recently been selected for promotion to Corporal which would help to pay the milk bill.

Welcome back **Cpl Mark Willis** after a lengthy detachment to Leconsfield, all for that licence. It now allows **Sgt** 'Stig' **Henry** to concentrate on his rugby and consolidate his position with the Corps Rugby Team. Still on the sporting front, the QM, continues to establish himself as the Province Oracle at orienteering, whilst **SSgt John Carpanini** (yes he is still here) is persisting with the organisation of the cross country and road racing teams.

225 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj S. R. Sharman**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) N. Yarwood**

Starting with the sports page (just to make a change). The CO's Cup Hockey took place on 19 October, the gladiators turned out and showed off their skills, winning all their matches and conceding only one goal, well done to all the players. The sports continued with the .22 Shooting where we came second to HQ Sqn, they did however have 'proper soldiers' with the RSM, Trg Wing and Defence Platoon forming up their team.

ADMIN TROOP

The Troop has seen a massive change of personnel recently with fond farewells to **Cpl** 'ET' **Tait** off to 8 Bde, **Cpl John Haynes** to Cyprus (Oh to be a clerk and arrange your own posting), **Sgt** 'Auntie Sarah' **James** about to leave for the MOD. The RQMS Dept has also seen change with **Cpl Rog Bradley**, **Naomi** and the children off to 7 Sig Regt and **LCpl Jimmy Fox**, **Marie** and family off to 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)); congratulations on the much deserved promotion. A few special mentions for the Troop achievements. To **Sgt Dek Painter** for trying to get an all-female Commcen, well done so far, **Cpl Terry Lees** for abseiling off the top of the Mourne Mountains. **SSgt Steve** 'Two Bergens' **Evans** for leading the Troop pie eaters to even greater gluttony in Ops B, ably assisted by **Sgt Gerry Barclay**. Finally welcome to **Cpl Charlie Brown** and **LCpl Al Keir** in the RQMS Department.

GOLF TROOP

Farewell to the following Troop members: **Sgts Kev Dicks, George** (Shop Steward) **Murray, Cpls Mick Lowery** and **Steve Pettifer**. Hello to the following, **Sgts Harper, Holder, Linton, Mangan, Cpls Brown, Wesseldine** and **Wilson**. **SSgt Danny Daniels** and **Cpl Jase King** have just returned from a five weeks trip in New Zealand–laughingly called an expedition.

233 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj A. W. James**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) W. Gray**

COMMCEN TROOP

Commcen Troop recently embarked on an adventurous training exercise to the Mourne Mountains, a foolish move some may say, given the location and time of year in this land of perpetual rain. Two days were spent hill walking, rock climbing and abseiling. Despite the fact that it had rained for five days and nights prior to our departure we were blessed with excellent weather on the day. However **Cpl Jane Fitz-Patrick** found her new boots were not quite waterproof when she discovered the Irish bog–up to her knees.

In addition to adventure training, the Troop managed to get out and about. In the first place **Sig Pete Mayhead** and **LCpl Kieran Jukes** took the opportunities to go on the ground. In addition three of the girls, **Cpls Mandy Precious**, **Jane Fitz-Patrick** and **Sig Sue Stallwood**, spent a day with 7 R Irish. They had an interesting and enjoyable day.



The hardy group: Back: LCpl Kieran Jukes
Back row (*L to R*) Cpls Sid Siddans, Rob Smith, Jane Fitz-Pattrick, SSgt Anne Carthy, Cpl Paul Bernard
Front row (*L to R*) Cpl Tony Lynch, Sig Sue Stallwood, LCpl Steve Whitehead

INDIA TROOP

We welcome the following: **SSgt Trev Taylor, Sgts Craig Avery-Hebditch** and **Paul Webster, Cpl Paul Bernard**, and **Sigs Phil Callaway** and **Graham Hennessey**–we wish them all a rewarding tour. Sadly, we did bid fond farewell to **Sgt Si Graham** posted to IARRICS Bandford and **LCpl Andrea Mills** to 30 Sig Regt on promotion.

MCKELVIE TROPHY

The McKelvie Trophy has reached the final event (squash) which the Troop need to win to gain first place against TM Tp. To date we have won the swimming, basketball, volleyball and more recently the shooting. We have been runners up in the orienteering, athletics and hockey which leaves us tied with TM Tp in equal first place–so watch this place.

ROMEO TROOP

We open these notes by saying goodbye to **Capt Alan Stringer** who after a two year tour in the Province was devastated when he was told, contrary to popular belief, that he was unable to take his extensive armoury with him, however, all was not lost as he was presented with a plastic 'officer proof' replica version of an HK 53. It is with great pleasure we welcome the new Romeo Tp Comd, **Capt Dave Gaul** and wish him a happy tour.

Fond farewells and good luck to **Sgts Steve Clark, Bob King** and **Andy Sinclair, Cpls Dan** 'Terry' **Dare, Mick Heaseman** and **Steve Wilson**. The Troop would also like to extend a warm welcome to **Sgts Danny Heakin, Noble, Steve Prendergast** and **Andy Spink, Cpls Max Challis, Neil Convery, Alfie Davidson, Dale Wallace, LCpls Debbie Hamlyn, Shaun Kay** and **Loggie Wright**.

On a sporting note, congratulations go out to the six-a-side football team who had a storming victory–unlucky TM Tp–unfortunately the hockey team were not so successful.

TM TROOP

Another very busy month which has brought lots of new faces and characters. A warm welcome to the new Troop Comd, **Capt Bob Morley**, who arrived just in time to be met by a grinning Foreman with his long awaited leave pass for signature and an invitation to Buckingham Palace to receive his MBE. We send our best wishes to **Maj Ray West**, wishing him a speedy recovery and hope that he enjoys his new post in Andover as much as he enjoyed it here at the sharp end of telecommunications maintenance.

Another successful sporting month which included winning the inter-troop hockey with a little help from **Sgt Rennie** (England under 21) **Renshaw,** which was complemented by the Troop supplying five out of the six team members for the Mercury Cup MilSkills competition, which not surprisingly we then won.

We congratulate **LCpl Gary Jordan** and his bride **Alison** and hoping all their rows are quiet ones. We also welcome **Sgts Sian Alexander-High, Andy Baughan, Jim Ross, Cpls Dean Bannister, Shaun Davis, Mark Davies, Simon Nice, Stuart Rogerson** and **John Sheppard**. All this manpower might even allow us to do car fits soon! Congratulations also go to **Cpl Ian Low** on his recent and well deserved promotion, **Sgt Nic Fletcher** on the completion of his RSSC and to **LCpl Lee Coldwell** on completing the APTI Course. Finally a fond farewell to **Cpl Paul Bernard** on his long and hazardous journey to SSG. Thanks for all the work and wishing you well in the IT world.

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (203)
BFPO 809

Sqn Comd **Maj G. J. T. Rafferty**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) D. Hall**

OPERATIONS

The success of the ceasefire is still welcomed and enjoyed by the Squadron. However, we are taking the opportunity to indulge in all the niggly little routine inspection and maintenance tasks which are usually relegated by urgent operational priorities. Additionally we are still heavily involved in some major rebuilds which had started before the ceasefire.

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

The Squadron had an excellent Christmas function, in Drumadd Barracks. The event was organised with style by 'The Committee': **RQMS Bob Stanton, SSgts Dave Buckingham** and 'Ash' **Ashton** and **Sgt Eric O'Halloran** who all wore dinner jackets to aid targetting. Guests included the Brigade Commander, **Brig C. R. Watt OBE**, and **Col Hackett** with their wives. The highlight of the evening was the draw, the first prize was a £750 travel voucher plus £250 cash. The winner was **Sig Scouse O'Leary**, now he really is a favourite with all the girls! However, obviously the candle lit tables were romantic as **Cpl Ryan Halsall** and **LCpl Anne Knought** announced their engagement during the evening!

SHQ

SHQ is still toddling along looking after all those nice people under our AGC wing. We have all changed around jobs in SHQ, with the exception of **SSgt Paul Bartlett**, who will always be the big chief. All of the junior ranks have had a chance to get away. **LCpls** ''Windy' **Miller** and **Nikki Wallace** escaped for a week adventure training in Yorkshire. **Pte Danny Flatley** has been away on his unit docs course back in lovely Worthy Down, and **Cpl** 'Mez' **Merrey** has managed to get some leave in. Even the chief managed to get two days off (although it was nearly a week late). The SHQ change around was a success but the clerks are wondering when we are going back to how it was (we can't be getting bored now can we).

MT TROOP

Life goes on with yet another busy period in the MT Tp, our vehicles are much in demand.

The period began well with the promotion to **LCpl** for **Sig Chris Eckett**. It was about this time that somebody noticed the absence of **Pte Baz Weller**, after an 'all stations bulletin' he was declared the leave and course champion. Well done **Baz** on passing both Novice Driver and C+E.

Congratulations **LCpl** 'Woody' **Woodfield** for raising £70 for Children In Need, with his sponsored car valeting service. The month was rounded off on a high note with the promotion to corporal for **LCpl Mick McDonnell**. Well done. Finally, farewell to **Sig Billy Fulcher** on posting to the UK, and welcome to **LCpl Edwards** and family on loan to us for two years, from 1 WFR, hope you have a good tour.

TM TROOP

TM Tp would like to say a few farewells to **Cpl Martin** (wee-man) **Graham** who is off to 9 Sig Regt (R) in sunny Cyprus, with **Ruth** and the children. Also off to Cyprus is **Sig Ryan Sedgwick**, to 259 Sig Sqn. **LCpl Bob Menzies** who is off to 15 Sig Regt on promotion to corporal, with **Leslie** and the children and **LCpl** 'Tomo' **Thomson** who is leaving us for civvy street.

NEW ARRIVALS

We welcome the new foreman: **FofS Hiorns** fresh from Belize with his wife **Kathy** and family, also **Sgt Joe McGinness** with **Elaine** and the family from 15 Sig Regt, **Sgt Steve Ruxton** from 39 Sig Regt (SC) (V) and finally, **Sig Lee Holden** from 2 Sig Regt.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Cpl Pete Hall** and **Cpl Mick King** on their recent engagements to **Lorraine** and **Anne** respectively.



Cpl Martin (Wee-Man) Graham, being given his leaving interview by Sqn Comd Maj G. J. T. Rafferty, in Cpl Graham's 'office'

COMMS TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt R. Gibson**
Tp Sgt **Sgt N. Oldcroft**

Since the ceasefire Syscon has not relinquished its duties in maintaining comms although many deployments and operational tasks have been scaled down. With some time available most of the Troop have been able to take leave, none more so that **Cpl Bill Haley** since his return to the fold.

Congratulations go to **Sig Paddy Ensor** and wife **Lorraine** on the birth of their son **Josh** and to **LCpl Mick Ross** and **Kelly** on their recent marriage.

Congratulations also to **Cpl Chris Green** and **LCpl Wendy Moore** on their recent promotions.

ARRIVALS

A big hello to **Sgt Fran Graham** our new Crypto/Commcen Sgt and to **Sig Alison Johnston** who joins Syscon.

DEPARTURES

A big cheerio to **LCpl Viv Buffery** (off to the blunt end. 15 Sig Regt at Lisburn) and to **Sig Carolyn Murray** who is off to Civ Div in Glasgow.

Finally, **Sig** 'Kirkby' **Kirkbride**, managed to 'skive off' to do some boxing for the Army Boxing team so far he has won three of his four fights on his way to the Inter-Service Boxing Competition. Good luck!

EXERCISE DALES FINN

Exercise Dales Finn was a two week adventurous training exercise based at Whernside Manor in Dent.

Taking part in week one were **Lt Rob Gibson, Sgts** 'Si' **Hodgson** and **Chris Mason, LCpl Jayne Whittingham, Sigs** 'Scouse' **O'Leary** and **Bill Fulcher, Ptes** 'Daz' **Evens** and **Wayne Walters** (RRW).

We had an excellent week of caving, climbing, abseiling and walking. This was followed with some entertainment provided by the new comedy duo **Whittingham** and **O'Leary**.The quote of the week came on the first day while abseiling off Firbank viaduct, **Sgt** 'Si' **Hodgson** commenting 'I wonder if this viaduct is the same height on both sides'.

The first week's party departed leaving **Lt Rob Gibson** and **Sgt** 'Si' **Hodgson** to look after the second week party of **Cpls Ryan Halsall** and 'Swifty' **Swift, LCpls** 'Windy' **Miller, Anne Knought, Kathy Pilcher** and **Nikki Wallace, Ptes** 'Mitch' **Mitchell** and our two Welsh guests **Ptes Griffiths** and **Evans** (RRW).

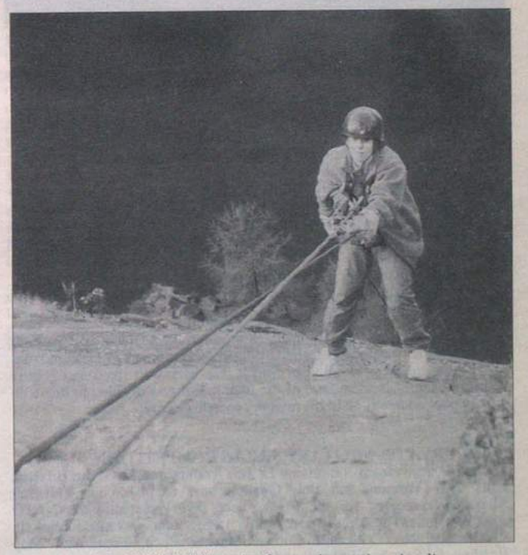
This week followed the same pattern as week one, someone obviously forgot to book the same weather.

The highlight of the week was trying to coax **Nikki Wallace** down a 160ft abseil at Parrock Quarry in Ambleside. 'Which way do I go now?' she asked. 'Down', came the swift reply.

Overall an excellent two weeks was had by all and a big thank you must go to the staff at Whernside Manor especially our instructors **Cpls Andy Staff, Pete Casson** and **Dave Allen** who contributed much to the success of the exercise.



Week One rear (*L to R*) Lt Rob Gibson, Sig Bill Fulcher, Sgt Si Hodgson, Sig Scouse O'Leary, LCpl Jayne Whittingham, Pte Daz Evans
Front (*L to R*) Sgt Chris Mason, Pte Wayne Walters



LCpl Nikki Wallace half way down the abseil

LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT PRESENTATION

A bonus Christmas present for **Cpl Mark Warrington** was the award of the LS & GC by the Bde Comd, **Brig C. R. Watt OBE**. Soon after **Cpl Warrington** went off to rejoin the R Anglian Regt in Colchester.

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218)
BFPO 807

Sqn Comd **Maj S. D. Hodges**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) D. A. Wright**

SHQ TROOP
Tp Comd **SSgt P. Kerr**

The most notable occasion in the calendar recently was the presentation of four LS & GC medals on 28 October by the Brigade's Deputy Commander **Col B. J. Fairman OBE. WO2 Jim Duffy** AGC (SPS), **WO2 (YofS) Norman Bain, SSgt Jim Crabb** and **Sgt Chris Vale** AGC (SPS) each received their medals, watched by their wives.



LS & GC presentation on 28 October 1994 by Col B. J. Fairman Dep Comd 8 Inf Bde

COMMS TROOP
Tp Comd **SSgt J. Crabb**

With no comings and goings to relate it falls on Comms Troop to write about some of the other happenings in the Squadron. The Wives Club shopping expedition to Belfast took place on 12 November. The trip was well organised by **Diane Peart** and **Marion Pollock** and 20 ladies from Ballykelly and Clooney camps set off in high spirits. Having shopped till they 'dropped' they returned in the early evening with heavy bags and lighter bank accounts.

TM TROOP
Tp Comd **SSgt N. Preston**

In July 1994 the untimely death in a motorbike accident of **Cpl Paul Smith**, an FRT technician from 15 Sig Regt, but based in Londonderry, provided a shock to us all. **Cpl Smith** was very well liked and greatly respected, and it is a measure of the man that it was decided to begin an annual pool competition in his memory to help charity.

MERCURY CUP–MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

The Squadron team comprising **Lt Jim Anderson, 2Lt Glynn Buxton, Cpls Taff Thomas** and **Bob Garlick,** and **LCpl** 'Spud' **Tait** felt adequately prepared for the day's events after practising the NATO Assault course. The competition, run by 15 Sig Regt, was made up of six stands: the NATO Assault Course/Stretcher Race; First Aid; Map Reading, NI Search; NI Shoot; and Command Task.

The team finished a gallant second after battling hard all day but just unable to make up the four points needed to win before the Stretcher Race. The team's relative success meant that the Squadron finished third equal in the overall Mercury Cup competition beating the other two Brigade teams (3 and 39 Bdes) and without even being able to enter a team in one part of the competition–namely the athletics.

THE CPL PAUL SMITH POOL COMPETITION

The Waterside Inn was bursting at the seams on Saturday 19 November for the first annual 'Paul Smith Memorial Trophy' which was held in the form of a knockout pool competition.

There were 32 entries for the competition, with at least the same number of spectators. The trophy itself is a lovely Tyrone Crystal Centre Piece on a mahogany plinth which will be kept in a cabinet on the wall of the Waterside Club. It was purchased mainly with money recovered by **Sgt Dave Cook**, with a little help from the Squadron, intended for **Cpl Paul Smith**'s holiday due to start on the day following his accident, and which his family asked to be put to good use. It was, therefore, decided to buy the Centre Piece as a trophy and to play for it each year as part of a charity competition in a sport dear to **Cpl Smith**'s heart.

The competition was played in two leagues with the winner from the first league playing the winner of the second league in a final of three games. During the first league **WO2 (YofS) Norman Bain** managed to claw his way through as the first finalist. At this point there was an exhibition match between **WO2 (YofS) Norman Bain** and **Cpl** 'Oz' **Faramus**. Back in January 1994 the Yeoman challenged **Cpl** 'Oz' **Faramus** to a game of pool and lost. A bet developed that if 'Oz' **Faramus** could win seven games on the trot then the Yeoman would pay a forfeit . . . shave off his moustache. It was to the delight of all that after six games the bet still stood; the final would be played on the pool competition night. On the night **Cpl Faramus** lost in the Knockout competition to the Yeoman but won the game that mattered.

The Yeoman eventually won the Memorial Trophy after a gruelling final with **Cpl Paul Drysdale** fought over an agonizing three rounds at 2 o'clock in the morning. Almost £350 was raised for a cancer charity and thanks must go to the organisation of **Sgt Gus Gartside** and **Cpl Paul Stokes** for a great time had by all.

BACK TO SCHOOL

For those who have not lived in Northern Ireland, and in Londonderry in particular, the prospect of doing so may seem a bleak one. There are, however, compensations to living here, and the high standards of education and the excellent relations we have with the local schools attended by our children are just two. One of our schools, Maydown Primary School, is presently undergoing a major refurbishment programme. To help continue our happy relationship and as a sign of our appreciation to the Principle and her staff, the Sqn Comd decided to raise funds to help with the renovation. After some hard work, we managed to raise the considerable sum of £1,000, and on 10 November a delegation from the Squadron, **Maj Stuart Hodges**, the AO **Capt Percy Broad**, Chief Clerk **SSgt Paul Kerr**, Comms Tp Comd **SSgt Jim Crabb**, CQMS **CSgt Ned Kelly** and **Cpl Dave Fitton** returned to school for the day to present the cheque.

Following a warm reception from both the staff and children, the cheque was handed over and the money will be used to provide much needed new library furniture and books. After the presentation, we were treated to refreshments in the Staff Room and briefed on future school activities.



Maj Stuart Hodges, SSgts Paul Kerr and Jim Crabb present a cheque for £1,000 to Maydown Primary School

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (213)
BFPO 801

Sqn Comd **Maj I. J. Bradshaw**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) McElwee**

TM TROOP

The Troop has been kept very busy since the ceasefire as everyone wants all the rush jobs put in over the past 25 years tidied up, a complete nightmare! In between routine maintenance, car fits, ops fits, Squadron training days and all the fatigues that appeared before Christmas, some of the lads managed, to complete a Province Filter Tuning and COUGAR for Beginner's Course.

To counter the stress built up during this busy period **Sgt Dave Laverie** organised a cheese and wine party in the rigging shack. After half an hour it looked like a convention for hippies as everyone had let their hair down in fine style. There were some notable 'performances' including **LCpl** 'Scotty' **Scott** and his impersonation of a rabid dog. A large thank you to the Brigade Commander for his generous contribution to the evening.

ARRIVALS

The Troop extend a warm welcome to two new technicians, **Cpl Phil Bruce, LCpl Pete Sorrell** and to **Sig** 'Shippy' **Ship** who joins the Rigging Section.

Congratulations to **LCpl Spike Little** on his recent promotion–a fine reason to get the beers in.

COMMS TROOP

The last two months upstairs in Comms Troop have seen a few arrivals and departures; firstly, welcome to **Cpl** 'Col' **Richardson** who, deprived of his six month tour in Syscon, has gone straight into the Crypto Cell. Welcome also to **Cpl** 'Taff' **Bowen** and **LCpl Dave Robins** who have not been so lucky and have already started their tours in the new comfy chairs in Syscon. We would also like to welcome into the world young **Connor McIntosh,** the newest member of the 'Clan McTosh'. Congratulations to **Maura** and **Tosh** on the birth of their son. Unfortunately **Sgt** 'Shandy' **McIntosh** leaves us at the end of November for a cushy posting in the TA. We also say goodbye to **Cpl Alana Dempsey** who has alas left for the TA and to **Sig Elaine Gerry** who has joined Civvy Street.

The much needed and much rumoured Syscon rebuild has now actually happened and the lads are queuing up to work there (not). The new design is not flawless, the breaking strain of a resting member of the RLC was not taken into account, crunch!

Last, and by all means least, Comms Trials were reported doing some work. The team led by **Cpl** 'Smudge' **Smith** were apparently patrolling with 1 Para, but who really knows?

ROVER GROUP

The group continue to give support to the Brigade Commander in all aspects including a recent deployment as the most armed and dangerous car park attendants in Europe. Welcome to two new members of the group, **Ptes** 'Saintsy' **St Lawrence** and 'Frog' **Gautier** and farewell to **LCpl Steve Harris** who is off on an extensive tour in Civ Div. Big congratulations are extended to **LCpl** 'Jelly' **Smith** who has come off the promotion board; there must have been a tenner attached to his confidential report.

SUPPORT TROOP
RQMS DEPARTMENT

November saw the departure of the longest serving member of the Squadron **Sgt Kenny Phillips**. **Sgt Phillips** came to 39 Inf Bde from the 12th Legion after completion of Hadrian's Wall; 'Kenus Philipus' as he was then known was in charge of grape treading. We wish him and his family all the best for the future. Welcome to his replacement **Sgt Al English**, who will now spend the next two year's sorting out all the dodgy **Ken** deals, good luck!

The loss of his sidekick and the recent visit from 5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216) have had a profound effect on **WO2 (RQMS) Skelton.** He has gone tabbing crazy! Allegedly he is in training for the Brigade March and Shoot competition coming up, but we suspect he picked up a cassette from his Airborne buddies.

MT SECTION

Firstly, welcome to the newest member of the section, **LCpl** 'Daz' **Hardy**. We would like to say farewell to **LCpl** 'Edge' **Edginton** who was last seen driving out of the front gates. Good luck in Civvy Street. Farewell also to **LCpl Stan Grewar** who has been allowed to leave now that his eyebrows have grown back. **Stan** is off to Bielefeld on promotion, congratulations.

ORDERLY ROOM

The Chief Clerk, **SSgt Brian Hogg**'s hair was seen to turn even greyer recently due to the departure of the Squadron office's longest serving member, **Cpl Tom Hill**. **Cpl Hill** will be sorely missed around all departments of the Squadron as he was always ready to get stuck into all activities. In fact the only time **Tom** didn't get stuck in was on his stag night, but that's another story. Welcome to his replacement **Cpl Ian Wass**. His arrival has spawned a new phrase, 'let's get on the **Ian**'. We wish you all the best for your tour.

OPS CELL

The Ops Cell has been in turmoil recently as it was manned solely for a short period of time by **Lt Jon Dakin** who had previously been seen more times at 'Take That' concerts that in the Ops Cell. Sanity was restored with the return of **WO2 (YofS) Bob Jonas** from his NIRTT course who then decided to test his ergonomic skills.

BALLYKINLER FUN DAY

The Squadron deployed en-masse one Saturday to the beach at Ballykinler in order to take the children out from the 'Friends of 80 Malone Road', a charity organisation the Squadron has chosen to help. Unfortunately, the weather was not on our side, the sun parasols took on a new role. Entertainment was provided in the form of motorised trike riding. That was until **SSgt Eddy Kidd Hodgson** went for a triple sulko, nobody told him it was an ice skating manoeuvre. There was also crazy golf and a kiddies orienteering trail which ended up as a crazy orienteering and a game that couldn't really be described as golf.

SPORT

There have been several notable performances on the sporting front in the last few months. A worthy victory was recorded on the volleyball court where the Squadron 'dream team' came out winners against the 15 Sig Regt first team that should have been much stronger. It was a true David against Goliath result.

The major sporting headline was captured by the basketball team that ran out winners of the Northern Ireland Minor Units Basketball Championship. Spearheaded by **Sig** 'Jona' **Jones** (who scored one or two more points than the rest of the team). The Squadron ran out comfortable winners in a keenly contested final against RMP Lisburn. Next stop, a play off against North London District on their court, hurrah!

News from Headquarters

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

BRADLEY SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Dave Smith**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Stew Campbell**

Welcome to the newly reformed Bradley Sqn, formerly 2 Sqn, 8 Sig Regt. On Thursday 1 December 1994, Bradley Squadron was officially rechristened, and remains the centre of excellence for Single Entry Training at the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate. **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB CBE DSO** gave his kind permission for the revival of the Squadron name, and two ex-Bradley apprentices are keeping their hands well and truly on the tiller to ensure that the changeover runs smoothly. **WO1 Chris Calow** and **WO2 (SSM) Stew Campbell** are, of course, upholding the highest standards and traditions of the Corps. Did somebody mention the old Bop Op Squadron? Anyone know why?

To commemorate the happy event, the SSM organised a sponsored 34 mile run from Catterick to Harrogate. All members of the Squadron cadre took part and raised £1,000 for Jimmy's Children's Ward, the Toy Library and Lister House. Not a mean 'feet' (pun!) by any stretch of the imagination . . .



The route itself was divided into legs (quite appropriately) of four miles, and each runner completed two legs each (again quite appropriately!). The runners were set off by **Col J. R. B. Cook** at 0845 hrs and the event ended four hours later in Harrogate. Plumes of smoke could be seen drifting skywards from their smouldering training shoes . . .

Memorable moments included **Sgt Caren Cable** questioning the SSM's sanity after a particularly steep hill . . . **SSgt Mel Crowther** and **Cpl Dave Leask** ignored the SSM after their first leg which started at the bottom of a slope and ended at the top of the same slope four miles later. Luck of the draw . . . as they say.

Sportswise, the Squadron has done well on the participation stakes. A team took part in the Army Cross Country Relay Championships, coming a very respectable fifth in the ladies unit team league. A particularly fine performance was recorded by **Sig Sophie Morris,** who ran her three mile lap in the second fastest ladies time of 18.24 mins.

We also had a team enter the Southern District (East) Ladies Six-a-side Football competition. Even the formidable combination of **Sgt Karen Ellams** as Team Manager and **Sig Kerry Davis** as Team Captain could not prevent us from being knocked out in the second round. Despite this minor problem, all the girls had a most enjoyable time, despite the dubious standard of the accommodation–chairs in the NAAFI canteen are not the most comfortable of beds.

Finally, the arrivals and departures of Squadron comrades. We say goodbye to **Capt Bret Appleby** who has moved on to pastures new, and welcome **SSgt Mel Crowther** and **Cpl Gaz Beardall**. We hope that they enjoy their time in this elite training organisation!

SCOTT SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj J. P. Perrett**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) T. Oakes**

BASIC RECRUIT TRAINING
by AT Sgt Mears

Basic Recruit Training started on 1 November 1994 for 41 young lads and 21 females. Ahead of them stood seven weeks of polishing boots, ironing kit and learning how to discipline themselves.

After the initial shock they started training in earnest: PT, NBC, Skill-at-Arms, Military Training and Drill on the agenda.

There are eight apprentice NCOs who help out in the Troop, **ATSgt Mears, ATCpl Lennon, ATLCpl Allan, ATCpl Gallagher, ATLCpl Edge, ATLCpl Wood, ATLCpl Rimmer** and **ATLCpl Burge**.

At the end of seven weeks of hard work the recruits will have their badging parade when they hope to be rewarded with the cap badge and can then look forward to passing off the Square in February and pursuing a rewarding career in the Corps.

BRAVO TROOP
LIFE IN SENIOR TERM
by AT Spittles

After a good leave, the warriors of Bermuda Tp (Bravo Tp) returned in usual high spirits.

The CFT proved quite challenging, with a lot of sweating up the long hills mainly from the most senior member of the Troop, **Sgt Willy Ryan**. Everyone managed to complete the eight mile course with relative ease probably because the SSM told us we would otherwise be 'confined to barracks'.

The latest Scott Sqn Party provided infinite fun. The members had a good night.

All the Operators passed their trade board and the Techs have passed their final exams, so, all in all, not a bad term.

We would like to thank the Squadron staff for producing such a keen, dynamic bunch of soldiers. It has been an experience.

CHAMPION SQUADRON

Champion Squadron provided an excellent opportunity for the Troop to display its stars. In football, both male and female squads won their respective matches. In the male competition the first match was won 2–1 thanks to some generous goalkeeping by **ATLCpl Kearsley** of Rawson. The second match was won 7–1 with **ATLCpl Gallagher** claiming the first kill by injuring a member of the opposing team. Scott Sqn biathlon team, with a strong Charlie Tp contingent, ran Rawson into the ground with some fine running. While the cross-country proved too confusing for the PS to sort out! They first awarded it to Scott but then gave it to Rawson. They must have felt sorry for them!

BRITISH ARMY ROLLER CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Army Roller Championship was held here in Harrogate, with the junior team consisting of all Charlie Tp members: **ATCpl Belton, AT Watts, AT Eltringham** and **ATLCpl Hadley**. The events were 2x400 metre sprints and 1x1500 metre sprint with the top three times counting as the team and gaining the medals. The awards went to **ATCpl Belton**, AT **Watts** and **AT Eltringham** who all gained medals.

RAWSON SQUADRON

93B has been involved in a variety of activities recently. The Champion Squadron Competition continues with Rawson winning the shooting, hockey and boxing. Particular congratulations go to the boxing team for their hard training resulting in an entertaining evening for the spectators and a resounding victory for the Squadron.

MABLES WEEKEND
by ATLCpl Alston

A group of AT's and Permanent Staff from the Squadron and **Mr Archie Miles** and **Mr Mike McHale** from the Education Wing got together to run 'Mables Weekend' The aim was to raise money for a local charity and to provide the guests with plenty of good activities. The event was given the name 'The Dentdale Festival 1994', it took the theme of Cluedo and each group was assigned a certain task to be completed by the Sunday afternoon.

We arrived at the training centre in Cumbria and spent the rest of the day unpacking the equipment and sorting out the accommodation and bar for the guests. These participants were civilians sent and paid for by their companies. They arrived on the Friday evening and soon settled in making friends over a few pints in the bar.

The competition started the next day. Each team was sent to a start point where it had to solve a command task or other problem. The tasks varied from river crossings to caving.

That evening, after a good dinner, the team settled into the lounge, where some sketches were performed. We had a good laugh and **Maj K. G. Danby** contributed a great deal to the occasion.

On the Sunday, each team set out again only this time they were all heading for the same location, the viaduct from which they had to abseil. Then we returned to the centre in time for lunch and the presentation of prizes. After that the guests left for home and we were left to clear up.

EXERCISE MERCURY 2
by AT LCpl McShane

The Spec Ops and Tg Ops of 93B have recently been on Merc 2. We were looking forward to it because it gave us a chance to put into practice the skills we had learnt in trade.

The first day was spent getting into the swing of things and using VHF communications. We established and maintained communications until about 0100 hrs. During the day we practiced our ability to crash out and move into new locations.

Day 2 stated with a PT session which was supposed to oxygenate our brains. It made **ATCpl Sanders** sick. Throughout the day and night we practised all of the skills which had been taught, so far, including, Det Drills, A and P, and VP.

Having worked all night most people were pretty tired. After a cam race, we moved back to camp, cleaned the kit, packed it away and were debriefed by the Yeoman. The exercise was quite useful and enjoyable because everything learned in the classroon became real and the overall understanding was greatly enhanced.

OPERATOR WING

OC — **Maj P. M. Castle**

OVERHEARD IN THE HEAD SHED

Maj Castle is briefing his two Yeomen, **WO2 (YofS) Perry** Op Wing Yeoman and **SSgt (YofS) Carley** Commex Tp Yeoman. 'Right men, a new term has begun, what are your goals for this term, **SSgt (YofS) Carley**?

'Sir, I just want to end the term with the majority of the students having a good idea about field signalling.'

'Very good, and you **Yeoman Perry**?'

WO2 (YofS) Perry: 'Well Sir, this term is going to be the best ever. I am going to see that no student is on remedial training by week of training 2. The Op Wing Staff are going to win the Lanyard Trophy, enter the Morrison Cup as a minor unit and wipe the floor with the opposition. Towards the latter stages of the term we will put forward the senior apprentices to appear on University Challenge and, of course, I will not be satisfied with second place. I also am planning to work all lunch breaks to find an apprentice that could possibly join the NASA space programme and be the second British person into space.'

'Do you not think that you may be setting your sights a bit high Yeoman?'

'Well, **Yeoman Carley** started it Sir!'



Maj Gen A. H. Boyle meeting Mr Paul Davies, civilian instructor in Operator Wing, during the SOinC's visit to the College on 2 December 1994. When they last met, in 1965, the then Capt Boyle was Radio Tp Comd, Joint Communication Unit, Borneo, and Paul was a Lance Corporal in Systems Control

COMMCEN GROUP

When it was initially suggested by the staff at the College that we take over the training of SE soldiers on the close down of TTS Catterick, the idea was considered to be probably unworkable and undesirable but, here we are, some six weeks after training has ceased at the TTS, running 13 Tele Op (Tg) courses and one Stores Accountant course. So far all courses are running smoothly, thanks to the excellent cooperation between 2 Sqn, 8 Sig Regt (now Bradley Sqn) and the staff of Operating Wing.

The first of these courses was completed in January 1995. Wastage to date has been minimal and the signs for the future are most encouraging. Integration with apprentice training has been completely painless, the two seeming to compliment each other.

GENERAL TRAINING WING ARMY

OC — **Maj G. Hegarty**

Most of the term was taken up with the Single Entry BRT. As the intake was rather small, it was an excellent opportunity for our newly qualified instructors to put their infantry and military skills to use for the first time.

The BRT had a Live Firing week at Strensall Ranges and the weather was glorious (quite unusual for North Yorkshire). The weather certainly reflected on the standards of shooting, which were very good.

One recruit who tried to put his newly issued glasses on over his ear-defenders had the Range Staff in fits of laughter until he was reminded that his ear defenders were still on.



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The Royal School of Signals
Blandford Camp

THE ROYAL SIGNALS HALF MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS

The inaugural Royal Signals Half Marathon Championships was held at Blandford Camp on 9 October 1994 combining with the Blandford Tower Half Marathon. This year nearly 200 competitors entered the event from all corners of the country as well as BAOR. This extremely well organised and demanding (hilly) event took place by kind permission of **Brig J. H. Griffin** in and around the beautiful Dorset countryside, under the race directorship of **WO2 (SSM) John Smith**.

The race was started at 1330 hrs in glorious sunshine, by the detonation of a thunderflash. The runners soon sorted themselves out, a pack of four making an early break and pulling away from the rest of the field; they were **John Boyes** (Poole Runners) ex Royal Signals (74 C Harrrogate), **Peter Damon** (Poole Athletic Club and the Camp Postman), **WO2 (YofS) Stu Little** (Blandford Striders) and **Maj Nick Bateson** (7 Sig Regt). This was indeed the finishing order. A mention must be made of **Maj Nick Bateson** who competed in the REME Half Marathon on Friday 7, drove back to Blandford Saturday to compete in the Royal Signals Half Marathon on the Sunday.

During the main event, the Half Marathon, there were a further two races, a three mile road race and a mile fun run. The prizes were presented by **Mrs Marion Griffin**.



Blandford Tower Half Marathon Winners
(*L to R*) Pete Damon, John Boyes, Stu Little



Ladies–Blandford Tower Half Marathon Winners
(*L to R*) Danni Thwaite, Sharon Elder, Michele Adey

R Signals results:

1st	**WO2 Stu Little**	The Royal School of Signals	1.14.14
2nd	**Maj Nick Bateson**	7 Sig Regt	1.14.58
3rd	**Cpl Gary Sloan**	AA Coll Harrogate	1.18.50

Blandford Tower Half-Marathon results:

1st	**John Boyes**	1.11.01
2nd	**Pete Damon**	1.11.43
3rd	**Stu Little**	1.14.14

Ladies results:

1st	**Sharon Elder**	238 Sig Sqn	1.24.50
2nd	**Michele Adie**	238 Sig Sqn	1.37.12
3rd	**Danni Thwaite**	251 Sig Sqn	1.40.56

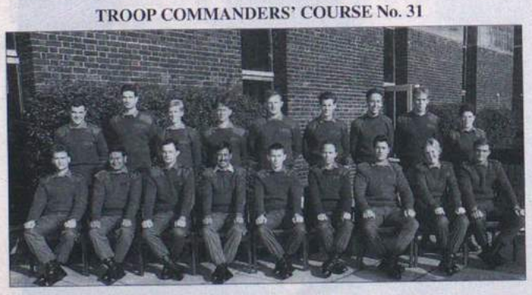
CIS TRAINING WING
TROOP COMMANDERS' COURSE No. 30

Troop Commanders' Course No. 30 finished on 26 October 1994 and the Course has now been dispersed to the four winds around the Corps. The Course Top Student was **2Lt Davies**, seen in the photograph being presented with her prize by the Chief Instructor, **Col J. E. F. Kirby OBE**. The Course will be remembered as the last body of people to be photographed on the stone roundabout at Blandford. Possibly as a result of a poor brief, the course arrived for their photograph at the roundabout, in swimwear.



2Lt Sophie Davies receives the award for top student from the Chief Instr Col John Kirby

TROOP COMMANDERS' COURSE No. 31



R SIGNALS TOT & FOFS CONTINUATION COURSE No. 15



11 SIGNAL REGIMENT

WO1 (RSM) Phil Abbott got a cold wet surprise when he arrived at work on Monday 5 December 1994 to take what was to be his final parade as RSM of 11 Sig Regt, The Royal School of Signals and indeed his last parade as a non-commissioned officer. As he arrived to inspect, **Cpl Ted Rogers**, a member of Training Support Squadron, he was arrested by three burly members of the Regiment and carried off to RHQ where a pillory had been set up by **SSgt Steve Metherell** and **Cpl Paul Ralf** of TM Tp.

A dustbin full of water and sponges had been arranged and placed strategically for the Regiment (on payment of 10p for charity) to say a farewell to their RSM. Ten pence got three wet sponges to throw and in one particular instance, a well aimed bucket, no names no pack drill. The RSM took the whole thing in excellent spirit and not a single threat was issued, even at the end when **Cpl Mark Neish** dressed as a clown and **Cpl** 'Ted' **Rogers** decided to dump the remaining dustbin of water over him – just to finish things off.

RSM Abbott joined the Army in August 1974 enlisting into the Parachute Regiment. Two years later he transferred into the Royal Corps of Signals. He assumed the post of Corps RSM in February 1994 and was commissioned on 16 December. All ranks at 11 Sig Regt wish him well on his commissioning and in his new post of MTO.

TRAINING SQUADRON
RADEX TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Mark Brookes**

Over the last couple of months we have seen a number of changes in the Troop and the Squadron as a whole, beginning with the relocation of the Troop offices and various plans for the new garages. We have also started to see the development of the new Single Centre for Royal Signals with the arrival of construction equipment and ISO containers. The Troop has also received the first influx of vehicles from Schemes Troop, Catterick, although as yet there is still no sign of the manpower required to maintain the new fleet!

Blandford Camp received a shock as it saw what must be the first CFT to take place since the departure of 30 Sig Regt, which took place not once but twice in one month. By a masterful display of Military organisation **WO1 (YofS) Pemberton** proved that the Corps is not 'all work and no play'. During this very busy period he arranged for the Troop to get away to Whernside Manor for a week of adventure training.

EXERCISE COLD COMFORT 1994

The week began with an early morning parade on Sunday 30 October in order to load the hire transport and set off for Dent (just below Scotland, Sir!), as the precise location was explained to the new Troop Commander. It would be nice to say that it was a fairly uneventful journey, but it was soon discovered why we practise the ancient art of a 'head count.' **Sig** Mac **McDonnell** proved that being able to tell the time is not a subject taught in Basic Training as he missed the bus on several occasions.

The first activity, on Monday, was climbing but due to the rain it was deemed unsafe to visit the usual locations. However, the resourceful instructors managed to fit 25 people into a climbing wall in one of the nearby towns. It also became clear that, in an ideal world, you would normally take all the equipment required, ropes being the main ingredient. Tuesday's adventure was found in abseiling and caving, so with all the relevant kit we set off for the various locations. The abseiling began with a quick demonstration by **LCpl Steve** 'Gladiator' **Lowery** and ended with a rather different approach by **Sig Debs** 'Dime Bar' **Lowther**. The local RAF fighter squadron also gave us a re-run of 'The Dambusters', with a simulated attack on the viaduct. After a quick change over at mid-day we proceeded to crawl around on hands and knees in a small tunnel several feet under the ground. This mole-like behaviour seemed to suit some better than others, noticeably the larger members of the Troop found the 'Sausage Machine' an experience not to be repeated.



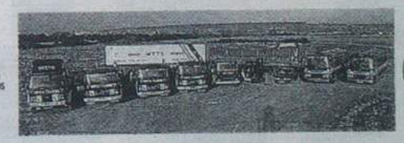
Exercise Cold Comfort 1994

Wednesday and Thursday saw us 'On The Hill' for a short two day expedition around a rather large orienteering route. The weather was very typical to adventure training, that is, it rained. When it wasn't raining we were surrounded by fog. The night was spent sleeping for a meagre 12 hours from 1830 to 0630, not through lack of energy, but for a distinct lack of visibility. We were entertained, however, by **Cpl Charlie** 'Cleese' **Roost** and his recital of 'The Life of Brian' and 'The Parrot Sketch'. The journey down off the hills began on Thursday morning by going up even higher (surprise, surprise) before eventually cutting back down to the finish, conveniently co-located with a bar and restaurant. The return journey to Blandford was, I am glad to say, uneventful, apart from the rather loud snoring emanating from each of the three transports.

HELLO AND GOODBYE

Firstly, congratulations and goodbye to **WO1 (YofS) Pemberton** who leaves for the Falklands and a life in the Officers' Mess. Congratulations also to **Cpl Eric Head** who is posted on promotion to Tidworth. **LCpl Brian Milllarvie** is bound for civvy street, swapping his green uniform for a blue one as he joins the Police in Glasgow. **Sig Lee Walker** also left recently as she returned to Harrogate to re-trade as Tele Op (TG). Hello to **Lt Mark Brookes** who comes in to take over as Troop Commander and **Sig McDonnell** who has just posted in from 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para).

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News from Regiments

2 Sig Regt
York

CO — **Lt Col A. D. Forster**
Adjt — **Capt C. J. McIntosh**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) D. Whiting**

It was with much regret that the Regiment said a sad farewell to Comd 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde, **Brig W. H. Backhouse** and his wife **Keri**. His departure was marked with a visit to the Regiment which coincided with an Inter Troop Military Skills Competition.



The Comd, CO and MTO at the driving skills stand

'The King is dead long live the King!' The arrival of the new Brigade Commander, **Brig M. P. S. Shaw**, was marked by a working visit to the Regiment. He visited all of the squadrons and departments of HQ Sqn and realised, after his 10 hour tour, the sheer size of the Regiment.



Brig Shaw meets WO2 (OMSI) Spowatt whilst the CO wonders why, for the first time in years, Maj Les Wood is in uniform

INTER-TROOP SKILLS COMPETITION

The long-awaited Inter Troop Skills Competition took place on Wednesday 2 November 1994. Seven sections consisting of 11 males and one female were destined to face a gruelling day. Morale was high as the teams competed in eight events including shooting, driving, command tasks, assault courses and inevitably drill.

On the indoor assault course, **Sig Mally Gibson** showed the agility needed to become an assistant PTI by vaulting over the horse and trying to take it with him. The BSS event proved a great success and **Sig** 'Dib Dib Dib' **Bevan** took the reins and tackled the event almost single-handedly; whilst the rest of his section stood around trying to figure out what BSS stood for (Basic Signalling Skills).

The outright winners were Section A–HQ Sqn. (What! HQ actually won something?) and prizes were awarded by **Brig Backhouse** at the end of an extremely successful day.

INTER SQUADRON WINTER SPORTS COMPETITION 1994

The Regimental Winter Sports Competition was held on the 16-18 November and consisted of football, rugby, basketball, orienteering and a demanding cross country race, the latter of which all members of the Regiment took part in.



WO2 (SSM) Williams receives the Winter Sports Trophy on behalf of 217 Sig Sqn



WO1 (ASM) Jones attempts to fly (literally!) past LCpl Pengelly

The competition commenced with the orienteering phase, during which **LCpl Lyons** demonstrated his prowess; after 105 minutes he wandered in and asked 'Are you sure check point two is there?' As it was only 400 metres away **Maj Les Wood** kindly offered to show him where it was and at the same time explain what N, E, S and W means on a compass?

The matches were all fought with vigour, especially the Rugby, during which HQ Sqn managed to scrape three victories, all by one point, due to the tackling of the CO and the kicking prowess of **Sgt** 'Pinky' **Perkins**. The basketball proved to be almost a one man show with **Sig** 'Harlem' **Brodie** leading the way for 219 Sig Sqn and the football can be described as nothing but a disaster for the RSM and HQ Sqn. At the start of the cross country just three points separated all four squadrons and it was obvious that the most hated event would prove to be the most important. After an horrendous five miles run through the mud of the Stray 217 Sig Sqn finished victorious due to their in depth strength.

RUGBY

Congratulations must go to the Regimental Rugby team for their spectacular 9-6 away victory over 1 RRW in the quarter finals of the Army Cup. The match went to extra time and was played in atrocious weather conditions in Northern Ireland.

HQ SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj L. Wood**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Ibbotson**

I must say welcome and congratulations to our new **ASM, WO1 (ASM) Bob Jones**. He arrived in the Regiment days before we deployed to Germany for Ex Flying Falcon and, having survived that, was rapidly selected for commissioning! He leaves us in the early part of next year and we all wish him well.

217 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj G. Whyman**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) John Williams**

PHANTOM TROOP

Tp Comd — **2 Lt Lee Hendricks**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt R. A. B. Marshal**

The Troop say hello to its new Troop Comd, **2Lt** 'Jimmy' **Hendricks** and **LCpl** 'Talk A Good Game' **O'Mahoney**. The Troop also said goodbye to the outgoing Tp Comd, **Lt** 'Mr Bl..by' **O'Rourke**, who is off to 7 Sig Regt, and **LCpl** 'Faz' **Farrell** who is off down to 3 Div. Congratulations go to **Sig** 'Scouse' **Fairclough** and **Sig Den Pryor-Healey** on their promotions to Lance Corporal.

Despite the usual heavy work load the Troop has managed to take time out for more enjoyable activities such as the initiative test that was recently sprung upon us. It all began early one Thursday morning when the Troop was called into work early, stripped of money and credit cards and dropped off in pairs in the middle of nowhere. Each Troop member had been given a list of 50 tasks to complete, such as visit both Scotland and Wales, fly on an aeroplane, appear on TV and go swimming with dolphins!

Some of the more notable achievements included an interview between **Sig Stevie** 'East 17' **Mercer, Sig Emma** 'Trout' **Trowell** and **Mandy Smith**. Not to be outdone **SSgt Rab Marshall, Sgt Lee** 'The Milkmaid' **Johnston** and **Sgt Lee Turbitt** flew a light aircraft from Manchester to Glasgow and then on to Cardiff. The exercise proved both challenging and interesting and we look forward to the next Troop Training Day.

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3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Bulford Camp

VISIT OF COMD COMMS UKLF

The new Comd Comms UKLF visited the Regiment on 22 November 1994 ready for a very busy day. After touring the garages **Brig A. J. Schuler** presented LS & GC medals in the Sergeants' Mess.



LS & GC Presentation
Back row (*L to R*): WO1 (RSM) D. Wilson, Mr B. Foster, Cpl G. Foster, Sgt A. Farley, SSgt (YofS) M. Harris, Lt Col I. Foxley, CO
Front row (*L to R*): Mrs E. Foster, Mrs C. Foster, Brig A. J. Schuler, Comd Comms UKLF, Mrs T. Farley, Mrs C. Harris



'Shoe Shine Sir?'
Brig A. J. Schuler talking to Sig Ludlow 202 Sqn

REGIMENTAL BOXING COMPETITION

The final of the annual Regimental Inter-Squadron Boxing Competition took place on Thursday 3 November 1994. After a hard fought contest the final result was announced, for the second year running 222 Sqn became Regimental Champions, with 206 Sqn close runners-up. The prizes were presented by Comd Comms UKLF **Brig A. J. Schuler**, who joined the boxers for supper.



Regimental Boxing Champions 222 Sqn
Back row (*L to R*): LCpl Mcloud, Sig Marshall, LCpl Davis, LCpl Sweeny, Sig Pugh, Sgt Jarvis
Front row (*L to R*):Sig Barker, LCpl McWhirter, Sig Cleghorn, LCpl Hession, Sig Rimmer

REGIMENTAL GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

The Regimental Golf Championship took place on Monday 31 October 1994 at Tidworth Garrison Golf Club.

Thirty-two players turned our for the competition which was organised by **WO2 (RQMS) Frank Evans** and **Sgt Brian Turner**. The day was rather wet but it did not dampen spirits.

The competition results were;

Kenning Trophy: 1st **WO2 (RQMS) Jimmy Ramsay** (Regimental Champion), 2nd **Maj Mick Besant**, 3rd **WO2 (RQMS) Frank Evans**.

Ammo Trophy: 1st **Sgt Brian Turner** and **Sgt Shaun May**,
2nd **Sgt Max Wright** and **Sgt Jones**,
3rd **Maj Mick Besant** and **Sgt Tony Holland**.

Our thanks to our scorer **Mrs Sue Gillespie** and for the generous sponsorship of **Kenning Car & Van Rental** and **Ammo & Company**.

WINDSURFING

The Regiment has gone from strength to strength in this challenging sport with a marvellous record for 1994 both at unit team level and for individual competitors. By way of an annual report this summary will start with:

Training

The unit held four courses of instruction at both RYA 1 and Level 2, building on the basic courses held in 1993. They were all held at the ASA Club in Netley within the Royal Victoria Country Park on Southampton Water. This location is a good compromise venue for learning as whilst it is definitely tidal (thereby earning the 'Open Sea' RYA award) it is also somewhat protected from the more exposed elements of the sea with the opposite shores of Netley/Hamble and Hythe/Fawley. These courses have been organised and instructed by the nucleus of unit coaches headed by **Maj Dave Gilchrist** and ably assisted by **Sgt Dave Hayley** and **Cpl Reg Varney.**

The only other major training that was held this year was by 222 Sqn as part of their summer training exercise. The Squadron which is rapidly becoming known as 'The Windsurfing Sqn' (a good 50% of the unit ability is in 222) was able to run a series of basic courses in the ideal surroundings of Portland Harbour, Weymouth.

Altogether the unit has managed to qualify some 17 Level 1 and six Level 2 sailors with a Level 1 Instructor in the shape of **Cpl Steve Lindsay**.

Competition

The results at competition level would fill two foolscap pages, such is the interest and support that has been evident throughout the season. The year has seen unit entry at every level of service competition from the relatively lowly Southern District (W) regional event (ideal for novice entry) through to the Joint Services Championships with various degrees of success at all of them. The main list of results showing the principal competitors is best shown in tabular form to avoid repetition!

Event Unit Windsurfer	*R Signals UK Champs*	*R Signals Corps Wide*	*S Dist (W) Champs*	*Army Champs*	*Jt Svcs Champs*
Lt Jon Coleman	Champion Lt Wt	Corps Champion	3rd Lt Wt	3rd Lt Wt	4th Lt Wt
Lt Colin Pettifer	Champion Hvy Wt	–	Champion Hvy Wt	–	–
Maj Dave Gilchrist	Champion Veteran	Champion Lt Wt	2nd Lt Wt	Champion Veteran	Champion Senior
Cpl Steve Lindsay	2nd Novice	14th Hvy Wt	1st Novice	5th Novice	7th Hvy Wt
Cpl Reg Varney	4th Hvy Wt	6th Hvy Wt	3rd Hvy Wt	19th Hvy Wt	5th Hvy Wt
Cpl Phil Heron	3rd Novice	8th Lt Wt Novice	9th Novice	11th Novice	3rd Novice
Cpl Ray Watt	–	4th Hvy Wt Novice	–	–	–
Sig Robbo Roberts	4th Novice	=1st Novice	7th Novice	12th Novice	1st Novice
Sig Ian Stevenson	–	12th Hvy Wt	5th Novice	10th Novice	–
Sig Mark Collins	–	3rd Hvy Wt Novice	–	–	–



The proud victors at the 1994 Corps Wide Windsurfing Championships
(L to R) Rear: Cpl Ray Watt, Cpl Phil Heron, Cpl Reg Varney, Sig Ian Stevenson, Sig Mick Collins
Front: Sig Robbo Roberts, Lt Jon Coleman, Maj Dave Gilchrist and Cpl Steve Lindsay

The unit are currently UK and Corps-Wide Major Unit Champions and runners-up overall in the Southern District.

Additionally three individuals regularly represent the Corps with two of them selected for the Army team.

By way of a finale to the season a very rainy and reasonably windy day in October saw a very successful Regimental Regatta being held at Netley. 257 Sig Sqn pulled off the team event with 12 individual sailors competing for the minor honours.

Lt Jon Coleman set the seal on a fantastic season not only for the unit but for himself with his Royal Signals Yacht Club award of the Admirals Bowl. This prestigious and sought after trophy is awarded to the serving Corps member under the age of 25 who is the most promising young offshore, day boat, dinghy racing helmsman or windsurfer.

It is doubtful whether any unit in the Corps or Army can better or even equal such a record within one year. Certainly with the foundations now well laid just watch this space for 1995–the unit hopes to even emulate its own achievements! It will be up against it though as several unit stalwarts have left the Regiment recently and a number will miss a large part of the season due to operational commitment. Nevertheless we aim to try!

202 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Tp Comd **Maj M. Rough**
SSM **WO2 S. Wilson**

A busy couple of months for 202 Sqn with several new faces arriving and a few familiar ones moving on. Welcome to **2Lt Ruth Pilkington** who joins from the Troop Commanders' course and welcome back to the 'real world' **SSgt** 'Chippy' **Wood** who has spent the last two tours playing with the Weekend Warriors of the TA. A sad farewell to **Capt Phil Deans** who moves to 24 Air Mob Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210) and to **Lt Paul McCarter** who goes to 257 Sig Sqn.

Congratulations to **2Lt Dave Brown** for passing P Coy for a second time–some people just can't get enough of it!

A cunning misinformation ploy by **Sgt Iverson** tricked about 12 members of the Squadron into a 15 mile road race. Lots of worried faces at the start but the whole team finished in under 2 hr 30 mins. Well done! **Sgt Iverson** assured everyone it was just training for the 202 mile sponsored run planned for mid December–low profile time!

CAMBRAI TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Colin Pettifer**

The last few months have been very busy for the Regiment and Cambrai Tp have been in the thick of things as usual. Exercises are too numerous to mention as the Troop deploys an Airmobile Ptarmigan Access Node to 5 AB and 3 Cdo Bde. The remainder of the Troop provide a Wheeled SAN for DSG Rear.

Apart from the exercises the Troop has actively participated in many other commitments. One of the highlights was the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the D Day Landings in Normandy where there was no shortage of willing volunteers.

The Troop Summer Camp was held in Fremington, North Devon in early July and was organised by the Troop Commander, **Lt Colin Pettifer**, on a shoestring budget. However, hillwalking (Okehampton Training Area!) surfboarding and many other activities were carried out. An extensive review of the Barnstaple night life was also carried out by **Sgt Matt Wakeling** and **Cpl Eddy Eddleston**.

HELLOS AND FAREWELLS

Farewell to **Sgt Lenny Martin** to NI, **Sig Wayne Broadhurst** to 1 Div, **Sig Jimmy Rothwell** and **Sig Dave Wasley** to Civvy Street–Good luck all.

Hello to **Cpl Jones** from JCUNI and **Sig** (now **LCpl**) **Jim Inglefield** from 7 Sig Regt.

If responding to any advertisements in *The Wire* please mention that you saw it in your Corps magazine

7 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

229 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj D. Powell**
2IC	**Capt A. Urwin**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

A hectic month for Trunk Node 011 who say goodbye to **Lt Lloyd Golley** and **SSgt Al Keen**–both of whom will be much missed (especially at Troop parties) and welcome back to their replacement **2Lt Martin Bever** and his wife **Camilla**–fresh from the Troop Commanders' Course in Blandford. Hello also to **Cpl Evans** who has just arrived.

Goodbyes also go to **LCpl Robertson** who has moved back to sunny Herford and **Sig Pountney** who has left for 3 UK Div HQ and Sig Regt.

THE DEMISE OF SCRA TROOP

The 2 December 1994 marked the demise of SCRA Tp–a sad day. The former Troop has been divided between the Trunk Nodes. The Troop's short history began a new era with the restructuring of 229 Sig Sqn.

The formal disbandment of the Troop was marked by a Squadron parade and awarding of plaques to all soldiers before they fell out to their new Troops. The Trunk Nodes would like to welcome their new members and hope that this marks the start of a new and successful era.

REGIMENTAL BOXING

The Squadron produced a fine team for the Regimental Boxing competition held on 30 November, ably (and vocally) coached by **SSgt Stu Reid** and **Sgt** 'Baz' **Eglington**.

Sigs 'Rocky' **Cochrane, Billy Morris** and **Dave Taylor** all came a close second in their fiercely contested bouts–we'll get them next year! **Sig Rob Garner** was boxing for a '229' win until the cruel hand of fate (or should I say boxing glove of fate) caused his shoulder to dislocate for the second time in 24 hours. Bad luck (or is it good luck with four weeks sick leave?) and get well soon. The reputation of the Squadron therefore rested on the shoulders of **Sig Matt Dudman** of Trunk Node 011. He had an excellent bout, fighting well and saved the day with a convincing win.

Well done to all the boxers–who have now proved that some people are willing to do anything for a day off.

EXERCISE CHINESE EYE

'Crash test dummy' Squadron had a smashing start to this exercise and ended it on the same note. Always renowned for our communication skills this exercise was the perfect opportunity to display some of our lesser known experts. **Sgt Roy Carter** was awarded the Regimental Golden Blanket and **SSgt** 'Guphta' **Brent**–The Queen's award for small businesses.

Despite the hard work, life outside comms did not stop–we have two new fathers–**LCpl Crook** and **Sig Langley**, who adopted the kittens, congratulations–and we hope your wives have recovered from the surprise!

230 SIGNAL SQUADRON

After almost nine months under the guidance of **Maj Nick Bateson**, the Squadron Headquarters is almost unrecognisable. 230 Sig Sqn has lost its 2IC, **Capt Dave Wilson** to Bosnia, and **WO2 (SSM) Pete O'Connor** has moved up from HQ Sqn. The Squadron now boasts a Yeoman and Foreman, with **SSgt Mark Whiting** coming directly from his course at Blandford.

All the other Troop Commanders in 230 Sqn have 'abandoned ship' with **Lt Fred Hargreaves** moving to 231 Sqn, **2Lt Nick Shenow** on a six month attachment with the Cheshire Regt and **Lt Dennis Thornton**, who has moved to Osnabruck to join 4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204). Thankfully they have been replaced by two rugby superstars in the shape of **2Lt Brian Johnson** and **Lt Richard Webb**. **Lt Wendy Kirby** has dropped in too which should help to maintain the sporting tradition of 230 Sqn officers.

We would all like to congratulate the following people on their recent promotions. To **SSgt Neil Fisher**, to **Sgts** 'Richie' **Richardson**, and 'China' **Cooper**, to **Cpl Neil Wellings**, and **LCpl Rob Hooper**, and also 'Eski' **Eskdale** who has just come off the last board.



Maj Nick Bateson and his bride, Angela, after their wedding in Blandford

231 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj Charlie Miller**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Grant Pocock**

EXERCISE SEASON BEGINS

Having been free from exercises for almost six months whilst the Regiment moved from Herford to Krefeld, it came as a shock to all when the combat kit came out of mothballs and soldiers started asking what was in all these big green trucks.



WO2 (SSM) Grant Pocock and SSgt (SQMS) Paul Fleming on Stag!

We started off in early September at a gentle pace with a Regimental deployment on Ex Woodland Flight. From those of you who have served with 'Seven' you will recall the delights of being at the whim of the Ops Staff and having to move when you have a perfectly comfortable location! From there, 3 Trunk Nodes went off to assist 1 (UK) Div (again, haven't they got their own Trunk Nodes?) whilst the MAN Sqns deployed on a CPX, Ex Arcade Fusion, based in Mönchengladbach but, with detachments from 2 Sig Regt deployed in Spain and Greece. Some sandbag stories from 2 Sig Regt, no doubt! The US lent us SATCOM again so the exercise proved to be successful.

As Ex Arrcade Fusion finished, we deployed the Regiment the following day to Denmark for the first full deployment of HQ ARRC. The logistics must have been a nightmare but, by and large, everyone had a great time driving 800 kms and spending in excess of 30 hrs on the move. The main site for HQ ARRC Staff was at Air Force Base Vandel where we were all greeted with the most luxurious accommodation (20 bunk beds in a tent), hot showers for 100 men, and a Mess tent. Comms were static so life was a doddle. The Megastream worked over a 5 RRR chain, the Trunk was in for at least five hours per day and Ptarmigan was solid as ever.

FAREWELLS

The Squadron said a sad farewell to **SSgt (FofS) John Skelton** who left us for 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218). Well done on the well deserved promotion to Warrant Officer Second Class.

232 SIGNAL SQUADRON

FSG TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Lee O'Rourke**

The Troop bids farewell to **Lt Simon Glover** who takes the Regimental Ski Team away before being posted to 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. We welcome **Lt O'Rourke** in his place who was instantly sent out on Recce only to break down, twice! Is this a hint of things to come? We also welcome **Sgt Tim Maynor** to the Troop on attachment for the busy DTI/UWI period.

We congratulate **Cpl** 'Backflip' **Palmer** for winning the Inter Troop Fire Trench Diving Competition with the scores 9.7, 9.8, 10. Also in the limelight are **Cpl Margison** and **Sig Wood** for winning the BAOR stair falling and bollard breaking competitions. If they wanted to leave, they only had to ask!

MAN TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Bryant**

MAN Tp deployed to Denmark on Exercise Chinese Eye hoping to fulfil its new role of ARRC Step up, however this did not last long, so various ranges were acquired with the assistance of 170 Sp Coy ARRC. These included grenade, LAW and rifle ranges where Basic infantry skills were practised and much fun was had by all!

Hellos to **Sgt** 'Guppy' **Meseck** who joins us from 33 Sig Regt (V), **Sgt Tim Maynor** from Mike Tp and **LCpl** 'Punchy' **Punchard** from 2 Sig Regt.

Goodbye to **Sig Stu Paton** who has gone to 19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209).

Congratulations to **Sgt** 'Shiney' **Perham** and his wife **Kim** on the birth of their daughter **Robin**, also to **LCpl** 'Punchy' **Punchard** and **LCpl Dave Bradbury** on their recent promotions.

LINE TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Emily Caroe**

The Troop said farewell to Tp Comd **2Lt** 'JC' **Caesar**, times were hard but we hope he enjoyed it and now its off to Blandford for his Troop Commanders Course. As one goes another one comes. Welcome to the new Troop Commander **2Lt Emily Caroe**, the first female Line Troop Commander. Welcome back from Bosnia to **Sigs** 'Evo' **Evans** and 'Taff' **Kennett**.

RADIO TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Mike Grierson**

Since our return from the Summer break the Troop has fluctuated between complete mayhem and extreme quiet. We've said farewell to a few, **LCpl** 'Sammy' **Lee,** now Corporal (well done on your promotion!) **Sig Kev Roberts** posted back to the green fields of England and **Sig Ali** 'Puddy' **Johnson** who finally got her own way and was posted to Northern Ireland. On the other hand we've welcomed a few to our midst. Welcomes go to **Sgt** 'What do you mean we've had another Sergeant posted in' **Todd** and **Sig** 'Dunders' **Dunderdale**.

RUGBY FINAL BAOR

British Army Major Units Rugby Final 1994–7 Sig Regt versus 2 R Tank Regt.

This year's BAOR Final was held at Princess Royal Barracks, Gutersloh, on 22 November. It was a clear and bright day attracting large support for both teams.

7 Sig Regt clearly showed their intentions, winning the first scrum against the head and attacking deep into 2 RTR territory. For the next 15 minutes, 7 Sig Regt continued to apply pressure on 2 RTR's try line–but the defenders tackled with great commitment. Eventually, after a line out on the '22' and quick hands down the backs, with **Sgt O. J. Alleyne** coming in to cause an overlap, **Lt Brian Johnson** scored in the right corner.

7 Sig Regt continued to dominate, and after a powerful drive by the pack, **Lt R. Webb** scored a pushover try (**SSgt M. Davidson** converting). The 7 Sig Regt pack continued to dominate in the scrum, setting the backs up for numerous try attempts, the tackling of 2 RTR forcing handling errors and penalties. However, just before the second half, the two centres, **Sgt P. Gartside** and **LCpl MacGuinness**, made an excellent break linking with **Lt Johnson**–who broke two tackles and grounded the ball under the posts.

The second half was far more evenly contested, with both teams playing expansive and physical rugby. After a series of scrums on the 2 RTR five metre line, fly half **Sgt Stallard** set up a dummy switch in the centre strolling over unopposed under the posts (**SSgt M. Davidson** converting).

For the next period both teams had to defend on their own try lines, with 7 Sig Regt eventually scoring on the final whistle as **Sgt** '**Ironman**' **Furnival** crashed over from a five metre penalty (**SSgt M. Davison** converting).

The final scoreline of 31–0 does not show the way in which 2 RTR attacked this final; they played a very strong rucking game with total commitment in all aspects of play. 7 Sig Regt did, however, prove they were worthy of retaining the BAOR Cup, showing powerful forwards play and skilled play in the backs. 7 Sig Regt now go on to defend the Army Championship, which they won last year playing in the UK semi-final on 11 January, against 7 RHA.



THE CAKE COMPETITION

The chefs annual cake baking competition took place on Friday 9 December 1994. This event traditionally brings out those skills not normally needed until someone needs to 'knock out a cake' for a wedding.

The chefs are probably among the few people who actually apply their trade to charity fund raising, the rest of us push minibuses, wash cars, run marathons or pick another activity as different to our work as possible.

This year's winners are, in the senior section **Sgt Moore** and in the junior section **LCpl Crooke**. Runners up were, in the senior section, **Cpl Johnson** and in the junior section **Pte Morell**. The cakes were all raffled and the proceeds went to local charities. Congratulations to all those who took part, as usual the standard was outstanding.

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT AWARDS

On 1 December 1994 the LS & GC was awarded to **Cpl Dominic Cox** and the Clasp to the LS & GC to **Maj David Smith** who received their awards from The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE DL**.



The Master of Signals presents a Clasp to the LS & GC to Maj Dave Smith



The Master of Signals presents an LS & GC to Cpl Dominic Cox, WO2 (SSM) Chris Gopsill looks on

The Infantry Training Centre has taken over: a red flag flies at the front of Vimy Barracks. The equipment has disappeared in a flurry of ISO containers, the men to the four corners of the Corps.

FAREWELLS

The farewells have now finished. Of the many that took place, the Schemes Tp farewell lunch in the field, will remain in the memory.

SCHEMES TROOP FAREWELL LUNCH IN THE FIELD

Schemes Tp decided to mark their passing with a farewell lunch in the field. As this was to be a riotous occasion, the venue selected, shiaba bivouac area, was situated away from civilisation. Under the close eye of **SSgt** 'Si/Ginge' **Coburn** (now at 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt, lucky man) the tentage was erected, the table set and the beer chilled.

The guests arrived by Saxon, and were treated to a taste of the vehicles cross country capabilities en route. Among them were the CO, **Col J. R. B. Cook**, **WO1 (RSM) John Mackay**, **Maj Tom Pengelley** Training Support Sqn Comd, 11 Sig Regt and many more from the various departments within 8 Sig Regt. After lunch a speech was given by **WO1 (YofS) Martin Fielding** Schemes Tp Comd, aided by a video produced for the YofS by **Cpl Mill**.



The lunch. (*L to R*): Maj Ian Noble, Cpl Nick Basford, WO1 John Mackay, Cpl Dixon, Lt Col Tom Cran, Cpls Sean Meadows, Callum Black, Gaz Beardall

The YofS finished off by saying a few thank yous and handing out a memento or two. **Maj Tom Pengelley** was handed a scrolled nominal roll, **WO2 (SSM) Chris Gopsill** was handed a litter-picking stick, **SSgt (FofS) Kev Moir** was handed back his long lost mug and **SSgt** 'Si' **Coburn** was handed his sick chit farewell.

After the guests had retired the Troop was entertained by **LCpl Thirsk** who as Mister Vice told a few stories before proceeding to the bar.

SYSTEMS WING–A RETROSPECTIVE

Chief Instructor **Maj Jan Jasiok MBE**

The Ptarmigan Training Centre was initially born as part of the Training Development Group in 1981 under the control of **Maj Tom Stoddard** and later became a 'wing' in its own right. By 1983 **Maj Tom Stoddard** had gathered together a group of 10 instructors to train the Corps in the theory of the Ptarmigan System. This training took three days in those days and involved some 200 Vufoils.

The period 1983 to 1986 saw the wing personnel making numerous trips to Blandford, Christchurch and Verden in order to quench the Corps' thirst for knowledge of the Ptarmigan System; **SSgt Mick Parsons** and **Sgt Merv Cox**, spending more time on LSLs than the crew. Meanwhile in 1984 a new 'all singing all dancing' management system came to light in the form of Wavell. **Sgt Tony Jewell** was responsible for bringing the Wavell installation and associated equipments to Catterick.

July 1986 saw the opening of a new £30 million purpose built facility for the training of Ptarmigan in Catterick. During the building of the wing it acquired its nickname of Uncle Tom's Cabin. The Colonel in Chief officially opened this building in September 1987.

In 1989 the name of Ptarmigan Wing was changed to Systems Wing, and a number of new trades were introduced to the Corps (Tele Op Systems and Tele Tech Systems). 1 April 1994 was the day that the Wing started draw down in preparation for training in Blandford. Packing the equipment started for real in September with the two Daves, **Dave Watson** and **Dave Broughton** leading the way. During these chaotic times training continued at full flow, the last course in the wing being a Systems Technician course TSUR480.

During this period the resident Ptarmigan 'experts' (**Sgt** 'Bubbles' **Dickenson** and **Sgt Phil Cooper**) have come to the fore by explaining to the contractors (and anybody else that will listen) what a double spring flange grommet exactly does in the Switch Installation.

With the demise to training in Catterick the instructors are going their separate ways. The hard working core of instructors are moving to Blandford to carry out the interim training plan and will be welcoming new students from April 1995.

THE QM TECH's VIEW

Although everyone within the Regiment has had to become expert box packers it is the team headed by the QM Tech's department that has had to burn most oil-night-mid-for-the-use-of. **Maj Ron Hails**'s team has been quite magnificent.

The regular team consisted of **WO2 RQMS/SSM Billy Ogden, SSgt Gunny Hogan, SSgt Jim Stephens, SSgt Chris Andrews, LCpl Andy Carrick** and **Sig Lynne Sheridan**. The coopted players: **SSgt Dick Malt** who valiantly ran the container control point, **Sig Tony Waddington** on a free transfer from 2 Sig Regt. **Sig Charlie Chaplin** direct from his B3 gaining valuable experience before arriving at 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para) **Sgt Ken Phillips** on loan from 11 Sig Regt for the duration.

THE GREAT NORTH RUN

Avid readers of this magazine will recall that 8 Sig Regt's last report included an article regarding the Great North Run. In recognition of this support **Brendon Foster** presented the CO with a framed picture of this year's start. This picture now hangs in the Corps outstation museum in Catterick.



Col J. R. B. Cook receives a framed print from Brendon Foster

FIRST AND LAST PROVOST SERGEANT OF 11 SIGNAL REGIMENT IN CATTERICK

In July/August 1947 a new Training Regiment was formed in Vimy and Baghdad Lines to carry out Basic Military Training for national servicemen. The Regiment was given the title of 7 Selection Regiment. The training staff were in the main Infantry Officer/Warrant Officer and NCOs. The Regiment had four national service training Squadrons–numbers 1 and 2 in Baghdad Lines, numbers 3 and 4 in Vimy C. Vimy B was the Corps Band and the ATS. Vimy A was the School of Signals. The Guardroom was situated in Baghdad Lines between the gym and the present Guardroom. The Provost Sgt was **Sgt Robert** (Taffy) **Jones**. He held that appointment until posting to 1 L of C Sig Regt in Egypt in 1953.

It was with great pleasure shortly after his retirement in April 1994 that we were visited by **Maj Robert Jones**. He was met by **Sgt John Mahon** the Provost Sgt who was the last Provost Sgt of 11 Sig Regt in Catterick. they had a pleasant time comparing notes on the life of a Provost Sgt within Catterick.

Maj Jones commented that in his day as Provost Sgt 400 national servicemen turned up every fortnight for one month's basic training before moving on to Trade Training Regiments.

It was during the period 1947-1953 that 7 Selection Regt was re-designated as 7 Trg Regt, also an additional Squadron was formed to train regular Corps soldiers.

Maj Jones had many a tale about his days as Provost Sgt–the time he sent a Provost Cpl to Vimy C kitchen for lunch. On arrival the SUS said 'We haven't brought the hay box for the meals, shall I go and get them?' The Corporal said 'No, you'll escape, wait here and I'll get them'. Guess what happened–the Provost Cpl went back to the Guardroom and the soldier escaped. Of all the sporting personalities he remembers from national service days, it is the England and Yorkshire cricketer **Brian Cluce**, who was awarded seven days confined to barracks for not turning up for a Garrison cricket match. He also remembers the time 7 Selection Regt won the Army Association Football Cup.

The 11 Sig Regt RP Sgt's cane paused briefly in 8 Sig Regt. **Sgt John Mahon** brought it with him on the closure of '11' in Catterick and his successor, **Sgt Williams** handed it back to 11 Sig Regt in December 1994.

MEMORABILIA

The Corps Memorial and the Faith Winter Statue have been plucked from North Yorkshire to a new home in Blandford. Photographic proof is provided.



The Faith Winter Statue leaves Vimy Barracks

CHAPEL

The Regiment held a farewell church service in the Garrison memorial chapel on Thursday 1 December 1994. The **Rev Kenneth Tibbo**, the Regiment's officiating Chaplain for many years, preached the Sermon and after the service the CO presented a silver wafer box to the Chapel.



Col J. R. B. Cook presents a silver wafer box to Padre Bailey

9 Sig Regt (R)
BFPO 59

RHQ had a change at the top when the RSM handed over at the end of September. **WO1 (RSM) M. Geer** departed for 71 (Yeo) Sig Regt, whilst **WO1 (RSM) G. Woodcock** arrived from 16 Sig Regt.



WO1 (RSM) Geer isn't too sure that he should hand over to WO1 (RSM) Woodcock

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON
TRAINING WING TROPHY

On Wednesday 9 November, the Annual 'Training Wing Trophy Competition' took place.

The inter-Squadron competition was, as usual, fiercely fought, with two teams of 10 entering from each of the four Squadrons.

Headquarter Sqn entered two very strong and competitive teams led by **QMSI Paul White** (Team A) and **SSM Bob Banner** (Team B), with both teams intent on winning and wresting the title from last year's winners–1 Squadron. The competition was in three phases with the first phase being the assault course. The second, the speed march around various stands, which included water re-sup, map reading, first aid, a command task and finally a casevac. The third and final phase was the shooting competition.



The Training Wing Trophy
Both HQ Sqn teams who were impressively placed first and second. The teams were led by WO2 (QSMI) Paul White and WO2 (SSM) Bob Banner

Headquarter Squadron teams worked extremely hard throughout the day with one or other team in the lead at any one time.

Once finished, the teams paraded outside RHQ to hear the final results, read out by **Capt Mick Campbell**, the Trg Offr.

In third position was 1 Squadron, in second HQ A Team, whilst this year's winners, by just four points, were HQ B Team led by **SSM Bob Banner**. The CO awarded prizes.



WO2 (SSM) Bob Banner receives the winning trophy from the CO, Lt Col P. B. Neale

1 SQUADRON–COMMUNICATION TROOP
THE DHEKELIA DASH
by LCpl Tracy Chambers

The Dhekelia Dash was first run in November 1966 and has become an annual event. The competition is a relay race run from the old Ordnance Depot at Ayios Nikolaos to the Ordnance Depot at Dhekelia. The competition consists of teams of 15 runners each racing approximately one mile. Comms Tp entered a ladies team for the Dhekelia Dash 1994.

After weeks of strenuous training under the direction of **WO1 (YofS) Pete Martin**, 'Comms Tp Ladies' were finally ready. The morning of the dash arose (unlike most of the team members who had been at the 'NAAFI Bop' the night before) and we set off for Dhekelia slightly later than scheduled.

In all there were seven ladies teams and it quickly turned out to be a two horse race with the leaders 'Ay Nik Chics" storming into a huge lead which was two minutes 20 seconds by the end of the seventh stage. As each leg was run the lead decreased–setting the scene for a nail biting finish. As the baton was handed to our last runner she was 10 metres behind the 'Ay Nik Chics' last runner but **Lt Katrina Reynolds** swiftly took the lead and all she had to do was to finish the race which she did in style–with a 500 metre lead. We could not believe it–Comms Tp Ladies had won!



The ladies of Comms Tp. Winners of the highly prestigious Dhekelia Dash 1994 Trophy

The team consisted of the following: **LCpl Cathy Scragg** (Team captain), **Sig Helen Nolan, LCpl Sarah Fursman, Sig Dawn Green, LCpl Jenny Lyne, Cpl Debbie Batey, LCpl Lesley Burroughs, Sig Nicky Bird, LCpl Tina Whalen, Cpl Angie Campbell, LCpl Ceri Jackson, LCpl Tracy Chambers, Cpl Mandie Eardley, LCpl Roz Holmes** and **Lt Katrina Reynolds**.

2 SQUADRON
REGIMENTAL FETE

2 Squadron had the 'fun' job of organising the annual Regimental Fete; however it involved everybody and anybody.

Last month the Squadron bade a fond farewell to the Sqn Comd **Maj Tim Gigg** and his wife, **Julia** off back to the homeland, HQ RAF Strike Command at High Wycombe. **2Lt Naill Stokoe** also left the Squadron to join 30 Sig Regt. **2Lt Eric Warren** has recently joined us to replace him.

WO2 John Gower and his family have left us for the sunnier climes of 7th Australian Sig Regt. We wish them all the best in the future.

The Squadron successfully organised the Regimental Fete, raising over £5,000, of which substantial sum was donated to the local Nicosia Baby Unit charity. The event was of a medieval theme and the Garrison Commander opened the fete by releasing King Arthur, played with much 'gusto', in tights, by **Lt Jeff Howley**.

The Squadron's claim to fame–winners of the All Island Minor Units Seven-a-side Soccer Cup this year. The Regiment again hosted this event, 2 Sqn organisers were **WO2 Randel, WO Ken Hannah** and **Sgt Andy Purvey**. Both 2 Sqn teams reached the semi-finals knocking out both 1 RGJ Rifle teams. 2 Sqn 'A' played a combined HQ 1 Sqn team in the final, however our superior play won the day with a final score of 3–1.



The Winning Tug-of-War Team
Back row (*L to R*): SSgt Tasker, Sgt Deery, Sgt Trabeck, Sgt Rogers, Sgt Low
Front row (*L to R*): Sgt Lazenby, Sgt Palmer, Sgt Ramsdale, Sgt Riglar

THE 'COOL' CSE SHOW

Organiser — **Lt Katrina Reynolds**
2IC — **WO2 (SSM) Paul Edwards**

The Mercury Cinema at Ay Nik packed in the crowds on three consecutive nights at the beginning of October as the CSE show came to Cyprus. The evening began with comedian **Keith Donnelly** from South Shields who had the audience in uproar once they realised he was not the stage hand, but compere and one of the singing duo, 'Nothing by Chance' with **Gill Darbey** whose singing was an inspiration to us all.

Linda and **Jane**, better known as Jazzmin, were a feast for the audience's eyes and ears as the dazzling duet struck the right chord between golden oldies and up-to-date songs–with one dress giving food for thought during the interval, much to **SSM Paul Edwards** distress with a family audience!

With quenched thirsts it was time to sit back and enjoy the star of the show, **Phil Cool**. We were all thoroughly entertained by his vocal and facial imitations of Rolf Harris, Elephant Man and Clive James to name but a few.

All five entertainers plus managerial entourage, were extremely friendly both on and off stage. A great three days was had by all throughout the event. All that is left is for **Lt Katrina Reynolds** to 'live down' her 'praise' by a certain BFBS DJ!

BRITISH FORCES CYPRUS BBC CHILDREN IN NEED SPONSORED PADDLE
by Capt Stuart Williams

Following a request from the Chief Instructor at the Cyprus Joint Services Adventurous Training Centre, I volunteered to take part in this unusual and arduous approach to raising money for charity. The aim was to paddle from RAF Akrotiri in the WSBA to Dhekelia Garrison in the ESBA, a total distance of over 60 miles. I had paddled on the sea by Dhekelia on numerous occasions and each time the Mediterranean Sea was as calm as a mill pond. And the weather in Cyprus is usually fair, even in the winter, surely! How wrong could I be.

At 5 am on Saturday 19 November 1994, **Cpl Andy Locking** and I left the beach at RAF Akrotiri, supported by a safety boat and a road party. It was dark, raining, windy and the sea conditions were atrocious. This was only the beginning, a bad omen for things to come. For the first two hours all I could see was the green glow from the chemical stick attached to the stern of the kayak in front. The light appeared and disappeared from view as hugh waves separated us.

Daylight brought a sigh of relief and a boost to morale. However the happiness was short lived as the sea deteriorated even further. I began to suffer from seasickness, but we both pressed on to our first stop at Governors Beach. It had taken four hours to complete stage one and we were on schedule.

So after a quick cup of coffee we set off in to the cruel sea once again. As the second stage began the elements displayed their full ferocity. The tide turned against us, the wind blew side on and the waves were reaching heights of approximately 15ft. At times **Andy**'s boat disappeared from view for over 10 seconds. He would reappear at the crest of a wave with a very worried looking expression on his white face. As my sickness worsened, my strength faded rapidly. All attempts to hold down food or liquid were futile and I became dehydrated very quickly. The only option was to get me off the sea. This was not as easy as it seemed as the crashing waves prevented the safety boat from getting close to the shore. The only solution was for me to jump and swim ashore, but as I jumped a wave pushed the safety boat forward and on to my leg. I was washed ashore feeling very sick and nursing a deep cut and severe bruising to my left leg. As I sat in the back of the safety vehicle **Andy** pushed on to complete the last half of stage two. He had to endure the worst of the weather, and this proved to be the hardest and the loneliest section of the entire paddle. **Andy** arrived at Cape Kiti at 2.30 pm; cold, very tired but still smiling.

The two hour break had enabled me to rehydrate and fend off the worst of the sickness, so we were both able to return to the sea for the final stage. For the first time things began to look up. A ray of sunshine highlighted the towers of the Dhekelia power station. Our goal was in sight. The waves were travelling in the right direction for us to use them to gain forward speed. Even the weather improved. This however was the calm before the storm. Soon the sky darkened, the rain began to fall, and the thunder and lightning crashed ominously all around us. We were destined to finish how we started, in the dark and amid a storm.

Time and distance passed slowly and the lights of Dhekelia seemed to drift further away. With only an hour to go, **Andy**'s body effectively gave in, to the extent that he was unable to hold on to his paddle. Despite trying to push on he was not able to make any progress. The long lonely middle section had taken its toll. **Andy** remained in his kayak holding on to the side of the safety boat while I paddled on. The crew on the safety boat began the countdown; 1.9 miles to go, 1.7 miles, 1.5 miles as the lights of the Dhekelia Sailing Club came into focus. Finally at just after 6 pm the team arrived at Fishermans cove after over 60 miles of pure physical and mental torture. The weather was against us, the sea was against us, but together we achieved our goal and raised over £800 for a worthwhile charity.

Looking back after such an event always seems to soften the hardship. Yes the hands, the back and the legs still ache, but the memories of the long paddle will remain for a long while. Would I do it all again? I doubt it. Will I one day look back and laugh? I hope so.

13 Sig Regt (R)
BFPO 42

CO — **Maj I. R. Grant**
Adjt — **Capt Z. J. S. Edwards**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) H. Allison**

A FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER LT COL P. A. R. ROUSE

This will be the final contribution to *The Wire* from 13 Sig Regt (R) and as the last Commanding Officer, I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words of farewell.

The Regiment has been based in Mercury Barracks, Birgelen for the last 40 years and many of those who have served with the Regiment have been based here for more than one tour. Relationships between the barracks and the local town of Wassenberg have been good and it is with sorrow that we bid them farewell, while at the same time expressing our thanks to them for their continued friendship over the years.

The majority of the Regiment have already left on postings to new units with only a handful of soldiers left in 1 and 2 Sqns. These soldiers will all be posted by the end of December. All that will remain will be HQ Sqn and RHQ with the task of preparing the barracks for handing back to the Germans. On 31 March 1995 the barrack gates will be locked and the few remaining soldiers will leave for their new appointments. 13 Sig Regt (R) will be no more.

I would like to end by expressing my thanks to all those who have served with the Regiment during the last year. It has not been an easy task keeping the operational work going while at the same time preparing for disbandment parades, closure ceremonies and all the other things that go with the disbandment of a unit. Everyone has worked hard during the last 12 months and I thank you all for your contributions and wish you well with your new postings.

Finally I wish to thank all those who have served with the Regiment over the years. Without you, 13 Sig Regt (R) could not have been.

CERTA CITO.

1 SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Capt G. Barber**

Since the last issue of the *The Wire* the Squadron has dramatically reduced in size, in fact by 15 December there will be nobody left. Initially it was necessary to amalgamate four Troops into two which meant a lot of hard work for those who remained. Fortunately everybody got stuck in and a good working relationship has ensued.

One happy note in between everyone leaving was the birth of **James Janvier**, our congratulations go to **LCpl Dave Janvier** and his wife **Sue**.

It would take up too much space to mention everyone who is leaving so to all members of 1 Squadron, thanks for your hard work, good luck and best wishes for the future.

CLOSURE OF OPERATIONS CEREMONY

It all started in 1916 when an officer was transferred from France to Egypt to inaugurate a new unit to be known as No 2 Wireless Observation Group and it ceased at 0001 local on 28 November 1994 in the Operations Block, 13 Sig Regt (R). To commemorate the occasion a ceremony took place on the evening of 27 November in the Operations Block. The Regiment's operational staff and invited guests spent the evening nibbling sausage rolls and toasting a job well done as the equipment was switched off around them.

At 0001 local the CO, **Maj Ian Grant** was requested by signal to cease operations and he began by switching off part of the operation. This was followed by several other switches being thrown before **Col Gareth Mann** was invited to switch off the supervisors' position. With this completed, operations at the Regiment had truly ceased. All that remained was for Comd Comms UKSC(G), **Brig A. J. Raper MBE** to switch off the lights and lock the door of the operations room behind him. The ceremony closed with a couple of speeches and a toast to a job well done over the last 78 years.



Col G. J. Mann enjoying a pre-ceremony drink with SSgt Gary Melding and LCpl Gaz Nicholson



Brig A. J. Raper, watched closely by Maj Rab Butler and Capt Graham Barber, locks the door on the operation for good

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 36

PLAYING OF RETREAT BY THE CORPS BAND

On 7 October 1994, against a background of the Regiment's vehicles and under arc lights, the Corps Band performed the Retreat ceremony on the main square in Quebec Barracks. The Commander 4 Armd Bde, **Brig F. R. Dannatt MC** took the salute. The ceremony was greatly enjoyed by all our guests and members of the Regiment.



VISIT BY COMD COMMS ARRC

Commander Communications HQ ARRC, **Brig A. J. Raper MBE** visited the Regiment on 3 November 1994. During his visit he presented the Military Skills Competition trophy to the champion Squadron, 245 Sig Sqn, addressed the Regiment and presented LS & GC medals to **WO2 Hannon, WO2 Clee, SSgt Wright** and **Sgt Dewing**.



(L to R): WO2 Hannon, SSgt Wright, Brig Raper, the CO, the RSM, Sgt Dewing, WO2 Clee and families

237 SIGNAL SQUADRON
VISIT OF COMD COMMS/CIS UKLF

The outgoing Comd Comms/CIS UKLF, **Brig N. F. Wood** paid his final visit to the Squadron at Hullavington Barracks on 4 October, 1994. After receiving an initial brief from the Sqn Comd and Ops Offr, he toured all the field locations of the Squadron elements participating in Ex Cobweb 4/94.

Comd Comms/CIS UKLF had lunch in the Sergeants' Mess after presenting LS & GC Medals to **SSgt** 'Tigger' **Howarth, SSgt Phil Gordon** and **Sgt Jim Harvey**.

The Sqn Comd then presented Comd Comms with a small statuette of a Fox (female type!) in token of the Squadron's appreciation for his support since it was formed. (This has nothing to do with next year's pink list!)



The Comd Comms UKLF/CIS with LS & GC recipients and their families

1 MECH BDE COMPETITION
by Sig Rogers

The 1 Mech Bde PTL Competition is a competition open to all units within the Brigade as a prelude to the 3 Div Light Fighter Competition. 237 Sig Sqn was entered as a guest team.

Well, what can we say, our team started off as a hesitant bunch of press-ganged personnel consisting of **Lt Watts, SSgt Chris Drew, Cpls Ritchie Long** and 'Robbo' **Robinson, Sigs Dave Rogers, Al Doyle, Chay Hook** and **Ronnie Cuthbert**. The training started with gentle runs and lectures ranging from mine awareness to AFV recognition. The AFV being a speciality of the squad, with **Sig Cuthbert**, after numerous lectures able to narrow the answer down to 'ours or theirs' to the exasperation of **Cpl Long**. The training progressed to running in the Malvern Hills (the ones with snow on the top you can see from the M5) to section Battle Drills and numerous range days. So on 25 September, with some trepidation, we deployed to Sennybridge training area for the competition. The competition consisted of two days navigating between stands spread around SENTA, these included NBC, Combat Survival, Fire and Movement, Weapon Recognition and a lot more. The first-aid stand was very realistic, with one of the casualties provoking the comment from a team member, 'where the Donald Ducks his foot'. The two days were split with a night navigation exercise and the third and final day found the team in a strong position with the march and shoot to come. The march was over nine miles with a falling plate competition at the finish. The team put in another good performance and when all the points were added up the team had a final placing of second out of eight finishing behind the QLR A team.

As a final note the team would like to say cheers to **LCpl D. P. M. Smith, Sigs** 'Martini' **Gillett** and **Paul Norman** for all their support.

CHALLENGE PURSUIT CAMP

The Mountain Biking day of the Challenge Pursuit Camp provided the following statistics:

Three buckled wheels; an average of four punctures a day; stomach muscles stiff (from laughter (at others)); stomach muscles stiff (from

landing on handlebars/rocks/grass/other bikes etc . . .); the fastest smiles per hour of the week; the most posing use of a mobile phone (OC) 'Yeoman I've just got to call the 2IC, about my trip to UKLF, it really is important, honest, really'. Note: Call made at 600m, on a track, in the shelter of a dry stone wall, watching the third puncture of the day and still eight miles from the nearest public telephone. The temporary loss of one training shoe in clinging mud. The most one in eight climbs/descents this side of the Himalayas.

Using a route, hand picked by **Sgt Alison Waddington** (APTC) described as 'shouldn't be too difficult, took me just over four hours' but described by the instructors as 'quite a testing tour' and by the participants as 'too steep for a mountain goat', 'more like a scree slope than a scree slope thing', 'Chris Bonnington would have vertigo', 'oh my goodness we are not going up/down that . . . are we?'

In fact the circuitous route, that took on average seven hours to complete, started in Ingelton on road (just to warm the legs) went off road to the village of Dent for a midday rest (collapse) then back to Ingelton via some of the most glorious (uphill) scenery that Whernside had to offer finishing with a manic road descent that left smiles fixed on faces.

Almost to a man/woman it was agreed that it was the most challenging of pursuits and left everyone with a feeling of achievement.

226 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj Don Macaulay**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Martin Waclawek**

SHQ TROOP

IC Gene Bay	**Cpl Hopkins**
IC Line Bay	**Sig Smith**

Congratulations to **Tony McGarry** on his promotion to Lance Corporal. Well done to **LCpls** Daz **Brown** and **Greg Cropper** on successful completion of their Class 1 upgrading; a big pat on the back for **Greig** for getting the 'Generator of Honour'. A sad farewell to **Cpl** 'Willy' **Wilcock** on his posting to 245 Sig Sqn.

Cpl Doughty organised a parachuting course for seven of the Troop at Bad Lippspringe. Bad weather limited the jumps to four. The experience has certainly given the guys the appetite for more, despite having to wear dayglow orange, 'leaf sweepers' suits! A special mention for **Sig** 'Freddy' **Starr** for putting his parachute on upside down.

COMMS TROOP

Tp Comd	**2Lt John Collyer**

The new Tp Comd, **2Lt Collyer**, has been welcomed with 'covies', paint pots and a grease gun by the ex-Tp Comd, **SSgt Danny Thornton** (now 'running' around the hills of Weingarten). Congratulations to **Cpl Joe Rowe** on promotion to Sgt, **LCpls** 'Willy' **Wilson, Andy Smart** and **Neil Beattie** on promotion to LCpl. Finally, it's farewell to **Sig** 'Mac' **Macgillivray**, promoted, on posting to 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218).

A quiet period for the Troop, with Ex Arrcade Fusion being the main task–**Sig** 'Maggie' **Philbin** ably commanded his SAN yet again, this time in support of 16 Sig Regt. The dets arrived back safely and had a week to prepare for the dreaded RSIT gang. The Radio Relay crew attempted to join the 'Dangerous Sports' Club by leaving the vehicle in unusual manner: **Sig Mark Rhodes**' slip from the steps was outdone by a spectacular pike dive from **Simon Chaffer**, luckily landing on his head!

ROMEO TROOP

Tp Comd	**2Lt Jayne Appleby**

Hello to **Cpl Fi Fielder** and her husband **John**, from NI, and here's hoping you enjoy your time on the Troop. Welcome back to **Sgt Al Sutherland** and a big thanks for your endless Bosnia stories. Farewell to **Cpl Al Pullen** and his wife . . . beware RAF Digby because we're not sure if your're ready for **Al**. Also, a short 'adios' to **WO2 Eric Cleo** and **Sgt John Winn** who have gone to Bosnia and to **Sig Jerry Vinning** who has managed to pick up a det in Sardinia. Finally, we must congratulate **Cpls Ben Lines** and **Angie Elderbrant** on their promotions to Cpl.

HF TROOP

Tp Comd	**Lt Ros Artley**

Preparations for Ex White Lightning, which was to have been a two week combined communications and DF tasking exercise, but, for operational reasons, was cut short. Kingfisher 2 and its crew (**LCpls Mattie Leonards, Pav Fenwick, Tammy Dawson** and **Sig Ryan Porter**) were dispatched. They arrived at RAF Lynham and were given the good news that they had a whole hour in which to paint their Landrovers and trailers . . . A letter was soon received from **Sig Porter** in which he raved on about the sunny climate and nice winter tan he was going to have!

We have had new arrivals aplenty in the Troop. We say hello to **Sgt John Fielder** and wife **Fiona**, from 15 Sig Regt. We also welcome **LCpl Chris Jones** and his wife **Marie** from London. Hello again to **Cpl** 'Nige' **Francis** from NI, **LCpl Merson** from Bosnia and **LCpl** 'Hux' **Huxley** from an extended tour of FI–it is good to have some people in the Troop again! A sad farewell must go to **LCpl** 'Taz' **Wake** as he leaves us to join his wife at RAF Digby. **Cpl Dave White** and **Sig Ronnie MacDonald** have also returned from whence they came (ie 245 Sig Sqn)–thanks very much for your contribution to the Troop. We say goodbye soon to **Sgt Marie Cottam** who leaves us to do loads of courses before taking up her new post back in Ashford. Many thanks for all your hard work. Good luck is extended to **LCpl** 'Biff' **Randle** and **LCpl** 'Lewi' **Lewis** on their upgrading course. Finally, congratulations to the combined H Troop/SHQ/DEF EW team who came third in Mil Skills competition.

DEF EW TEAM (GERMANY)

Tp Comd	**SSgt (YofS) Andy Dobson**

The Team welcome **LCpl** 'Aus' **Gambles** and his wife **Sara** from 1 (UK) Armd Div, and **Sigs Kev Rutherford** and **Nic Nichol** from Comms Tp. After what seemed like a life sentence, **Cpl Andy Smart** was finally dined out on promotion and **Sig** 'Fritzy' **Fitzsimmons** (at the second attempt) to Comms Tp.

EXERCISE RHINO REPLEN

The deployment for the Def EW Team on Ex Rhino Replen was an adventure in itself, which took a whole day and a half of fuel before the team arrived at its third location, within 20km of the start point! While squeezing into one of the locations up another mountain track, our Landrover got bogged in. Poor **Sig Claude Mellalieu** was sitting in the hot seat while the Rover decided whether or not to tip over. The eggs were rescued from the passenger seat, closely followed by **SSgt (YofS) Andy** 'Jump for it' **Dobson**. A straight bar and four tons of thrust from **Cpl Andy Smart** ensured a safe self rescue. **Cpl Smart, LCpl Gambles** and **Sig Nichol** escaped before Endex for several days in bed. Many thanks go to Comms Tp, who deployed manpower to make up our deficiencies.

EXERCISE ARRCADE FUSION/CHINESE EYE

Ten members of the Regiment, predominantly 226 Sig Sqn, weren't quick enough to escape involvement in the linked HQ ARRC exercises Arrcade Fusion and Chinese Eye. Led by 226 Sqn Comd **Maj Don Macaulay**, we departed Osnabrück for Mönchengladbach to establish the EW Control Cell (EWCC) for Ex Arrcade Fusion. An ARRC exercise of this kind was a complete novelty for the personnel involved; no mess tins (just an environmental nightmare of plastic plates and diggers), no compo and, a continuous supply of coffee always available. At the exercise site the group split to form the EWCC and the EXCON, led by **WO2 Chris Lowish**. Soon the day and night team were as adept as the rest of the staff at bluffing work and constant activity in the form of providing EW support and advice. Working with the different nationalities, predominantly American and Danish, was also an experience.

Half-time was called with the 'play' to recommence as Ex Chinese Eye in Denmark. This was an ideal time to cement working relationships with our new friends from the Zealand EW Company Denmark. The two groups enjoyed a very sociable evening hosted by a good number of people from the exercise and others from the Squadron.

Part 2 (Chinese Eye) started slowly with a tedious journey by 4 ton and coach from Osnabrück, via Herford to middle Denmark. After a good night's sleep, and prepared by our time spent on Arrcade Fusion, we were all set for the CPX play. The pace of the exercise was much faster and by now we were all acquainted with our individual roles and responsibilities. We were also faced with a larger number of different nationalities; Dutch, German and Italian (all in their newest versions of uniforms). We had to face continual visits by various television companies. It was rather unnerving to turn your head and discover that a cameraman has been filming you for the last five minutes. The EWCC managed to keep its G2 and G3 'customers' happy, while learning a great deal about how the huge HQ operated.

Finally Endex was called on 31 October 1994, to the strains of a celebrating Excon and fairly reserved ARRC Main. As we headed south the next day, the only part of Denmark we actually recall was the inside of an air force base hangar and a dark, long runway.

Both exercises were a major success, particularly in providing the staff with an insight into the diversity, extent and capability of EW. The key capabilities had been recognised as an important and valuable asset to the ARRC.

16 Sig Regt
BFPO 140

HANDOVER OF CO

Friday 18 November 1994, saw the Regiment saying a sad farewell to **Lt Col N. F. Fisher** and **Mrs Fisher** who, having steered the Regiment through a particularly busy two years covering 'drawdown' and the move from Krefeld to Rheindahlen, now move back to UK on his posting to the MoD. All our best wishes go with them and their family and hope their new tour is a happy one. At the same time we would like to extend a warm welcome to our new CO, **Lt Col B. Hewitt** and family and hope their stay with us is both enjoyable and rewarding.



Lt Col N. F. Fisher (right) hands over the reins of the Regiment to Lt Col B. Hewitt

EXERCISE FAST TRACK
by Sig Lee-Davis

16 Sig Regt Commanding Officers' Cadre Course was held at the Rheindahlen Military Complex between the 6-18 November 1994. Twenty four Signallers from three squadrons were selected to participate in a gruelling but educational two weeks. The main aims of the exercise were to assess and outline the potential JNCOs within the Regiment. Individuals were given tasks from as simple as giving drill commands to difficult command tasks. Students were assessed on all aspects of mandatory training, both physically and mentally.

Experience and advice was gained by all from the well chosen DS Staff; **YofS** 'Bing' **Crosby, SSM** 'FMJ' **Fullwood, SSgt Eric Strefford, Sgt Tony Frost** and **Cpl Trudie Yule.**

The highlight of the first week for most, must have been the Bergan Run, not everyone's idea of a Friday afternoon wind-down but it certainly aired a few cobwebs.

Other lighter moments were: **Sig Paul Floyd** demonstrating his acrobatic skills, in his 'Great Escape' over the prison wall, an effort that would have put Steve McQueen to shame, and is it true that once you get to the heights of SSM you get to talk with the 'mighty' on a regular basis, otherwise who tipped the DS staff off about the time and place of the ambush?

252 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj J. A. B. Floyd**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Fullwood**

Strategic SEP manned for the ARRC exercises, RSST deployed on both exercises (Germany and Denmark), Regimental cadre course and new Sqn Comd to mention but a few of the goings on.

The technicians of Systems Tp hand built and then manned (or should that be 'peopled' in this age of political correctness?) Strategic SEP (amusement, pay and free resettlement training what more do they want?) The exercises highlighted some problems with the system eg 'Answer the telephone within three rings' with 11 phones to choose from bodies were flying everywhere at times trying to meet the deadline. All in all apart from a few teething troubles everything went well. Comms Tp carried on their unsung task of keeping the telegraph lifeblood of JHQ flowing, an unseen and often unloved job only reaching the forefront of notoriety when something goes wrong. Congratulations go to **Cpls Dan Burdus, Neil Pollit** and **Mark White** on their promotion amid the commotion.

253 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj W. Ritchie**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) P. J. Ramsey**

Winter approached and the air began to cool, however 'not so here' a continued high level of activity in the Regiment serves to keep us warmed with the Squadron pulling out all the stops in its continued effort to support each and every task. The sad business of saying farewell, lowering the flag and handing over the keys to Ripon Barracks is all now behind us, and our future in Hammersmith Barracks, Herford has begun. The links between the Squadron and our big brother neighbours are being forged, with few minor distractions, all of which are dealt with in the full cooperative spirit expected of us who wear the same cap badge.

Matters sporting and military are worth mentioning in that a creditable third place was achieved by the Squadron in the Leicester Trophy Swimming Competition, despite the 2IC's best efforts at drowning. Well done to **Sgt Bruce Ibbotson** for organising and running the team, which included the flying fish, **Cpl Vicky Adamson** in her designer swimwear showing a clean pair of heels to some of the men. Our boxers continue to make up nearly 50% of the Regimental team, with **Sig** 'Blacky' **Black**, who seems to be unstoppable winning his bout in the Regiment's recent competition against 7 Tpt Regt RLC. The other three, **Cpls Lee Balmforth, Craig Stevens** and **Sig Darren Morely** are commended for efforts in the full knowledge that their bouts could have easily gone the other way. Getting people away on adventure training continues to be one of our main aims with **Cpls Paul Cullum, Damion Walker** and **Sig Caroline Maxwell** successfully completing the competent deckhands course at Kiel with the cool water of the Baltic having its unusual magnetic effect. Finally, the most recent Regimental cadre course has seen some of our members do very well, **Sig Simon Olvers'** placing of second was a fine effort with the rest of our soldiers coming in the first 12 placings.

Last, but not least, the usual fond farewells are given to those who have recently left the Squadron. The numbers are in excess of 20, too many to mention individually, except of course **SSM WO2** 'Alf' **Ramsay** who has moved to UK on completion of his 22 years' service. We wish him (soon to become a house-husband) and everyone else every success for the future, our best wishes go to you all.

THE LEICESTER TROPHY FOOTBALL COMPETITION

The Leicester Trophy Football Competition took place on the 30 November 1994 at the all weather hockey pitch in Rheindahlen. The cream of the Regiment's talent turned out to dazzle the crowd with their magical skills. The format for the competition was on a knock-out basis, with the first round losers going into the hat for the Plate play off.

It was a crisp and cold morning when the first game was an all 255 Sig Sqn derby with Foxtrot Tp just pipping Echo Tp in a thrilling match. Next up were 253 Sig Sqn (B) versus Golf Tp, a true international as the 253 contingent had made the long journey south from Herford. The journey was not a wasted one, as 253 Sig Sqn (B) ran out winners with a solid 1–0 victory under their belts.

The rest of the matches were played to a very high standard until there were only four teams left, Echo Tp versus 252 (B) in the Plate final, and 252 (A) versus 253 (B) in the Trophy final. The Plate final was first, leaving the Trophy final as the main event.

As the Plate final began, 252 (B) attacked from the kick off with some surging runs by **Sig Jase** 'le Tiss' **Sheath**, but the Echo Tp keeper was also having a very good day and managed to keep the scores level until just before half time after a stylish one-two between **Cpl Pete** 'Jet Heels' **Hepple** and **Sig Sheath** found himself through on goal with only the goalkeeper to beat. Once again the keeper pulled off a wonder save to deny 252 (B) a goal, but **Sheathy** was there to calmly knock in the rebound. Echo Tp never recovered from that position and 252 (B) ran out comfortable winners in the end.

The Trophy final turned out to be a classic confrontation between the skilful 252 (A) team and the more workmanlike 253 (B). 252 (A) went in front in the first half with an excellently taken 25 yard volley from **Sig Kev** 'It came off my Shin-Pad' **Taylor.** However, 253 (B) came storming back into the game as their opponents gradually ran out of steam and grabbed a deserved equaliser late in the second half. With the match balanced on a knife edge both teams went close to taking the honours but to no avail as the match went into extra time. Ten hard fought minutes later they were still even and so it was to be decided on penalties. The tension built up as **Cpl Mark White** stepped up to take the first kick. The crowd hushed, the birds stopped chirping and **Cpl White** calmly banged the ball home 'Peter Lorimer style'. **Sig Sid Robson** stepped up for 253 (B) with the rest of the 253 lads cheering him on, but he never knew that the goalie hadn't read the script and promptly saved the 'Stewart Pearch World Cup 90 kick'. The 252 crowd went wild with celebration as their teams stepped up to pick up the Trophy and the Plate and a voice was heard from the 255 Sig Sqn corner saying 'I don't know how them Commcen wallahs do it?' 'With guts, determination and teamwork,' came the reply.

BOXING

On 16 November 1994, the Regiment took on 7 Tpt Regt RLC in the quarter finals of the UKSC(G) Inter Unit Novice Grade 3 Boxing Championships. Having been beaten by the same unit last year, the boxers were looking for revenge, and the training led by **WO2 (QMSI)** 'Tug' **Wilson** went extremely well.

With no-one light enough to fight at bantam weight, the Regiment went into the contest already a bout down and were in further trouble when **Sig** 'Daz' **Morley** was knocked out in the first 10 seconds of his feather-weight contest. **Sig Babs Williams** fought very stylishly and went the distance but was outpointed by his more aggressive opponent. Despite out-classing his opponent, **Cpl Billy Stevens** lost on a majority decision, clearly the judges were watching a different fight from the crowd! It was time for a win and **Sig** 'Blacky' **Black** duly delivered in the light middle weight division with an impressive first round knock-out which sparked the followers into thoughts of an heroic comeback.

After the break, **Cpl Lee Balmforth** stepped into the ring and looked good enough to keep the frenzy going but was cruelly caught on the nose with an elbow and the fight was stopped. **Cpl Kev Howley** started well but was eventually overpowered in the second round and **LCpl Marc Reeves** was caught with the best punch of the night, an uppercut to the chin, to stop him dead in his tracks. The final bout saw **Sgt John Hutchings** come out like a terrier against a much taller and reaching opponent and was eventually stopped in the 1st round with three standing counts.

The 8–1 defeat by no means tells the full story of the team's courageous performance which had tremendous support from the Regiment on the night, however, 7 Tpt Regt RLC was a very strong team and deserved its win and will be very difficult to beat. The Regiment wishes them well.



Sig 'Blacky' Black having taken the Light Middleweight title

SPORTSMAN'S DINNER

In true sporting tradition, the Regiment held a dinner night on Monday 7 November 1994 in recognition of all Summer Sportsman's dedication to their chosen sport.

The dinner was held in the Rheindahlen dining rooms. After a superb meal and the occasional glass of wine (after all, sportsmen/women should consume alcohol in moderation, if only to keep the body in shape). **Brig R. C. Walker**, COS UKSC(G), and chairman of the BAOR sports board presented members of the Regiment with their Regimental Colours. The award for this season's Top Sports Person of the Year went to **Sig Tracey Wheatley** for her individual success in swimming, and for her contribution to the Regimental Swimming team and the Regimental Athletics team.

The evening concluded with all sportsmen gathering in the Regimental club, the now famous Wall and Willow. Numerous stories were told of how we succeeded and in some cases nearly succeeded–but not one of how we failed. **Brig Walker** listened to these success stories and added his own sporting values to many conversations throughout the evening.



Brig Walker presents Sig Tracey Wheatley with her 'Top Sports Person of the Year Award'



Sig Collette Hoyle receives her colours from Brig Walker

SKIBOB ACHIEVEMENT

Cpl Rob Maybin of 255 Sig Sqn, achieved the rare honour in the summer of 1993 of being elected Chairman of the British Skibob Racing Club. Last season with the full support of the Regiment, he led the British Team which gained its best results in international competition. In recognition of **Cpl Maybin**'s team's achievements the national controlling authority, The British Skibob Association, recently presented The Racing Club with its annual award for the Skibob Club which in its opinion had contributed most to the sport during the previous year. **Cpl Maybin** then presented the award–The Wilkinson Sword–to the Commanding Officer for display in the Regimental Headquarters.

Not content with last season's successes, **Cpl Maybin** and 16 Sig Regt are now planning a full season of courses which are being run in Bavaria from the first week in January 1995. The Skibob (or Skibike as the sport is becoming known) courses will be available to all service personnel.

21 Sig Regt (AS) Colerne

The Regiment, for reasons known only to PB11, are going through a major change of officers and would like to bid a fond farewell to the following: **Maj** (Brig) **Bob Holt**, Sqn Comd 244 Sig Sqn, **Capt** (now Maj) **Dave Wright** Ops Offr, **Capt Julian Swindells** Adjutant (who could only hack eight months), **Capt Geoff Pullen** 2IC 244 Sig Sqn, **Capt Andy Cameron** 2IC 220 Sig Sqn, **Lt Steve Abram** O Tp Comd 220 Sig Sqn.

We were about to bid a 'fond farewell' to **Capt Bruce Wyllie** but he managed to change his posting, and get extended, a week before he was due to leave. This was despite all efforts by the CO and the rest of RHQ to get rid of him!

To all those that know and love **Maj** (Brig) **Bob Holt** he would like it understood that in his new post in MoD he now wishes to be known as **Maj** (Maj Gen) **Bob Holt.** A self imposed promotion, richly deserved.

AIR SUPPORT

The last six months have been a very busy period for the Regiment with major SH Force (Support Helicopter Force) deployments on Ex Gryphons Eye, Ex Green Blade and an A Tp deployment to Turkey on Ex Arrow Exchange. In addition to this there was a Regimental deployment on Ex Sylvan Dawn–Comd Comms UKLF exercise.

EXERCISE GREEN BLADE

Ex Green Blade was of particular note as it was the first major deployment of all the SH Force assets in an 'Out of Area' scenario.

To achieve this the RAF picked Scotland as the location with the aim of shipping the assets northwards to simulate the OOA deployment. A good plan which would have been very effective if they were to offer enough money to the shipping companies. Unfortunately they did not and the SH Force, which consisted of over 500 vehicles, had to 'snake' its way northward up the M5/M6 to Scotland.

It was said, by an unattributable source, that the only reason the RAF picked Scotland was to prevent the air crews going home each evening. This rumour was classed as malicious and the CO stated it was not to be repeated.

The Exercise, as a whole, was very good with numerous lessons learnt for the future. Of particular note were the deployment of Flying Sites using helicopters, use of Man Pack FOBs and the LAD Wrecker. The latter, though sounding a strange inclusion, was the most serious case of bogging in that has been seen for a long time.

Numerous vehicles had been bogged in on a very narrow road leading to 'Kathmandu', a flying site location north of Stranraer. For those that remember the nursery rhyme about the old woman that swallowed a fly, this was the recovery equivalent. The LAD Wrecker had been tasked in recovering the RAF Wrecker which had been tasked in recovering a four tonner which had been tasked . . . and so on. After successfully recovering all the vehicles in the nursery rhyme the road gave way under the LAD Wrecker and it sank like a ship. This ship was then 'abandoned' by the Captain, **Pete Milmer** OC LAD, but not by its valiant crew, **LCpl** 'Tommo' **Tomlinson** and **Cfn Paul Merry**. To extradite the vehicle, a civil contractor had to be employed who put down over 250 tonnes of hard core and utilised a 25 ton crane and numerous other vehicles. The end result, which took four days, was that the vehicle was raised, eventually, without damage and a very happy Captain and crew.



The sinking LADs *Wrecker* going under

OUT AND ABOUT

SADDLE SORE

220 Sig Sqn conducted a 400 mile charity cycle ride in June and raised DM2500 for charity (museum fund). The event visited all 21 Sig Regt (AS) locations, both past and present and was conducted in blistering heat and thunderstorms.



Saddle Sore
WO2 Watson, LCpl Mac Pherson, Cpl Tyler, Sig Leckie, LCpl Finn, LCpl Kemp, Sig O'Neill, Cpl Snowdon and WO2 (FofS) Lifton

COs INTERVIEW

A delegation from I Tp arrived for CO's interview in a very unorthodox manner. It is still not certain where the horse came from. That said, it is the first time that anyone has gone into the CO's office and been given money! 244 Sig Sqn support the charity PHAB (Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied), and raise approximately £1,000 a year for the benefit of the disabled.



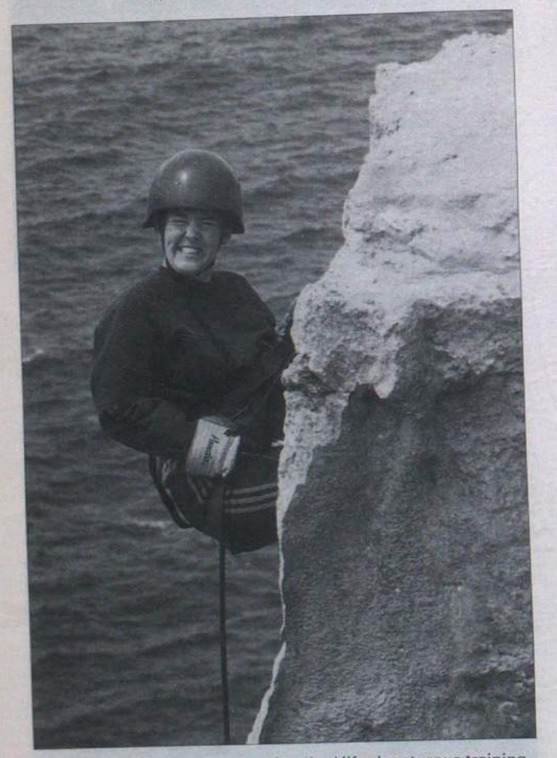
COs Interview
Cpl Justine Bordol, Sig Tif Hale and on the horse Sig Der Lage, collecting for PHAB

ADVENTURE TRAINING

During the course of the summer most people got away for some form of adventure training. The lucky ones, notably TM Troop, went to Canada on exercise (it's great to call it an exercise) Cariboo Trail. It consisted of a five day canoe trip across the Azure and Clearwater Lakes in British Columbia, five days helping the Park Authorities and a five day trek, culminating in a 8,450ft climb up Battle Mountain. Needless to say all those that took part thoroughly enjoyed the adventure and would like to return next year. (Fat Chance!).



TM Tp really enjoy Cariboo Trail in Canada
In the photo somewhere are: WO1 (FofS) Stockdale, SSgt Higgins, Sgt Giles, Cpl Collins, Cpl Hillard, Cpl Wearmouth, Cpl Witwicki, LCpl Hemming, LCpl Jones, LCpl Simmons and LCpl Sorrell



Sig Kim Leonard seems to enjoy the UK adventurous training

'SKIPPY FAR'–H TROOP 220 SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Most Improved Signaller Award, the 'Skippy Far' Trophy was awarded jointly to **Sigs** 'Mouse' **Lane** and 'Mac' **McLeish** by the Station Comd, **Gp Capt R. A. Wright**. Congratulations to them both!





Sigs Mouse Lane and 'Mac' McLeish receive the 'Skippy Far' Trophy

The price of *The Wire*
has increased to
£1.50 per copy,
£9 per annum
from February 1995

30 Sig Regt Bramcote

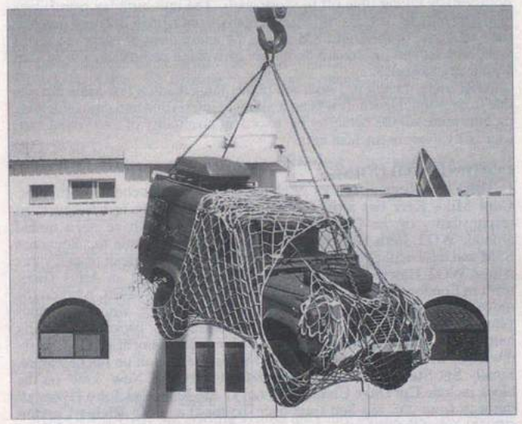
JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS OPERATION DRIVER RIYADH

by Cpl D. Smith

Spin the Globe! Pick a spot! Chances are 256 Sig Sqn, have either been or are there! Well, Op Driver was no different! The first phase of the 'Operation' was the 'character building' phase. This involved sending most of the Squadron assets to Ascension Islands. Then we learned that JFHQ was not going to be set up in Ascension but in Riyadh as the HQ for British Forces Op Driver! What fun! What laughs! What kit?!

Oh well, after the trolley dash of the century, the DEs managed to make up most of the kit that was sent to the Ascension and two weeks after the '24 hr notice to en-plane' phase, we were finally called to go! The Squadron assembled at the hangar, where half of them were knocked off and told 'you're not going!' While they happily grumbled their way to a pint in the NAAFI, the half who were going, unloaded half the equipment we were going to take and 'threw it away', we then re-packed, re-manifested and re-loaded the kit on the trucks and moved off to Lyneham.

When we finally got off the ground, it was a mass scramble to see who could get the best sleeping spot, which the Yeoman, **WO2 Chris Rogan** won hands down.



The 501 is lifted on to the roof of the Joint Force Headquarters, Riyadh



The 501 in situ on the roof of JFHQ Operation Driver, Riyadh

RIYADH

We touched down at Riyadh at 2200 hrs local time where the FofS met us with a happy smile and a suntan. After 14 hours of eating and sleeping on the plane JFHQ decided to acclimatise us to the harsh realities of Riyadh. We went to the Novotel and had a meal. We then moved to a US Air Force accommodation at Eskan Village. It was noted that the Saudi Guards had their support weapons pointed inwards!

The next day dawned with the entertainment being provided by JFHQ! Pulses raced amongst the hierarchy responsible for lifting a mobile satellite station in a 110 Landrover on to the roof of the HQ building. The FofS was informed of the £2.5 million cost of the VSC 501. The set-up went without a hitch and all was up and running!

The Commander arrived and had a look around, said well done and then got us all on the roof to give us a brief. When he arrived we were called to attention, the TCWO began praying we wouldn't stamp our feet as if we did, chances were that the whole of the staff and the VSC 501 would take the shortest route down through the building!

Days ran into weeks and then the call came! 'Go home'. The operation was pronounced a success!



The Regimental Detachment Operation Driver on the roof of Joint Force Headquarters, Riyadh

30TH SIGNAL REGIMENT DETACHMENT KUWAIT

By LCpl Tim Parkins

It was 0130 hrs, 10 October 1994 and we were all tucked up in bed awaiting our first day on Altcar Ranges, Liverpool when . . . 'beep beep' the swear words could be heard all around camp 'what's going on . . . ?'

A few hectic hours and short goodbyes later we found ourselves en-route to South Cerney awaiting an airlift to Kuwait. Led by **Capt Jim Sykes** we soon found ourselves under a scorching sun in Artillery Camp in the city of Al Jahra, 40 minutes drive north of Kuwait City. The nucleus of our deployment was the VSC 501 (JASPER) under the control of **Cpl Elliott** who set about activating the Detachment. Once established, the Tech support under **Sgt Andy Harbord** and **LCpl Si Lawrence** soon had ASMA, MAPPER and the other 'Tails' on-line. The standby link of 522 (White) headed by **LCpl** 'Bing' **Crosby** established just as swiftly and just as surely (Ring any Bells). Meanwhile the other tasks in support of 45 Cdo were being established. The RLD speedily gave the marines a secure HF/VHF rear-link under the guidance of **LCpl Eddie Timms**. The VRD Det Comd **LCpl Preston** and his crew have been put on standby and will provide a ship to shore link. The MRD's have completed their tasks and will return to Bramcote. Just as the dust was settling around camp in comes **Sgt Bob Watson** and **Cpl Dave Taylor** with the 521. Before long Antennae were raised, power was on and comms were in . . . or so we thought! All the well known HF problems have occurred however, comms for an average of 23 hrs a day had been maintained.

The DE's led by **Cpl Frankie Greenwood** soon got to grips with their tasks and set about earthing everything in sight and laying a clear and concise cable route supplying back up power for the dets. The admin is controlled by **Sgt Tonks** with **LCpl McMillen** rushing around organising various things for the dets including lighting for the accommodation and American sleeping cots.

The Detachment's morale remained high and we settled into a routine. One final point that cannot go without mention is the food . . . All I can say is that if you like rice with chicken or mince you are OK otherwise give it a miss . . .

EXERCISE CANNOCK CHASE

This exercise took place on 3 November 1994 and was an External Leadership Exercise designed to practise Junior members of the Squadron in basic map reading on unfamiliar ground, namely in and around the Cannock Chase Forest in Staffordshire.

The Squadron was split into four groups with a Senior NCO and a Corporal in each group to give 'guidance' when and where it was needed. The plan was to set the teams off at ten minute intervals with a nominated signaller navigating to certain check points around Cannock Chase. At each check point there was the grid reference for the following check point.



Ex Cannock Chase
(L to R): Cpl Lee Ford, Sig Rachel Ford, Sig 'Tinny' Foyle, Sigs Matt Tones, 'Daz' Adams, Sgt 'Cozzie' Cosgrove, LCpls 'Deeks' Deacon and Paul Atherton

The first group set off under the leadership of **Sig Wildish**, who at the time was suffering from a mild case of map blindness, as he led his group up the wrong track and disappeared into the wilds, even though the rest of the Squadron were shouting corrective directions.

The rest of the groups set off at their allotted times and without incident. Altogether there were six check points with a lunch stop halfway round the course, of which **SSgt Flooks'** group with faithful Boxer dog 'Kayleigh' visited at least twice coming in from different directions on both occasions.

The final RV was the Park Gate Inn at the southern most part of the Chase where the Squadron was able to relax with a beer and reflect on the day's events and look forward to the two hour journey back to Bramcote. All in all most of the participants had a good time and got something out of the Exercise.

EXERCISE GREEN BLADE

by Sig Saunders, 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn

Fifteen members of the Regiment, paraded in Hangar 2 at midday on 6 November 1994 to await the bus ride from Bramcote to Carlisle.

The exercise entailed playing hostages waiting to be rescued by elements of 3 RGR and 3 Para. Some of us were treated better than others! The part of terrorists was performed by the Irish Guards and RAF Regiment.

The good thing was that we were flown everywhere by helicopter.

When we met our hosts a slight mix-up occurred. They were expecting eight POWs, instead they got five, two men and three women, slightly confused hostages. So for the next four hours they proceeded to interrogate us to find out where the other three were.

On the whole it was fun. The only time I really panicked was when they threatened to cut my hair with a penknife, that was my breaking point.

When I returned to camp I immediately informed my Tp SSgt never to send me on anything like that again!

EXERCISE LONG LOOK 1994

by Lt Andy McCole

It was in late May that the CO informed me that in July he was going to send me on a four month enforced holiday in Australia. I packed my bags full of shorts, T shirts and sun cream and I left the unusually hot UK summer behind confident in the knowledge that I would have to 'suffer' four months of similar sunny weather. The reality was slightly different, on arriving in Melbourne I found that the southern region of Australia was in the grip of winter and the weather was 'very English', not that cold but quite wet and cool with no sign of the sun!

I was on exchange to the Land Force Signal Unit, based in Melbourne, whose role is similar to that of the Regiment in that it provides communications for units external to the division back to the Australian Army Land Headquarters. After only a week in Melbourne I was soon on my travels with the unit and I went up to Sydney for three weeks on 'exercise'. The exercise was more of a plug-up held in barracks in Sydney and it was a good opportunity to compare Aussie kit and SOPs. It was also a great opportunity to explore Sydney, see the sights and enjoy the extensive social life of the city. On leaving Sydney I soon travelled north to Queensland, the sunshine state (as any Queenslander will tell you there are only two states to be in–Queensland or drunk!). The weather was what you'd expect from Australia, very sunny especially in the Tropics region, and I was able to take in the sights including a trip to the Great Barrier Reef and also enjoy Queensland's extensive social life. On returning to a now warm Melbourne, I was able to go to the Aussie Rules Grand Final (a sort of Aussie FA Cup) as part of the unit commitment to help out at the half time entertainments. It was an extremely good day. However the game still remains a mystery and as far as I can work out it seems to be a two hour long, 36 man affair played on a cricket oval with players occasionally taking time off to score goals. The unit birthday parade was also a novelty as Aussie drill differs greatly from British drill and much to the annoyance of the Unit SSM and to the amusement of everyone else, I wandered around the square doing my own thing completely out of step with everybody else.

After more travelling I returned home, tanned and a few kilos heavier due to over indulgence. It was an extremely interesting and enjoyable four months made all the better by the excellent hospitality of everyone I met, especially those in my host unit.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

There have been a number of changes over the last couple of months. **Capt Mike Kerr** has arrived from 280 (UK) Sig Sqn to take over the responsibility of the QM admin whilst both RQMS have been turned around, **WO2 John Duckworth** has gone off to become the Squadron SSM and has been replaced by **WO2 Tony Bottomley**, fresh from Cyprus whilst **WO2 Howell-Walmsley**, who is shortly to join an Army Cadet team in London has been replaced by **WO2 Dave Davidson**. Also on the move is **LCpl Mickey Potter** to 7 Sig Regt. **Mickey**, who served four years with the Regiment, very much epitomised the 'backroom' unsung hero aspect of less glamorous trades within the Regiment and was aptly rewarded with a Commanding Officer's commendation on his departure. Finally **Sgt Steve Howard** who departed to SHAPE. New 'kids' on the block include **Cpl Dave Chapman** from 15 Sig Regt, **Cpl John Hynes** all the way from 258 Sig Sqn (just over the road) and **Sig Richie Carlton** straight out of the factory.

On the births and marriages front, no marriages to report, but better news on the baby count, many congratulations to **Sgt Steve Howard** and **Mrs Howard** on the arrival of baby **Stuart** and hot off the press the **Duckworths** have produced baby **George**. The statisticians can take heart that baby was born whilst **John** was still an RQ, so no sons of SSM puns please.



LCpl Micky Potter receives his award from the CO

31 Sig Regt (V)
Southfields

TA ARMY CUP QUARTER FINAL–FOOTBALL

The Regimental team are to be congratulated on their efforts in a very closely fought and entertaining match. They only narrowly lost despite dominating for long periods. Thank you also for the very vociferous support and encouragement the spectators gave. The final score was 2–4 to 36 Sig Regt (V). Our goals by **Sig Byrne** and **SSgt McMahon**.

ARMY CUP–REGIMENTAL FOOTBALL V 289 CDO BTY RA

Despite the atrocious conditions, the Regimental football team beat the current holders of the Army TA Cup 2–4; an outstanding result. **Sig Williams** scored three and **Sig Byrne** one. Congratulations to the whole team: **Sgt Bell, Capt Watson, SSgt Vaientine, LCpl Shore, WO1 (RSM) Smithurst, Sig Payne, Sgt Baxter, SSgt McMahon, Sig Byrne, Lt Mitchell, Sig Williams, Sgt Fox** and **Cfn McDonald**.

ANNUAL CAMP

Annual Camp in 1994 was the first with a Brigade Phase, since the re-role of the Regiment. It was time to test out the new skills and put them to use.

The first phase was run by the Squadrons, they arranged various activities from learning infantry skills, adventure training, to visits to places such as the British Aerospace Factory.

The second phase was the Regimental section. This was to warm up and refresh communication skills in preparation for the Brigade phase. The whole concept was to depict a genuine mobilisation scenario, the plans for the Squadrons' movements and tasks were kept secret, even from the Sqn Comds. Bde HQ was located at Leek Camp. The Regiment organised a fabulous dinner night with The Hon Colonel, **Maj Gen I. O. J. Sprackling OBE**, the Brigade Staff, Regiments of 2 (NC) Sig Bde and Women's Transport Service (F.A.N.Y.) as guests. A string quartet accompanied dinner and a Scottish piper played at the end.

GET WELL

Our best wishes go to **Capt Ann Hancox** who has been unwell recently.

FAREWELLS

Good luck to **Maj Linda Harrison TD** who departed from the Regiment at the end of annual camp. She won't be far away and will still certainly be involved with the Regiment, as she is joining 2 (NC) Sig Bde in Corsham. **Linda** has been a member of the Regiment for 16 years, starting as an Officer Cadet in 47 Sig Sqn (V) making her way up to becoming Sqn Comd and then finally 2IC of the Regiment. All our best wishes go to **Linda** in her next appointment.

Maj Andrew J. Cornish TD took over as 2IC of the Regiment in October 1994.

CADRE COURSE–LEEK CAMP

Maj Gen I. O. J. Sprackling visited the cadre during an NBC lecture and spoke to all the soldiers.

Eleven soldiers took part, the course was very intensive, which improved the participants military skills and confidence greatly. They had confidence, navigation, fieldcraft, tactics, first aid and weapon training culminating with Ex Mercury Venture which put all their skills, leadership and self confidence to the test for two days. They then joined their squadrons for the Brigade phase of camp.

GREATER LONDON KNOCKOUT–CANCER RELIEF MACMILLAN FUND

Members of the Regiment, particularly HQ and 83 Sig Sqn (V) assisted with the knockout competition, to raise funds for the Cancer Relief MacMillan Fund. **SSgt Andy Raynsford** organised a working team to set up the knockout course and change it at intervals throughout the day.

A det from 83 Sig Sqn (V), led by **Capt Mike Lansdown** set up a working HF det, combining recruiting with a last chance to practise their role before camp. Not only did they set up their communications network with other dets, but also manned the recruiting caravan borrowed from TAVRA.

To the surprise of many, **Lt Col Keith Bruce-Smith** was one of the team members representing his company!

HQ SIGNAL SQUADRON–SOUTHFIELDS ANNUAL CAMP

After the Squadron phase of walking followed by top roping and abseiling in the Roaches the Squadron spread out with its numerous trade tasks for the Regimental and Brigade phases. LAD, REME had their base at Leek, but sent FRTs far and wide to cover vehicle repairs. Support Tp, under supervision of the MTWO set up the power and line requirements for both the Regiment in the field and RCP; who were running Brigade Comms in a large hangar in Leek Camp. The Squadron also provided watch keepers for RCP. The orderly room, quartermaster and storeroom staff; the clerks; pay team and various others kept the whole exercise running. The medics covered for both the exercises and the cadre course. The small team of chefs and assistants worked mainly in the Leek Camp messes, but some went into the field kitchens.

After a successful camp, and entertaining skits at the Regimental party, everyone arrived back in London on time!

41 (PRINCESS LOUISE'S KENSINGTON) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V), COULSDON GRAND REOPENING OF TAC

The refurbishment of Coulsdon TAC has been extensive, taking almost a year. The main building had an external face lift and new windows installed. New garages built for the extra vehicles the Squadron needs to support its new role and a security fence.

Internally the building has a new central heating system and most offices re-decorated. The all ranks bar and messes have been refurbished. The ACF have a new training area above the new radio training area.

The end result of this refurbishment is an excellent TAC which is the envy of the Regiment.

The reopening ceremony was a great success. Unfortunately the weather cancelled the opening event, The Royal Signals Parachute Display Team was scheduled to start the evening off. The Blue Helmets, led by **Capt George Devine** and **Sgt Lynn Doughty** from the Regiment were sadly unable to 'drop in', they had to drive in, quite a let down!

The Band of The Blues and Royals (by kind permission of **Col P. B. Rogers** Lt Col Commanding Household Cavalry) led by the Band Cpl Maj, **WO2 M. Hayward** started the evening by giving a wonderful display. The 41 Sig Sqn (V) marched on to the parade square (car park) for the playing of The Last Post.

The 285 (Coulsdon and Purley) ATC and 148 Cadet Detachment ACF battled it out over an obstacle course to entertain the visitors.

A communications display was staged by 41 Sig Sqn (V), a race with two teams setting up a communications detachment. The teams drove on to the arena with landrover and trailer, set up a 9ft x 9 ft tent on the back of the landrover and camouflaged it. After an inspection they had to race to pack up and leave the arena first.

Col D. J. McLelland, CBE TD DL Deputy Lieutenant for The London Borough of Croydon, then addressed the visitors and started the official reopening of the TAC.

After the band marched off, **Col McLelland** cut the Royal Signals ribbon with the Mayor of Croydon, **Councillor Waly Garrett** to officially open the TAC. After a tour of the TAC, a plaque was unveiled.

Soldiers and guests all adjourned to respective messes for a delicious buffet.



Col D. J. McLelland, Deputy Lieutenant for The London Borough of Croydon taking the salute from the Squadron

ANNUAL CAMP

Initially based in Nesscliffe and subsequently at Leek in Staffordshire, the Squadron then dispersed around the world to USA, Germany and the Isle of Lewis!

The communications network went well, with everyone learning and benefiting from the experience.

Several members of the Squadron attended (and passed!) the Regimental Cadre Course while at Leek and a few new Lance Corporals should be appearing soon.

The Squadron phase at the start of camp was aimed at increasing NBC experience in an infantry environment. The aim was achieved with 'hands-on' such kit as CAM, RVD and NAIAD. The **SSM (WO2) White** and **Cpl Bob Stanton** were the NBC instructors and as usual they seemed to enjoy themselves especially when CS was used. The exercise climaxed with a vehicle mounted dawn attack on a well defended 'enemy' position. After some confusion as to left or right the platoon eventually won the high ground in a battle referred to as WW3 by the TM for the rest of camp. The enemy, well played by **FofS Henry Taylor**, **Sgt Lynne Doughty** and **LCpl Jan Davis** fought gallantly to the end with every weapon at their disposal but they were soundly beaten.

The phrase to sum-up Camp 94 must be 'Well done you!!'



Honorary Jocks of Stornoway!

47 (MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON HARROW

The Squadron expects to move from Harrow to a new TAC in Uxbridge in mid 1995.

STONE LAYING–THE NEW TAC IN UXBRIDGE

The SOinC, **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle** laid the foundation stone for the new TAC being built at Honeycroft Hill. The CO, soldiers, The Worshipful Mayor of the London Borough of Hillingdon, **Cllr Ted Harris**, **Brig P. C. Bowser CBE DL** (TAVRA), surveyors, members of the London Regiment, NW Sector ACF, 257 Field Hosp RAMC and many other guests attended the wet but very successful stone laying ceremony organised and hosted by Try Construction.



The SOinC stone laying at Uxbridge

LAFONE DAY PARADE

Led by **Capt Guy Lester**, the Squadron marched to St Paul's Cathedral for the wreath laying ceremony in the crypt, followed by a memorial service at St Martins-Within-Ludgate. The Band of the Middlesex Yeomanry Association, by kind permission of **Lt Col S. J. Williams MBE, TD**, led the parade and the service was conducted by **The Rev. David Crawley**, Chaplain to the Regiment.

The parade is named in memory of **Maj A. M. Lafone** who was awarded the VC for his heroism.

THE LAST DINNER AND DANCE

On 26 November 1994, 181 people sat down for the last Dinner and Dance to be held at the TA Centre in Harrow, before the move. The guests included the Mayor of Harrow, **Lt Col Keith Bruce-Smith**. Presentations were made to **Cpl Di Evans**, who received a bouquet for her contributions towards the dinner and a plaque was presented to **LCpl Claire Sacker** for her effort during the year.

The Sqn Comd won a collectors' item in the raffle, an 'Abba' CD, and a Middlesex Yeomanry tie was presented to **WO2 Harding** who has left the Squadron to take up a new post in 83 Sig Sqn (V).

Thanks must go out to the PRI Committee and members of the Squadron, including **Sgt Richards** (Uncle Grich), who ensured the evening went well. Thanks also to **Sgt** 'Dinger' **Bell** and his team for running the bar on what has probably been our best night yet! Plans are in hand for a big leaving party–maybe a German night! '47 Sig Sqn (V) do have the best parties!!'

83 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) HAMMERSMITH CONGRATULATIONS

83 Sig Sqn (V) has taken all the awards for the Recruits Cadre with **Sig Martin Woodhouse** as the Best Recruit at Catterick and **Sig Louise Andrews** taking the Best Cadre Course Trophy in Leek. **Sig Rebecca Strickland** took 2nd place on the camp cadre.



Brig J. E. Neeve, 2 (NC) Sig Bde, presenting Sig (now LCpl) Louise Andrews with her trophy for being the best on the Annual Camp Cadre Course.

THE MOVE

The Squadron has now settled down in its new TA Centre, in Hammersmith. **Maj Linda Harrison TD** inspected the soldiers at Southfields TAC before they marched out of the gates for the last official time, led by Sqn Comd **Maj Fred Southey**, followed by **Capt D. Watson**, **Lt Geoff Mitchell** and members.



Maj Fred Southey being handed the Squadron flag by Arline on departure from Southfields TAC. (Sgt Bowring (puffless) and bugle behind)

32 Sig Regt (V) Glasgow

CO	**Lt Col I. O. Robertson**
Adjt	**Capt C. J. Hinsley**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) G. G. A. Reith**

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to Sig Oops! **LCpl McGhee** for getting his first tape and also **Sgts Flook**, **Fraser**, **MacFarlane** and **Gray** for deservedly getting their third.

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

Because of its commitments, HQ Sqn find it difficult to train as a Squadron. However at the Annual 'Late Summer' Adventurous Training Weekend, HQ and 52 Sqn members found themselves sailing on the Clyde, hanging off 'Cauld' rocks in Largs, tramping about the mountains of Arrochar and latterly doing a bit of apres Adventure Training in sunny Gourock off the West Coast of Scotland.

Finally a special thanks from HQ Sqn Comd **Capt** 'Cammy' **Payn**. To all Squadron members. '. . . It's through your efforts that we won the Regiment's Best Squadron award. Thanks! and keep up the good work.'



Part of the Squadron hillwalking team at the summit of Bein An Lochain in Arrochar

61 (CITY OF EDINBURGH) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd	**Maj Allan Lapsley TD**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Jeff Jephcote**



SSgt Sam Shaw PSI

Located at Chesser Crescent, Edinburgh, 61 Sig Sqn (V) had a successful 1994 particularly in regard to intake of recruits. Following a recruitment campaign, master minded by **Lt Domhnal Dods**, we coaxed, cajoled and coerced some 35 souls through the TAC portals. It has not all been one way traffic. Notable departures from our numbers in recent months have been **SSgt John Reilly** who leaves the unit after 17 years service and **Cpl Davie Pollock** who has secured himself a job down Guildford way. He is likely to be approaching our sister unit 31 Sig Regt (V) for placement.

RECENT NEW ARRIVALS

Lt Stewart Middleton who comes to us from RARO and has taken up appointment as AFHQ Tp Comd succeeding **Lt Alan Pepper** who has taken on the role of Squadron Training Officer. A guid Scots welcome to **Cpl Andy Crawford** our ex ACC 'operative'. Great wonders expected now from the hot plate. At last **SSgt Rab Meldrum** can relax a bit with **Andy**'s help. **Cpl Rowena** 'Rwanda' **Clark** from 31 Sig Regt (V) comes as a qualified PTI and takes great delight in torturing us poor Scots. **LCpl David Crampton** from 34 Sig Regt (V) who has started a course of study here in Edinburgh and **Sig Steven Rayer** from 105 Air Defence (RA) are both welcome additions to our numbers. **Sig Rob Clifford** has moved over from our sister Glasgow Squadron. A belated welcome to **Sig Janine Kempster** who, through training with us for some months now, has formally transferred in from The Devonshire and Dorset Regt (V).

COURSES

Congratulations are in order for **WO2 Jeff Jephcote** who successfully completed his Brigade Yeoman of Signals course at Blandford in the summer. He is fast accumulating a string of TLAs (three letter abbreviations) behind his name, viz Jephcote RAC, WO2/SSM/YofS/WEN (Wot Ever Next). He is looking forward to his appointment in the Squadron as Yeoman of Signals (V). Mention must also be made of **Cpl** 'Smiler' **Fraser Allan**, who among his many other attributes now is qualified to 'beast' us at our Tuesday evening fitness sessions. Now we know what it is he is always smiling about.

ATTACHMENTS

The only personnel who appear to be pulling off all the juicy postings at the moment are our REME members. **Sgt Stewart Young** having just completed a fortnights work with 11 Sig Bde on 'Ex Flying Falcon' in Germany. Prior to that **LCpl Martin McGinlay**, REME had enjoyed a prolonged attachment to the Queens Own Highlanders in the USA some 60 miles inland from Seattle, Washington State. Admittedly the view from a vehicle maintenance pit looks much the same the world over but its nice to think that out there is sunshine, new faces (and in both instances new language)–and new attractions (Home brewed Bud) with which to while away one's free time. 'What free time' I hear him exlaim we know that he had a full workload.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are in order for **LCpl James Costello** who was awarded the Myers Cup at Annual Camp. The award is made to the most improved soldier at Camp. Also picking up the trophies within the Squadron was **Sig Dereck Hunter** who was awarded the John Brown Trophy, given in memory of the late **SSgt John Brown** it is a very 'personal' Squadron award made to the 'most deserving' soldier by the Sergeants' Mess.



LCpl Costello and Sig Hunter

34 Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

CO — **Lt Col M. K. Stretch**
2IC — **Maj A. A. Maude**
Adjt — **Capt P. M. Kelly**



Capt Carl Butler receiving the United States Army Commendation Medal from LTC Bill Criss
Capt Butler earned the award while serving with the West Virginia National Guard. The medal was presented for the reconnaissance of a Bn location and for coordinating the defence of a General Hospital

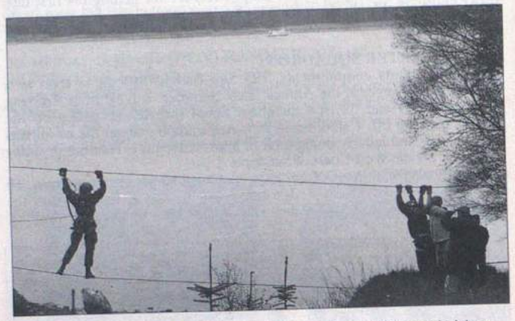
EXERCISE EXECUTIVE STRETCH

At the end of October 1994, the Regiment organised and ran the North of England TAVRA's Ex Executive Stretch. For those unfamiliar with the TA, the Exercise is designed to bring commercial managers and executives of industry into contact with the TA. The aim is to build a better understanding of the benefits of service with the TA. Business management will in turn become willing to see their employees participate in the TA.



SSgt Steve Tinkler briefs a participant in abseiling during Ex Executive Stretch held in the Kielder Forest.

The Regiment ran a weekend 'Command Task' based exercise in Kielder Forest and on (and in) Kielder Water. Stands included abseiling, raft building, rope bridge building, driving skills, orienteering in CVR (T) and mountain biking. To assist in the rafting, the teams had a demo on frapping or barrel lashing. As a result only one team ended up swimming in Kielder Water! At the end of Saturday the teams had earned 'Cooper Cronas' which they could spend at **Capt Rosie Timms**'s Corner Shop. Here they purchased arctic rations, two-man tents, sleeping bags, hexi blocks and all the necessary items to spend a night in Kielder Forest in October. Sunday saw the executives up at 0530 hrs and undertaking tank driving, tackling assault courses and proving their marksmanship skills on the range. The weather ensured that those who avoided the Kielder Water still got wet. The 28 executives left impressed but also wondering why their employees would wish to give up countless weekends away from home!



OCdt Samantha Clark demonstrates the art of rope bridge crossing to her team during Ex Executive Stretch on Kielder Water

345 OFFICERS' CLUB ANNUAL DINNER

At the end of November the Regiment hosted the annual 345 Officers' Club Dinner in Middlesbrough for the first time in many years. The Club was formed to provide a link between past and serving officers of the Regiment; and that link goes back a long way with some members having served in the 1930s. Among club members sitting down to dinner was the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL**, the Deputy Mayor of Middlesbrough, **Ken Hall** and **Lt Col Jonathan Lloyd** Gren Gds, commander of ITB Catterick. A most successful night, was topped by the junior officers demonstrating their competitive spirit on the floor of the mess well into the wee hours! Who says that subalterns aren't made of stern stuff these days?

NEW PTARMIGAN TRAINING CENTRE

This Regiment has got the 'jump' on others in the Brigade by being the first to plan, cost and break ground for its Ptarmigan Trg Centre to be based at Darlington. The half million pound facility which will be a boon to trade training will be formally opened by the GOC, **Maj Gen Patrick Cordingley** in April 1995. The construction of this facility will enhance the quality of our skilled tradesmen.

49 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–LEEDS & HULL
EXERCISE COFA PIKE 2

The Squadron deployed to the Lake District on leadership training, making camp by Ullswater.

The advance party left on Friday morning under the guidance of **SPSI Andy Maxted** and a handful of TA volunteers.

The volunteers arrived at the camp site on Friday evening and the next morning were split into groups and whisked away on various activities.

In the evening a meal and disco was laid on in the local hotel and it was a great success. It was a shame about the rain, better weather next year.

50 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–DARLINGTON & FENHAM

We would like to welcome our new Sqn Ops Offr, **Capt Graham Jennings**, newly commissioned from SVWO. Congratulations must go to **SSgt Steve Tinkler** and his band of worthy marching stalwarts. The marching teams participated in several key events last year and won the coveted team medal at the Nijmegen international marches.

The Sqn Comd congratulates the following on their promotions to Sergeant, **Sgts Philips, Licence** and **Castro**. Additionally a big handshake goes out to **Cpls Watson, Blair, Nelson, Brown, Tinkler, Kipling** and **Coates** on their promotion.

FAREWELL

Capt Tim and **Sandra Cooper** are leaving to go to the RMCS Shrivenham, we wish them well.

We bid a fond farewell to **Cpl** 'Nellie' **Clarke** who is leaving the Army and we wish him well in the future.

XXXV

REGIMENTAL VISITORS

On Tuesday, 29 November 1994, the new Comd 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde, **Brig M. P. S. Shaw** visited the Regimental Headquarters and HQ Sqn at Cateswell House. This was the Commander's first visit to the Regiment since assuming Command. At Cateswell House he was met by the CO, **Lt Col John Ewbank** and the RSM. Following a briefing by the CO the Bde Comd was introduced to the Ops staff and was briefed by **Maj Pat Bannigan, Capt Rob Meinherzhagen** and **WO2 (YofS) Nick Hawley**. The Bde Comd then visited our training facility escorted by the CO and the Trg Maj. Here he was met and briefed by the OC Trg Wing, **Capt Jane Hubbard, SSgt Keith Stewart** and **Cpl Dennis Feely MBE**, viewed our trade training facilities and meet the Padre who happened to be visiting the Trg Wing. From here the Bde Comd visited HQ Sqn and met **Maj David Munson** and the PSAO, **Capt Dave Tarrant**. The Bde Comd then moved on to the Tech Wksp where he met and chatted to **WO2 (FofS) Tony Jacklin** and a rather happy **Cpl Sandy Sanderson** who only days before had won £2,000 in the National Lottery. Finally the Bde Comd visited Alpha Tp where he was met and briefed by **Lt Martin Pulwer** and HQ Sqns PSI, **Sgt Ollie Campbell** before retiring to the Officers' Mess for a light supper before his departure.

Two weeks later the Mayor of Rugby, **Cllr Joe Reeves** visited 89 Sig Sqn (V). It is reported by the Sqn Comd, **Maj Colin Meikle**, that the visit was so successful that the Mayor has kindly reciprocated and invited the whole Squadron to the Mayor's Parlour for drinks early in the new year. The invitation apparently includes the Regimental 2IC, **Maj Paul Fathers**, who just happened to visit 89 Sig Sqn (V) that same evening–lucky for some!



Brig Shaw, Comd 11 Bde speaking to WO2 (FofS) Tony Jacklin

GOODBYE TO A GOOD GUY

A number of rather sad farewells have taken place recently. First we bade a particularly sad farewell to **WO1 (RSM) Guy Richards** who has served as a lynch-pin and certainly kept the wheels in motion throughout his tour. **Guy** gained a tremendous amount of respect, admiration and acclaim from every level within the Regiment for his dedication, hard work, and genuine concern and support for the TA soldier. He did suffer however one or two indignities regarding the (deliberate) mis-spelling of his name but happily his sustainable good humour and joyous retribution on one of the perpetrators at least, saw him through! He will be sadly missed by all ranks but at least he was seen off in the style he has become accustomed to and his farewell dinner did happen to coincide with bonfire night, which allowed us to modify his name appropriately to Guy Richfawkes, perhaps for the last time! All members of the Regiment wish him the very best of good fortune and the success he 'richardly' deserves in his new appointment at Blandford. At a special handover takeover ceremony at Cateswell House on Wednesday 16 November we welcomed his replacement **WO1 (RSM) Phil Clifford**. We wish him and his family a very happy and rewarding tour with the Regiment.

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield



Up Up and Away! WO1(RSM) Guy Richards leaving by the shortest route.

Finally we have also said farewell to our two Adjts, first to **Capt Chris Paterson** the real Adjt who leaves us on posting to Northern Ireland and to **Capt Rob Meinherzhagen** our Tech Adjt, who did so much to ensure our re-equipping to Ptarmigan went so smoothly, leaves us on posting to RMCS. We wish them both all the success they richly deserve and fervently hope that having served a TA tour is indeed a step in the right direction!

COUNCIL HOUSE DINNER

The most prominent social event in the Regiment's calendar is undoubtedly the Officers' Mess Dinner which took place at its customary location in the sumptuous surroundings of the City of Birmingham Council House on Saturday 3 December 1994. Principal guests, who were welcomed by our Hon Col, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB MBE**, and the CO, **Lt Col John Ewbank**, included the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham, **Cllr Sir Richard** and **Lady Knowles**, the SOinC, **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle** and Comd 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde, **Brig M. P. S. Shaw**. The Regiment was also joined by many old friends who clearly had a wonderful time during this splendid evening. Special thanks are again extended to **Capt George Cairns** for his involvement in organising the dinner and to the staff of the Council House for their most proficient service.

MISTELTOE AND WINE

Hot on the heels of the Council House Dinner came the usual Squadron Christmas Party extravaganzas. First off the starting block was 89 Sig Sqn (V) who held an Arabian Night function at Rugby's TA Centre. However things did not go as smoothly as planned and it is suspected that the mischievious Genie in the lamp jinxed one or two activities, or was it perhaps because the top table had just 13 places?

This was not helped by one of the guests in the shape of the Adjt, **Capt Chris Paterson**, eloquently commenting that his table was full of duds (we fervently hope he was referring to the party poppers). The jinxes were soon brought under control, however, and thanks to the masterly organisation of **SSgt Charlie** 'Ali-Baba' **Walker** and his 40 helpers the evening was an outstanding success. But what on earth will they adopt next year as a theme! A day later the Sergeants' Mess held their annual bash at 48 Sig Sqn (V) and this was closely followed by the traditional functions held at 58 Sig Sqn (V) and 95 Sig Sqn (V). The final function of the year was the annual get together by all members of the permanent staff (civilian and military) at Cateswell House shortly before the Christmas Break. As usual this was superbly organised by **WO2 (FofS) Tony Jacklin** and his excellent team!

EXERCISE EXECUTIVE STRETCH

It's hard to believe but the last time the Regiment sponsored an Ex Executive Stretch was back in September 1990 or was it 1991? Perhaps the mere thought of repeating such a fearful and formidable event was just too much to take on board as the Trg Maj, **Maj Iain Brown** was heard to exclaim with some degree of horror in the bowels of his office 'surely it canna be our turn again'! Needless to say, once he had picked himself up from the floor he rose to the challenge and created an exercise scenario that will be envied for years to come! For those of you who dived for cover when the sponsorship was announced by the CO, the aim of Executive Stretch as the name suggests, is to place young and not-so-young executives in a hostile and strange environment and put them through a series of demanding and exacting tasks designed in such a way as to stretch and test their physical and mental ability whilst promoting and encouraging team-work and team spirit and developing leadership and managerial skills. It is an exercise that has proved its worth over and over again in promoting and creating a better understanding between managers throughout the business community and the Territorial Army and which has also led to greater cooperation and an improvement of skills which have been of mutual benefit. The exercise took place at Swynnerton Training Area during the weekend 21-23 October and, despite initially appalling weather conditions, was supported by over 50 executives who volunteered to attend from companies throughout the West Midlands. The exercise also allowed the Regiment to test and assess the abilities of our own junior managers and each ten-strong team included a subaltern and an NCO.

Their brief was to be an active participant, without giving too much of the DS solution away, as well as providing valuable safety cover. The first night started with an escape and evasion exercise and, as expected, it was during this phase that the teams began to mould together and unite against the first night's hardship. Camaraderie, team spirit and determination was visibly apparent in groups of executives that included office managers, consultants, engineers and computer analysts. Although no strangers to teamwork in their own working environments, it began to take on a vital new meaning in the harsh conditions that prevailed over Swynnerton during the first night and following morning. Bruised, bewildered and cold (but undaunted) they still had to contend with a series of daunting and challenging tasks which included abseiling from a fire station training tower, negotiating a very physically demanding assault course, coping with a number of unusual but mentally demanding command tasks and finally having to endure a tortuous trailer race after which they were expected to build a raft and cross a river full of devious obstacles. The final two tasks produced performances off sheer willpower and guts from all teams and the exhilaration displayed by all teams as they completed the river crossing was memorable. Not surprisingly, it was the ultimate challenge before the hot showers, change of clothing and final de-brief before returning to normality and the comfort of their own homes–although we did detect a little reluctance here and there! The final team debrief and closing address was given by the CO, **Lt Col John Ewbank** in the Officers' Mess. Here, as well as presenting team prizes, he paid tribute to the courage, determination and skill displayed by all participants; everyone being a winner in their own right!

Prior to the final briefing the GOC Wales & Western District, **Maj Gen I. L. Freer CB MBE** also paid tribute to employers who attended the final day and once again thanked them for their continued cooperation, goodwill and support. All the DS and stand organisers are also to be congratulated on ensuring that this exercise achieved its remarkable success by their superb efforts, professionalism and endeavours.



The push to the finish



In the drink



Relief that it's all over

36 Sig Regt (V)
Ilford

OFFICERS V SNCOS FOOTBALL MATCH

It is sad to report that yet another scandal seems to have rocked English football. **Maj Gavin Miles** 44 Sig Sqn (V) Comd seems to be at the centre of a whole new controversy. On 6 November 1994 a 'friendly' game of football was organised between the Officers and the SNCOs. Within five minutes the Officers were 3–0 down after a number of goalkeeping 'errors' by 44 Sig Sqn (V) Comd. It is rumoured this match had been 'fixed'. **Maj Gavin Miles** refuses to comment.

The game itself was full of everything that is best about English football. It was an end to end game of two halves. Both sides missed a hat-full of chances and were left wondering what might have been. The SNCOs started much the better and with 10 minutes of the second half gone they held a commanding 5–2 lead. However the SNCOs started to fade with the light and with five minutes to go the Officers had drawn level. The game finished with both sides feeling sick as parrots with the game of football being the sole winner. It is to be hoped that it is the game that is remembered and not 44 Sig Sqn (V) goal-keeping abilities. As a couple of the players remarked as they left the pitch, the only loser was **Sgt** 'Wingnut' **Nichols**, the SNCO's goalkeeper.



Rear: OCdt Jonathan Wopling, Maj 'The Cat' Miles, Lt Col Jon Henderson, Capt Phil Harlow, Capt Butch Maycock, Maj Steve Jones, SSgt Gordon Cameron, Sgt Steve Behan, Sgt 'The Other Cat' Nichols, Sgt Roy Hiscock, Sgt Richard Backhouse, WO1 Baz Palmer, WO2 Ron Hill
Front: Capt Rob Healey, Lt Michael White, Capt Graham Smith, 2Lt Dave Kingstone, Lt Richard Carter, Capt Bob Appleton, Sgt Sam Faulds, Sgt Horse Taylor, SSgt Geoff Chadwick, Sgt John Davis

OFFICER TRAINING

As the smog settled over the town of Ilford on 1 December 1994 several members of the Regiment left the safety of their TACs and sped north to Glossop. All were acting as DS on the forthcoming officer training weekend and hence were using Friday to acquaint themselves with the ground.



The DS wondering where they had got to
From *(L to R)*: Maj Phil Penfold, Lt Col Jon Henderson, Maj Clive Dawes, WO1 (RSM) Baz Palmer, Sgt Martin Stebbing, Capt Butch Maycock and Capt Rob Healey (the photographer)

The DS consisted of **Lt Col Jon Henderson**, **WO1 (RSM) Baz Palmer**, **Maj Phil Penfold**, **Maj Clive Dawes**, **Capts Rob Healey** and **Butch Maycock**. The visibility was very limited for most of the day but that was soon forgotten when they arrived and enjoyed Peak District hospitality. The following morning everyone was up early to receive a briefing from the CO. The scenario was a downed aircraft carrying VIPs. Having made their plans **Lts Michael White**, **Richard Carter** and **Emma-Louise O'Brien** briefed their respective OCs. By 1000 hrs most groups were on the march tabbing through hostile country in horrendous conditions. All groups navigated well and collected their injured pilot and passengers (all of whom came from Manchester UOTC). The rest of the day was spent jumping from peat bog to peat bog trying to stay on bearings but by 1500 hrs all teams had come together and just as **Lt Emma-Louise O'Brien** had stated loudly on top of a cairn that, 'She would buy everyone a drink if a helicopter turned up' a Sea King came screeching in and began airlifting everyone to safety.

Sunday was taken up with some survival training taken by **Ray Mears** who had recently finished filming a series for BBC2 on survival training. The weekend was a huge success and everybody departed for home after a gourmet meal of boiled rotten lamb, fungus soup and baked thistle root.



Lt Emma-Louise O'Brien, Capt Caroline Greenhow and Lt Caroline Flahety enjoying baked thistle root

45 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
OPEN EVENING

On Thursday 20 October 1994, the Lord Lieutenant for Essex, **The Lord Braybrooke JP**, visited Colchester TA Centre. Along with families, friends and employers, he toured the displays of 'The Royal Signals at Work'.

A whole range of skills was demonstrated, from programming a digital telephone exchange to making a cup of tea in the field. The Lord Lieutenant then presented Territorial Efficiency Medals for long service to **Sgts Stuart Ward**, **Michael Hampton** and **David Cheverton**, and former Sgts **Rosina Stockwell** and **Bob Smith**.

Certificates of Recognition, signed by the Secretary of State for Defence, were then presented to five local employers to mark appreciation of their support for the Territorial Army.



Sgts Stuart Ward, Michael Hampton, former Sgts Rosina Stockwell, Bob Smith and Sgt David Cheverton

37 Sig Regt (V)
Redditch

CO — **Lt Col Stamford Cartwright (V)**
2IC — **Maj Ian Morris (V)**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) John Riley**

It seems ages since Annual Camp, though it was only a few months ago, must have been a busy time. **WO2 (YofS) Cliff Montgomery** and **Maj Tony Shaw** were hard at it straight after Camp, getting the winter training cycle off the ground. RAF Cosford, the venue for the Total Concept Weekends, when the whole Regiment comes together for training, has become a second home for us. It was perhaps fitting therefore that it should be the venue for **Lt Col John Macfarlane** to formally hand over to **Lt Col Cartwright** at the beginning of December. We wish **Lt Col Macfarlane** all the very best and hope to see him again often. His forceful leadership through the reorganisation of the Regiment was much appreciated and we hope that he and **Marcia** have recovered from being sent to the West Midlands!

Sadly, too, we have said farewell to **Maj Ted Widgery**. **Ted** has had a long and distinguished career in the Regiment, mostly with the Welsh and the Yeomanry Squadrons, having commanded both. He now shifts from Ops Offr to SO2 Comms (V) at 143 (West Midland) Bde.



Lt Col Macfarlane (left) congratulates Lt Col Cartwright and prepares to make a quick exit on handing over

53 (WELSH) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–CARDIFF
Sqn Comd — **Maj John Duggan (V)**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Fred Newton (V)**

Congratulations go to our new Sqn Comd on attaining his majority and assuming command. We are delighted to hear that his predecessor, **Maj Tony Reah**, has found a berth within travelling distance of his new home in Hampshire, with 31 Sig Regt (V) in South London.

OPENING OF TY LLEWELLYN TERRITORIAL ARMY CENTRE PARK STREET, CARDIFF
By Capt N. Lloyd Edwards

The 'Volunteers' of Cardiff have a long and proud tradition. The Old, now New, Drill Hall, which lies under the shadow of the South stand of the Cardiff Arms Park, has long been part of this tradition. Built in 1910, in the middle of a then, heavily populated working area, it was ideally situated for recruitment and became the base of many Territorial Army units.

The first unit to move into the Old Drill Hall was the Welsh Divisional Telegraph Battalion Royal Engineers, which is the predecessor of 53 (Welsh) Sig Sqn.

Since the demolition of the Old TA Centre the Squadron have been housed in temporary accommodation in Maindy Barracks, Cardiff. Sadly the lack of space was not encouraging new recruits to join the Squadron so it was most pleasing on the 28th September 1993 to see the President of the Welsh TAVRA, **Sir Michael Llewellyn, St KStJ JP** the son of **Lt Col Robert Godfrey Llewellyn CBE MC TD** who commanded 53 (Welsh) Div Sigs (TA) from 1920 to 1929, lay the foundation stone to mark the start of the construction of the new build.

On 3 November 1994 the final touches to the new building were completed and the Squadron were prepared for the official opening ceremony. Sadly **Sir Michael Llewellyn** who had agreed to open the new building in his father's name, had died a few weeks beforehand and so the opening was conducted by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for South Glamorgan, **Capt N. Lloyd-Edwards KStJ RD LLB JP RNR**.

The overall event was well organised by TAVRA for Wales and guests included **Gen Sir John Akehurst** from the Council of TAVRAs, **Lt Gen Sir David Scott Barrett**, **Maj Gen Freer** the General Officer Commanding Wales and Western District, **Brig Stevens** the Brigade Commander 160 (Wales) Brigade, **Brig Sneyd** from the Council of TAVRAs and **Brig Neeve** the Commander 2 Sig Bde.

The ceremony started with the unveiling of a plaque followed by an address by the Lord Lieutenant and a Service of Dedication in the Drill Hall conducted by **Padre Philip Francis** the Regimental Padre of 37 Sig Regt (V). Guests then had an opportunity to view some of the communications equipment used by the Squadron, meet members of the Squadron, the architects, engineers and contractors of the building and to tour the facilities before a buffet lunch in the Jimmy Club.

It was an excellent afternoon.



Col W. P. Howells, Chairman TAVRA Wales, and the Lord Lieutenant for South Glamorgan, Capt N. Lloyd-Edwards, at the opening ceremony

67 (QOWWY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
Sqn Comd — **Maj Roy Naylor (V)**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Ray Campbell (V)**

The Squadron bade fond farewell to **Lt Col Macfarlane** in November and wish him well in his new appointment. Our Yeomanry traditions suggested that he was despatched on horseback and **Sgt Fred Hughes** might well have been able to arrange it but in the event it was a chairborne departure.

During 1994, the Year of the Yeomanry, the Squadron organised charity events to raise money for the Macmillan Fund for Cancer Relief. These culminated in the presentation of a cheque for £1,200 to the Regional Director of the charity, **Jon Rayner**. We were anxious to have the mayors of Worcester, Warwick and Stratford with us as they had all taken part in the fund-raising. PSAO **Capt Gary Pitman** tried in vain to find a Tuesday night when all three could be present and eventually solved the problem with some lateral thinking; train on a Monday night instead!



Maj Naylor hands over the monster cheque to Mr Rayner, watched by the Mayor

93 (EAST LANCS) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–BLACKBURN
Sqn Comd — **Maj Alan Whittle (V)**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Paul Todd**

The champagne was flowing on Thursday 1 December 1994 for 879 Troop who took part in the official opening of the new University Barracks in Manchester, shared with the OTC. **Her Majesty the Queen**, accompanied by **HRH The Duke of Edinburgh**, arrived at mid-day. **Cpls Ivan Basford**, **Louise Daveron**, **Ian Williams** and **Christine McIntyre** and **LCpls Mark Taylor** and **Debbie O'Neill** formed part of the Guard of Honour. The Royal Party met many of those who will reside in the barracks before leaving after lunch.

96 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–COVENTRY
Sqn Comd — **Maj Steve Holder (V)**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Mick Comber (V)**

Congratulations go to **Alan Jacobs** on his promotion to Captain and to newly promoted **LCpls Lydia Iregbu** and **Martin Tew**. By the end of the training year in March we should have at least 25 newly qualified soldiers and, with the extra effort from the Regimental Training team, the great majority will also have completed a trade so our 'fit for role' numbers will have increased substantially.

We said farewell to four of our members last November. **WO2 (SSM) Dave Blackford** has decided to retire. As one of our founder members he will be particularly missed but we hope to see him at our future functions. **Lt Sally Forrest** has moved location on promotion in her civilian career and is looking for a new unit in Oxford. **LCpl Stewart Adams** and **Sig Lisa Baker** have also relocated to Oxford; we are assured that their co-location is coincidental!

EXCHANGE VISIT TO 709 COMMS REGT (TORONTO)
By Cpl Bob Hampson, 37 Sig Regt (V)

It all started with a phone call. Early last August, our Permanent Staff Admin Officer at Stratford, **Capt Gary Pitman**, rang, 'Fancy a trip to Canada, week on Friday?'

After the mad panic making all the arrangements and packing, I was relieved to take off from Birmingham, by British Airways to Glasgow. Then an Air Canada Boeing 767 to Toronto, to be met at the airport by **Master Cpl Paul Mitchell** of 709 Comms Regt. Paul and his family were to be my hosts for the visit.

The following morning we were up at 0700 and went for a seven mile run along the side of Lake Ontario. Then it was off to the opening of the Canadian National Exhibition. The parade lasted two and a half hours; I have never seen so many pipe bands. It concluded with an opera sing-song, then the US, British and Canadian National Anthems.

That afternoon we visited Old Fort York, the home of four regiments, where I met some of the veterans from the Warriors Parade in the ORs' mess and saw yet more demonstrations. **CWO (RSM) Tom Bell** discussed my visit programme and had a long chat about the ties with 37 Sig Regt (V); he explained that the exchange was being monitored as a high profile visit. After being introduced to the Sergeants' Mess I was flagging a bit.

The next day was spent sightseeing around Niagara Falls, an amazing-unbelievable, beautiful but impressive sight. We boarded the 'Maid of the Mist' for a journey to the base of and behind the falls, with dinner on board, and finished with a trip in the cable car over the whirlpool, two miles downstream.

I was due to move to 709's sister regiment, 706 Comms Regt, at Borden.

At 706's Comms Bunker I met **Master Sgt Hazelwood**, **CWO Draffin** and **WO Lavante**, who explained the Information Data Network. Then it was off to rejoin 709 at Meaford training area. After arriving at an armoured regiment CP and being saluted by a Lieutenant who was expecting a General I was eventually given a guided tour by two Colonels and their staff.

After a quick visit to Owen Sound and the Canadian Legion museum, including three VCs on display, I left by road for Petawawa, on the opposite side of Ontario. Travelling through the Algonquin National Park, the views were breathtaking and the wild moose rather distracting. After a couple of hours sleep I was up at 0515 hrs to visit 7 Royal Canadian Artillery. **WO Kowalishen** took me to their CP and showed me the cannon battery and commcen. I relayed messages to several OPs–though the accent confused a few. The training area is massive, about the size of Warwickshire. **Brig Gen Jefferies**, the artillery general, appeared; it was becoming embarrassing, the number of VIPs who felt they had to greet the British corporal.

We watched live firing from a 105mm howitzer, then bugged out and set up in a new location. There have been some minor accidents and one guy collapsed from heatstroke. The weather since I arrived has been very hot, 95 degrees Fahrenheit much of the time with 80-90% humidity. At another new location I was shown how to set elevation and operate the cannon. We were called up for a fire mission and **Paul Mitchell** loaded the rounds. I closed the breech, adjusted the elevation and fired ten rounds. I was given a shell casing to keep and had it engraved with the names of the crew. We then visited the OPs and saw how to range find, call down fire and adjust.



Brig Gen Jefferies and myself chatting by one of his guns

After returning to barracks for a shower and changing into civvies, it was off to Ottawa to see Parliament Hill, then to Canadian Forces Base Kingston. Following a much-needed night's sleep we toured the communications and electronics museum, met the students and saw the drill team training. Then a chance to clean my boots ready for the next day before **Tom Bell** took me out for a meal, drinks, dancing and more eating.

Three hours sleep and up for the big parade, first meeting the CO, Training Major, Honorary Colonel and other VIPs. I watched the parade with them from the front row, then chatted with all the high-ranking guests. Delusions of grandeur began to set in but these were rapidly dashed by a night out with the junior ranks concluding with initiation time back in the accommodation–ice cubes, shaving foam, the works.

The next morning we had a tour of the excellent School of Signals, packed up and headed back to Toronto.

I had previously arranged to hold a barbecue at the Mitchell's home that evening. The first person to arrive was **CO Col Dan Russ**, then **CWO Tom Bell**, other warrant officers, the neighbours and many of the other people I had met on my visit. **Col Russ** insisted on starting the presentations and gave me a plaque. I was nearly stuck for words but recovered to give him my own personal presentation, a print of Lady Butler's painting of the charge at Huj by the Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanries. Then I presented parade sticks from 37 Sig Regt (V) to **CWO Bell**, who said they would have pride of place and be used on ceremonial occasions, and Regimental and Squadron plaques. **CWO Bell** then gave me a bottle of red wine for **RSM John Riley** of 37 Sig Regt (V) and **Cpl Paul Mitchell** gave me a plaque from the junior ranks. I reciprocated with an engraved tankard from Stratford which he christened with a Guinness.

The last day and a half were spent sightseeing around Toronto. I felt a closeness and a strong bond with my Canadian hosts. It is difficult to explain how such a strong friendship can be formed in so short a time. Their hospitality was overwhelming. Many phone numbers and addresses were exchanged; my Christmas card list has doubled. Some are coming to England this year and will visit Stratford, when I will reciprocate and host.

The visit has really opened my eyes and I believe it was a great success. I would encourage anyone who has the chance to go, to grab it with both hands.



709 Comms Regt CO Lt Col Dan Russ, CWO Tom Bell and Cpl Bob Hampson relax in Toronto at the end of the visit

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

CO — **Lt Col Roger Davenport**
Adjt — **Capt Jamie Compston**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) John Grandison**

EXERCISE TEAM MATE 1994

The Regiment's annual military skills competition was held on Catterick training area. This year's competition was split into three distinct phases; first a 12 stand round robin of tests including all the old favourites (first aid, NBC etc) with a few unknown entities thrown in for good measure (observation, discipline etc), secondly a night navigation exercise and finally a march and shoot competition.

At 0800 hrs on the Saturday the nine teams started phase 1. The Management, **SSgt Keith Dunk** (SPSI Data) and **SSgt Paul Thornton** (REME PSI) breathed a little easier. With all the stands under way the ear piercing screams from the driving stand could be heard clearly through the light drizzle and patchy fog.

The observation stand went well with **Cpl Trevor Grant** providing a very believable 'suspicious character'. Although descriptions of him varied, one competitor was heard to say, 'He's got blue eyes, I should know, I used to go out with him.' Not bad from 70 metres away!

46 Sig Sqn's first team, led by **Sgt Martin Pratt**, is to be commended on its efforts at **Sgt Kev Clark**'s AFV recognition by torch light.

The setting for the night navigation; Saturday evening, moonless, and fog so thick the DS had to get **LCpl Jan Barrington** to find the range road by torch light. The three teams who completed the course are to be congratulated. Congratulations are also due to the team that found the cattle grid and remained there until Endex, and the teams that tried to get Excon to give answers over the radio. Nice try!

Sunday morning, march and shoot, two miles (one uphill), across a building site. 19 rounds each at 'tin hat' targets, penalties for excess time and missed shots resulted in a range of final scores from 154 down to minus 14.

A secret scoring system so simple it required our Service Fund Accountant, **WO2 Jim Hudson**, with assistance from Chiefy, **SSgt Dave Paterson**, to run it. In the end the competition was so close that the final positions were not clear until the score from the final team in the march and shoot was known.

The overall winners and recipients of the best team trophy presented by the CO, **Lt Col Roger Davenport** were 64 Sig Sqn's Team One: **Lt Andy Smith**, **Sgts John** and **Michelle Marsden**, **Cpls Gary Helliwell** and **Paul Burditt**, **LCpls Gail Roddis** and **Dave Hawley** and **Sig Sue Wright**. 64 Sig Sqn (V) also took the best Squadron trophy award with the combined score of Team One and Team Two: **Sgts Paul Parker** and **Simon Parkin**, **Cpls Steve Roberts** and **Andrea Bilton**, **LCpl Karen Smith**, **Sig** 'Boots' **Oxley** and **OCdt Simon Jenner**.



Lt Col Roger Davenport presents the Team Mate Trophy to winner Lt Andy Smith, 64 Sig Sqn (V)

46 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–DERBY

Sqn Comd — **Maj Peter Williams**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Alan Whittaker**

Following a successful Annual Camp at Longmoor Training Area we embarked on the TCW cycle and trade training and honing the skills learned through Squadron exercises.

15 October saw the arrival of **Maj Jan Jasiok** and his happy band of 8 Sig Regt Flag Runners on their way south to Blandford. The flag was received on behalf of the City of Derby by the Mayor and Mayoress of Derby, **Cllr Nirmal Singh** and **Jasbir Kaur Dhindsa**. The Mayor and Mayoress were hosted by the 2IC, **Capt David Tomlinson**, and his wife, **Michelle** with **Cpl Karen Aston** summoning up her usual sumptuous buffet. **Sgt Pete Beedle** and **Cpl Karen Westbrook** were there to help welcome the runners. The PSAO did his best to masquerade as a photographer. With the runners suitably refreshed, we bade farewell to them on their long journey to Blandford.



The Mayor and Mayoress of Derby greet the 8 Sig Regt Flag Runners

25 October saw a visit to the Squadron by the Secretary of East Midlands TAVRA, **Brig Peter Stephenson**, to present Efficiency Medals. The recipients were **WO2 (SSM) Bob Ward**, **SSgts Thelma Ward**, **Kim Batchelor** and **Sgt Jane Atherley**. **SSgt Phill Mellor** was presented with the clasp to his medal. Two ex-Squadron members, **SSgt Carol Tunnicliffe** and **Sgt Pat Waring**, were also there to receive, belatedly, their medals. **Pat**'s presentation was particularly noteworthy, after starting out as an apprentice and completing a full regular career, he then went on to earn his TEM!



Recipients of the Territorial Efficiency Medals with the CO and Secretary of E Mid TAVRA, Brig Peter Stevenson
(L to R): WO2 (SSM) Bob Ward, SSgt Thelma Ward, SSgt Jim Batchelor, Sgt Jane Atherley, SSgt Phil Mellor, Mrs Carol Archibald and Mr Pat Waring

The Squadron entered two teams for the Annual Regimental Military Skills competition 'Team Mate' on the weekend of 28-30 October, led by **Sgt Jane Atherley** and **Sgt Martin Pratt**, no prizes were won but plenty of effort by both teams particularly in light of the usual bad weather.

For Remembrance Day the Squadron paraded as in previous years in Derby City Centre, the refurbishment of which, new layout and the memorial moved, had been completed with perfect planning, late the day before! The Squadron detachment of over 40 was led by **Lt Kay Sheriston** and included the Leicester detachment with their new Tp Comd, newly commissioned **Lt Robert Ward** (ex-SSM Bob Ward). While the more junior members of the unit were so involved, the Sqn Comd, 2IC and SSM, **Alan Whittaker** (in post 4 days), acted as Commander, Adjutant and Warrant Officer respectively to the City's parade.

At the same time a small memorial service was held in the Drill Hall for those members of 68 Regt AA, many of whom died in the defence of Malta GC, and for our own branch of the Royal Signals Association. The formal remembrance was followed by the less formal, an all ranks curry lunch.

There was a promotion parade on the TCW of the weekend 25-27 November. Congratulations to the following; **Sgt Richard Millett** to SSgt (to take up the position of Tp Sgt of the Leicester detachment), **Cpl Mark Adams** to Sgt, **LCpl Sharon Mitchell** to Cpl and **Sig Jackson** to LCpl.

64 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–SHEFFIELD

Sqn Comd — **Maj Stan Fitzgerald**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Pete Hodges**

ANNUAL CAMP 1994

After the delights of Penhale and Cornwall in 1993, the Regiment and 64 Sig Sqn (V) returned to reality and Longmoor for Annual Camp 1994.

All those reading this page will know that the TA is full of traditions, some long standing, others thought up on the spur of the moment when the situation demands. Well, this Regiment created a new one in so far as the first night of Camp was designated as a Sergeants' versus Officers' Mess games night. Although there were one or two sceptics prior to the event (the author included), the evening proved to be a great success and put everyone in the right frame of mind for the remainder of Camp.

For the record, the winners of the games night proved to be the Sergeants' Mess, by a very narrow margin, I might add, and the CO, **Lt Col Roger Davenport**, received the losers' trophy on behalf of the officers.

64 Sig Sqn (V) acquitted themselves very well during all phases of Camp by meeting all objectives during the Brigade exercise phase and collecting three trophies on sports day. In addition **Sgt Michelle Marsden** won the best female shot on the ranges and our 'Thespians' were awarded the 'Thorpy Trophy' as the best act at the Regimental Smoker.

A special mention must go to **WO2 Jimmy Mees** for the first class job he did as Acting SSM during Camp. Impressed by **Jim**'s efforts the RSM rewarded him with the appointment of PMC of the Sergeants' Mess Christmas Draw Committee.

1994 AND A LOOK FORWARD

We look back on a very successful year. We competed well in all military competitions, with first places gained in namely the Team Mate Trophy, EDSAAM and Regimental Marches whilst still maintaining all our other training and exercise commitments. In addition we sent an expedition to Mexico, attached soldiers to the US National Guard and entered a crew of novices in the Army Sailing Regatta.

Recruiting is on the increase with a good calibre of soldier coming through the door and the PSAO has potential officer cadets in abundance.

We now look forward to a successful 1995 with the Nijmegan Marches and the 2 (NC) Sig Bde SAAM meetings already pencilled in the diary.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **SSgts Hillary** and **Phil Horton** on the birth of their baby daughter, **Chelsea**. We had hoped they might call her Wednesday.

70 (EY) SIGNAL SQUADRON–CHELMSFORD

Sqn Comd — **Maj Jonathan Pyman**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Richard Pieper**

EXERCISE LONG DAY

Like all good things, this escape and evasion weekend started out as a bit of loose chat in the bar and ended up as the equivalent to the horror film Doctor Jekyll and Mr Hyde (one sip of enthusiasm and a monster has been created).

2Lt Craig Tallents (V), advised by **SSgt (SPSI) Farrar**, took on the task of running the weekend. Teams were selected, a scenario given, and then rumour control was left to run rife installing images of a feared Hunter force selected from a cross-breed of Hannibal Lector and the 3rd Mongolian Shock Force (ie **Lt Ian Bell** and the Squadron WO's Hunter Posse).

The teams deployed at death o'clock Saturday morning and so the Hunt began. Grids were given through Comms windows, agent contact were met and the taskings continued. An intelligence update on a certain Team Leader, **Cpl Swain** (PTI), noted he was finding it easy! Easy thought Ex Control. On the debrief of the weekend he was later heard saying, 'Was I targeted for extra interest by the Hunter force?' 'Read the Int Reps,' was the reply.

87 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–NOTTINGHAM

Sqn Comd — **Maj Colin Bachelor**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Kev Gater**

Belated welcomes to **Maj Colin Bachelor** and SPSI **SSgt Mark Richmond**. **Mark** joins us from 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, and, with his arrival, a sad farewell to ex-SPSI **Sgt Dougie Eaglesham**.

At time of putting pen to paper, the Squadron has settled back into normal routine after having returned from annual camp at Longmoor Camp 94 which was certainly an eventful time with a packed programme. First on the agenda was sports day with 87 Sig Sqn (V) giving a good account of itself in football, hockey, netball, rounders ending with command tasks. It has to be said that these headings very loosely resembled the 'sporting' events they describe. Most noticeably netball, refereed by **Lt Fred Nilsson**, which was played on a basketball court with a volleyball. Minimum rules were used, only two in fact–don't run with the ball and no bodily contact (all teams had diffficulty understanding the latter rule). The term 'murder netball' would probably more accurately describe this event with no fewer than eight people from various Squadrons being sent off–three of them women!

Football fared no better with **Cpl Craig Toft** having to be stretchered off the field after intercepting an opponent's boot with the back of his knee. **SSM Kev Gater** did a particularly endearing demonstration of levitation with no safety net after a similar encounter. In the Officers' v Sergeants' Mess, **Lt Steve Whitworth** managed to get away with alleged aggravated wounding.

Command tasks showed how acrobatic **Maj Colin Bachelor** was on the relay race section of the CTs. The tasking was for the OC to be piggy-backed by the SSM over a certain area, unfortunately, as the Sqn Comd launched himself on to the SSM's back, **Kev Gater**, totally unaware of this (that's his story and he's sticking to it), precisely at that moment knelt down to tighten his laces. The Sqn Comd completed the movement with an excellent forward dive with twist, degree of difficulty 3.1, and the Squadron marked him; 9, 9, 8, 9, 10.

Over the next couple of days the Squadron passed bounty qualifying training in NBC, first aid and ranges before deploying onto the tactical exercise phase where we got the opportunity to try out the new Sawes kit and great fun it proved to be. It was rumoured that if you were able to fit correctly the kit in the dark at 'stand-to' you were eligible to join Mensa. The Squadron then deployed on the four day Brigade communication Ex Blue Duster and was successful in completing all taskings. Towards the end of the exercise the Squadron was extremely successful at apprehending 'terrorist' **Cpl Dave Gordon** as he tried to infiltrate the Commcen secure area which was under the ever watchful eye of **SSgt Nigel Caldicott**, who had an interesting conversation with the Adjutant when he refused him entry into the secure area.

In conclusion a thoroughly enjoyable camp with useful training achieved in both military and communications scenarios.

39 Sig Regt (SC) (V)
Chelsea

5 (QOOH) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd	**Maj Heather Collins**
SSM	**WO2 Andy Douglas**

ARRIVALS

The Squadron would like to welcome **Sgt Robin Hall** and his wife **Verona** who joined us from 247 Sig Sqn and to the new caretaker and his wife, **Ron** and **Joyce Pullen**, parents of **Sgt Colin Pullen** currently serving in 9 Sig Regt (R).

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following on their recent promotions: **Lt Carla Lankester**, **SSgt George Simpson**, **Cpls Ian Marriott**, **Judith Phillips** and **Chris Minchella**, **LCpls Marcus Spurgeon**, **Brian Boyle**, **Tim Ball**, **Dave Hambidge**, **Glen Davison**, **Tony Phillips** and **Kevin Durno**.

ACTIVITIES

Ex Cockney Gait. Twelve members of the Regiment travelled into the Smokey Mountains in the USA to walk the Appalachian Trail. The team was led by **Lt Jackie Lockhart** and supported by **SSgt John Sturgeon** and **Sgt Dave Oliver**.

Ex Mountain Tiger. The Squadron adventurous training weekend, where we had the opportunity to try rock climbing, canoeing, abseiling and conquer Mt Snowdon once again (several times!). The remainder of the Squadron had a range/bounty weekend in which **SSgt Steve Cocksedge** put the troops through gruelling tests.

Annual Camp 94. Based at Wathgill Camp the Squadron was able to demonstrate its overseas communication skills with a field det to SHAPE led by a hungry **Cpl Judith Phillips**. Camp was a full tactical Regimental Exercise under the control of 2 (NC) Sig Bde allowing the Regiment to utilise its communication skills in field conditions.

Ex Runnel Stone. The Regiment also took part in the now annual exercise with the Danish Home Guard. The deployment was both by sea and air with a contingent of para trained soldiers. When the paras eventually jumped, **WO2 Andy Douglas** did a heroic landing right in the middle of an irrigation ditch, 'stepping in a puddle right up to his middle'! However, battles were fought and souvenirs gained. Overall it was once again a successful exercise thanks to the friendly and welcoming Danish people.

CEREMONIAL DUTIES

Due to the reorganisation of the Regiment this was the last opportunity for us to display our ceremonial skills, by taking advantage of our City of London connection we provided a guard of honour for the new Lord Mayor of London. The rain just about held off as 20 members of 39 Sig Regt (SC) (V) and 20 members of the London UOTC formed up in front of the Law Courts in London. Certain members of the front rank had a pleasant experience as personnel from one of the passing floats rushed over and gave them a kiss! It also proved a good opportunity for the females to wear the new No 2 dress with pride, which looked incredibly smart–even if the girls do say so themselves.

RALEIGH INTERNATIONAL

By Sarah Sachno

Raleigh International is all about 'challenge' for young people, incorporated with its environmental and community focus. The 'Raleigh Challenge' began with completing the application form, surviving an arduous selection weekend, being selected and finally raising £2,950 in funds, and that's all before the actual expedition began.

I arrived at Heathrow along with 149 other anxious, nervous and excited venturers with mixed feelings as to the 'challenges' ahead. Our welcoming party in Kuala Lumpur was at the airport and witnessed our reactions as we stepped into the heat. After a cultural welcome at the International Youth Centre we flew off to Kota Kinabalu, the capital of Sabah, on the Island of Borneo, where our real adventure began.

We were split into our first project group and sent into the rain forest for our first experience of the life in the jungle.

Armed with parangs and hammocks we set up camp, only to find it was on an ant hill complete with hornets nest! I'd not quite mastered the knack of putting up my hammock, it felt like sleeping in a coffin, and was woken by the sound of fellow venturers crashing to the floor, as they had also not mastered the art of putting up an 'A' frame!

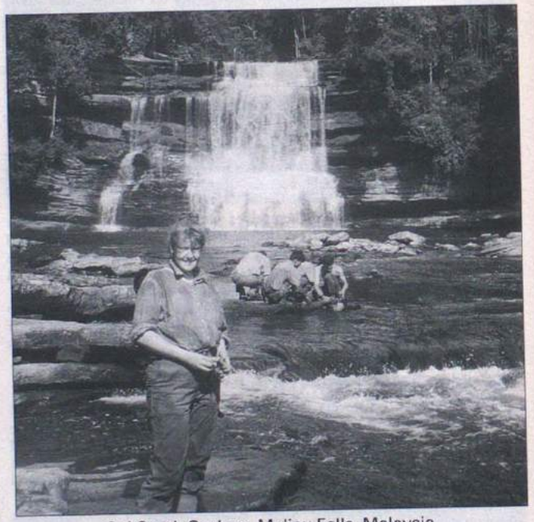
We were all now 'experienced jungle bunnies' and set off to the Maliau Basin, locally known as Sabahs Lost World, a largely unexplored area of conservation primary rain forest. Our mission–to explore, mark trails, preserve and come out in one piece. This was a project I was not looking forward to.

After a seven hour harrowing drive, avoiding logging trucks as they hurtled down the mud track road, we had a two day trek into the basin, to the Camel Trophy Hut which was to be our project base for the next three weeks. Walking through the jungle is not easy, the terrain was extremely rugged and uneven and gradually became thicker and thicker. We had two Malaysian trackers with us who 'paranged" a path for us. Further obstacles emerged as erosion and rivers created ravines in our path. In many cases fallen trees gave us a path across but some caused us problems and we had to climb down and out of them. **Cpl Dhan Gurang** from the Gurkhas was with us as staff, and soon proved to be our hero, showing us how to tackle these and many other difficulties. It quickly became apparent that you could not just grab hold of anything to steady yourself, as the vegetation was either loose, dead, spiky or covered in fire ants.

We had our first encounter with the dreaded leeches. One was found on a fellow venturer's back and from then on we stopped every 10 minutes to check that we were 'free' from these creatures.

This soon helped team spirit along! The rumour that leeches get everywhere was soon confirmed!

Finally, we reached the Camel Trophy Hut, it's amazing how welcoming a wooden hut can be after sleeping between two trees. Although this was to be home for only a few days before we navigated our way to Maliau Falls, a seven-tiered waterfall in the heart of the basin. It took a further two days trekking but the sight was exceptionally beautiful and tranquil and it also meant we could have a bath!



Cpl Sarah Sachno, Maliau Falls, Malaysia
'Raleigh International' Malaysia 94

Unfortunately, we had a casualty and one member of our group had to be casevaced out urgently. My radio experience immediately became important as comms with field base in KK had not been good. After adjusting the antenna several times, I finally relayed a message on our PRC 320 through another project base. The sight of the helicopter was extremely comforting, it was our only contact with civilisation for two weeks. Although it was sad to lose a team member, morale soon lifted when the pilot brought emergency Coke and noodles and mail! After drinking puri-tabbed murky river water, that can of coke was like gold dust. Needless to say it didn't last long.

By now our food rations were low, and the trek back was not helped by a torrential rain storm which dampened our spirits as well as our rucksacks, and to add to this one of our trackers decided to go 'walkabout', so we had to send out a recce party to look for him but to no avail. On our return to the CTH five hours later, as I suspected, there he was having a cup of tea!

With the adventure project finished I thought all the climbing was over, only to find out we were climbing Mt. Kinabalu the following day! Although the path is a well defined tourist route it is definitely not for the faint-hearted with eight km of steps up to an altitude of 4101m (13,455ft) to the summit of Lows Peak. The two days climb up the 'sacred mountain' takes you through a spectacular variety of vegetation from dense rain forest, to lowland alpine forest and finally granite rock face. The second day's climb started at 3am. Pulling yourself up the granite rock face in the dark with only one petzel to illuminate the way allows you to reach the summit in time to see the sunrise over Victoria Peak (unless of course your name is **Sarah**, then you reach it, after suffering from altitude sickness, 2 hours later!). It was a clear day and the view over the whole of Sabah was breathtaking and well worth the climb (I think).

My second project took me to the north of Sabah in the Kudat Division to a small Kampong (village) Bangkau Bangkau where we helped the local people build a jetty and saw through mangrove swamp to provide access from the estuary of the South China Sea to their village. Whilst this project was not as physically demanding, we had to learn to adapt to Malaysian timings. A couple in the village wished to get engaged so all work stopped for two days whilst the community decided if they were suitable for each other, and we had an opportunity to sample the local home brew–tapai (rice wine); definitely a once in a lifetime experience!

The third and final project took me back into the leech infested rain forest (great!) to erect a 60ft transmitter mast on top of Rafflesia Hill (mountain!)–more climbing! Malaysia is trying to preserve the rain forest and the transmitter provides communication between the Danum Valley Field Study Centre, the Borneo Rain Forest Lodge (a new exclusive guesthouse) and Lahad Datu town. We soon learned that modern technology, scaffolding and cranes have not reached the middle of the jungle yet but luckily there were a few trees around which we used to construct a pulley system from which to raise the 60ft metal mast into the air. Amazingly, it went up, with the aid of 15 willing venturers to hold the slack and, keep it from toppling over.

Raleigh has lived up to its aim of providing a challenging experience, in a beautiful part of the world with friendly and welcoming people. It was definitely worthwhile and thoroughly enjoyable, and an experience that I shall remember for the rest of my life although, it has to be said, I was glad to return home to a kettle, hot water, a flushing toilet and a change of diet. Three months of rice, noodles and corned beef is enough for anyone!

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

EXERCISE ROADMASTER

The Regiment's BAMA Rally Team successfully competed in the Army Driving Championship event–Ex Roadmaster.

Following a tiring 14 hour drive the team of **Majs Ian Kyle**, **Robert Kelly**, **Sgt Maurice Moates**, **Cpl Keith Harvey**, **Sig David Ouldfield** and **Pte Dawn Diffin** entered the event on their 'standdown' weekend.

Trouble was soon to follow for the crew of **Ian Kyle** and **Robert Kelly** who got caught for speeding in a control zone and then 'bogged in' just to slow things down a little more. They eventually finished the first navigation run with a flat tyre. Undaunted they continued to pick up three more flat tyres (four in total) and still managed to win the President's Trophy for the best TA crew and the trophy for the best Northern Ireland crew with a 9th overall placing.

The MT experts **Maurice Moates** and **Keith Harvey** (who gained a little practice with **Ian** and **Robert**) won the MT prize for changing a wheel in the fastest time.

The two 'D's' **David** and **Dawn** who found staying awake rather difficult over the four hundred mile event, attained a very credible 'finish' on this their first event as a crew. They also managed along with **Ian** and **Robert** to sort of 'topple over' once or twice–but don't tell the MTO.



Majs Ian Kyle and Robert Kelly display their Bama Trophies

REMEMBRANCE PARADE

The parade was headed by the 2IC, **Maj Gerry Fleming** and the Honorary Colonel, **Col Sandie Cramsie** 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 **Capt Joe Fallows** and **2Lt Claire Tyler** on their engagement.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Fond farewells are extended to **Maj Ron Chisholm** and **Marion** and we wish them all the best in their new posting at Leconfield. A warm welcome to the new Trg Maj, **Maj Tony Lomax** and **Eileen** and also to **Lt John Makay**, **SSgt** 'Mac' **McAlpine** and **Sgt Gary Tuff**. We wish them a happy tour with the Regiment.



The happy couple, Capt Joe Fallows and 2Lt Claire Tyler

NEWS FROM SQUADRONS

HQ BRITFOR Sig Sqn
Op Grapple
BFPO 544

SHQ

Sqn Comd	**Maj D. A. Hargreaves**
2IC	**Capt A. Stocker**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) P. Woodward**

Following an extremely protracted handover the UAO has come to understand the meaning of coming under fire in Bosnia as the 650 tri service personnel we administer seemed to descend at once onto the front counter demanding to know 'where's my separation allowance', 'do I get a higher rate of pay for running the EFI shop', etc. Still, learning from the civilian experience of **Capt** 'Toys R Us' **Taylor**, we have to become 'Customer Facing' and offer service with a smile–particularly appropriate in the cases of **Sig** 'Smudge' **Smith** and **LCpl** 'Sooty' **Black** whose feminine charms are able to pacify many a short tempered senior officer.

In keeping with the pro-active administrative support being offered by the UAO, our all round action man **Sgt Paul Anwyll** accompanied by the Adjutant, has been on several peace keeping missions to far flung places to discover whether Pampas bears any relation to reality, or as rumour had it, it was merely a back-up computer for the national lottery. In Sarejevo he became extremely glad of his shiny clerk trousers which meant that he was able to slide under cover that bit quicker as several rounds landed rather too close for comfort!



LCpl Talasi, QG Sig Regt at Split–November 1994

SECTOR SOUTH WEST TROOP

Tp Comd	**Lt Ian Ellis**
Tp SSM	**WO2 (SSM) 'Smudge' Smith**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Andy Allan**

Meanwhile in Gorni Vakuf . . .

Farewell to 7 Bde and thanks. The roulement was completed when 19 Bde joined members of 30 Sig Regt in theatre. The Troop has a wide range of departments. 'Taxis R Us', run by **Sgt Allan**, is essentially a diplomatic juggling act. Our multinational UN partners have now found how to make the British system work, and are somewhat more polite than at first.

The driving pool personnel have been doing their best to rename the company as 'Taxis R Not Us'. It has caused a little excitement among some people. The best effort was from **LCpl Tim Bagnall** who managed to have his vehicle held to ransom.

Sgt 'Olly' **McGrail** and **LCpl Luke Venni** have taken on TAC HQ. Fortunately garage space has been found. It will give them something to wile away those long winter evenings. The SQMS, **Sgt Mo Howarth** of 'Mo How' Chinese laundry has been running the gauntlet to Bugojno, with his sidekick **Sig Nat Turney** to ensure that the laundry is done. As with all operations it is the 'comfort' factor that matters. **Sgt Steve Holloway** and his sidekick **LCpl Andy Webb** would appear to have a contract with radio rentals. There isn't much they don't know about Sat TV.

The outdets have established themselves into quite comfy little enclaves. Possibly the most well known is that of the 'Geordiebat' det at Turkbat, with **Cpl G. Pearson** and **LCpl G. McPhee**. At Canbat the rising stars of 'Scousebat' are **Cpl S. Johnson** and **Sig S. Jones**. **LCpl** 'Gaz' **Dixon** mourns the loss of Oi, the det dog.

WO2 (SSM) 'Smudge' **Smith**, the camp Sergeant-Major, is being promoted faster than a technician and as a result has to call to heel a menagerie of military types. Other (permanent) promotions to Cpl are for **George Cowan** and **Tim Vanandal**.

501 DET, SECTOR SOUTH WEST

The Commcen has also seen its fair share of manning changes with the arrival of the newly promoted **John Blyth** as det commander. With three locations to run this is a difficult post to run. **Sgt Blyth** has overcome the problem by passing the buck and making **Sig Matt** 'no stranger to danger' **Halford** sign for all the 'career abortion kit.'

Sig Kev 'Charisma' **Brown** is soon to leave our happy brethren, however his trainers will not be missed. He now has a new challenger to take his place in the form of **Sig Andy** 'chillout' **Owen**. He has been forced to keep his trainers indoors after the camp dog 'eloped' with his last pair. **Sig Richie Payne** has joined us from Gorazde after badly spraining his ankle whilst driving headfirst into a trench to avoid incoming. Whatever you say **Richie**! Life is not too bad! The food is excellent and **Cpl Andy Hayes**, a John Sainsbury in the making, makes a slick operation in the camp EFI. The snows are beginning to fall, but fortunately we have lots of warm clothing, so we can all walk around like Mr Blobby.

BRITFOR TROOP

Tp Comd	**2Lt Andy Knott**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Stuart 'Russ' Conway**

To the casual observer it might seem to be all sun, sea, sand and surf down here at Club Split. The end of the chill Catterick month of November has its literal Croat translation meaning hot. There is even a spot of sea fishing to be done at the waterside, with the cooling blue waters of the Adriatic lapping not 25 feet from the MT section. Just as well the Troops possess a high degree of self discipline, and are able to deny themselves the pleasure.

Slippers aside, the Troop has been largely concerned with the supply and maintenance of transport. The Tp Comd has discovered that he is in fact really the MTO and subsequently ends up explaining to all types why they cannot have transport. A simple matter of maths! Meanwhile, **Cpl Kev Reynolds** practises his daily juggling act, shuffling the books in an attempt to make a dozen landrovers do the work of 20. At the same time, the Artificer, **SSgt Dave Percieval**, does his best with the LAD to keep as many of the fleet on the road (or rather the dust track) as possible. When not doing this he can be found somewhere off the coast on his windsurfer.

Other news from the Troop includes our one and only casualty, **Sig** 'Fossie' **Foster** who has managed to fall over in the block and concuss himself. The lengths some people will go to in order to avoid driving details to Sarejevo! No doubt he will be expecting to recover in the relaxing surroundings of the Troop tea garden, which is currently in its infant stages of building. Barbecue stand and ornamental rockery are among the items that the lucky Op Grapple 6 Sig Sqn will inherit.

STRATCOM TROOP

Tp Comd	**Lt J. O'Brien**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt J. Pollitt**

A busy period over the last few months with many changes taking place. First a welcome to 19 Bde, and farewell to 7 Bde. The Troop also finally said goodbye to **Lt Richard Rumsey**, who managed to earn himself another three weeks UN telephone allowance by pretending to be stuck in Gorazde and Sarejevo. Welcome to **Lt Jim O'Brien** from 250 Queen's Ghurkha Sig Sqn. We all hope to see you as much as we did your predecessor.

The Troop is spread throughout theatre operating 501/502 detachments in six locations. The Split 501 detachment is commanded by **Cpl** 'Nims' **Nirmil** who has recently returned from R & R. Also in Split is the commcen, run by **Cpl** 'Mo' **Morris**. Other dets include those up country in Gorni Vakuf, Vitez, and Zepce. **Sgt Keith Martin** has the job of keeping **Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose** happy with the 501 and 502 dets in Sarejevo, enlisting the help of **LCpls Farmer** and **Potter** and **Sigs Pele, Leak, Morris** and **Carpenter**. Technical support is provided by **Sgt** 'Taff' **Tanner** and **Cpl Max Hurd**. Also there is **Cpl Keef Betts** who normally hides under the name of Commander Power Balkans. Can't think why! Finally there is the det at Gorazde. Enough said.

SUPPORT TROOP

QM	**Capt E. C. Dale**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) S. Johnson**

After many months of briefings, preparation and training, Support Tp consisting of the QM's department, the Pioneers from 23 Regt RLC, and the chefs have arrived in theatre. Immediate tasks included the hectic issue of clothing and stores to 400 personnel during one week, and the chefs catering for up to 2000 soldiers of different nationalities during each meal. (They still had to eat Yorkshire pudding.)

We have now been in theatre some four weeks and are considered by all to be experts in every field, coping with questions like, 'can I do this', and 'did you do this yesterday'. We are pleased to say that the confusion of taking over and roulement is now over, and that we are all firmly in the driving seat providing the services that are expected by those we serve. Finally we say farewell to **Pte Greenacre** who is being shipped home after breaking his jaw in an accident–we believe your story!

19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209)
Catterick

Sqn Comd	**Maj G. Nelson**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt K. Turley**

Life back at Op Gaza 1 continues regardless of the Squadron's main deployment to sunnier climes. Routine consists of the upkeep of the out of use vehicles and the inevitable guard duties. Life is actually fairly relaxed, mediterranean time you might say. However we do lack the deep blue sea and the hot sunshine to be (reportedly) found down at Split. Instead the weather here has not caused world concern by behaving erractically; it is still cold and in the main miserable.

Sadly the Squadron says goodbye to one of its longest serving members in the form of the admin officer, **Maj Geoff Nelson**. After 33 years service he has decided to call it a day. The final whistle has blown, and considering the enormous amount of football he played, most of it at army level, it is a fitting analogy. **Geoff** retires to Northallerton with his wife **Pat**, bringing football boots with him ready for the local team. From all at the Squadron, the best of luck to you both in the future.

1 Sqn Royal Signals
Army Training Regiment
Bassingbourn

Sqn Comd	**Maj Gary Hearn**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) A. S. S. Sherrard**

With the re-location of the Corps phase 2 training base from Catterick to Blandford the Squadron has suffered from a dearth of recruits. Many of you out there will regard this as an ideal situation; four months with nothing to do, and not even a decent RATT task to keep us occupied. Fearful that this situation would leak out and lay us open to the manpower hungry vultures in the Corps like a dying wildebeest we have kept ourselves busy.

Aside from some much needed individual training in NBC, first aid and adventure training skills, the training teams have been fully occupied with assistance to other units–members of the Squadron have assisted not only the other units here at the ATR, but have also lent their expertise to Harrogate and 71 (Yeo) Sig Regt. We face an exceedingly busy year–all five Troops are now occupied with training recruits for other Corps–notably the RA and RE and in the newly formed Delta Squadron the Royal Signals Tp is now established and its first recruits arrived in the new year. The 'Jimmy Machine' clicked into action once more with six Troops taking in recruits every 12 weeks and creating a significant headache for the fledgeling phase two base at Blandford.

In addition to the Corps' new representatives in HQ Company and RHQ–**Maj Bill White** as OC HQ Coy and **Capt Tim Carmichael** as Adjutant–we welcome a significant number of new members to the training staff:

The new Sqn Comd, **Maj Gary Hearn, Lt Craig** 'Bomber' **Sutherland** and his amazing suspicious packages. **Lt Andy Lucas, Lt Nick Range, Lt Lloyd Golly, WO2 (SSM) Whitaker**, and **Sgt Cooper**–adding that touch of finesse to Delta Sqn. **Cpls Hanlon, Welsh, Thompson, Carr, Reed, Muilligan, Sorbie, John** and **Hunt** and **LCpl Sharp**.

Lt Matt Dixon RA, of ATR Pirbright also joins us for the period of the training of RA recruits. He is much valued as an interpreter and advisor in the management of that unique creature–"The gunner".

Congratulations are due to **Craig** and **Jane Sutherland** on their marriage and to **Cpl Dave Allen** on his overdue selection for promotion.

Congratulations also to **Scottie** and **Cheryl Handibode** on the arrival of their first baby.

TAFF'LL FIX IT

The Squadron were delighted to be able to provide a surprise birthday present for local schoolboy **Aaron Murphy**. **Aaron** loved the Army, said his mum, and could he come for a visit for his fifth birthday. **Lt** 'Taff' **Locke**, being of similar height and intellectual ability, volunteered to run the event.

Aaron had a memorable day, using the Small Arms Trainer, driving a Landrover through puddles and taking part in a section attack. Our photo shows 'Taff' **Locke** presenting **Aaron** with a plaque to mark the occasion (Taff is the one on the right).



4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204)
BFPO 36

EXERCISE ATLANTIC RESOLVE

With over 10,000 American troops, Ex Atlantic Resolve was by far the largest exercise the Squadron had taken part in through 1994.

Born out of the necessity to cut defence costs and with the emergence of a new world order, Ex Atlantic Resolve was the high-tech son of Reforger.

The scenario: A crisis in Europe and a huge US-led coalition force was established in order to defend a NATO allied nation.

With American, French, German, Dutch and the British exercising together, the latest American computing power was used to link together live field firing, video simulation training and Headquarter procedures training.

The Squadron deployed the advance party on 14 October, under the command of the QM, **Capt Don Pawlow** and **Sgt** 'N' **Newns**. With their small team, they established the accommodation, feeding facilities and the administrative support for over 200 British personnel. The majority of Papa Tp with **Cpl Si Oldman** were dispatched along with their Headquarter complex. They were joined later by **Lt Jonathan Sutton**, fresh from Sardinia, briefly standing-in for a rugby injured **Lt Paul Rennie**.

The Brigade came under command of the 3 (US) 'Rock of the Marne' Inf Div. We quickly learned the abbreviations and 'newspeak'. Ptarmigan became 'MSE', FFR's transformed into HUM-V's and of course the rat packs turned into the infinitely more edible MRE's.



The 4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204) tactical command complex

The exercise was very successful. The Commander, **Brig Dannatt** and his staff did their very best to keep on top of the battle for Atlantis, which was of course won. The Signal Squadron hosted countless 4-star DP's (distinguished persons) who visited the Commander during the battle phase of the Exercise.

Anglo-American cooperation ended with a British led PT session, by kind permission of **LCpls Baber** and **Towers**. They took some delight in showing our hosts 'how we conduct PT!'



Cpl 'Mino' Minorczyk and SPC 'Hoss' Hoskins phone home

SPORTING UPDATE

Despite a full calendar the Squadron's teams have been competing again.

Hockey			Rugby		
6 AD Regt	Lost	5–1	110 Pro Coy	Won	10–7
QRL	Won	10–0	2 Fd Amb	Won	12–5
110 Pro Coy	Won	5–1	220 Sig Sqn	Won	17–15
4 Fd Regt RA	Won	2–1	6 Sup Regt	Lost	20–8
RAF Larbruck	Won	4–3	QRL	Lost	22–0

7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207)
BFPO 30

Sqn Comd	**Maj J. P. Wilson**
2IC	**Capt N. D. Fraser**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) T. Smith**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Squadron has seen many changes since returning from Op Grapple 4. Leaving the army to run a guest house, is **SSgt Skelland** but, he might be back for the boxing. Also going are **Lt O'Kelly** to the sun, sea and sand of Cyprus, **SSgt Dennis**, **Cpl MacDonald**, **LCpls Murphy** and **Gipson**, **Sigs Benson** and **Rumbold**. The new arrivals are too numerous to list but include the new A Tp Comd, **2Lt Offord**, **WO2 (RQMS) Catchpole**, **SSgt Croft** and **Sgt Kenny**.

BEER AND MEDALS

The return from Op Grapple was marked by a medal parade at which **Brig A. P. Ridgway** presented UN medals to members of the Squadron and spoke of the important role everyone plays in helping to secure peace in Bosnia. Three days later there was a march past in Bergen for all members of Hohne Garrison who had taken part in Op Grapple 4. The Stadt then hosted everyone in the Rathaus with beer and sandwiches.

REFORMING

The reforming of the Squadron was not quite all marching around the square and parties. Within a week of everyone returning the Troops were practising their armoured role setting up the two complexes which form the Brigade Main and Step Up HQs. Despite the long time since anyone had done this, all went well, albeit a little slowly, and with more practice the Squadron will be ready for the exercise early next year. The Plug Up was followed by the Squadron 'Reforming Party' prior to everyone taking end of year leave.

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
(216 Para)
Aldershot

Sqn Comd	**Maj John Whitby**
AO	**Capt Fred Payet**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Joe Fairbairn**

ALL RANKS ANNUAL DINNER AWARDS

The following Squadron Trophies were awarded at the 1994 All Ranks Annual Dinner. **Maj John Whitby** invited **Maj Gen W. J. MacFarlane CB** to present the trophies. **SSgt Dougie Craig** presided as PMC.

Awards:	Forge-Baker Trophy (Outstanding Contribution)	**Sgt Jim Duncan**
	Dennis Tankard (Best Military Contribution)	**LCpl** 'Dog' **Barker**
	Bancroft Cup (Best Sportsman)	**Cpl** 'Brad' **Braddock**
	Craig Trophy (Best Tradesman)	**LCpl Si Brow**
	Richards Statue (Best Footballer)	**Cpl Tes Blakeley**
	Bardies Cup (Best Course Report)	**LCpl Paul Goddard**

OPERATION GABRIEL

The humanitarian mission to Rwanda, Central Africa, involved 25 members of the Squadron. Op Gabriel began in mid-August and the operators returned in late November. Despite the abundant sun-tans, **WO2 (YofS) Kenny Sirr** and **SSgt Stu Couszins** assured the Sqn Comd that a lot of hard work was achieved.

The following members from 216 made up the Force Sig Sqn: **WO2 Kenny Sirr**, **SSgt Stu Couszins**, **Sgt** 'Taff' **Jones**, **Cpls Pete Lawn**, **Jay Saunders**, 'DB' **De Burgh**, 'Mo' **Morris**, **LCpls** 'Max' **Maxwell**, **Andy Hodgeson**, **Jeff Winder**, **Steve Baigent**, **Gaz Christie**, **Stan Stanwick**, **Al Hammond**, **Sigs Andy Pick**, **Andy Fisher**, 'Ollie' **North**, 'Hoddy' **Hodson**, 'Jenks' **Jenkins**, **Lee Fisher**, **Steff Crouchman** and **Pte** 'Jonah' **Jones**.

EXERCISE LARKSONG/FOXTROT
By Capt Steve Vickery

In late September, 70 members of the Squadron embarked on Ex Larksong/ Foxtrot, a two week infantry exchange exercise to Denmark.

We left Brize Norton in a VC10 which actually took off (!), unlike the VC10 on Ex Lion Sun. Once housed with the Royal Danish Life Guards, the Squadron pitted brawn and brain against the Danes. Victories were gained in the athletics, tug-of-war and orienteering but a bad loss was recorded on the football pitch!

After viewing Danish equipment the Squadron joined our hosts for a battalion field exercise.

Attacks were mounted against the Danes and everyone will remember our famous dawn attack–but where was B Tp Comd at the 'O' group!

After the exercise period some welcome R & R was taken in Copenhagen! Despite beer prices of £4 per pint a good time was had by all–well nearly all–those who missed the train back to barracks had a long walk!

A TROOP ADVENTURE TRAINING
EXERCISE PEGASUS YODEL IN BAVARIA
By LCpl Andy Webb

We, the large group of six that is, consisted of **2Lt Robin Anderton Brown**, **SSgt Andy Young**, **Sgt** 'Ginge' **Morgan**, **LCpl Andy Webb**, **Sig Derek Neill**, and **Pte Colin Birkett**. We departed from Arnhem Barracks very early on the morning of 8 October 1994. Our transport was a large 13 seater minibus so we had adequate space, the journey was by road and ferry.

On arrival at the lodge (Handhaus-Engelhof) where we were going to be residing for four weeks, we were greeted by the manager of the lodge **Ray Charlton**. We all got up early the next morning, which was unexpected, especially by myself, I thought it was supposed to be a holiday! But it turned out for the best. You had to rise early to experience as much of the country as possible. Our group mainly concentrated on rock climbing, walking and abseiling. I especially enjoyed the top-rope-and-abseiling aspect of the trip. The lodge had a few permanent staff, who were all qualified in the activities that our group pursued, plus many more. The lodge itself was of a very high standard, all the facilities you could require were available, especially the bar, but not the garlic which doesn't mix with the weiss-bier!

To sum up, it was very enjoyable and everybody learned something and would jump at the chance to do it again.



Cpl Les Tobell and LCpl Si Brow sample Danish rations, but decline to swop 24 hr packs!



LCpl Howe and Sig 'Driver of the Year' Sherlock check out Danish small arms



'I've lost my Section' – 2Lt Robin Anderton-Brown

20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200)
BFPO 16

VISIT OF SOINC (A)

The SOinC(A), **Maj Gen A H Boyle** visited the Squadron over the period 16-17 November 94. After being received by the Sqn Comd, he formally opened the new Squadron bar 'The Bull Inn', which has been built from scratch by **Sgt Chas Fox** and his team. The SOinC then joined all present for a few beers once the Sqn Comd had rang the bell, buying all a celebratory drink.

That evening, the officers and SNCOs welcomed the SOinC(A) into the Sergeants' Mess for a games night. A good time appeared to be had by all and **WO2 (RQMS) Schofield** has still not let go of the tug-of-war broom handle!

The next morning, the SOinC(A) was given a guided tour of an Armoured Brigade Headquarters and briefed on the role of the Squadron by the Ops Team. His decision to distribute the scones and cream amongst the complex was a most popular one and well received by all.



The SOinC Maj Gen A. H. Boyle, signs the Squadron's visitors book, with the 2IC in attendance



Maj Gen Boyle opens the new Squadron Bar, 'The Bull Inn', attended by the Sq Comd and Sgt 'Chaz' Fox

BRAVO TROOP
PERSONALITIES
Tp Comd **Lt P. R. Smith**

FAREWELLS

The Troop say goodbye to **Cpl Steve Sorbie** to ATR Bassingbourn, **LCpl Tarn Bremner** to 210 Sig Sqn, **Sig Andy Birt** to 220 Sig Sqn and finally to **Sigs Goddard** (305) and **Jase Fowler** who left for the delights of civvy street. We wish them all the best for the future.

WELCOME

Welcome to **LCpl Robinson** from 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt and **LCpl Payne** and **Sig Honeywill** from 7 Sig Regt.

Congratulations go to **Cpl John Payne** on his forthcoming promotion to **Sgt** and **Cpl** 'Mac' **Maclaren** on his recent promotion.

SUPPORT TROOP
DEPARTURES

The Troop says farewell and all the best to **Capt D. Gaul** who has left for Ireland after an easy time as our Ops Officer.

Cpl Ted Heath and **LCpl Roberts** who have gone to civvy street after taking redundancy. Finally to **Sigs Gray** and **Shadbolt** who have both gone Civ Div.

ARRIVALS

The Troop welcomes the following people and hopes they have a happy and rewarding tour: **Capt Dooley** who comes in as our new Ops Officer. **Sgt Musselwhite** who comes to us as our new Pay Sergeant after leaving Berlin. **Cpl Stones**, REME, who joins our merry gang in the LAD.

EXERCISE TARTAN ROSE
By LCpl Monger

Elements of the Squadron (mainly Alpha Tp) deployed to an unusually warm Hohne Training Area; as per the norm, this was proceeded by rain for the rest of the exercise. The object was to provide safety and range communications for CAFT G in order to exercise the Royal Dragoon Guards in a 'Battle Group live firing' Ex similar to BATUS, the first time this has been done in Germany.

The first four days involved setting up and testing Comms to all the ranges, as well as numerous safety briefs from CAFT G. Once everything was set up and running smoothly, there was a sudden urge from Paderborn to send the '7th Cavalry' in the guise of the 2IC, RSM, YofS, MT SSgt, Tech SSgt, Catering Sgt complete with an unspecified number of ORs ... their task unknown!

Once firing started, the exercise turned out to be interesting and a number of the Squadron attended a spectacular night shoot involving Challengers, Warriors, Mortars and Small Arms.

The last three days went off with no major hitches like **Cpl Billy Duggan**'s '3 out of 10' from the Brigadier.

At Endex, we were all thanked for our efforts by the boss of CAFT G and headed back to Paderborn on Friday evening, just in time to catch the traffic, but that's another story!

HOCKEY

On 25 November 94, 200 Sig Sqn intertroop hockey took place on a bitter and wet winters day. Having watched Support (A) consisting of the Techs, MT, and EDS play first against Alpha only winning by the virtue of short corners won. Support (B) consisting of the LAD, SQMS and HQ knew only a win would do. Support (B) AV Bravo began with no team wanting to give the advantage away. As the game progressed Support (B) started to play the better hockey but the chances were missed. With **SSgt Saunders** and **Sgt Hilton** in central defence, **Cpl Hampson** in goal had very little to do. In the second half, Support (B) took control with a goal by **Cfn** 'I don't drink' **Short**. Support (B) now in total control of the game made more chances. A second goal was on its way scored by **LCpl McKenna**. A total miss hit but it bobbled past the keeper into the goal. The game continued with a few more chances to each team but the score stayed in favour of Support (B) winning 2–0.

The second game was the crunch match Support (A) against Support (B). Support (A) led by **Sgt Holden** and the inspirational play of **SSgt Patel** beginning to take the upper hand. The game was played at pace with the Support (B) midfield **Capt (QM) Pawlak**, **WO1 (RSM) Turnbull** and **WO2 (RQMS) Schofield**, all working hard. The teams now evenly matched, with chances appearing at both ends, with Support (A) leading by short corners. Time was running out with Support (B) losing two short corners to nil when they pushed everyone forward trying to get a goal. Then an error by one of the umpires gifted Support (B) with a controversial goal. A long ball through for **LCpl McKenna** to chase.The keeper of Support (A) **Cpl Terence Cuddy** came out to clear the ball. However, the ball skipped off his pads and into the goal. Support (A) were furious at the umpire as Support (B) celebrated. That was it, there was no time back for Support (A) with Support (B) winning 1–0.

Game 3. Between Support (B) and Alpha Tp, knowing that victory would give them the competition Support (B) began playing with pride and passion but didn't have it all their own way **LCpl Geordi Aspery** of Alpha Tp tried to spark some life into his team but it soon fell apart as Support (B) started to dominate once again. Some quick interplay between **Capt Duggan**, RSM and RQMS sent **LCpl McKenna** sprinting through. As the keeper advanced **LCpl McKenna** slotted the ball past him with ease. With Support (B) defence solid and midfield over running Alpha Tp. There would be no comeback as Support (B) tried for a second goal. Short corner after short corner but they couldn't score again with Support (B) winning 1–0. Support B ran out competition winners!

24 Airmob Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210)
Colchester

Sqn Comd **Maj David Meyer**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Steve Morgan**

BATTLE CAMP

Battle Camp 94 was held in Scotland, on the Barry Buddon Training Area. Passports in hand, the Squadron departed in the early hours of 22 October under the watchful eye of **Lt Evans**.

On arrival, we were greeted with that old chestnut, 'Hurry up and get your kit on'; that is, what you brought with you plus the Army's surplus of spades, picks and radios the DS kindly gave us. With little time to take stock of the surroundings, we split into platoons and moved into our respective harbour areas.

The first few days were spent going on a series of stands, refreshing our military knowledge. There were various ranges organised, firing different weapons and lectures for background activity. The RSM, 'A man who knows his mushrooms' like his subject, was keeping everyone in the dark as to what was to follow.

If the longest assault course in Scotland was not wet enough, the river crossing certainly was. Urged ever onwards **SSgt Milne** who assured every one it was not cold, was caught breaking the ice to make way for everyone. The only people who seemed slightly amused by the whole thing were the locals who gathered to watch **Sig Stevie Pysden** going backwards whilst doing front crawl.

As each day's activities finished, everyone harboured up for the night with numerous re-supply patrols and CTRs to look forward to. **Sig Measy**, when on guard challenged a prowler. 'The Sqn Comd' came the reply, to which **Sig Measy** replied 'Oh'. We take it he didn't believe him! With the enemy finally routed and destroyed it was time to go on.

Map reading skills were revised in a NAVEX prior to the final phase, the brainchild of the 2IC, **Capt Forrest** (Thanks Sir). This was to be a 15km tactical advance to battle around Loch Tay (or did I say 50km). 1 and 2 Platoons successfully completed it, however, 3 Platoon led by **Sgt Evans** and **Cpl Vaughan** failed to make it to Checkpoint 1, rumour has it they achieved 3km before the flares went up.



Battle Camp 1994–the enemy caught!

The final night consisted of a Squadron Smoker, **Sig Hopgood** deservedly won the best soldier award for carrying a bergen his size and weight all week. Words of wisdom that night for Battle Camp 95 included:

If you let go of a rope whilst suspended 12ft up, and you have no intention of breaking your fall, you are likely to break your foot. (**Sig Claire Moses**).

It is a lot easier to dump your bergens for the day than hump them around the training area. (**Cpl Mark Vaughan** and his Section).

As you leave the enemy for dead, take care not to say 'Bad luck sunshine' to people with balaclavas–it might just turn out to be the RSM. (**Cpl O'Brien**).

Lighthouses are often situated near the sea. (**Sig Nige Skelly**).

If you are pursued by a tracker dog, see off the handler. (**RSM**).

After a few beers the weary soldiers made their way to bed safe in the knowledge Battle Camp 94 had been completed. The weather thankfully had been good for us throughout; Sorry, RSM.

ALPHA TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Lindsay Cullen**

The Troop welcomes **Sig Davies** and **Sig Robinson**. The latter needs informing that 'I was an 'AT RSM' at Harrogate' does not wash with **Cpl Tony Wringe**, who is eternally thankful for being blessed with such a crewman. A warm welcome to you both.

Christmas came early as far as promotions within the Troop. Congratulations to **Paul Davies**, **Baz** 'Airfix' **Samuelson** and **OB (Unmin) O'Brien** on their promotions to Cpl. Off to a promising start to their careers, congratulations to **LCpls** 'War' **Johnston** and 'Steady hand Pops' **Slater**, who is shortly off on an EOD tour.

Well done to **LCpls Jay Shuttleworth**, 'Vera' **Duckworth** and **Giddens** on their successful return from the RSDCC. Apparently, they are now qualified to 'pull up a sandbag' and tell everyone how 'weak and unmilitary' it is to fail!!!

Ex Brunskill's Last Chance, Alpha Tp Signaller competition, went very well indeed. **Sig Johnson** narrowly beat **Sig Grundy**, and now adds his name to the hall of fame. Notable efforts from **Sig Rush** and **Steve Gourley** sadly were not enough. An enquiry is continuing into **Sig Brunskill**'s driving.



Cpl Thompson pleased to be alive after the Alpha Tp 'Sigi competition'

BRAVO TROOP NEWS
Tp Comd **Lt Evans**

The Troop says goodbye to **Cpl Dave** 'Skippi' **Waller** who returns to Australia after four months with the unit. From us all, we'll miss you!

Congratulations to **Cpls Cade**, **Korchell**, **LCpls John Kilner** and 'Solly' **Madle** on their recent promotions.

SUPPORT TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Rick Licence**

This month we say a fond farewell to the Ops Officer, **Capt Rupert Chapman**, who is off to 14 Sig Regt (EW) as Adjt. Best wishes to you and **Kate** and 'keep the head down' at JDSC.

Also leaving **Sgt Dave Butler**, who has been posted to ACIO Nottingham (Local Job Centre?), **Sgt Baker** on promotion and posting to Germany and finally **Sgt Fielding** who is now attending the REME Artificer course, good luck to you all.

A big welcome to our new Tp SSgt, **SSgt Jed** 'Liverpool' **Robinson**, his wife **Theresa** and family. Other arrivals are **SSgt Stella Layzell** (Pay Office), **Sgt Kev Price** (URS), **Sgt Ali Duncan** (TM Wkshp), **Cpl** 'Summo' **Loughlin** (LAD) and to the new baby tech, **LCpl Stu Shaw**. Welcome to the mad house.

On behalf of everyone, congratulations to **Sgt Steve Barclay** and **Gillian** on the birth of their baby daughter and to **Cpl Cox** and **LCpl Jerry Jerman** on their promotions.

280 (UK) Sig Sqn
BFPO 35

EXERCISE CROSSBOW AND THE CAMBRIAN PATROL COMPETITION

The volunteers for Ex Crossbow knew that they had a tough time ahead. Due to the Squadron's packed schedule all preparation was squeezed into a couple of hectic weeks. After much sweat and many blisters they were well motivated and ready to give their best, even if it meant improvising where the training had lacked! The team started and finished the competition with high spirits as due to their efforts they won against some stiff competition.

Now came the real work. Everyone was well aware that Ex Crossbow was only preparation for the real thing–The Cambrian Patrol Competition.

At Sennybridge it seemed that every man and his dog had wings or a dagger on their arms. Fortunately we had our secret weapon–**Sig** 'Skids' **Skidmore**, a self confessed kit monster (currently undergoing therapy) who had a 'Gore-Tex' item for every occasion. Over the next few days there was much tabbing. The weather closed in pretty badly on the first night when we discovered that the issue bivvi bags aren't waterproof when there are two men in one trying to get to know each other a little better 'away' from the driving rain!

Later there was the opportunity for an extraction by helicopter but the scenery was so breathtaking we decided to miss it and tab some more! Honest!

Most activities went well considering the whole team were newcomers to the competition. Top Tip–if **Sig Craig Dunford** clears a path through a minefield–clear it again!

It was quite an achievement for the whole team to finish together without injury considering the lack of time for preparation and experience. Never the less we have set our sights on the medals and will be back. The top tip for next year is–switch the radios on!

EXERCISE FRAN ARCHER 94
INTO BATTLE–PART 1

It was Sunday 6 November and the first leg of 280 (UK) Sig Sqn's Battle Camp were forming up, in high spirits, on the square ready to leave home sweet home.

Two hours and 50 sore bums later (we travelled on four tonners without seats) we arrived at Borkenborge Camp within Haltern Army Training Area (or Sand Dune City!).

First things first, grab a bed and a hot meal, followed by dry TOET's.

Monday morning we started in earnest, at 0630 with PT taken by **SSgt John Berry**. The sessions didn't get any easier.

During a very wet, cold week, the activities came thick and fast, with each day being full of fun things to do.

There was anti-ambush drills, road blocks, search procedures, first aid and map reading, and that was just the first day! This was all rounded off with a night navigation exercise which involved following foot prints and landrover tracks by the more desperate sections. (Some even had to look out for mini flares as they were a little lost, but you'd have to speak to **Lt Forster** about that!)

During the rest of the week, there was patrol procedures, orienteering, and ETR and Moving Target Range shoot, with some good scores coming from **Cpls Kev Lewton** and **Brenda Cooper** and best shot coming from **LCpl Thorpe**.



Section 7, ably led by LCpl Hawksworth (B Tp), take a breather during training.

We all enjoyed the dry section manoeuvres and everybody found the battle survival very interesting, although I'm glad I didn't have to do away with poor 'Flossy' the rabbit!

Towards the end of the Battle Camp, there was an excellent CQBR and some taxing command tasks, coupled with a little job with a stretcher and an assault course competition, finishing off Thursday with a night shoot. (You could hit the targets once you could see past the fog!)

Friday came all too soon, but was by far the best day for a myriad of different reasons (no, not because we're going back to camp). The live section attack certainly got the old adrenalin flowing, as did the falling plate competition.

The perfect end to a perfect week? What else, but a CFT!

All in all a very enjoyable week and it was all we talked about in the bar that night.

INTO BATTLE–PART 2

The November Battle Camp for 280 (UK) Sig Sqn took place at Haltern Ranges.

The week was packed with activities starting with a section in defence on Monday morning.

Cpl Mick 'Joe 90' **Fawcett** being the hot shot that he is, came out with the classic section statement of the week–'Watch my tracer' but then proceeded to fire in completely the wrong direction! We all think it was a big bluff, as the following day he came top in the APWT.

Sig 'Pathfinder' **Gilbey** did a very good job on the night navigation exercise but **LCpl** 'Fudge' **Smith** was definitely the star of Section 2. On the Close Target Recce, the '90 lightly's went on a night patrol where **LCpl** 'Fudge 18½ stone' **Smith** not only stepped on every twig, stick and branch in sight but then finished off the patrol by knocking down a sign-post making every section on patrol within 1 mile radius go to ground. His tactical ideas came into practice once again on the 'Round Robin' the following day where he wanted to battle his way through the forest in order to 'Break the trail!' when the rest of the section preferred to take the track.

The vehicle anti-ambush drills award went to **Sig Green**. When debussing she decided to fall off the side of the truck and then her helmet went for a roll away down the hill into the ditch. At the same time **LCpl Smith** was running off in the wrong direction, again! When he finally regained his whereabouts, **Lt Caddy** paid the price of being enemy by being jumped on and held until he surrendered.

Thursday was the stretcher race/assault course where Section 2 battled it out to the end once again. **LCpl Andy Lay** took the stretcher under one arm leaving his other hand free to smoke a cigarette, and charged off giving the rest of the section a rest–Well done **Andy**.

Sig Green gave her all with two other sections cheering her on, completed every obstacle with more effort than everyone else put together and was determined to finish with the section. Meanwhile **Cpl Chris Umney**, was so impressed with **Sig Green**'s efforts, cheered her on to the finish, not realising that the section were still being timed and, she hadn't yet crossed the finish line herself. When she did, it was done in style by nose-diving over the finish line. **Sig Jenny Evans** and **LCpl Julie Willis** also put in bags of effort during the exercise. All the female soldiers found the week fun and also good training and learned a lot.



Lt Bridget Forster says 'Yes' to her Bosnia posting, thinking things can only get better!

56 Sig Sqn (V)
Eastbourne

Sqn Comd **Maj Ray Wilkinson TD**

A busy and fruitful training period with emphasis on military training, much to the joy of the Territorial soldier who is only really happy when 'out of camp and communicating'.

A welcome restructuring of the Radio Tp has taken place with reintroduction of 858 and 859 Radio Tps since 1992. A healthy rivalry was the first outward sign of change, and the sound of gauntlets hitting the floor, as challenge and counter challenge of Troop supremacy were voiced.

A warm welcome is extended to **Capt Bill Heelan**, on assuming his appointment as 2IC, also to our new REME NRPS VM, Sgt **John Atherton**. We hope that their time with the Squadron will be both enjoyable and rewarding.

ANNUAL CAMP 1994

The first week of Annual Camp 1994 saw the Squadron dispersed on a communication exercise with the command post and echelon based on Stanford Training Area in Norfolk. Six FFR Detachments were then deployed in support of 2 (NC) Sig Bde assets as far afield as Nottingham, Cambridge, Ipswich and Leek. A most enjoyable time was had, particularly by the new additions to Dets and valuable comms lessons were learned.

The second week saw the introduction of an infantry scenario where the Cpls and below practised an NBCD Ex on Stanta Training Area. This was followed by a patrol competition taking in many stands including a river crossing (in October!), first aid on the passengers and crew of a crashed helicopter, a very inventive house search, micro navigation to demolition of a tank, recognition and many command tasks. The winning patrol was led by **Cpl Albert Newnam**. The next phase was a surprise hijack of our (UN) forces after a night shoot on the ranges, leading to their incarceration by members of 2 Wessex and subsequent liberation by company attack from 2 Para. A final lesson of map reading and section command task took us onto a very intensive and enjoyable field firing stage using loaned GPMG(SF) and a very good IBSR.



LCpl Terry Gell and Cpl Stu Douglas navigate a route to the tank demolition stand as part of the patrol competition



The winning team on the patrol competition with the Champion Section Trophy on Annual Camp
(L to R): Sig Trevor Cox, Cpl Malcolm Davey, Cpl George Newnam, Sig Andrew Warren, Sig Eric Gardyne

Every Annual Camp has its memorable social to round off the event, and this was no exception. Our visitors **Col Verey**, TA Col R Signals (V) and **Col Storey-Pugh**, Dep Comd 2 Inf Bde, were invited, and witnessed, several comical sketches including the permanent staff 'on guard' and the demonic entrance of **Cpl Maginnis** to the strains of 'Carmina Burana', **2Lt Blake** and **Sig Moore**'s caricature of slapstick shaving and **Sig Sawyer**'s attempt to upstage **Jim Davidson**'s style of stand-up comic. Overall a very exacting, but exciting Annual Camp was enjoyed by all.



LCpl 'Dickie' Bonner, Chemical Sentry during NBCD Training

RECRUIT TROOP

Congratulations go the Troop PSI **SSgt Tony Doherty** and his wife **Sue** on the birth of their first child, **Alice Rose**. Best of luck with quite a different style of recruit training.

In addition to conducting basic military training, Recruit Tp have spent the summer months actively recruiting with the mobile display attending fetes, open days and school visits. An enjoyable and productive open evening was organised in November with many members of the public gaining an insight as to what the Royal Signals TA has to offer.

A warm welcome to **OCdt Robert Whitworth** as the new Recruit Tp Comd.

RADIO TROOPS

With the embryonic rise of 858 and 859 Radio Tps this will be the last joint entry to *The Wire* magazine.

The Troops recent NBCD training exercise organised by **Sgts Tony Potter** and **Bernie Wooller** held over a weekend at Pippingford Park Training Area was a popular success and left many personnel gasping for more!

Jocomex is proving a popular training event with regular schedules to HM Ships and RAF units. We were delighted, recently, to host **WRO Sam Scott** from HMS *Endurance* for an attachment during Jocomex. **Sgt Geoff Murray**, the Troop PSI is still heard humming sea shanties.

Congratulations go to **2Lt Sara Streete** on passing her TA commissioning course and being appointed 859 Tp Comd, in what promises to be a very successful TA career.

A warm welcome back to former PSI **Sgt Jim Paine**, who having successfully completed his 22 year regular engagement has now become a valuable TA member and Tp Sgt of 859 Tp. His inimitable style and sense of humour will continue to be a high point of both training and the Squadron social life.

Farewell to **Cpl Pat Shalley** who has been attached to Radio Tp for his last months as a regular soldier. His help in the education of detachments and his hard working example have helped to raise standards noticeably within the Troop. Good luck with civilian telegraphy in Bosnia, but don't forget to come back in 12 months' time.

Congratulations go to **LCpl Gary Crick** on his successful TA detachments course and more recent promotion to Cpl.

Congratulations on promotion and appointment to WO2 go to **SSgt Phil Waterhouse**, and to **Sgt** (now SSgt) **Bernie Wooller** on promotion. Also to **LCpl Roy Bray** to Cpl.

Finally we extend a very warm welcome to our latest subaltern from UOTC Belfast, **2Lt Jill Pearson**. Who knows, she may even change her cap-badge before the next *Wire* notes are written!

Royal Signals Detachment
UNFICYP
BFPO 567

Det Comd **Sgt Charlie Hanson**

Since the disbandment of 644 Sig Tp UNFICYP in September 1993, the Royal Signals presence in UNFICYP has still remained strong with a small team of men providing and maintaining communication for the British Contingent and assistance to the other contingents.

The Det consists of six Telecommunications Mechanics and three Communication Centre Operators.

The Telemechs have been very busy over the last year with the installation of three new telephone exchanges in Camps within the British Sector of the UN, and the laying of a 12km ring cable around the British controlled Buffer Zone providing telephone and direct line communication for the Observation Points. Their next mammoth task is the rewiring of Ledra Palace Hotel which accommodates a large percentage of the British Contingent and members of other contingents.

The Commcen is manned by an Operator 24 hours per day, supporting the British Contingent by sending and receiving facsimile and telegraph messages both island wide and world wide. In the very near future the Commcen will be moving location and operating on a new advanced computerised system, Dial Up Secure Telegraph (DUST), which will increase the proficiency of the Commcen.

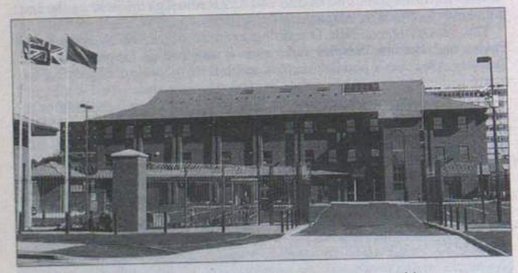
All in all it has been a good year for the Sig Det and a big thank you goes out to past members of the Det without whose help we would not have accomplished so much.



Seated *(L to R)*: LCpl Simmons, Cpl Street (2I/C Line), Sgt Hanson (I/C Det), LCpl Wyatt (I/C Commcen)
Standing *(L to R)*: Sigs Cooper, Bevan, Aplin, Youngman and Kennedy

Manchester UOTC

The opening of the new University Barracks, Manchester, by **Her Majesty The Queen**, accompanied by **His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh**, took place on 1 December 1994. They were escorted by **Col Charles Dickie**, Chairman TAVRA (NW) and retired Royal Signals Officer, **Brig Ian Shapter**, Chief Executive TAVRA (NW). The Barracks will be Headquarters for Manchester and Salford University OTC, commanded by Royal Signals **Lt Col Mervyn Deighton**, Manchester ACF and 879 Sig Tp, 93 Sig Sqn (V), part of 37 Sig Regt (V).



University Barracks, Manchester opened by Her Majesty the Queen



Lt Col Mervyn Deighton, CO Manchester and Salford University OTC, escorts Her Majesty the Queen around the new Barracks

THE ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

Admiral Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander CB OBE
Commodore Col J. E. F. Kirby OBE

Rear Commodores: Offshore, Lt Col J. R. S. Amberton; Dinghies, Lt Col M. J. McKinlay; Windsurfing, Maj D. I. Gilchrist.

CONTACTS

Yachtmasters: UK: Capt P. F. Johnson, Blandford Mil 2464
BAOR: Capt R. K. Orr, Birgelen Mil 286
Secretaries: General Capt N. A Walker, Blandford Mil 2256
Dinghy Racing UK: Capt D. C. A. Ellis, Blandford Mil 2340
Dinghy BAOR:Maj S. I. Andrews, Osnabruk Mil 5247
Windsurfing UK: Lt M. C. Wadsley, Hullavington Mil 8815
Windsurfing BAOR: Maj M. W. Edwards, RAF Laarbruch Mil 5711
Retired Members Rep: Lt Col (Retd) C. K. Powell, Blandford Mil 2437
Soldier Reps: Sgt Finnigan: Thorney Island 8263 Sgt P. Downie: Bulford Mil 2837

The Royal Signals Yacht Club communicates with its members through the medium of **The Wire**, *which regularly prints a forecast of events, accounts of activities and contains details for club officials.*

Any member of the Corps who subscribes to Corps funds is automatically a member of the Yacht Club: this membership is activated simply by registering with one of the Club secretaries.

DINGHIES AND DAYBOATS: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 1994 SEASON

Once again we come to the end of another season, and it is time to take stock of the successes and failures encountered throughout it.

It has been an eventful year, with several plusses on the success side and few minuses on the failure side, so all in all one can feel a fair degree of satisfaction.

DINGHIES

We were unable to run a Corps training regatta this year, owing to lack of entries brought about by the general turbulence of units moving. This is to be regretted, and should be rectified in 1995.

Dinghy Team Racing was well represented this year, even if we did not manage to win the Inter Corps League. We did beat the Sappers, on their home water, but then failed to capitalise on this, and lost to the REME, and this after the REMEs had lost to the Infantry! Thus on tie break we ended the season in second place in the League, with the REME first and the Sappers in third place. Next year the REME will not find the going so easy, as they lose one of their top three helmsmen to the AAC wef January 95.

Our annual match against the RAF was a very close run affair, with a very determined RAF side running out the overall winners. They certainly turned up with a much improved side over previous years, and we shall be better prepared for them next year.

On the closure of 8 Signal Regiment, the six Corps Enterprises and six Regimental Toppers have moved down South. The Enterprises should be sited at Spinnaker Sailing Club, on the outskirts of Ringwood, from early March 95, with the Toppers initially being available on a 'take-away' basis from Blandford.

Those interested in sailing at Spinnaker SC in the Corps boats should contact **WO2 (FofS) Peck**, on Blandford mil 2333.

DAYBOATS

Sea View was a successful regatta for us this year, even if we were slightly down on our entries from previous years. The sailing in the Corps regatta was close, and provided excellent training for the Triangular which immediately followed it.

It is with some great satisfaction that I can report that we have successfully defended this trophy for the first time, winning it in the process for only the fourth time. Our team for this was a blend of the old and the new, with the four helmsmen being **Maj Graham Lewis-Taylor**, **Capt David Ellis**, **Sgt Paul Downie**, and in his first year helming in the team, **Cpl Phil Lever**. The opposing teams were amazed to see **Sgt Craig Avey-Hebditch** sat on the shore as our reserve, such was the strength from which we had to choose.

J24

Hitch-Hiker has had an up and down year. We have moved to using sail from the Ullmans Sail Loft, and have benefited greatly from the much improved consistency in the cut of the sail. What that does not do, of course, is to point the boat in the right direction! We were generating a lot of boat speed, but only really got our act together at Spi Oueste in France at Easter, where we finished second overall, and in the Nationals at the end of August in Christchurch Bay.

The Nationals should have been ours for the taking, we were showing such excellent boat speed. We ended the 7 race series with 3 first places, another first place disqualified for crossing the line in the last second before the start and counting an eighth place from where we knew we had been over the line at the start and had returned to restart behind the entire fleet.

It was one of those regattas which all the crew remember with pleasure, despite only finishing third overall.

In the UK National Qualifiers for the '95 Worlds in Rochester, USA, we are currently lying in second place with one 'Q' to go in early 95, but it is unlikely that time and money will allow us to go to this championship.

MATCH RACING

Following on from our success in the Inter Service Match Racing (reported earlier in '94), we were seeded into the Final of the RYA/BT National Match Racing. This turned out to be a very hectic high level affair. We were ranked third at the end of the round robin to sort out the seed's placings, and duly dispatched our first opponent in the eliminator series three races to nil, to move on to the Quarter Finals. It was here that we met our Nemesis, in the guise of **Ben Vines**. Hmmm, now **Vines** seems a familiar name ... yes indeed, it was the nephew of **Maj (Retd) Homfray Vines**, (R Signals). Although only 20 years old, **Ben** sailed an excellent series of races, to end up a worthy winner of the National title. It is at least some consolation that we went out to the eventual winner.

1995 AND BEYOND

And so we are in a strong position on all of the above fronts to carry on in 1995 where we left off this season.

With the establishment of the new Single Centre at Blandford we shall be in a position to establish a really strong Centre of Excellence for sailing, and be able to maintain much better links with all personnal coming into the Corps who have either sailed in the past, or tried it during their training.

WINDSURFING

Just in case the Rear Commodore has forgotten how to write the *Wire* Notes he has volunteered to provide the first issue for 95! Actually the windsurf secretaries are in the throes of handing/taking over so it's only fair that I fill in on their behalf!

So to start with a resumé on '94 before we look forward. An excellent year for Corps Windsurfing despite losing the Army Championships Inter Corps event in July – yes the REME regained the trophy with a very strong team, nevertheless we were runners up and intend to contest strongly to take it back in '95! The other Inter Corps event (the Knock-Out Championships) remains to be decided with overall a poor record of sailing by most Corps. The B team were regrettably knocked out in their first round coming up against the REME 'A'! However, the 'A' team have won through to the final having beaten the REME 'B' and RA teams to get there. We currently await the outcome of the second semi-finals between the 'A' teams of the REME and RLC. As we currently already hold this title from '93, if we remain unchallenged then the title will stay with R Signals. Service-wise we boast several individual titles with the following notable achievements:

Army Lightweight Champion and Army Formula 42 Champion	**Sgt Norman Finnegan**
Army Novice Champion	**Maj Peter Bowles**
Army Veteran Champion and Joint Services Senior Champion	**Maj Dave Gilchrist**
Joint Services Novice Champion	**Sig Robbo Roberts**

A good Corps event was held at Weymouth in October with 34 individuals competing including an excellent entry of 11 windsurfers from ARRC, UKSC(G) and AFCENT units.

Our good individual showing was certainly helped by having some new Corps equipment. We are now the proud owners of 8 sets of Mistral Equipe II boards each complete with Demon 7.5 and 6.0m race rigs. If you are interested in leasing any of this equipment for the '95 season and you are *committed* to racing then make sure you read the 95 newsletter which should be with you or your unit windsurf rep by the time you read this. Otherwise full details of the pre-requisites and the application procedure can be obtained from either the Rear Commodore or Secretary.

Most of this years achievements have been largely due to the efforts of our retiring secretary, **Maj Paul Cross**, who took up the cudgels for one year and has had a very busy time of it! On behalf of all Corps Windsurfers I would like to thank **Maj Cross** and pay tribut to his sterling efforts. By way of recognition the club executive committee has awarded to **Maj Cross** the Royal Signals Yacht Club Bolitho Prize for 1994. The award is given to the member making the greatest contribution during the year to further the object of the club i.e. to encourage sailing amongst all ranks of the Corps. Additionally Corps Windsurfers also received the following awards:

Sgt Norman Finnegan the Meiktila Cup for the best racing record of the year. The award embraces all Corps Offshore, Dinghy, Dayboat sailors as well as windsurfers.

Jon Coleman the Admirals Bowl as the most promising serving member under 25 years of age. Again this award is open to all sailing disciplines.

The award of all 3 of the prestigious Royal Signals Yacht Club prizes to windsurfers marks a memorable milestone in the history of our sport and yet another 'first'. Well done to all three worthy recipients.

The incoming secretary is **Lt Mark Wadsley** of 237 Sig Sqn who is 'welcomed aboard' and is already striving to maintain the '94 momentum! The known *provisional* dates for the '95 season are as follows:

Corps UK Championships	17-19 May
Army Championships	13-15 July
Jt Services Championships	29-30 July
Corps Wide Championships	13-15 September

The Corps and Army events are again planned to be sailed at Weymouth with the Joint Services venue yet to be decided. The RN are organising this years event so a South Coast Venue is highly likely!

Good windsurfing in 1995.

SPORT

SKIING

ROYAL SIGNALS ALPINE SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS
KAPRUN, AUSTRIA
By Capt Metcalfe

The fifth Royal Signals Alpine Ski camp and championships was held in Kaprun, Austria from 12 to 16 December 1994. The event, organised by officials primarily from 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, was well attended, with 43 racers representing six Royal Signals units and the Army Ladies team.

On Monday 12 December the Individual Giant Slalom took place on a very hard and icy piste. Although the sky was clear and the sun was shining, the winds were taking their toll, picking up ice particles and flinging them around the slope. At times, visibility was down to ten metres and the racers were finding the course by guesswork as well as technique. At the end of the first run **LCpl Ted Page** off 14 Sig Regt (EW) was leading by three tenths of a second, with **LCpl** 'Chalkie' **White** of 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in second place. Close behind was **Sig Tony Orange** of 7 Sig Regt. During the second run, **LCpl White** set a safe but fast time, consequently winning the race; unfortunately **LCpl Page** caught an edge and was pushed down the leader board. **Sig Orange**, competing in his third championships, was overtaken by **Sgt** 'Robbo' **Robinson** of 215 Sig Sqn who took the honours for second place.

Tuesday 13 December was the day for the Team Giant Slalom and again the weather played a massive part. All lifts except the cable-car to the top of the glacier were closed which meant that the competitors had to take their skis off and walk back up to the top of the course each time they skied down. After a late start it was obvious that the event would have to rely on one run only, rather than the two runs normally raced. The racers shot down an icy slope, with **Sig Tony Orange** and **Cpl** 'Cappo' **Carpenter** setting fast times for 7 Sig Regt. Chasing the tails of their skis were **LCpl Ted Page** and **Sgt Guy Roberts** of 14 Sig Regt (EW) and **Sig Tim Barker** and **Sgt** 'Robbo' **Robinson** of 215 Sig Sqn. However, setting slightly slower times were **Sig Tim Borrie**, **Sgt Karl Bruce** and **Sgt Paul Culleton** of 200 Sig Sqn. In the end, the results were tight, with 7 Sig Regt beating 14 Sig Regt (EW) by only 14 race points, and 200 Sig Sqn coming third, putting 215 Sig Sqn into fourth place by a ski-tip's 0.01 of a race point, representing one thousandth of a second!

The weather took a turn for the worse on Wednesday's Individual Slalom race, but the committee, headed by **Maj John Dakin**, persevered under extremely bad conditions to complete one run. By the end of this run everyone was so cold that the Chief of Race, **SSgt Phil Philemon**, decided that the second run had to be cancelled and the results would be based on the one run. The favourite, **LCpl** 'Chalkie' **White**, caught a tip, leaving the way open for several others to jump in. **LCpl Ted Page** skied a perfect safe run, beating **Sig Tony Orange** by a mere seven tenths of a second to take the honours. **Sig Emma Fleming** from 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, on a high from her selection for the Army Ladies team, took the ladies prize, just as in the Giant Slalom, and **Sig Jo Freeman**, also from 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, pushed **OCdt Vicky Jacques** from 2 Sig Regt into third place.

The committee were praying for better weather, and someone must have listened, because Thursday brought sunny, still, but cold conditions. The team slalom race was run in almost perfect conditions and could not have been closer. Again, it was a contest between 14 Sig Regt (EW) and 7 Sig Regt. At the end of the first run 7 Sig Regt was leading by half a second and as the competitors lined up for the second run the tension was high. **LCpl Page**, **Sgt Roberts** and **Sgt Tim Stevens** all skied well on a very tight course to take the prize from the grasp of **Sig Orange**, **Cpl Carpenter** and **Lt Simon Glover** of 7 Sig Regt, who ended up in second place ahead of 200 Sig Sqn.

The prizegiving took place on Friday evening, with **Risto Mekic**, a former Yugoslavian International racer presenting the prizes. Thanks were given to the main organiser of the event, **SSgt Phil Philemon**, who was presented with a plaque for his outstanding contribution to Corps skiing. Thanks were also given to the remaining members of the committee, **Maj John Dakin**, **SSgt Andy Brown**, **Sgt John Driver**, **Cpl Dean MacKenzie** and **Cpl Carl Crofts** for their efforts during the week.

The final results were as follows:

Team Combined Champions	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Team Runners-up	7 Sig Regt
Individual Champion	**Sig Orange** 7 Sig Regt
Individual Runner-up	**Sgt Robinson** 215 Sig Sqn
Ladies Champion	**Sig Fleming** 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Novice Champion	**Sig Adams** 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt



Sig Shaun Adams of 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt on his way to winning the Novice Champion Trophy



Sgt 'Robbo' Robinson flying down the Giant Slalom course



Sig Tony Orange tackling the slalom



LCpl Ted Page on his way to winning the slalom

ROYAL SIGNALS ALPINE SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

OPEN TO ANY ROYAL SIGNALS UNIT AND INDIVIDUALS INCLUDING TA

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

President: The Master of Signals

Chairman and Treasurer: Major General P. D. Alexander CB MBE

Vice Chairmen: Brig C. T. Garton Area 1; To be appointed Area 3;
Brig T. H. Wheawell Area 4; Brig A. M. Willcox Area 5; Brig G. J. Curl CBE DL Wales

General Secretary: Colonel A. N. de Bretton-Gordon — **Assistant General Secretary: Major G. Schofield MBE**
Welfare Secretary: Mrs P. J. Haw — **Administrative Officer: Mr. R. H. Whittle**

Association Office, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Tel Military System: London District 8424. STD 071 414 8424 Welfare Secretary (direct line) 071 630 0801. All contributions for *The Wire* should be addressed to the Editor and any queries referred to him on extensions 8428 or 8433.

The Association communicates with its branches and individual members through the pages of The Wire, *which contains accounts of Branch affairs as well as a forecast of Association events.*

Branch Secretaries are asked to check that their Branch members receive sufficient copies of The Wire. *Association HQ can arrange for copies to be delivered in bulk to Branch Secretaries for further distribution if this is convenient: it helps us save on postage.*

Dates of Branch events can always be published in The Wire *and should be submitted to the Editor. We also welcome letters, requests to contact old comrades and announcements of births, marriages and deaths. We hope that each Branch will contribute a short account of its activities, preferably with photographs, at least once a year.*

THE LATE BRIGADIER M. R. TOPPLE CBE

Members of the Association will have been saddened to hear of the death of **Brigadier Micky Topple** in early January, aged 60. **Brigadier Topple** was a lively and active Association member, both in East Anglia, where he was area Vice Chairman, and nationally. He had been a member of the Association Central Committee for the past two and a half years and was much involved in the planning of the Corps' 75th Anniversary celebrations. His enthusiastic contribution will be much missed.

An obituary of **Brigadier Topple** will appear in the Journal of the Royal Signals Institution. The Association was well represented at the funeral, not only by the Chairman but also by many Branch Members. In sending sympathy to **Mrs Topple** and the family, the Association is particularly grateful for the donations to the Association in lieu of flowers.

BATH BRANCH

The Branch held its Annual Luncheon in October, at the Sergeants' Mess, 21 Sig Regt (AS) at Colerne.

Our Guests of Honour were the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE DL** and **Mrs Birtwistle** a signal honour. The Master of Signals gave an interesting account of what the Corps is doing these days. He also presented our Standard Bearer, **Mr Tom Evans**, with a photograph of himself bearing the Standard at the Last Catterick Reunion.

Also present as guests were **Mrs Lynam**, wife of **Lt Col D. A. Lynam** MBE, CO 21 Sig Regt (AS) and **WO1 (RSM) G. J. Baldrey**.

The photographs show the Master with his wife, **Sylvia and Mrs Vivien Everett**, wife of **Maj J. F. Everett MBE TD**, President of the Bath Branch, who can be seen introducing the Master of Signals to everyone present.

Since the luncheon we have paraded our Standard at the Remembrance Sunday Parade, at the War Memorial in Bath, where a contingent from 21 Sig Regt (AS) also attended.



BRIGHTON BRANCH

Our last meeting was very successful with an excellent talk and video on the St John's Ambulance Brigade by **Steven White**. Our thanks to **Steve**, part of the raffle proceeds were donated to the Goring Branch funds where he works very hard to keep the small unit working. Our thanks to **Brian** for the food and to **John** for running the raffle; special thanks must go to **Trudie** for volunteering to run the bar in the absence of 884 Sig Tp who were being put through their paces by **Brian Eason** on the ranges. It was very good to see one of our newer members at the meeting **Iris Young** and her daughter and to welcome another new member from Worthing, **Bill Weatherley MM**. Welcome to you both. The 50 club was won by **Carol Vardy** (just reward). Well done **Carol**, no doubt you will put it to good use.

A big thank you to the branch members and guests for supporting us last year.

CATTERICK BRANCH

The Branch held its 500th recorded monthly meeting on Friday 9 December in the Sergeants' Mess of 19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209).

The meeting took the form of a Dinner and Dance and was supported by 100 members and their guests. Our PEC **Stan Perkins** and his small committee of **John Hamilton** and **Paddy Barlett** once again provided an excellent meal and raffle. Well done!

The Branch first started in the late 40s when ex-members of the Corps met on the 3rd Friday of the month in Sergeants' Messes within the Garrison. We still have five of the original members in the Branch, one of whom, **Bill Ward**, is also a Founder Member of the Corps and still going strong.

Sadly, we said farewell to our President **Lt Col M. J. Dent MBE** and **Sheila** on posting and some members who leave us for Blandford. We wish them all God Speed.

The Chairman, **Maj Bill Barnes** made a presentation to the Senior Warrant Officer of Rear Details 19 Bde of a Port Bell and two prints of Gulf Images on behalf of the Branch for display in the Sergeants' Mess. The Brigade are currently deployed in Bosnia and we wish them a safe return and our thanks for providing a new home for our meetings in a 'Signals' orientated Mess.



Chairman, Maj Bill Barnes presents prints of Gulf images to WO1 'Nobby' Clark

EAST KENT BRANCH

In October 1994 about 30 members visited the late Sir Winston Churchill's House at Chartwell, near Westerham, Kent and after a buffet lunch had an enjoyable tour of the house and gardens.

The Canterbury Cathedral Remembrance Day Parade and service saw more than 50 of our members present and afterwards gathered in Slatters Hotel for lunch. 11 December 1994 was the date of our Christmas lunch which was held at The Westgate Hall. Our Guest of Honour was Chairman of Kent County Council, **Mr John Purchase** and his charming wife **Ann**. **Mr John Purchase** presented **Maj Bill Brewin** with his 50 year Badge. There was an excellent raffle with wonderful prizes organised by **Mrs Edith Thomas** and assisted by **Mrs Bernadette Cooper**. Our thanks to to **Mrs Doreen Allison** who made and donated a collectable doll, it was French Reproduction Uno. Members chose a name for the doll as a separate prize.

GLASGOW BRANCH

A party of members of the branch enjoyed a visit to the Edinburgh Tattoo where the Royal Signals were responsible for all the communication equipment being used during the event.

The social committee ran a race night and achieved some success in raising funds towards the cost of hiring a bus to take members to Blandford for the Association Reunion in 1995.

The CO of 32 Sig Regt (V), **Lt Col I. O. Robertson** and **WO1 (RSM) G. Reith** have intimated that they will support the branch as their predecessors did. **Lt Col Robertson** kindly invited branch members to visit the camp at Cultybraggan to witness the Regiment on exercises. 16 members attended.



Ready for anything?
Branch members visit 32 Sig Regt (V) on exercise

The weather was reasonably good and the setting of the camp in a valley surrounded by heather-clad hills was a wonderful scenic view. The RSM escorted us to various points during the exercise (by mini-bus, of course, due to our ages). The association members were treated like royalty.

Some members had a go at erecting the telescopic mast in a field with a reasonable degree of success. We were shown the latest rifle but due to MOD regulations were not allowed to fire it. Lunch and an evening meal were laid on and we were entertained in the Sergeants' Mess until late in the evening.

The Hon Col, **Lt Col A. S. Petrie OStJ TD JP Lt Col Robertson** and **RSM Reith** joined branch members in the evening. Our thanks to all the members of 32 Sig Regt (V) for a marvellous day's outing.

32 members attended the Armistice Parade in George Square, Glasgow, marching behind the Branch Standard. Afterwards the members returned to 32 Sig Regt (V) HQ and marched into barracks behind the Regiment, remaining on parade whilst the Hon Col presented certificates and medals to members of the Regiment. Branch members were entertained to lunch prepared by **WO2 David Fraser** and his staff.

The St Andrew's annual ball was attended by 80 members, their families and friends. **Maj Gen A. A. Anderson CB**, Hon President of the Branch, attended with Mrs Anderson. The loyal toast was given by **Jim Prentice**, an association member and, the toast to the Royal Signals Association (Glasgow Branch) was given by **RSM (WO1) G. Reith**, representing the Regiment.

The meal and the band were excellent. Everyone enjoyed a very good time. Thanks must be passed to the organising committee for its work in arranging a splendid evening, and to the Regiment for allowing the use of the facilities of HQ.

Branch members send congratulations and best wishes to **Maj Fiona Farquharson** of 32 Sig Regt (V) who married **Maj Allan Downie** on Saturday 26 November in Aberdeen.

The final event was the Christmas Draw.

GUERNSEY BRANCH

Len Barbe has received a badge and certificate signifying Honour Membership of the Corps.

He served for six years in India before entering the Burma campaign and, after repatriation, fought at Nijmegen and the Rhine crossing.

He is one of the founder members of Guernsey Royal Signals Association and is currently its secretary. For many years he has carried or escorted our standard on ceremonial parades and represented the Branch at gatherings in the UK.

He has also been a member of the Indian Signals Association for 12 years.

Len joined the Army in 1937 at the age of 19.

The presentation was made by **Sidney Jones**, Social Secretary of Guernsey Royal Signals Association at the Branch's Christmas function held at La Favorita Hotel.

NEWCASTLE BRANCH

On 8 December our president, **Capt John Hughes**, was awarded his 50 Year Badge by our Treasurer **Mrs Irene Little**. **Irene** and **John** served together during those early days of 'Chariots and Semaphor', so we thought it more appropriate that **Irene** should do the honours.

I must point out however that despite the look on **John**'s face, he is not the Northerner who scooped the £18m on the National Lottery, but I do think that our caption should read, 'Happiness is a 50 year Badge.'

John was not the only one smiling that evening, it was also our annual party at which a great time was had by all. **John** is our fourth member to receive this award and we at Newcastle Branch are very proud of him and our other '50 year Badgers'.



Happiness is a 50-year Badge–John Hughes receiving his on 8 December 1994

READING BRANCH

The Branch has had a busy Autumn session following the barbecue held at the Chairman's home in August. In September we held our traditional 'Bring & Buy' Evening, which was combined with Cheese and Wine refreshments. The highlight of October was our 24th Annual Reunion Dinner which was again well supported and highly successful. Our Branch President **Maj Gen W. T. Macfarlane CB** presided and our Guests of Honour were **Maj Gen Sir John Anderson KBE** and **Lady Anderson**, **Brig** and **Mrs Martin Roberts** and **Col** and **Mrs A. N. de Bretton-Gordon**. We were pleased to have representatives from six other Branches at the Dinner and, together with our own, no less than seven Branch Standards were displayed behind the top table. In November we were represented at the opening of the Field of Remembrance at Westminster and participated, on Remembrance Sunday, in the Remembrance Parade of 94 (Berks Yeo) Sig Sqn at Windsor, where our Branch Poppy Wreath was laid. We held a successful Christmas Buffet evening on 1 December, when we welcomed **Hugh Saunders** (a 254 'boy') as a new member, and the Branch was represented, as usual, at the Corps Carol Service. 1994 has been a very busy year for the Branch, especially in view of our involvement in the D-Day 50th Anniversary Commemorations and the very successful 'OWK Reunion' we organised at Windsor in June. We are now looking forward to a busy 1995 which the various anniversaries and trips this year promise to produce.

TORBAY BRANCH

Small, but extremely enthusiastic, is the membership of the Torbay Branch, entering into the sombre spirit of Remembrance events, such as the Festival of Remembrance at the Festival Theatre, Paignton, on 11 November (which emulates, in a very restricted manner, the Royal Albert Hall), with many local standards taking the stage to the music of the Royal Marines, a concert, and a grand Remembrance Service, culminating in thousands of poppy petals falling to the stage; an impressive, colourful tribute, all provided by the local branches of the Royal British Legion! Together with poppy selling in supermarkets and towns, Remembrance Marches and Services at Torquay (am) and Paignton (pm) on the 13th, and a British Limbless Ex-Servicemans Association (BLESMA) Service on the 20th at Collaton St Mary (Paignton) the Branch acquitted itself commendably, with the Standard present on all relevant occasions, none more smartly carried than **Benny Goodman**.

We've had fun, too, with 'get together' evening dinners with wives and sweethearts, an evening quiz at the Torquay RAFA Club (least said, soonest mended!) and extremely convivial monthly Branch Meetings, all friends as well as comrades, sober as Scouts ad Linemen!!

YORK BRANCH

Christmas comes but one a year as indeed does the Branch Annual Dinner–but 1994 was very special. On 25 November, by kind invitation of the RSM of 2 Sig Regt (**WO1 D. J. Whiting**) our dinner was held at the Sergeants' Mess. Our warmly-welcomed Guest of Honour was the **Master of Signals** accompanied by **Mrs Birtwistle**. Our other guests were Area 1 Vice-Chairman, **Brig C. T. Garton** and **Mrs Garton**, the CO of 2 Sig Regt, **Lt Col A. D. Forster** and **Mrs Forster, WO1 (RSM) D. J. Whiting** and **Mrs Whiting** and **SSgt W. M. Garn** and **Mrs Garn** (**SSgt Garn** earns our grateful thanks for being the Liaison Officer between the Branch and the Regiment).

With a bright log fire burning, the initial form-up in the ante-room (with aperitifs) got the evening off to a good start. The Branch Officers and their Ladies were presented by our President, **Lt Col (Retd) Ralph Plant**. The Master then circulated, in his inimitable style, to the delight of our Members. Dinner was announced at 2000 hrs and a splendid 'banquet' was served and enjoyed by all. Our President proposed the Toast 'Our Guests' to which the Master responded, providing us with an up-to-date résumé of changes in the Corps and current policy. At this stage the opportunity was taken to invite our Guest of Honour to present 50 year RSA Badges to our Chairman, **John Varlow** and our Secretary, **Tony Leavesley**.

One of our more recently joined members, **Tony Spray** undertook the pleasant duty of presenting bouquets to **Mrs Birtwistle** and our President's wife, **Rowena Plant**.

A most enjoyable and well attended evening concluded with the departure of our honoured Guests to whom we are most grateful for sparing their time. We also thank **SSgt Garn** for his timely assistance with the Dinner arrangements (which naturally had to be perfect plus for this occasion!). Tempus Fugit–the previous visit by **Maj Gen Birtwistle** to York Branch was as SOinC in 1982.

During the last year the Branch membership has happily taken a turn for the better with several new and younger members attending to reinforce the dwindling ranks of the 'Old and Bold'. Our meetings are held in the Sergeants' Mess, Imphal Barracks, York at 8pm on the last Wednesday of each month. We much appreciate this privilege and the hospitality offered.

One of the historical events remembered in York in 1994 was the 350th anniversary of the Siege of York. The Royalist city finally yielded to the Parliamentary forces, the latter having triumphed at the Battle of Marston Moor–the struggle today is more concerned with finding somewhere to park . . .



ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during November 1994

In memory of Sgt J. H. A. (Boots) Potter	£192.00
Mr L. Shanley	£25.00
Lt Col (Retd) A. Powys-Libbe TD	£20.00
Mr J. Cumming	£10.00
Capt (Retd) K. R. Canning	£10.00
Mrs J. L. Power	£10.00
Mrs F. E. Stagg	£10.00
Maj (Retd) J. Wilderspin BEM	£10.00
56 Div OCA Despatch Riders Motorcycle Display Team	£10.00
In memory of Lt Col Fenton	£5.00
Mr G. A. Jenkins	£3.00
Anonymous	£55.75
	£360.75

The following donations were gratefully received during December 1994

8th Signal Regiment	£490.58
42 Signal Regiment Officers' Club	£157.00
Anonymous	£50.00
East Kent RSA	£50.00
Maj (Retd) G. G. Stockwell CBE	£30.00
Mr R. N. Hutchins	£25.00
Mrs E. M. Way	£25.00
Mrs J. Greenstreet	£20.00
In memory of WO1 (RSM) R. Neve	£20.00
East London Branch RSA	£15.00
Mrs P. Barnett	£5.00
Mr D. N. Nicklin	£3.00
	£890.58

REUNIONS

1 AIRBORNE DIVISION SIGNALS OCA REUNION WEEKEND

The reunion, at Caythorpe, will take place over the weekend 2/3 September 1995. Those wishing to attend are asked to notify Rural Business Centre (Facilities) Ltd, Caythorpe, Grantham, Lincs NG32 3EP and enclose a cheque for £5, as deposit, by 30 March 1995; outstanding amount to be settled by 30 June 1995. Cheques to be made in favour of address given.

Members please state surname/section, Christian name and full address. Also Christian and surname of partner or friend attending. Advise whether single or double accommodation is required and whether ground floor accommodation is essential.

Rates: B&B: £15.75 per person, per night. Dinner £4.20 per person. Reunion Dinner £10.50 per person. Sunday lunch £6.30 per person. Sunday Buffet £2.10 per person.

Note: You may bring your own wine or purchase direct from RBC Ltd.

Any contribution you may wish to make to OCA Fund can be included in your cheque.

Any requests for additional accommodation to be made to: **Sara Peck** 0400 272521.

CEYLON H/S W/T REUNION

Another splendid evening was enjoyed at The Belmont House Hotel on Friday 28 October 1994, which marked our sixth reunion.

Eighty-four people attended this year's 'do' with **Maj Gen John Badcock** and his wife **Gillian** our chief guests. Splendid food (a buffet dinner), good company and dancing completed the evening.

The Belmont Hotel has such a reputation in this area that we have to reserve our dates 12 months in advance, this year's date provisionally reserved, therefore, is Friday 27 October.

Last year as previously reported in *The Wire* we found two or three lost survivors, in fact one of the station 'founders' surfaced about three days before the event and managed to obtain a room at the Belmont for staying overnight. **Ken Selmes** now well into his 70's enjoyed it so much that he is looking forward to bringing his wife this year, so, there are still some of the 'Old 'uns' left . . . we shall take steps to find a few more next year . . . DV.

Please write to **Harry Moore**, 1 Blue Granite Park, The Green, Mountsorrel, Leics LE12 7AG or telephone 01162 375423.

DESPATCH RIDERS & O.C.A. 56 LONDON DIV. SIGNALS

The annual dinner-dance will be held at the Lonsdowne Hotel, King Edwards Parade, Eastbourne, on Saturday 1st April 1995. All enquiries to:- **James Law**, 1 Vincent Close, Langney Point, Eastbourne, E. Sussex. Tel: 0323 730803.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION 1995 75th ANNIVERSARY REUNION

At the last Annual General Meeting, members of the Association were told that the 1995 Reunion, marking the 75th Anniversary of the Corps and the first year we were unable to hold a reunion in Catterick, would be a major, two-day reunion in Blandford.

The fulfilment of this plan depended on progress with the new building project at Blandford, which would provide the necessary accommodation to allow the reunion to take place.

Alas, for reasons beyond the Corps' control, this progress has not been made, and it is now clear that at the time earmarked for the Reunion (and other major 75th Anniversary celebrations) enough accommodation will not be available either in the messes or barrack rooms. Nor will the Corps Memorial be ready in its new site, after its move from Catterick.

It has therefore been decided, with great reluctance, that the 1995 Reunion will be restricted to a single day, Sunday, 9 July.

The detailed programme will be circulated in due course, through Branches. Our Colonel in Chief plans to be present.

Because the day's programme will be crowded, it will be difficult to fit in the Annual General Meeting, which we are legally required to hold. It is therefore intended to hold the Annual General Meeting at The Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea on Saturday 8 April, the date earmarked for the Branch Representatives Meeting. Full instructions will be sent to Branches shortly. It is proposed to pay the travelling expenses for one member per Branch as usual, but clearly the meeting will be open to all Association members.

The Reunion at Blandford in July will depend largely on the hiring of marquees, as this is the only way in which we can cater for the expected numbers at lunchtime. It should be possible to provide some rather spartan accommodation for limited numbers of Association members who need to stay overnight, within Blandford Camp. Every assistance will be given to members seeking bed and breakfast accommodation in the local area.

It is realised that this limited Reunion will be a great disappointment particularly to those members in the North who are well beyond the travelling limit for a one-day trip. Sadly, unplanned limitations have forced the changes on us. Everyone at Association Headquarters is determined to make the Reunion a great success despite the limitations.

Produced by the Publishers, THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD (Telephone London District Mil ext 8428 STD 0171-414 8428)
Printed in Great Britain by Holbrooks Printers Ltd, Norway Road, Hilsea, Portsmouth, Hants PO3 5HX.
For advertising rates apply to: Combined Service Publications Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR (Telephone 01252 515891)



THE Wire

April 1995



The Royal Corps of Signals 75th Anniversary

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The Royal Signals Magazine

April 1995 Vol. 49 No: 2

The Wire

All correspondence and matter for publication in **The Wire** should be addressed to **The Editor, The Wire,** RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD
Tel No: London District Ext 8428 and 8433
STD 0171-414 8428 and 8433
Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of February, April, June, August, October and 10th December for publication six weeks later.

All enquiries regarding subscriptions/despatch should be made to ext: 8426

Subscription rates 1995 (Bi-monthly) (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, and Dec). Individual: Yearly **£9.00;** Bi-monthly **£1.50.**

Remittances should be made payable to Royal Signals Corps Fund

Editor Lt Col M. Q. M. Greaves
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

The Wire **is a member of the Association of Service Newspapers**

THE WIRE
AUGUST 1995

This issue will be published during the second half of August 1995

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Our Front Cover picture shows Maj R. A. Bagnold, Royal Signals, (later Brig R. A. Bagnold OBE FRS) with Capt Craig, RE, and Lt D. W. R. Burridge (later Brig D. W. R. Burridge CBE) during their expedition into the Egyptian Desert and the Libyan Sand Sea 1929. The unique knowledge gained during the expedition was invaluable when Brig Bagnold established the Long Range Desert Group in 1940.
The photograph is reproduced by courtesy of Mrs D. W. R. Burridge.

Our Back Cover picture is taken from the Corps painting 'Frontier Ambush', by Peter Archer, depicting Sgt P. E. Cook, who was killed during the action, assisting the wounded driver whilst Sig Punter opens fire on the attacking tribesmen. The action took place during a road opening operation on 18 August 1924 at Gardia, Wazirstan.

The opinions expressed in* The Wire *are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of the Corps or the MOD. This publication contains official information. It should be treated with discretion by the recipient.

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VISIT BY HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ROYAL TO 3RD (UK) DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT

It was a very great honour, in the 75th anniversary year of the Corps, to be granted a visit to the Regiment by our Colonel in Chief, **Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal**. So it was that on 10 February activities in Picton Barracks started somewhat earlier than normal as we put the finishing touches to two months of planning and preparation for the event.

The weather had been unpredictable for the week prior to the visit and we found ourselves making contingencies for all manner of wet weather, non flying programmes; in the event the day followed the original plan.

Her Royal Highness arrived just after 1030 hrs and was met by the **Master of Signals** who presented Comd Comms UKLF; **Brig Adrian Schuler**, the Regimental Secretary **Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon**, the ADC to Her Royal Highness, **2Lt Ben Fitch**, the ADC to the Master, **2Lt Ruth Pilkington** and the CO **Lt Col Ian Foxley**. The CO then presented the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Dave Wilson** before **Her Royal Highness** presented LS & GC Medals to five recipients including **WO1 (ASM) Peters** REME **SSgt Vince Kimber**, **SSgt Brian Reid**, **Sgt Derek Bright** and **Sgt D. King** RLC. After meeting the wives of the medal recipients, **Her Royal Highness** was presented with a posy by **Miss Jessica Foxley** and then took the opportunity to talk to the children of the Regiment who had been given time off school for this special day.



Lt Col Foxley, 2Lt Pilkington, 2Lt Fitch, Col De Bretton-Gordon and Brig Schuler, HRH, the Master



Medal Recipients: Sgt Bright, SSgt Reid, SSgt Kimber and WO1 (ASM) Peters

Photo: Courtesy of Soldier Magazine

Her Royal Highness then moved to RHQ where the 2IC, **Maj Jim Dryburgh** was presented. **Her Royal Highness** signed the visitors book, before receiving a short presentation from the Ops team, led by **Capt Mark Billingham**, on the re-roling of the Regiment on its return from Germany. Also present were the Traffic Officer, **Maj David Gilchrist**, the TOT **Capt Tony Sarginson**, the Regimental Foreman, **WO1 (FofS) Lee Wookey** and the Regimental Yeoman, **WO1 (YofS) Sam MacElreavy**.

It was now time to begin meeting soldiers and **Her Royal Highness** started with HQ Squadron where the Sqn Comd, **Maj John Hornby** was presented along with the Families Officers, **Capt Wally Drain**, the RAO, **Maj Chris Mears** and the SSM, **SSgt** 'Dusty' **Miller**. **Her Royal Highness** then toured the offices and met: **WO1 Mick McGrath**, **Sgt Justin Jackman**, **Sgt Grace Edwards**, **Cpl John Welsh**, **LCpl Sarah Danks**, **LCpl John Cameron** and **Pte Steve McLean**.

Next on the itinerary was a tour of the new build in Wing Barracks. This began with the new LAD where **Capt Dave Dutson** and **WO1 (ASM) Steve Milner** were presented. **Her Royal Highness** then met both military and civilian tradesmen engaged in their duties; these included: **LCpl** 'Daz' **Mordecai** (202 Sig Sqn), **Mr Damien Midgley**, **LCpl Dave Fisher** and **LCpl Mark Russell**.



LAD: LCpl Mordecai, Mr Midgley, LCpl Fisher and LCpl Russell

On the way to meet 222 Sig Sqn, in its new garages, **Her Royal Highness** stopped to talk to an ERV team on Wing Square and met: **SSgt (FofS) Adrian Woodley**, **Sig** 'T' **Tailford**, **Cpl Chris Downes**, **LCpl Barry Lawes**, **Sig Alex Burnham**, **Cpl Paul Jagger** and **Cpl Adrian Wardsall**.

On arrival at the new garage build **Maj John Stuart** and **WO2 (SSM)** 'Strings' **Stringer** were presented to **Her Royal Highness** who then walked around the Squadron areas, meeting the soldiers of Oman Tp including **SSgt** 'Taff' **Rideout**, **Cpl Andy Vause**, **LCpl Stewart Cox**, **Sig Chris Pugh** and **Sig Mark Taylor**.

On completion of the tour the CO invited **Her Royal Highness** to open the new build and a plaque was unveiled to mark the occasion. **Maj Mick Besant**, QM (T) and **Maj John Lambie** RGBWR, QM (A), who had been the Regimental Project Officer for the new build, were both presented.



Maj Besant, Maj Lambie, HRH and CO

Her Royal Highness was then invited to be photographed with the Officers and Senior Ranks of the Regiment, after which the new Corps painting 'Swiftly Ashore' was unveiled and the artist **Mr Peter Archer** was presented. The new Corps painting depicts the 3rd Inf Div Sig Regt coming ashore at Queen Beach, La Breche on 6 June 1944; D Day. A number of veterans from the 3rd Division Signals Reunion Association were present. One of the veterans **Col (Retd) Peter Hoskins**, who was the Adjutant of the Regiment on D Day and who had been technical adviser to **Mr Archer**, was presented to **Her Royal Highness**. **The Princess Royal** then spent some time talking to the veterans before taking lunch with an all ranks representation in the Normandy Mess.



Col (Retd) Hoskins, Peter Archer and HRH



Lunch: Mrs Dryburgh, Maj Dryburgh, HRH and CO



Lunch: Mrs Sweeney, WO2 (SSM) Stringer, Mrs Huzzey, SSgt Huzzey and HRH

Following lunch the Royal Party donned wet weather gear and moved to old Carter Barracks, the home of the Regiment prior to their move to BAOR in 1977. Carter Barracks now consists of a tarmac square surrounded by the old hutted camp road system. It was the perfect location to show **Her Royal Highness** a number of field demonstrations commencing with a snap VCP and rural patrol by 257 Sig Sqn who are currently training for an operational tour in Northern Ireland. On arrival at the 257 Sig Sqn stand the Sqn Comd **Maj Simon Leigh** and the SSM **WO2 (SSM) Kev Jones** explained what was happening and **Her Royal Highness** took the opportunity to talk to the soldiers following the demonstration including the team commander, **Cpl Roger Doak**, **LCpl Scott Day** and **Sig Steve Bryant**.



CO, HRH, LCpl Evans, Sig Ward, LCpl Belcher

Photo: Courtesy Soldier Magazine

Her Royal Highness was then shown the range of Headquarters which we are capable of deploying from within the Regiment. This included the Light 'Fly Forward' HQ, through to the Wheeled and armoured Main HQs. This provided an opportunity for **Her Royal Highness** to meet the personalities from 202 Sig Sqn. In the Light HQ the ADC to The Master, **2Lt Ruth Pilkington**, stepped forward and assumed her role as Bussaco Tp Comd to brief **Her Royal Highness** who met **LCpl Sam Moger**, **Sig Billy King**, **Cpl** 'Odds' **O'Dell**, **LCpl Dean Royle**, **Sig Jim Stewart**, **Sig Nadine Hayles** and **LCpl Barry Park**.

Her Royal Highness was greeted at the first of the 202 Sig Sqn stands by the Sqn Comd **Maj Ian Westerman** and by the **SSM WO2 (SSM) Trev Keates** who received personal congratulations from **Her Royal Highness** on his selection for promotion to WO1 and his appointment as RSM 1 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt. At the radio village **Her Royal Highness** met **SSgt Steve Mathews**, **Cpl Sid Gawthorpe**, **LCpl Tiny Purcell** and **Sig Dee Edmonds**. **Her Royal Highness** was then invited to look at the Wheeled HQ which for the purpose of the demonstration was based on 'the blow up doll' trial tent. **Capt Ian Blower** delivered an eloquent explanation of the wheeled concept and then **Her Royal Highness** met **Cpl** 'Bromers' **Bromley**, the NCO IC puncture repair, **WO2 (FofS) Dave Ball**, **Sig Ronnie Ronald** and **LCpl Donna Kane**.

The party then moved to the Armoured HQ where the 206 Sig Sqn Comd **Maj Mike Rough** and his SSM **WO2 (SSM) Paul Sixsmith** conducted **Her Royal Highness** on a tour of the complex where she met **SSgt Geoff Hodgson** the complex SNCO. He was delighted to receive **Her Royal Highness**'s personal congratulations on his selection for promotion to WO2. **Her Royal Highness** then met all members of Overloon Tp including the newest and youngest member of the Troop **Sig** 'Daz' **Roughneen**. Also on parade was **2Lt Jason Hazlewood** whose unconventional greeting was spotted by the CO and cost some champagne in the Mess later. **LCpl Phil Burton** was the complex guard and the Complex 2IC **Cpl Andy Buckle** was presented along with **Capt Sarah Billingham** who was able to relate some of her recent experiences in Rwanda.

Following the field demonstrations the Regiment gathered to deliver three rousing cheers for our Colonel in Chief led by the RSM. **Her Royal Highness** then departed, by Queen's Flight helicopter from Carter Barracks Square. The soldiers celebrated the success of the visit with a long weekend while the Officers and Seniors retired to their respective messes to celebrate with a Ladies Guest Night.

It was a marvellous day which will endure in the memories of both current and past members of the Regiment, for some time to come.

THE MAN FROM THE MINISTRY

(with apologies to all R Signals personnel working in the MoD)
by Major Steve Turnbull SO2 Pers 1b(A), Directorate of Personnel (Army)

What, I hear you say can this character possibly have to say that could be of interest to me? Well what I hope to do over the next few issues of *The Wire*, is give a heads up about what is going on in the Army Personnel world. I will explain a few areas of contention and confusion, highlight some of the good things available to servicemen and what we need to do to make sure we keep them, and without telling any tales or secrets, let you know as far as I can what is going on in the pay world.

The Directorate of Personnel is primarily concerned with policy on all matters to do with pay, allowances, charges and welfare. That is to say making a judgement on matters where the rules leave some doubt. In addition we see our task as defending as strongly as possible the interests of the servicemen when pay, allowances, charges and other matters are being decided.

ARMED FORCES PAY REVIEW BODY

I am sure you have all heard of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB), and many of you will know that it reports annually (the last report was on 9 February this year). The role of this independent body is to recommend changes, increases or whatever to service pay to the Government, who then decide whether or not to accept the recommendations and make an annual pay award. However, I expect many of you don't know about the process behind it all.

THE AFPRB ANNUAL CYCLE

The AFPRB works throughout the year. The process begins each March with a programme of work. This centres on areas of pay which the review body want to examine in their next report.

Evidence. The MoD prepares papers of evidence on each of these pay issues. These papers begin in March and are finally submitted to the AFPRB in September or October of each year. The papers contain evidence on such things as hours of work, disturbance and turbulence and other service related factors which the members of the board may not be familiar with.

Visits. As the papers of evidence are being prepared the members of the AFPRB visit a number of service units or stations. The emphasis is on meeting officers and soldiers on the ground–that means you! The Board sees these visits as a vital part of their annual research and put great store by the feedback they receive, even to the extent of querying MoD papers where the feedback from the ground disputes the line put forward by the MoD. The visits are a vital time, this is the opportunity for you to effect the way the people, who make decisions about your pay think about the Army. The visit programme for 1995 is as follows, does it include you? If so start thinking about what you might want to say!

AFPRB VISIT PROGRAMME 1995

3 May	– Staff College Demonstration
12 May	– MoD London
15-17 May	– Bosnia
2 June	– Brigade of Gurkhas, Pirbright
7 June	– Portsmouth
15 June	– Catterick
18-22 June	– Cyprus
3-4 July	– Northern Ireland
11-13 July	– Germany (1(UK) Armd Div and UKSC(G))
Sept/Oct	– TA visit to major TA exercise

OTHER PERSONNEL MATTERS

HM Forces Railcard. Your existing Forces railcard will require a new validation sticker and new terms and conditions of use booklet for the coming year. The old validation sticker runs out on 31 March 1995 and you have until 30 April to get the new one. After that date if you try to use your railcard, you will be told it is out of date or in the worst case it could be confiscated at the ticket office. So don't delay see your unit Admin Office today!

PS. For all families, plan to use your railcard for that family outing before 29 May 1995 as the new £2 per child flat rate will not be in force before that date!

Many of you will be aware that the Rail Network is due to be privatised in the near future. This means that the Forces Railcard is under threat. Throughout March, April and May the market research company Harris will be undertaking research on behalf of British Rail to discover if the Forces Railcard is worth keeping under the new privatised railway arrangements. This survey will take place in two ways. Firstly, a broad postal survey of service personnel and dependants, and secondly, a series of face to face interviews with service personnel who use the railways. Harris will conduct 450 interviews in 45 Army units countrywide! So in the end it will be up to you. If you receive a postal questionnaire or get called for an interview tell them how important the railcard is to you and how much you use it. It might be the difference between keeping it or losing it!

HM Forces Discount Brochure. The New Forces Discount Brochure was published in February. More about this publication in the next Wire. In the meantime get on to your unit Admin Office and make sure you have your personal copy of the brochure. There are enough for one for every serviceman or woman.

NEW MUSEUM PROJECT
COMMEMORATIVE STONE – THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY

After more than a month of intermittent rain, and a flurry of sleet the previous evening, we were relieved when Thursday, 23 February, dawned bright and clear. Our guests arrived and viewed the skeleton of the new building from the comfort of the Curator's old office. They included representatives from the IT industry, **Mr Andrew Sharpe**, director of Haley Sharpe Designs Ltd and **Mr Ray McIntyre** of McIntyre (Construction) Ltd, the main sub-contractor.

Promptly at 12 noon, a fanfare from four trumpeters heralded the start of the ceremony and the two Masters led the way outside. **Brig John Griffin** welcomed the two Masters and guests and spoke briefly on the manner in which a mutually beneficial relationship has blossomed between the Corps and the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists.

Another fanfare and the two Masters unveiled the commemorative stone, now mounted on a wall which will eventually be inside the entrance to the new wing and beside the doors leading into the new display area. The stone was quarried from the Mendip Hills in 1966 and, for 18 years, formed part of the roundabout at the camp entrance until it was removed last year to make way for the Faith Winter statue which now stands in its place.

Mr Peter R. E. Monson, Master of the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists (1993-94) responded and **Mr Ron Davis** of Allied Telesys Ltd presented a cheque to **Maj Gen Birtwistle, CB, CBE, DL** as a contribution from his company towards the museum project. The Master thanked him and took great pleasure in announcing that he had also received a 'substantial' cheque from **The Princess Royal**, Patron of our Appeal, towards the project.



EXERCISE TOPHAM HATT XI

Despite the busy period of late for most units within the Corps, and a relative lull in the support offered to the Swanage Railway, the first exercise for 18 months was held in November 1994. Ex Topham Hatt 11was a two week exercise for 33 soldiers involving six different units spread across Europe from Londonderry to Osnabruck.

Many members of the Corps will be well aware of the long-standing link with the Swanage Railway, now spanning some 11 years. During 1995 the railway will effectively double its operating line, with the opening of a new extension through Corfe Castle and on to a new Park & Ride station at Norden.

With 4 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (204) sponsoring the exercise and the party being led by **SSgt Frank Roberts**, 11 soldiers deployed from Osnabruck. At Swanage they met parties from 30 Sig Regt and 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (218). A great deal of planning had been provided by staff within the railway, and tasks were either in support of the new railway extension or providing expertise for the operational section of the railway.

On a previous exercise, soldiers from 11 Sig Regt, led by **Sig Steve Nelson**, had blitzed the workshop area used for the repair and maintenance of carriages. The good work had not lasted long, and this time **LCpl Wayne Hunt**, together with **Sigs Jay Witchell**, 'Daz' **Humphrey** and **Steve Harness** were set to work on the 100 year old goods shed with devastating effect.

As this work was continuing, telecom work on the extension was split into two parts. **Cpl Ben Bates** REME, **Sigs Andy Carvin** and **Will McGregor** concentrated on drilling holes ready for the installation of a new telephone pole route (**Sig Carvin** is the one who believes that water runs up-hill!). Minor problems often come to light when undergoing unfamiliar tasks, especially when nearly half a mile's worth of holes are in the wrong place, and have to be done again. All down to experience? Meanwhile **Sgt** 'Rabbs' **Rabbetts**, **Sigs Pat Barber** and **Stu Kelly** were set to prepare the poles which were installed at the end of the first week.

For those who believe the age of line in the Corps has all but gone forever, think again! What was that colour code again please mate? Despite the fact we could never keep track of them, **Cpl Lee Clark** and **Sig Steve Harness** proved to be a valuable team installing new telephone posts on all the crossings up the line. Another strange team were **Sigs** 'Jacko' **Jack**, from 14 Sig Regt (EW), and **Sig Terry Brooke** who were heavily into Dropwire 10, trench digging and 20 pair U/G cable. More to do in April if you can hack it!

Reinforcements came during the second week by way of **Capt Scott Youngson**, from 7 Sig Regt, together with **Sigs Tony Hoyes** and **Rob Jones** who had both done Ex TH 5 and **Sig** 'Robbo' **Robertson**. Set to work at Herston they were able to complete a number of tedious, but important tasks for the Telecom Dept. They also managed to get a few numbers, and of course entertained the Blandford Garrison Commander at their place of work! The railway was extremely pleased to host **Brig J. H. Griffin**, who was met by **Mr Bill Trite**, Chairman of the Southern Steam Trust (Swanage Railway), **Maj Stuart Hodges**, Sqn Comd 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (218) and **SSgt Frank Roberts**. During the morning visit **Brig Griffin** was briefed on the past progress of the project and met most of the participating soldiers. During his rail trip from Swanage to Corfe Castle, he was accommodated on the footplate and accompanied by a crew from Meridian TV, before a photograph session at Corfe with all participating troops.

An ongoing task at Swanage has been to help the Passenger Services Manager **Mr Dave Green** during his plan to instal a miniature railway at Swanage. **LCpl** 'Moz' **Williams** (14 Sig Regt (EW) LAD), **LCpl Steve Kerr** and **Sig Paul Chapman** were busy with fence work, concreting and other associated tasks. Meanwhile **LCpl Si Parkes** returned to cut trees in the same place as he had many years before with a bit of help from **Sigs** 'Smudge' **Smith**, and **Si Hinchcliffe** when he was not dressing up, but that's another story. Perhaps he should have been under the water tower for a soaking instead of the tree spotter!

Talking of tall stories Topham Hatt 11 will go down for a few, down being the operative word. There was the first RTA in 11 years of exercises, thanks **Stu Kelly**, and the first military promotion in the Purbeck Hotel, well done **LCpl Steve Kerr** now at 1 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (215). And how did they do that? **LCpl** and **Mrs Si Parkes** at the first Topham Hatt wedding, we're sorry we couldn't all make it, we had an exercise to go to, but well done **LCpl** 'Windy' **Miller** for witnessing the splendid occasion.

Having endured much hard work and many memorable times, grateful thanks to all those who helped a truly European exercise get off the ground. The many flight and transport arrangements made by **Capt Howard Hughes** can only be described as truly outstanding; his wife has since told us that he really was a spotter as a young boy, which explains a great deal! Much of the logistic support was made available by the CO 11 Sig Regt and his staff including the MTO, **Lt S. Clarke** and members of MT. Their helpful attitude during the RTA was reassuring and most welcome. **WO1 (FofS) Russ Moren** was better at supporting this admin than Christmas Trees, and amongst many other tasks assisted **WO1 Pete Pinch** in providing all our catering needs. Finally, thank you to **Sgt Kev Scott.** at 220 Sig Sqn for his technical advice during the planning phase.



Rummaging in the undergrowth at Swanage *(L to R)* are Sigs 'Jonah' Jones and Matt Knowles, Capt Scott Youngson with Sig 'Robbo' Robertson



Wiring inside the Corfe Castle Exchange *(L to R)* are Sigs Terry Brook and 'Jacko' Jack



A new pole route at Corfe Castle with *(L to R)* Sig Si Hinchcliffe and Sig 'Taff' Rhodes
Photos courtesy of Andrew P. M. Wright

PROJECT ROMANIA

Fifteen members of 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt participated in a humanitarian aid trip to Romania from 21 October-4 November 1994. The trip involved civilianising two DAFs (painted Oxford Blue for a change) in order to deliver aid to the YWCA building in Baia Mare. The building provides accommodation for teenage children who are too old to live in the state orphanages and attend the local college. The aid came in the form of mattresses, paint, cots, chairs and stationery.

The aid did not only go to the YWCA building. Cots were also taken to local hospitals, stationery to the children's orphanage, and clothing to the local gypsy community. The clothes were taken only after **Sig Pete Toms**, now known as Brian, had found himself a new train spotting outfit from the Jumble room; **Cpl Dave Uttley** satisfied his secret perversions parading up and down the corridor in a PVC jacket and second hand underwear; and **Lt Liz Dallyn** was, for once in her lifetime, seen in a dress and matching handbag (unfortunately all photographs and negatives were mysteriously damaged).

A return journey was made during the project whilst a work party stayed in Romania for the duration. One of the vehicles decided it had enough of the trip and broke down on the German/Austrian border but was fortunately repaired in time for the return trip. **Sig Russell** resolved to test the underwater capability of the DAF in the Danube. Unbeknown to him a traffic bollard had been strategically placed for just such an occasion and so the DAF carried on untested. **Sig Yersz** ensured the kitty was made DM300 lighter by damaging a seal on a civilian lorry. The driver insisted on compensation before allowing us to carry on our merry way.

During our time in Baia Mare various maintenance tasks were carried out and visits to the local area made. The gypsies appreciated 'Brians' spotting kit whilst **Sig Chris Letton** got a touch confused as to whether he should stay with the gypsies as part of their brethren, or return with the rest of us to Germany. **LCpl** 'Jurassic' **Stark** became the second oldest man in Romania and **Sgt Bob Inglesant** was close to setting up house and home in Romania as he seemed to know every man and his dog by the end. **LCpl Alan Nottingham** was crowned the local Disco Queen having been caught strutting his stuff at the disco we arranged for the local College. All such events were caught on camera by the ever ready, every watching 'Jerry Telly' care of **Cpl Jerry Marsden** which provided the alternative to **Sgt Bob Inglesant**'s official video.

The trip was a huge success, both in terms of delivering the aid and as an eye-opener for all those who participated. Subsequent trips are planned during 1995. If anyone can offer any help, in terms of vehicle or medical insurance, transport, or financial help, please contact **Lt Dallyn** 208 Sig Sqn or **Mr Tom Pridham**, co-ordinator Project Romania, Tel 05222 31273 as your help would be most appreciated.



The Project Romania Team

DISCOVERY EXPEDITIONS–LAND OF MANY WATERS EXPEDITION, GUYANA, SEPTEMBER 1994

By 2Lt Simon Walker

Last September, 71 (Yeo) Sig Regt sponsored me on an expedition that sought to help a tribe of South American Indians which were only discovered at the turn of the century.

After a plea from the expeditionary company-Discovery Expeditions, run by the well known explorer **Col John Blashford-Snell**, I volunteered to act as radio operator for the team in the remote Upper Mazuruni river area of the Guyana rainforest. The aim of the expedition was to study the lives of the indigenous Akawaio Amerindians, provide them with medical and dental aid and also to discover the origins of their unique Hallelujah religion, a mixture of both Amerindian and Christian beliefs peculiar to just a few villages in South America.

During office hours, I work for Frimley based GEC Easams as a computer software engineer on the RAF's Tornado jets. I spend the majority of my spare time however as a Troop Commander with the Territorial Army.

2 (NC) Sig Bde, were asked to provide a radio communications expert when signallers from the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) had to drop out due to a lack of resources. In order to fund my way on the trip, it was necessary to raise £1,400 in just six weeks through various fund raising activities, to which 71 (Yeo) Sig Regt made a contribution.

After a short administration stop in the capital Georgetown, where I was able to sort out radio procedures with the GDF Signals Unit, the expedition flew to the first of three villages in the Upper Mazuruni region which were to become home for the duration. The giant Mazuruni river itself is formed by the meeting of the Kukui, Kako and Paruima rivers, and after rising in the Pakaraima Mountains near the Venezuelan border, flows north and east into Essequibo and the Atlantic Ocean.

The upper tributaries of the Mazuruni are so remote that they have barely been touched by outsiders. It was along the smaller rivers of the Kukui and Kako that the villages of Phillipai, Jawalla and Kako, visited by the expedition are located. Here the expedition team spent three weeks living side by side with the Akawaio Indians providing medical, dental and ophthalmic services as well as studying the growing problem of river pollution and erosion caused by the lucrative gold and diamond mining operations set up since the Second World War.

My daily routine involved sending regular situation reports by HF radio link to the GDF HQ in Georgetown over 200 miles away as well as passing the occasional message for the Akawaio Indians to relatives in the city. Always, however, remaining on standby to call in GDF evacuation facilities in an emergency, When not on the air, I was often found helping the dentists pull teeth or sterilizing surgical instruments. Medical facilities are in short supply in the rainforest and so the expedition doctors and dentists found themselves very busy experiencing a wealth of interesting and needy cases. The dentists alone extracted over 200 teeth in three weeks. We even managed to help save the life of a premature baby, certain to die without nourishment, by feeding it through a tiny tube cut from my radio gear and using a small syringe as a pump. The baby survived, and according to recent reports from Guyana, is still doing well.

The expedition proved to be a great success and was well worth the fund raising effort. Along with its other expeditions to Kenya and Mongolia, Discovery Expedition is planning to run another expedition to Guyana in 1995. All three of these expeditions have a requirement for a radio operator. If you are interested and have the necessary skills, they would like to hear from you. Call **Julian Matthews** on (01747) 855050 for details.



The author giving important instruction of new recruits

EXERCISE LONG LOOK

By Cpl Tony Jenner

Cpl Jenner was attached as a Local Sergeant to 103 Sig Sqn in Tansville, Australia on Ex Long Look between July and November 1994. Here is his report.

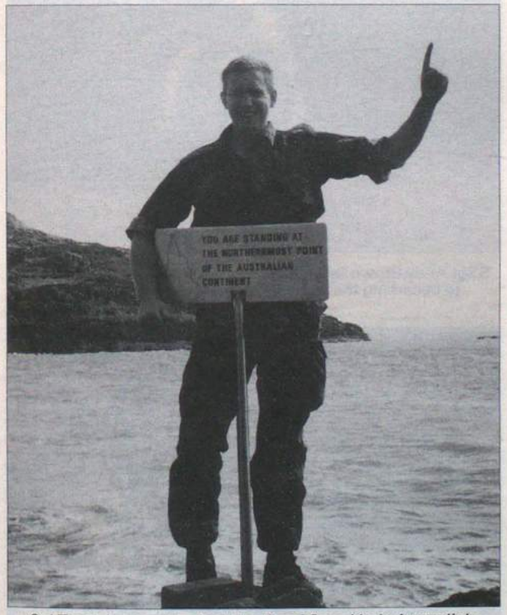
'How do you fancy going to Australia'?

I will never forget those words.

On finding out that I had been selected to go to Australia on Ex Long Look, I tried to obtain as much information about a country that had always been a dream of mine to visit. Things like, where would I be going and what clothes will I need to take? Putting things into perspective and working out that it would be winter coming into spring, I decided that jumpers and jackets wouldn't be needed. So in went the shorts, singlets and flip flops, oh, and a pair of tropical combats in case I needed to work.

By departure day, everything had been treble checked: passport, ID card, travellers cheques and an extra set of kidneys. We arrived at RAF South Cerney for last minute briefings and the weighing of luggage (a max of 85 kgs). We left there for RAF Brize Norton at 2300 hrs and boarded the aircraft and took off at 0220 hrs the following morning. The journey out to Australia took us via Bahrain with an overnight stop in a four star hotel in Singapore. On arrival in Brisbane, those of us travelling on to Townsville and North Queensland had to be accommodated in Enogerra Camp for 24 hours before recommencing the journey. After being allocated our accommodation, I headed off to watch the World Cup Final. Almost immediately we were made very welcome. The Pommies were given the normal induction which every new person to the country receives: hoop snakes; drop bears; killer koalas; spiders that make a web that can entrap a full grown human; and goannas (monitor lizard) that, if frightened, will climb up you because they think you are a tree. The last of these stories was the only true one told, but by this time everything was being taken with a pinch of salt. We were due to depart Brisbane around 1100 hrs on 19 July, we ended up leaving around 1230 hrs–all airforces must run on the same time schedules. Townsville was a shock: a temperature 25°C, sunny and a clear sky (don't you just hate a normal winter's day?)

Cpl Jackie Wood (another Long Looker) and I were welcomed by the Sqn Comd **Maj Bill Teace**. Almost immediately, I was shown down to the Sgts' Mess where I was again welcomed by the SSM **WO2 Zac Zarjac** and the Chief Clerk **Sgt Ray Beddome**. By 1900 hrs I felt well at peace with the world. 0700 hrs the following morning, and I found myself in the back of a Landrover heading north (through Cape York) on a driving course, perhaps one of the most admin supported courses I have ever been on, one person was doing conversion training, with 22 people in support. After four days of driving I did begin to wonder if we were going in circles as the scenery certainly looked the same most of the time, and on occasions we met up with the same people. On one of the days, we travelled for six hours and saw only one other vehicle. Eventually, after five days and nine barbecues we reached the northern-most tip of the Australian continent, Bamaga. The party stayed here for three days, learning vehicle servicing and maintenance, as well as fishing, swimming, barbecues and being sociable.



Cpl Tony Jenner stands at the tip of Cape York, Australia's northern most point

We left there for Cooktown, feeling refreshed and ready to go on. We crossed the Jardine River and headed south.

That lunch time we stopped for yet another barbecue and went swimming in the nearby fresh water streams. (Don't believe people who say fresh water crocodiles never attack humans: they do if they're in season). After two days we reached Cooktown, where we stayed for the weekend and once again found a very interesting, sociable place. Leaving Cooktown, we stopped off at a Roadhouse where, we were able to have a go at gold panning. The driving course ended on the Tuesday, by which time I was fully qualified to drive a Landrover on Australian soil.

Returning back to 103 Sig Sqn I was employed as the Tp Sgt of Radio Tp, a position given to me because of Op Tamar, which took the Supervisor Communications (SC) (like our YofS) to Rwanda. During this time I had to ensure the running of the Troop went smoothly as the unit prepared for Ex Swift Eagle 94. This was the unit's major exercise of the year and enabled me to see how it worked within Australia's 3 Bde, during which my role as Tp Sgt was to sort out any problems in both communications and administration and ensure that all the detachments under my control, which included radio detachments from 1 Sig Regt, were working correctly.

In the closing phase of the exercise I was put in charge of a four man manpack retrans (Rebro) station. We flew to our drop off point, by Blackhawk helicopter, winched into an FUP and then patrolled to our retrans site.

We should have been in this location for three days, during which we were not to wash and shave due to the amount of water we could carry. (The normal consumption is at least six pints of water a day). We were due to be picked up on the Wednesday at 1200 hrs, but owing to circumstances beyond anyone's control we could not be picked up.

We tried to confirm a time when we were to be picked up, none was forthcoming. This was worrying, as we were running low on both food and water, and the nearest road was 11 kms away through dense undergrowth. We were eventually picked up on Thursday around 1000 hrs. I had never been so pleased to see a British Army Air Corps pilot, easily identified by the large Union flag sticker on the back of his flying helmet.

Returning to camp, there was the normal clearing up and returning of borrowed equipment. After this working period, the Sqn Comd allowed me to travel and see other signal units throughout Australia. The first unit I went to was 134 Sig Sqn in Sydney. Here I was catered for extremely well, with the Sqn Comd inviting me to join the Officers and SNCOs on a two day industrial tour of the Hunter Valley. The Hunter Valley has three main industries, coal mining, a power station and the most enjoyable one, which is wine making. I found this trip extremely interesting, and I can definitely recommend Australian wines this year!

Overall, Ex Long Look was of immense value as it gave me the opportunity to see how another nation's Sig Sqn operates. It has also given me the chance to see how quickly I could adapt to the differences, not only in working environment and equipment, but also in a different lifestyle. In the short time over there, I have gained a lot of knowledge both from the people around me and also from the experiences with the unit. In my role I was able to pass on my experience and knowledge to the members of the Troop, as well as gaining experience from holding the position of Tp Sgt.

I feel the exchange is of great value to the Corps as it not only allows members to learn from the experience, but also to share both trade and military knowledge; it lets members of the exchange compare and contrast British and Australian Forces, helping us to use the best of both to become better soldiers.

For those of you who may be given the chance to go on a future Ex Long Look, go to Australia with an open mind and don't accept what anyone has told you. For me, the exchange was an experience of a life time. I have learnt a lot about myself, and have been lucky enough to make some very good friends who I will always remember because of their wonderful hospitality.

ALPINE SKI TEAM AT ARMY ALPINE SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS 1995

The Unit's Alpine ski team travelled to Serre Chevalier to attend the 1995 Army Alpine Ski Championships. Unlike the previous year, where we had fielded one of our strongest teams ever, this year was going to be a lean one and our expectations were not high. However, it soon transpired that if we raced competitively but safely, we might be able to do reasonably well, despite two of the team, **Capt Andy Metcalfe** and **LCpl 'Chalkie' White**, being injured but still able to ski to a decent level. In a different, but just as important team, was **Sig Emma Fleming**, who had been selected for the Army Ladies squad after her excellent performance at the Corps Championships in December 1994.

The first race was the Team Giant Slalom and the team performed very well. **SSgt Andy Brown** was skiing very well and was placed third, with **Capt Metcalfe** and **LCpl White** coming in at 18th and 66th respectively, giving a team place of fifth overall. For **LCpl White**, this was his first race for over a week after he injured himself at the Divisional Championships and with his ankle fully strapped by **Capt Metcalfe**, he raced very well considering the pain he was in.

Things hotted up for the individual Giant Slalom, as the skiers were now able to show what they could do without racing safely for the team. **SSgt Brown** skied well to get sixth place overall. **Capt Metcalfe** tried too hard and unfortunately crashed out of the course, and **LCpl White** finished in 64th place.

The Individual Slalom race was extremely exciting as **SSgt Brown** was leading by eight-tenths of a second at the end of the first run. The slalom is never the race to gamble money on and **SSgt Brown** caught an edge during the second run, losing him enough time to drop him onto third place. The other members of the team were also fighting their own battles, with **Capt Metcalfe** aiming to get into the top 15 and coming 13th and **LCpl White** aiming to ski a safe but fast race coming in 54th place.

The Team Slalom race was run on the next day and it is always the one that can cause an upset as it can never be guaranteed that a team will get their skiers down the course. As it was the top three teams performed very well indeed but we managed to slip into fourth place with good runs by all the team.

After a couple of days training the Army Downhill course it was apparent that this year's course would be the fastest ever. In the event the top racers were clocked by a speed gun at over 85 miles per hour! On the day of the race **SSgt Andy Brown** skied perfectly, but was narrowly beaten into second place by a former British team skier.

Capt Ady Metcalfe raced extremely well to come in less than two seconds behind the winner's time, putting him in 11th place. **LCpl White** skied an excellent race to come in only 11 seconds behind the leaders and a position of 50th, giving the team a third place. Being the Blue Riband event of the Alpine Championships, several VIP were present, including **HRH Duke of Kent**, who presented the individual prize winners with their trophies at the end of the race.

On the final day of the championships was the Super-Giant Slalom. We still, as a team, wanted to produce a good result and were looking forward to the race. **SSgt Andy Brown** had drawn bib number one and tried to follow the tracks set by Luc Alphond the World Cup racer (who was a fore-runner on the course), but still came in nearly ten seconds slower! He did, however, put in a time that got him a third place. **Capt Metcalfe** skied slow for his form, managing only 22nd place and **LCpl White** put in an excellent time to make it into the top 50. Overall, as a team we came fifth in a very close race.

All in all, despite a severely weakened team, we produced some excellent individual results, with **SSgt Andy Brown** coming fourth overall and winning the veterans prize. **Capt Metcalfe** and **LCpl White** achieved final seedings of 19 and 63. As a team we came fourth in the Army Alpine Ski Championships 1995. Last but not least, **Sig Emma Fleming** achieved enough good results to gain the Army Ladies Novice Champion Prize winning a pair of skis at the prizegiving.



LCpl 'Chalkie' White showing excellent form on the Army Team Giant Slalom



SSgt Andy Brown flying down the Army Downhill on his way to becoming the Army Individual Downhill Runner-up



Capt Andy Metcalfe smoothly skiing down the Army Team Slalom



SSgt Andy Brown receiving his runners-up medal from HRH Duke of Kent at the end of the Army Downhill

MOVEMENTS

OFFICERS
FEBRUARY 1995

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col A. D. Forster	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt Col A. W. Hunt	Depot Tp
Lt Col L. A. Relph	11 Sig Regt
Lt Col G. M. S. Shipley	MOD DGGWLS
Lt Col V. G. Strivens	HQ E Dist
Maj M. D. W. Alexander	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj R. S. Appleton	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj N. J. Borrill	Staff College
Maj A. M. Boyle	British Contingent UNFICYP
Maj I. J. Bradshaw	The Royal School of Signals
Maj J. R. C. Bunce	Staff College
Maj S. E. Felton	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj I. R. Grant	16 Sig Regt
Maj M. Griffiths	Staff College
Maj S. P. Hunt	HQ PSCNORTH (BAE)
Maj M. A. Little	9 Sig Regt (R)
Maj S. K. Macrostie	Royal Naval Staff College
Maj S. R. Renfrey	30 Sig Regt
Maj P. Robertshaw	Depot Tp
Maj A. J. Rock	7 Sig Regt
Maj R. A. Sharp	213 Sig Sqn
Maj I. G. Standen	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj D. J. Whitby	ACDS (CIS)
Maj P. W. J. Whitehead	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Capt A. P. Bristow	Staff College
Capt A. D. E. Cameron	31 Sig Regt (V)
Capt C. M. Clark	Staff College
Capt G. Douglas	4 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (204)
Capt C. A. Ford	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
Capt K. J. Graham	16 Sig Regt
Capt J. M. Hodges	ACDS (OR)
Capt I. Hooper	Staff College
Capt D. B. Hudson	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt N. J. Makepeace	2 Sig Regt
Capt C. S. K. Paterson	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
Capt D. K. Pawlow	31 Sig Regt (V)
Capt M. D. Phillips	7 Sig Regt
Capt A. C. Sarginson	3 (UK) Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt C. J. Thackray	Staff College
Capt N. J. Tomkins	220 Sig Sqn
Capt C. J. Turner	HQ UKLF
Capt I. P. F. Vingoe	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt R. P. Wilson	Staff College
Lt P. G. M. Atkinson	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt L. D. Burrell	The Royal School of Signals
Lt J. H. N. Harrington	The Royal School of Signals
Lt J. P. Hazelwood	The Royal School of Signals
Lt R. S. Moir	The Royal School of Signals
Lt L. Taylor	The Royal School of Signals
2Lt G. J. H. Cheong-Leen	The Royal School of Signals
2Lt A. J. Gray	The Royal School of Signals
2Lt A. S. F. Hutton	The Royal School of Signals

OFFICERS
MARCH 1995

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col C. D. Melhuish	RHQ R Signals
Maj M. D. Bailes	AA Coll Harrogate
Maj H. N. S. Colborn	Combined Arms Training Centre
Maj T. R. Craven	SANGCOM
Maj P. J. Daniel	259 Sig Sqn
Maj A. C. Doane	The Royal School of Signals
Maj R. Hails	19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209)
Maj A. Hickling	HQ ARRC
Maj R. G. Nicholson	9 Sig Regt (R)
Maj A. L. Pearce	ACDS (CIS)
Maj F. T. J. Riley	The Royal School of Signals
Maj J. Rowley	HQ AFCENT SP GP/CEN Reg Sig GP
Maj J. Turner	The Royal School of Signals
Capt S. J. Allan	30 Sig Regt
Capt D. A. Brisco	280 (UK) Sig Sqn
Capt O. D. Bryant	237 Sig Sqn
Capt J. F. Calvert	HQ BF Cyprus
Capt P. E. J. Drew	30 Sig Regt
Capt A. I. M. Gordon	HQ Doctrine and Trg
Capt I. C. Gray	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt M. G. Hanson	9 Sig Regt (R)
Capt A. Metcalfe	DES 3 DGES (A)
Capt M. E. Pawlak	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt D. J. M. Quinn	The Royal School of Signals
Capt D. K. Rackham	Electronics Branch REME
Lt R. J. B. Spencer	16 Sig Regt

WOs AND SNCOs
FEBRUARY 1995

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO2 (FofS) W. M. R. Whitehead	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
WO2 (FofS) A. G. A. Woolaston	HQ AFCENT
A/WO2 (FofS) D. S. Alexander	SHAPE ACE COMMSEC
A/WO2 (FofS) C. P. Gill	JCUFI
SSgt S. J. Blackmore	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
SSgt (YofS) N. S. Ferris	HAC
SSgt J. Fradley	20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200)
SSgt D. Livesey	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt M. Nuttall	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt N. J. Preston	The Royal School of Signals
A/SSgt P. M. Lord	604 Sig Tp
A/SSgt G. K. Owen	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (203)
Sgt A. M. Black	JCUFI
Sgt J. Boreman	HQ AFCENT
Sgt R. Bukton	BATSU
Sgt S. C. Fowler	602 Sig Tp (SC)
Sgt C. M. Jones	JCUFI
Sgt J. W. Kelly	251 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. J. Meehan	243 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. N. Nelson	16 Sig Regt
Sgt R. J. Norman	11 Sig Regt
Sgt W. E. Redman	30 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Rogers	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. White	JCUFI
Sgt R. Yeomans	16 Sig Regt
A/Sgt M. A. Fleming	9 Sig Regt (R)
A/Sgt J. O'Donnell	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/Sgt P. N. Render	The Royal School of Signals

WOs AND SNCOs
MARCH 1995

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO2 B. J. Alexander	Exeter UOTC
WO2 (YofS) N. J. Bain	The Royal School of Signals
WO2 M. Jones	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
WO2 (YofS) T. A. McHugh	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218)
WO2 C. M. Moyes	9 Sig Regt (R)
WO2 P. J. Plant	237 Sig Sqn and 14 Sig Regt (EW)
WO2 S. R. Stevenson	237 Sig Sqn and 14 Sig Regt (EW)
SSgt C. W. L. Andrews	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt D. Anwyll	9 Sig Regt (R)
SSgt G. J. Chapman	2 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) J. M. W. Ewart	RSA Larkhill
SSgt C. T. Ross	16 Sig Regt
SSgt P. Tasker	16 Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. B. Cameron	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt J. S. Cameron	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt C. J. Childs	Depot Tp
Sgt K. Clayton	604 Sig Tp
Sgt G. L. Dawson	11 Sig Regt
Sgt R. J. Dillett	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. W. Evans	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt R. I. Hawkins	JCUFI
Sgt G. J. Low	37 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt D. W. Martin	Depot Tp
Sgt T. L. Moorcroft	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt I. W. Moore	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
Sgt D. C. Mudway	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt S. P. Norris	7 Sig Regt
Sgt R. A. Owen	Depot Tp
Sgt M. I. Pryke	2 Sig Regt
Sgt G. P. Rhodes	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
Sgt A. B. Roberts	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (213)
Sgt M. Rogers	11 Sig Regt
Sgt N. Stewart	HQ DFTS
Sgt I. W. Tindale	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (213)
Sgt I. D. Tucker	16 Sig Regt
A/Sgt M. A. Gilbert	The Royal School of Signals
A/Sgt M. W. Hill	The Royal School of Signals
A/Sgt A. Lloyd	2 Sig Regt
A/Sgt P. F. Moloney	The Royal School of Signals
A/Sgt S. M. Schofield	1 RHA

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DEATHS

Baber–Maj J. C. Baber TD–served 1952-67–died 1 January 1995.
Baron–Maj R. C. K. Baron TD–served 1936-67–died 18 January 1995.
Bowden–WO2 (YofS) D. Bowden–died 16 January 1995.
Connett–Maj W. J. Connett–served 1936-69–died 19 February 1995.
Davis–Sgt R. E. Davis–served 1940-46–died 17 January 1995.
de Clive-Lowe–Maj G. de Clive-Lowe–died 18 February 1995.
Gibbons–Capt (Hon Maj) E. Gibbons–died 29 October 1994.
Goulding–Dvr W. J. Goulding–served 1942-46–died February 1995.
Graham–Maj W. F. Graham MBE–served 1951-88–died 25 January 1995.
Griggs–Sig D. R. Griggs–served 1956-58 and TA–died 14 December 1994.
Hewlett–Col G. H. K. Hewlett–served 1933-58–died 9 December 1994.
Hunt–Maj E. W. Hunt–served 1950-87–died 9 February 1995.
Lamb–Cpl R. H. L. Lamb–served 1949-69–died 22 January 1995.
Langley–WO2 A. J. Langley–served 1932-54–died 8 January 1995.
MacDonald–Capt G. S. MacDonald–died 3 December 1994.
Mallock–Maj A. M. R. Mallock–died 12 December 1994.
McDevitt–Maj C. McDevitt–died 27 March 1993.
McHugh–Dvr E. McHugh–served 1943-47–died 16 September 1994.
McNair–Capt A. McNair–died 19 July 1994.
McTavish–Maj A. G. McTavish–died 24 February 1993.
Messer-Bennetts–Maj J. M. Messer-Bennetts–died 1 May 1993.
Perry–Sig E. E. Perry–served 1924-1945–died 12 December 1994.
Phillips–Capt A. L. Phillips–died 19 September 1994.
Richards–Maj T. L. Richards–served 1939-61–died 12 October 1994.
Snowball–Maj J. S. Snowball–served 1941-47–died 24 February 1995
Taplin–Maj R. G. E. Taplin–died 21 November 1994.
Toy–Maj B. Toy–served 1946-72–died 12 January 1995.
Wheeler≠Maj A. B. Wheeler–served 1939-60–died 28 January 1995.
Wood–Capt G. B. Wood–served 1944-61–died 1 February 1995.

OBITUARIES

Banham–Maj Don Banham was born in Windsor, Berkshire on 3 November 1912 and enlisted in the Corps in 1931 at Catterick. During his trade training he was awarded the squad PT medal, a certificate for the most promising wireless operator and the Colonel's Whip, 'a superior version of the whip issued to all ranks at that time'. This award may be seen in the Corps museum.

Don was posted to the Northwest Frontier of India in 1933 and for several years served in Wana, Bannu, Razmak and Dera Ismail Khan, being awarded the India Frontier medal with clasp. He was commissioned in the UK at 152 OCTU Catterick, where he became Cadet Adjutant, he was posted to 49 Divisional Signals and then to Special Force Signals, with the Chindits in Burma. Returning to the UK for a short spell, he was again posted to India with No 2 Special Communication Unit, where he set up his own amateur radio station VU2DB, New Delhi. On his return to the UK he took over London District Signal Squadron, Golders Green and moved with them to Beavers Lane Camp, Hounslow.

Subsequently he saw service in BAOR during the period 1952-55 with 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment and then three years with Cyprus Signals, Nicosia, returning to the UK, to 56 London District Signals. A three year tour of duty with 18 Signal Regiment, Singapore, and a final posting to the UK with HQ AER, Blandford Camp, completed his 34 years service with the Corps. After retirement he obtained employment with the Royal Holloway College, London University.

Don was a very keen sportsman who won many medals and trophies during his military career. He died on 23 December 1994. Two brothers and two sons also served with the Corps, making the total length of family service probably the longest in Corps history?

Sympathies go to his wife **Jean** and family, one son, **Ted (Maj E. J. W. Banham)** is serving in the Corps.

Burden–Maj A. R. Burden. It is with regret that we announce the death of Maj Burden on 9 February 1995. A member of the TA he served at 55 Sig Sqn (V) in Cardiff. An active member of Cardiff Branch RSA, he was for many years its Branch Treasurer. **Alan** was a very popular and well respected member of the Branch. We send our condolences to his widow, **Bett** and their son and two daughters.

Donaghy–Eileen Donaghy. On 20 November 1994, at home, after several years of ill-health bravely endured; aged 81. A much loved wife and widow of **Lt Col P. R. P. (Pat) Donaghy**, mother of **Lt Col C. P. (Christopher) Donaghy** and **Lt Col A. D. (Anthony) Hincks** PWO, and friend of many in the Corps.

Dyer–Maj Alan Fredrick Dyer MBE. It is with regret that we report the death of **Maj** 'Dicky' **Dyer** died on 12 February 1995, just two months short of his 60th birthday. It was in 1950 as a 16 year old that he went to the Army Apprentices College at Harrogate to be trained as a Radio Mechanic. By 1955 he was a LCpl in the Commonwealth Brigade where he served under two officers who became his lifelong friends, the late **Brig** 'Mickie' **Topple** and **Maj Gen Alan Yeoman**.

It was probably the latter who recognised **Dicky**'s talent (and possibly physique) for rugby because it was three years later, in Singapore, that he was playing for the Army.

Upon return to UK in 1958, he married **Doreen** and they would have celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary in October this year. She clearly had an immediate influence on him because he was promoted Sgt and in the mid 60's became a Foreman of Signals. As a side line, but one which gave him much pleasure, was to act the part of the clown in the White Helmets Display Team. By this time he was a WO1 and in 1976 was commissioned.

When serving in Germany he managed the BAOR rugby team, one of those responsibilities which call for immense effort, tact and persuasion; qualities which, with his competence in his work, earned him the reward of the MBE in 1983. He returned to Harrogate to train apprentices, not only in their technical ability but, also in rugby.

After serving 42 years he retired to become an RO at the Intelligence Centre, and a founder member of the East Kent Branch RSA, soon to become its Chairman. He continued his interest in rugby but took up another hobby, the organisation and running of the Kent and East Sussex Railway at Tenterden. As a volunteer he played various roles but none so fitting as the Station Master, arrayed in peak cap and frock coat he became known to the East Kent Branch of the RSA as 'The Fat Controller'.

No one could have been a more generous, enthusiastic or loyal friend. He was no ordinary man, but then he leaves no ordinary family. **Doreen** supported him through thick and thin and he was so proud of his four children, **Kevin** and **Michael**, who followed him into the Army, and **Jackie** and **Christine**. They will all have many happy memories to console them in their loss.

Evans–N. H. Evans. **Norman Evans** died on 12 January 1995. He joined 56 London Signals TA in the 1930s as a despatch rider and became a member of its display team which performed in the 1937 Royal Tournament.

He served as a DR throughout World War II in Iran, Iraq and with the 8th Army in North Africa and Italy, landing at Salerno with 56 Division, one of the assault formations, on 9 September 1943.

Norman was a keen motorcyclist all his life and was one of the ten veterans of the pre war display team who persuaded the Corps that they should ride as part of the White Helmets act in 1987, and again in 1990 at the age of 76. He was a member of what has become known as 'Those Magnificent Men on their Ancient Machines'. **Norman** also appeared with the late **Roy Castle** in the 'Record Breakers' and featured in the 1990 Guinness Book of Records. We offer our condolences to his son **Robert**.

Exton–Cpl R. Exton. **Roy Exton** was a member of Cardiff Branch for many years. He had not been in good health for some time and died on 18 January 1995. He served in the Corps from 1937-46 and from 1951-57 and will be missed in the Branch. We send our condolences to his family.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please advise the Subscriptions Clerk at RHQ, IN WRITING, of any change of address. This information should not be telephoned.

Gahan–Maj W. J. Gahan. **Bill Gahan**'s many friends will be sad to hear of his passing at Christmas after a lengthy period of ill-health stoically borne.

Bill served the Corps faithfully and with quiet good humour, steadfastly supported by his wife **Enid** whom he married in Gutersloh whilst serving as SSM of the Air Fmn Sqn there.

The **Gahans** were great globe-trotters: from Gutersloh they went to 2 Div Sig at Bunde, the TA in Salisbury, 18 Sig Regt in Singapore (**Bill** was commissioned there), back to 16 Sig Regt in Krefeld and then down the road to 13 Sig Regt at Birgelen–but via Catterick for a brief respite from the duty-free! The **Gahan** family now counted three girls to help with the MFO boxes . . . to see the family settle for a final overseas tour with the Sig Sqn in Malta.

Bill Gahan's service ended in MoD as a serving officer and latterly as an RO. Here his broad experience, gentle mien and unflappability were of great value at a time of considerable change.

Bill Gahan is remembered with affection by all who knew him. Our sympathy goes out to **Enid** and daughters **Angela**, **Catherine** and **Barbara**.

Grandsome–Mr W. L. Grandsome. It is with deep regret that Scarborough Branch announce the death of **Bill Grandsome**, who was secretary of the Branch for six years. He died on 24 November 1994, after illness, aged 76 years. He trained as a Wireless Operator and saw active service in North Africa during the Second World War (1939-45). After he left the army he pursued his career at Irton Moor Wireless Station in Scarborough. He was the holder of the Imperial Service Medal. **Mr Grandsome** was much respected by his friends and known as a man who always enjoyed helping others. We send our condolences to his wife, **Pauline**. He will be much missed in the Branch.

Hunt–Maj E. W. Hunt. **Errol Hunt** died suddenly on 9 February. He was commissioned into the Corps in 1953 and served until 1987. He will be remembered by many for his enthusiasm and infectious sense of humour, which helped those around him to cope with adversity.

His first posting was to 28 Commonwealth Brigade in Korea, then to the Canal Zone where he was detached to Khartoum, although only a very junior Lieutenant he claimed he was the Chief Signal Officer Sudan. After completing the Subalterns Part 2 course he served with the Royal Signals Junior Leaders Regiment before moving to the newly created All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment, ultimately completing six tours with junior soldiers and apprentice tradesmen.

In 1961, in Gulf Waters at the time of the first Kuwait crisis, **Errol** commanded the R Signals Tp, embarked on HMS *Meon*, taking his turn as the ship's officer of the watch. Whilst on leave from Borneo during the confrontation period, he met his future wife **Sybil** in the Cameron Highlands in Malaysia.

In 1976 he became Training Major of Newcastle University OTC. He subsequently served as Schools Liaison, Birmingham, and Training Major with 35 Sig Regt (V); settling in Shenstone where he became closely involved with the community, especially the Citizens' Advice Bureau in nearby Lichfield.

He was held in high esteem and great affection by everyone who knew him, particularly those junior soldiers with whom he came into contact throughout his army career. We offer our sympathy to his wife **Sybil**.

Lamb–Mr R. H. L. Lamb. It is with sadness that we announce the death of **Mr Lamb** on 22 February 1995. **Ray** served as a National Serviceman from 1949 to 1952, mainly in Trieste. Two years after being demobbed he rejoined the Corps as a lineman, serving in 22 Sig Regt and 19 Sig Regt, returning from Singapore to BAOR in 1960 where he spent nine years. He returned to Catterick before moving to Germany for his final posting before leaving the Army. After 18 years service with the Corps he settled in Slade Green, Ashford. He took an active part in obtaining a relief road around Slade Green and played a full part in the East Kent Branch of the RSA. Our condolences go to **Mary**, his wife, and her family.

Little–Sgt G. D. Little died on 7 February 1995. **Geoff** enlisted on 16 November 1954 and served in Egypt, Aden, Northern Ireland and Krefeld as a Clerk Royal Signals. He retired on 7 November 1969 and died in hospital after a long illness. We send our condolences to his brother, ex Corps member **WO1 M. F. P. (Mick) Little**.

Morris–Lt Col (Retd) W. J. Morris MBE MC. Bill 'Sailor' **Morris** died at his home, Morris Court, Cheltenham, at noon on 1 February 1995 aged 95 years. He served at sea throughout the Great War, first in the Merchant Navy and when he was old enough, he joined the Royal Navy. In 1922 he joined the Royal Corps of Signals and thereafter he was always known as 'Sailor' **Morris**. He was a keen athlete and distinguished himself as a cross-country runner. He contracted polio and it was doubtful whether he would be able to resume athletic activity or even survive. By sheer determination he made a full recovery and went on to represent his Regiment and the Corps in major cross-country events. Shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War, he was commissioned and served with distinction, being awarded the Military Cross, American Bronze Star for Valour and Mentioned in Despatches for Gallantry. He retired in 1953 and after a brief period of service with Signals Works Services in Germany, he was employed by GCHQ Cheltenham, until he was 70 years of age.

'Sailor' was a founder member of the Cotswolds Branch (formerly the Cheltenham and District Branch) of the Royal Signals Association. He was also a staunch member of the Royal British Legion to which he devoted most of his spare time. He was Chairman of the Cheltenham Branch from 1957 to 1963, County Chairman from 1964 to 1971, County President and Life Vice President.

He played an important part in the Royal British Legion housing project leading to the building of a block of flats in Cheltenham which was designated 'Morris Court'. He continued with voluntary work for the Royal British Legion and was awarded the MBE in recognition of his services.

Bill was an outstanding Officer and remained outstanding throughout his life. We have much to thank him for and our deepest sympathy goes to his widow **Lillian**.

Warwick–(No 2326772) Ernest (Fritz) Warwick ISM, enlisted into The Royal Corps of Signals as a Boy Apprentice Tradesman and joined F Coy at Catterick in July 1938.

He trained as an Operator Wireless and Line leaving Catterick in 1942 for Burma where he served with the Chindits behind Japanese lines. He was a member of the Chindit Association. He returned to the UK and to War Office Signals at Eaton Square, followed by a posting to GHQ 2nd Echelon in Malaya in 1949. His next posting was to 5 Army Group Royal Artillery at Oldenberg in BAOR.

His next task was to assist in setting up a 'Beacon' at a Signal School near Hamburg which transmitted morse over a wide area to encourage units in BAOR to practise their receiving skills. He was discharged from the army on medical grounds with a hearing problem in 1954 and became a government radio officer travelling the world as a member of GCHQ Cheltenham. He was also awarded the Imperial Service Medal for outstanding services to government communications.

In 1986 after retirement he was awarded two certificates for bravery in disarming robbers at building societies. At one location he was seen on the security camera calmly taking a .38 revolver from an astonished robber. As his brother writes 'he never let the side down; F Coy training'.

He was a long serving member of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society and the 'RSGB'.

He died of a heart attack on 6 February 1995 whilst operating his amateur radio 'station'. A great radio/computer 'ham' with further projects he had planned left undone.

His brother **R. A. Warwick** (SSM) was also an 'F' Coy Boy Apprentice 1940-43. As his next of kin we would like to extend our condolences to him, his wife and their two daughters.

Whiting–Mrs Pauline Whiting (née **Cook**). It is with the deepest regret that we announce the sudden and tragic death of **Pauline Whiting**, beloved wife of **SSgt Dave Whiting**, killed in a coach accident, in Norway, on 15 January 1995. **Pauline** joined the WRAC in 1982 and served with 8 Sig Regt, 10 Sig Regt, 233 Sig Sqn and Queen's Gurkha Signals in Hong Kong. It was whilst in Hong Kong that she met and married **Dave**. After leaving the Army in 1988, **Pauline** accompanied **Dave** to Berlin, Rheindahlen and Oslo, prior to moving to HQ North in Stavanger, Norway on 1 July 1994. A Requiem Mass was held for **Pauline** on 19 January, in Stavanger followed by a family funeral in Sunderland. **Pauline**'s loss is mourned not only by the UK members at HQ North, but also by the NATO community, from whom many tributes were received. A hugely popular lady, **Pauline** is sincerely missed. Our deepest sympathies go to **Dave** and to **Pauline**'s family in the UK.

Tucker–Vic Tucker. With the death of **Vic Tucker** on 16 February 1995, Norfolk Branch has lost one of its very popular members. **Vic** joined the Corps in 1935 and served in the Far East where he became a prisoner-of-war. He left the Corps in 1946 and settled in Suffolk where he worked for the then GPO until his retirement. His cheerful and happy disposition will be greatly missed by members of Norfolk Branch. We send our condolences to his wife **Winifred**.

Scott–William Scott. A member of Bradford Branch **Mr Scott** died on 31 October 1994. Bill, who worked for the Post Office, was on supplementary reserve and was called up at the beginning of the war. He was posted to France and evacuated from Dunkirk, then he served overseas and was badly injured in Italy where he lost a leg. He was a regular attender at meetings. Members of the Branch paid their respects at the funeral and our thoughts are with his wife and daughters.

A PERSONAL TRIBUTE
from Maj (Ret'd) Clive Mason

I would like to pay a personal tribute to **Maj George Clark** who died last November after fighting a long battle against cancer.

George and I never served in the same unit for long, in fact we only passed each other in the night. I first met **George** as a young Sgt in 13 Sig Regt after that, I had the privilege of taking over from him a number of key appointments. Chief Clerk of the TTS 8 Sig Regt, Supt Clerk at 2nd Armd Div (Bunde) and as the Adjt of 35 Sig Regt (V). His hand overs were near perfect for he had an eye for detail and always made sure that everything was 100% correct.

It was when I was the Chief Clerk, 1 BR Corps that I got to know **George** very well for he served as the chief scribe to **Maj David Whitehead**, 20 Armd Bde, Detmold. He was never 'off' the phone trying to find out what was going on within the Corps and this line of communication was known as the 'Chief Clerks Mafia'. You could always trust him with a secret, he had a dry sense of humour, he was a gentleman, an outstanding soldier/clerk, and a excellent hockey player. A very good friend to many a young soldier.

Editor–I am sure that this echoes the feelings of many in the Corps.

ROYAL SIGNALS RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY EVENTS 1995

March		
30	Kneller Hall Inspection	R Signals Band
April		
21	Commander's Opening Show–Blandford	White Helmets and R Signals Band
28	Pass Off Parade–Bassingbourn	R Signals Band
29	Alcester Male Voice Choir	R Signals Band
May		
5-6	Nottingham County Show	White Helmets
7	VE Celebrations Bath	R Signals Band
8	VE Celebrations Bow, Devon	R Signals Band
8	Hyde Park VE Day Celebrations	White Helmets
19-20	Shropshire & West Midlands Show	White Helmets
21	Meltis, Bedford	White Helmets
25	Harrogate	White Helmets
27	Sedburgh Gala	White Helmets
28	Leeds Steam Rally	White Helmets
29	Northumberland Show	White Helmets
June		
3-6	Rhine Army Show–Germany	White Helmets
10	Slough Show	White Helmets
11	Bristol Car Show	White Helmets
12-16	German Tour 1	White Helmets
24	HMS Collingwood	White Helmets
24 June to 6 Aug	Public Duties, London	R Signals Band
July		
1-2	Shepton Mallet Steam Fair	White Helmets
4-6	Army Exhibition for Schools–Bassingbourn	White Helmets
8-9	Corps Weekend Blandford	R Signals Band
9	Royal Signals 75th Anniversary Show–Blandford	White Helmets
15	30 Sig Regt, Bramcote	White Helmets
16	Ashbourne Highland Gathering	White Helmets
18-20	East of England Show–Peterborough	White Helmets
22	Mid-Devon Show	White Helmets
22-23	Fairford International Air Show	White Helmets
28-30	Pickering Traction Engine Rally	White Helmets
August		
2	Burwarton Show	White Helmets
5-6	Gatcombe Park Horse Trials	White Helmets
11-12	Shrewsbury Flower Show	White Helmets
13	Rochdale VJ Day	White Helmets
17	Denbigh and Flint Show	White Helmets
19	Derby County Show	White Helmets
20	Sunderland Steam Show	White Helmets
23	Gillingham Show	White Helmets
27-28	Eye Show	White Helmets
September		
4-8	German Tour 2	White Helmets
9-10	Braintree	White Helmets
23	Calor Gas, Slough	White Helmets
October		
14	56 Sig Sqn Eastbourne Re-union	R Signals Band
November		
12	Remembrance Blandford	R Signals Band

The calendar is accurate at the time of going to press, but you are advised to contact the Units concerned to ensure that there have been no changes before embarking on long journeys. Confirmation and information can be obtained on the following numbers:

White Helmets (01258) 48 2365
R Signals Band (01258) 48 2778

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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NOTICES

CORPS DATES–1995

8 April	Royal Signals Association, Branch Representatives' Meeting and Annual General Meeting, Duke of York's HQ
3 May	Morrison Cup (UK), York
28 June	Princess Royal Day
2 September	Corps Luncheon (North), Catterick
12 October	Master's Guest Night including Hon Colonels Briefing, Blandford
3 November	Corps Scottish Dinner, Glasgow
9 November	Field of Remembrance, Westminster
23 November	Royal Signals Institution London Lecture, London
13 December	Corps Carol Service

CORPS 75TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

4 July	Corps Dinner, London
7 July	Colonels Commandant Dinner, Blandford
8 July	Corps Luncheon, Blandford
9 July	Royal Signals Association Reunion, Blandford

MAJOR A. GOULD AND AND MAJOR T. MCMULLEN

We apologise for the errors in the February issue of *The Wire* which reported the deaths of **Maj A. Gould** and **Maj T. McMullen** on page 7.

We are happy to say that **Maj A. Gould** and **Maj T. McMullen** are very much alive and have recently moved to new addresses.

Any distress caused by this incorrect announcement is much regretted.

PAYMENTS BY DIRECT DEBIT

Any completed direct debits received in RHQ **AFTER** the 20th of each month will be processed and debited to your account on the 20th of the **FOLLOWING** month.

If you pay by direct debit please ensure that any payments received by RHQ via Standing Order **ARE CANCELLED IMMEDIATELY**.

OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCIATION
PRESIDENT'S DINNER – 13 MAY 1995

The next President's Dinner will be held at Welbeck College on Saturday 13 May 1995.

Dress is Mess Kit for serving officers and Black Tie for retired officers. The cost will be £14. Timings are 1930 for 2000 hours. 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. Tel: 01909 476326.

Applications should arrive at least two weeks prior to the Dinner.

THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM
THE ARMY GROVE

An appeal has been launched to develop the Arboretum on land gifted for this purpose on the banks of the River Trent in Staffordshire. Individuals and groups are being invited to plant trees to commemorate their friends, comrades and units in which they served in World War 2.

Further information regarding this project may be obtained from Commander **D. J. Childs**, Director, National Memorial Arboretum, Europa House, 13/17 Ironmonger Row, London EC1V 3QN. Tel: 0171 250 1700 who will be glad to answer any questions.

FOR SALE

Officers Mess Dress, in immaculate condition. Size–height 6ft 0in, chest 40-42in, inside leg 31½in, waist 33-35in. Golf ball shirt–16in collar. George boots (boxed) plus brown shoes (new) size 9 large. All enquiries to: **WO2 (RQMS) Colin Thompson** on Chelsea Military ext 4234 (civil 0171-414 4234). All reasonable offers considered.

LETTERS

From: **Mr F. W. Hoyle**
Dear Sir,

With reference to the picture of the Cable Wagon on the back cover of the February issue of *The Wire*, I joined 44 Div Signals TA in 1931, B Cable Section. I was number 3 on the wagon and there were four seats on the wagon. We worked in pairs, one and three, two and four. My job, number 3, was to pull the cable out and reel it in. It was hard work but we enjoyed it. I was with 44 Div Signals until 1941, then posted to 1st Army Signals. I have a photo of my cable wagon winning a small cup in the annual contest held when we went to camp. The seats on the wagon had no back rests, whereas Artillery cable wagons had which we thought a bit 'cissy'. We used D8 cable and they used D3 a much thinner and lighter cable.

Yours faithfully,
F. W. Hoyle (2567672)
42 Fitzgerald House
237 Avondale Avenue
Hayes, Middlesex UB3 3PW

From: J. Y. Templeton
Dear Sir,

Looking at the back cover of February's *Wire* my first thought was 'What a great picture'. Bags of action, impression of urgency and lots of 'Certa Cito' and then I had another thought. When did the much venerated Cable Wagon actually *gallop* into action either for real or for that matter in training?

I had a great-uncle who, after an apprenticeship with the GPO, went out to India in 1912 to join the Indian Post and Telegraph. In 1915 he was embodied into the Indian Army and went with them to Mesopotamia. When I was just a boy he used to tell of the training in India and how they would lay cable at the canter (very rarely and only if there were no officers about). He made the point that when they got to Mesopotamia most of the cable-laying was done at the walk and the mounted men spent most of the time leading their mounts because, due to poor fodder and the climate, the animals were in a poor condition. Now I cannot think that the Western Front would have provided much chance for the Cable Wagon to show its paces. There it was the men who did it all as epitomised in that other fine painting 'Through'.

Now during the period 1912 till the late 30s when the Army became more or less fully mechanised I cannot think of any campaigns which would have called for the Cable Wagon. NW Frontier? Scarcely. Palestine? Maybe. Any others? I have no doubt as they read this that somewhere out there there are old soldiers weeping, wailing and gnashing their teeth, reaching for their pencil sharpened at both ends prepared to shoot me down in flames. Good, all I want to do is stir up (no pun intended) some reaction out there. Let's have some controversy in this magazine.

Yours faithfully
J. Y. Templeton
6 Everton Road,
Croydon, Surrey CR0 6LA

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (203)
BFPO 809

Sqn Comd — **Maj G. J. T. Rafferty**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) D. E. Hall**

OPERATIONS

The ceasefire is holding, which is pleasing everyone. However, work still continues at Newtownhamilton, some new rebuild operations have begun at RUC, Corry Square, in Newry, and at RUC Warrenpoint. Needless to say, all these operations require communications, thus the planning cell continues to be busy. The Sites Manager, **SSgt Phil Skene** feels that the rest of the Ops team are now sufficiently experienced to allow them to plan the ops on their own. The Ops Officer, **Capt John Adams**, **WO2 (YofS) Kev Fowler** and **WO2 (FofS) John Hiorns** are taking this in their stride.

SHQ

Cpl 'Mez' **Merrey** has now moved up to Brigade. Despite this loss the RAOWO, **SSgt Paul Bartlett**, has become the Squadron Golf Representative, he assures us that he has no problems fitting work around his new hobby. **LCpl** 'Windy' **Miller** has also had a couple of rounds and has found parts of the course the Greenkeeper did not even know existed.

The AO, **Maj Eddie Wright** is on a health kick, so SHQ join him on a variety of rowing/biking and running events. We are all enjoying it!

MT TROOP

The ceasefire has meant that lots of little things which were always on the back burner are now on the boil. So **SSgt Paul Brocki** is reading up on all the HAZMAT regulations and PRE matters, lucky man! Our new Artificer **SSgt Andy Gigg** has arrived, so a warm welcome to him and his family. **Andy**, what is Total Quality Management?

We bid farewell to **LCpl Chris Eckett**, off to Lisburn.

QM'S DEPARTMENT

The Quartermaster's Department is currently all hands to the pump. The QM, **Capt John Mullender** has received a posting order, so it's PRE and Board of Officers time again. Please come down from the ceiling RQ, it will be all right on the night . . .

We now know that the Option Whisky plan is slowly coming together. Manning and Record Office in Glasgow have finally sent our reinforcements: so we say welcome to **Cpls** 'Penguin' **Hoskins** and **Andy Carrick**, and **Sig Tony Watson**. Also congratulations to **LCpl Steele** who has been selected for promotion to Cpl.

TM TROOP

The new operations at Newry and Warrenpoint have tested the patience of the Foreman and the Forward Repair Teams. Additionally, the FRTs are involved in all that routine maintenance, how did we cope before the ceasefire?

We have finally managed to get some more places on the Rigger's Course, after a year of patient waiting, **LCpl Harry Harris** and **Sig Molly Mollon** are now among the elite!

We say farewell to **Cpl Ryan Halsall** and **LCpl Wilson** who are off to 30 Sig Regt and 280 (UK) Sig Sqn respectively. We welcome **Sgt Brett Palmer** (South Georgia), **Cpl** 'Dinger' **Bell** (30 Sig Regt) and **LCpl** 'Kipper' **Fisher** (3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt).

COMMS TROOP

It feels like all change at the moment, one Tp Comd out; farewell to **Lt Rob Gibson** off on promotion to Herford; another Tp Comd in: **Lt Steve Goodwin** but we have not seen much of him yet, as he was grabbed for a course at Blandford.

LCpl 'Baz' **Scott** is off to Osnabruck with **Claudia**, but we have received **Cpl Dan Curtis**, **Sigs Craig Richardson** and **Alison Johnston** into the fold. **Sig Johnston** is our first ever female Tele Op Radio, and the first female to work in Syscon

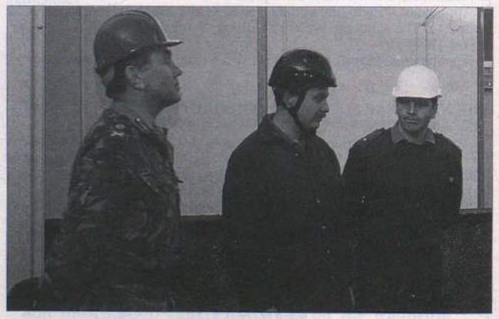
The Commcen burrows away as usual. Everyone is working just as hard as before. Well that's what **Sig Claire Allsop** tries to convince the Tp Comd every time he drops in. The rumour that their daily in and out quotas are being maintained at pre-ceasefire levels due to their own leave passes is just that–rumour!!

However, one recent arrival is obviously very lucky. **Sig Karen Clifton** from Hong Kong, was told that she was posted on promotion to Bulford in less than a month!

VIP VISITS

The Squadron has had several VIP visits recently including the GOC and CLF NI. When the Commander Land Forces NI; **Maj Gen A. De C. L. Leask CBE** visited, the Sqn Comd seemed happy that the visit appeared to be going well, until that is the CLF reached Syscon. In reply to a simple question regarding working hours it all went wrong. **Sig** 'Scouse' **O'Leary** told the CLF how many hours he worked on days and nights per week. The CLF made a quick calculation and felt that Syscon were working the equivalent of young doctors hours. It took the Sqn Comd to put the situation right and point out the facts. **Sig O'Leary** had missed one important fact–standdown shifts!

The Squadron was also visited by The GOC NI: **Lt Gen Sir Roger Wheeler KCB**, **CBE**. To the Sqn Comd's relief **Sig O'Leary** was on a night shift. The GOC met all the Portadown elements of the Squadron. He was briefed on the Commcen by **LCpl Wendy Moore** ably assisted by the quiet (ie non-talking) twosome of **Sigs Iwan Roberts** and **Mark Lane**. The GOC then visited the FRT where he was briefed by **Cpl Mark Cook** and **LCpl Antony Edwards**.



The CLF: Maj Gen A De C. L. Leask asks Sgt 'Mac' McGuinness a difficult question. From the look on the Sqn Comd's face, he doesn't know the answer either!

TRAINING CELL

The ceasefire has brought numerous challenges. Not least the opportunity to broaden the scope of training in the Squadron. The training SNCO–**Sgt Phil Smithurst** is galloping around gaining various range qualifications. Whilst he is away one of our other 'airborne warriors' is holding the fort. **Cpl Craig Hale** is having a break out of Syscon, running ranges, organising training cadres and courses, it takes him back to his Falkland days . . .

Lots of plans are in the pipeline. However, the Sqn Comd has already told the training cell that despite the current incumbent's qualifications, the only mandatory requirement for service in NI is the NIRTT course, not P company!

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218)
BFPO 807

Sqn Comd — **Maj S. D. Hodges**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) D. A. Wright**

SHQ TROOP

Tp Comd — **SSgt P. Kerr**

It is time to reflect on the comings and goings of the Troop over the past few months. **WO2 (FofS) Steve Hatfield** left after almost 12 months (!), for a well deserved rest and a return to green uniforms in The Royal School of Signals and into the breach stepped **WO2 (FofS) John Skelton** from 7 Sig Regt. **Capt Mark Adams**, the Squadron 2IC/Ops Officer, also departed to The Royal School of Signals following the precedent set by the FofS and will soon be followed by the YofS **WO2 (YofS) Norman Bain** in April. **Capt Andy Parsons**, straight off the Junior Command and Staff Course, has arrived to take up the appointment of 2IC. The Troop extends a warm welcome to both newcomers and their wives **Susan** and **Karen** respectively.

The Inter Troop Winter Sports Competition was completed during January after much rivalry and some exciting sports. The competition was not without its disputes, the most troublesome of which was the hotly contested two sport rule. It was decided at the conception, that the gladiators amongst the Squadron would be denied playing in every sport so that almost all the Squadron would have to take part, regardless of being sick, lame or lazy. Unfortunately (at least for **Lt Jim Anderson** who wrote the rules), the RSM **WO1 Dougie Wright** took exception to this and didn't hesitate in expressing his displeasure to one and all. Those sports which the RSM did take part in were therefore hotly contested, especially when his arch rival **WO2 (RQMS) John Black** was playing. All the sports (5-a-side football, 6-a-side hockey, basketball, swimming and a quiz night) were very well organised by the various Troop Sergeants in the Squadron and a very enjoyable competition was had by all. This can be written with perhaps some smugness as SHQ Tp won the 'Champion Troop Trophy' for a second year running after a tense finale on the basketball court, in which almost anyone could have won the competition outright. All that remains is to thank the other Troops for taking part in what was obviously a one horse race anyway!

Finally congratulations go to **Cpl** 'Jeff' **Jefferies** RLC (Pnr) on winning the Squadron's Safe and Skilled Driving Competition wiping the floor of MT drivers which is the least that is expected from SHQ.

TM TROOP

Tp Comd — **SSgt K. Simmons**

A sad farewell is extended from everyone in the Troop to **SSgt Nick Preston** and his wife **Lorna**, who leave the Squadron after a long two years. All the best for the future. In his place arrives **SSgt Kev Simmons** and his wife **Sharon** (who is serving in 15 Sig Regt) having travelled in from Cyprus.

AN EXTENDED LOOK BACK ON LIFE IN LONDONDERRY
By Cpl Jim Wainwright

Three years ago when I first arrived in Londonderry with my wife and son, I was slightly apprehensive of how my next two years would work out and what surprises might be in store for me. What I didn't know at the time was that I would be here for three years, a choice which was entirely my own and a case which had to be hard fought by the Squadron with MRO. On first appearance, Londonderry seemed a rather hostile area. But my initial fears were soon alleviated when my family and I were able to get out and about and meet some of the local population. It rapidly became apparent that it was a very small minority of people within Northern Ireland that give the place a bad name and a worldwide reputation. In general the people here are amongst the friendliest I have ever come across and that includes the Scottish.

Starting work in the Province was made easy by the people around me. To name some of the characters in the Squadron at the time **Sig** (now LCpl) **Greg Cunningham**, **Sig** (now Cpl) 'Andy McNabb' **Reeve** and **LCpl** (now Mr) **Bri White**; without their help settling into work would have been far more difficult than it actually was. There is actually tremendous job satisfaction in maintaining the communications in the Province because it is an operational environment and the communications here are used for real. This has definitely been one of the main reasons for me wanting to extend the length of my tour here.

Working in Northern Ireland is by no means all work and no play, though at times it can seem that way. While the workload is heavy and conditions invariably cold, wet and miserable, the extra-curricular activities are plentiful and very well organised. The Squadron has its own club, 'The Waterside Inn', of which it is rightly very proud which provides a very friendly atmosphere to ensure a good night out for singlies and pads alike.

On being told I was coming to Ireland in 1992 I was, to say the least, shaken. Had I only known then what I know now, I would undoubtably have been overjoyed. I will be very sorry to leave Londonderry and I will miss the many friends I have made here. On returning to the green army I will remain jealous of those stalwarts of TM Tp who have the most enjoyable jobs in the Squadron. I wish you all good health and safe climbing.

COMMS TROOP

Tp Comd — **SSgt J. Crabb**

In Syscon the year has begun well for all 'ex-Sysconeers' missing the good times. Sadly the Syscon must say farewell to a few of its staunch members; **LCpl Stu** 'Pants' **Kelly**, who is off to 'prep genes' in Warminster and **Cpl** 'Oz' **Faramus** off to join the Mclaren testing team or more commonly known as the Comms Trials team. Good luck to you both. Now we must extend welcomes to their replacements and other newcomers to Syscon; **Sharon Archibald** who got married to **Archie** just before Christmas, **LCpl** 'Mac' **MacGillvary** from 14 Sig Regt (EW), **Sig Andy Garner** from 29 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200) **Sig Sam Mushin** from 2 Sig Regt and **Sig Ann Wilding** just returning from leave. Here's hoping you have a pleasant stay in Londonderry.

In the Commcen two new members have recently arrived from diverse locations. **Sig Karen Campbell** from 243 Sig Sqn and **Sig Paula Clansey** from Queen's Gurkha Signals in Hong Kong, everyone hopes that they will have an enjoyable stay in sunny Londonderry. We said a sad farewell to **LCpl Sam Bremner** but a hearty welcome back to **Sam Bremner** who returned after a short stay in 'civvy street'. Finally we say farewell to **Sig Rachel Bingham** off to Comms Trials for six months and we welcome back **Sig John Prigent** from Comms Trials.

Finally the Crypto Cell bids goodbye to **Cpl Bob Garlick** off to Comms and Sy Group (UK), to be a part-time Op, and **Cpl Ian Hughes** off to Cyprus to improve his suntan. And yes, it does take three newcomers to replace battle hardened 8 Bde warriors and so welcome to **Cpls Carl Budding**, 'ET' **Tait**, and 'Mac' **Macdonald**.

MT TROOP

Tp Comd — **WO2 (MTWO) P. Peart**

The Squadron started the year with a BFT which came as something of a shock to the system, not to mention PT which is now twice a week!

We have suffered a high rate of postings in and out of the Troop, so that the longer serving members have been busy, showing the new arrivals the main roads and places in which to eat. The newest arrivals are **LCpl** 'Nosey' **Parker** and **Ptes** 'Neville' **Southwell** and 'Hilly' **Hill**, welcome to your new home for the next two years; you will find Londonderry grows on you.

Recently **Cpl Chris Leader** organised the skidcar for the Squadron. Unfortunately, it broke down after a few days. The Troops who attended had a great time and learned a great deal about skid prevention.

Finally, congratulations to **Sigs Dave Atherton** and 'Daz' **Humphrey** on their promotions.

QM TROOP

Tp Comd — **WO2 (RQMS) J. Black**

Hopefully we have now seen our last farewell for a while, and the lucky man this time is the stalwart of the Troop, or so he says, **Sgt Mick Boehm RLC**. Good luck in Neinburg, and we all know how much you'll enjoy being back in your own cap badge, even if a tour of Bosnia is in the offing. In his place we welcome **Sgt Steve White** in his first posting away from Germany. We hope you and **Danielle** have a successful tour.

WIRE PHOTOGRAPHS

Please do not ask for photographs sent for publication in *The Wire*, to be returned, unless they are irreplaceable.

Contributors should be aware of the fact that although every care is taken with contributions, they should not risk losing a photograph that cannot be replaced.

LIFE AS THE 8 INFANTRY BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON TRIALS OFFICER

By Lt Glynn Buxton

When I was invited to do an article for *The Wire* on my attachment as the 8 Bde Comms Trials Officer I jumped to the task; after all it was an extra! Still, never before have I been given such an opportunity and it has certainly fired my imagination. Northern Ireland has most definitely been an inspiring experience. Having been given a free reign, a small, well motivated team of experts and a huge amount of Squadron support who could complain? Before I start, perhaps I should explain what my job entails.

Imagine, if you will, an Infantry Battalion arrives in the Province and their turnover has left them few soldiers with previous NI experience. Problems slowly arise concerning the Cougar Radio System, which is unique to this theatre, and complaints inevitably follow. Ultimately, my job is to liaise between the Infantry Signals Staff, the Ops Officers and **Cpl Hughes**' Trials team of boffins in an effort to solve the problem. Bearing in mind the Infantry take great pride in their work and have trained for many years to perfect their Clansman Radio skills (and in fairness they cannot be faulted), tell them they are wrong about Cougar and it is an instant insult. Ensuring the soldiers understand their *new* equipment is a very difficult task; not helped if you have a refusal from them to accept they could be at fault. Generally, this has been a job requiring a great deal of tact and diplomacy, and has opened my eyes to a new environment and a whole new way of thinking. I really sense success when I find that I have smoothed the way for a sound working relationship on which the Trials Team can build, whilst attempting to iron out problems. All I do from that point on is keep a check to ensure no further damage is inflicted to my diplomatic efforts!

So, what is life really like as the Comms Trials Officer? Well it certainly isn't as stressful as the Ops Officers' appointment but I am sure that it's more challenging than being the soldier in charge of car passes. This tour of some seven months has been nothing short of superb. The very chance of working in an operational Signal Squadron has provided some highly memorable experiences; ones that I doubt will ever fade. The soldiers are highly motivated and enjoy their work and play immensely which has been of great encouragement to me, and working with a Squadron which deals with almost unique equipment has been without compare. It has been an enormous learning experience with only the entire Squadron to thank; in particular my favourites, Comms Tp.

Now, when I first arrived on the scene some months ago there was one thing I quickly began to notice. Nothing was going well for the team in the car department and like my predecessor I had vowed to change the statistics! Famous last words; I failed. When asking the MT for another car, their replies have always been 'another car!! Ha, what happened to the last one we gave you?' All credit to the MTWO and MT Sgt, they have bent over backwards to keep the team on the road. I do not think they realise how grateful the lads are.

In summary, this has been a job where international diplomats would find themselves at home. A job that has cost me hundreds of pounds in humble pie and a priceless smile. Those of you who have been a Div Recce Officer will understand the problem. It's full of reasoning, understanding, compromising and then making damn sure you've got what you want without them actually realising they've agreed to anything at all! Enough said?



Lt Glynn Buxton (far left) and his Mercury Cup Military Skills Competition team November 94

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (213)
BFPO 801

Sqn Comd	**Maj R. A. Sharp**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) McElwee**

CHANGE OF COMMAND

We would like to wish **Maj Jeremy Bradshaw**, his wife **Penny** and their three children, **Jonathan**, **James** and **William** all the best in their new post and would like to welcome **Maj R. A. Sharp** and wish him all the best in his tour.

TM TROOP

A quiet few months in the Troop. Unheard of I hear you say. Well not quite. **Sig Crooks** managed to get himself promoted, much to his relief. We said farewell to **Sig Evans** who leaves us for Cyprus. **LCpl Scott**, after much trial and error, managed to pass his T2 and discovered the joys of yet more written exams.

Sgt 'Ted' **Heath** and **Sgt** 'Heli-Belly' **Evans** had a swan/working trip to the mainland to backload some equipment, but ended up spending more time under the vehicle than in it. To say it broke down is an understatement. (Special thanks to the AA for being very nice men).

Sgt 'Delboy' **Strugnell** has also taken over the helm of the HSS section so **Sgt Evans** can prepare for pastures new also in Cyprus.

COMMS TROOP

Firstly congratulations go out to **Sig Mark** and **Mrs Mark** on the birth of their baby girl, also to **Sigs Mark** and **Lane** on being selected for promotion. We would also like to wish **LCpl Staddon** the best of luck in civvy street and hope he doesn't sponge off of his wife (**Sgt Staddon**) for too long.

SUPPORT TROOP

The latter part of 1994 and the beginning of 1995 saw a few fond farewells and hello's. **Sgt Al English** replaced **Sgt Phillips** in the RQMS dept all the way from SHAPE. Not much of a change in the workload. **Cpl Wass** settled straight into a busy orderly room and **LCpl Sheridan** also joined the RQMS dept.

The MT greet **LCpls Brown** and **Vincent** and **Ptes Bradford** and **Reilly**. **Sgt** 'Gaz' **Ashcroft** gets a well deserved rest after a three and a half year tour with the Squadron which paved the way for newly promoted **Sgt** 'Noddy' **Needham** to take charge with **Cpl Heslip** moving from Rover group to fill the vacant Cpl position. Farewell to **Pte Holt** who is off to Cyprus.

Congratulations go to **LCpl Finney** on a well deserved promotion.

OPS CELL

The new computer has finally taken over full control from the three amigos, much to the delight of TM Tp. Apart from this the golf handicap's have all improved, albeit ever so slightly.

MARCH AND SHOOT COMPETITION

Under the expert guidance of **Lt** 'He who cares who wins' **Dakin**, the Squadron entered a team of hopefuls into the Brigade march and shoot. After many a lap around camp and a few jaunts around the Ballykinler countryside the team was ready. A short hop in a Wessex to Magilligan and we prepared for battle. Unfortunately we weren't aware that swimming trunks would be required, for at one point the tide decided to venture a little further in than expected and saw a hasty scramble over the dunes to avoid it. **Cpl Wass**, after being volunteered as a last minute replacement, showed the rest of the team the real meaning of 'guts and glory'. Once completed the team were carted back to Lisburn in a pair of very old wendy houses we learned that our efforts had been rewarded with a very respectable 4th place.

BRIGADE ADVENTURE TRAINING

The Brigade organised three weeks in sunny KinLochLeven, Scotland to enjoy some skiing, hillwalking and cycling. All except for the skiing was uphill although it did seem it at times. A great time was had by all and the weather did not dissuade everyone from getting a taste of all the activities. The cycling involved more walking than the walking and lots of time sampling the local brew. The walking phase was greatly appreciated especially by **Lt Dakin** and **LCpl Artigan** who volunteered to do six days of it. Not tired much.

It should also be noted that the downhill skiing was probably the best supported activity (surprise, surprise) even when it was cancelled due to having no snow. Fort William will never be the same again.

SPORT

The Squadron basketball dream team has been at it again but this time they did it in London against 238 Sig Sqn. The end result was a huge victory by 61–52, and made us the Army Minor Unit Champions. **WO2 (RQMS) Skelton** has credited victory to the way the whole team pulled together and made sure that **Sig** 'Jona' **Jones** always had the ball.

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

The Royal School of Signals
Blandford Camp

BLANDFORD UPDATE

The **Faith Winter** Statue has been relocated from Vimy Barracks in Catterick (as reported in the last issue of *The Wire*) to the main entrance of the Camp and many have already commented on the difference that it has made to the infamous roundabout! It also marks, in a very positive way, the start of a new chapter in the Corps history with the formation of the Single Centre at Blandford Camp that will be the home of Royal Signals for many years to come.

Other changes to be seen in the Camp all revolve around the Blandford Project. A new orange portakabin village has been created on Hawke Square by AMEC, the prime contractor, who is fast tearing into the chalk hillside to create the new buildings and facilities required for the needs of the future Royal School of Signals, even a new slip road has been built at Collingwood corner to ease the traffic flow on to the main Salisbury Road. Enormous Meccano style framework buildings are sprouting up, and the attendant cranes, heavy plant and chalk mud are very much in evidence in all corners of the Camp. Blandford will never be the same again, but in a year's time, when Phase One of the Project will have been completed, there will be training centre and home that will be the envy of the Army.

CIS TRAINING WING

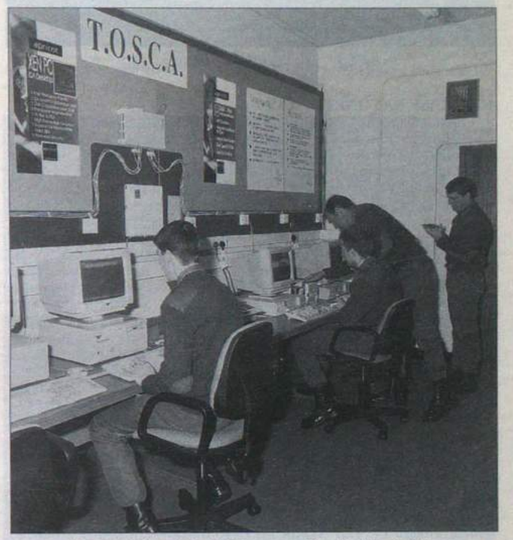
It has been said that 'Information Technology is a journey, not a destination' and we in Royal Signals are well aware that technology is advancing so rapidly that it is difficult (and NMS consuming!) to keep at The Leading Edge let alone prophesy at which stage we will have reached by the turn of the millennium.

The Command and Trade Training School (CTTS) is fortunate to have its main IT Training Presentation Centre sponsored by TOSCA (Trusted



Chief Instructor, Col John Kirby welcomes Lord Renwick (centre) and Mr Paul Martin

Open Systems Connectivity Alliance). **TOSCA** is a small–but highly effective–presentational interface company between the IT Industry and Government Departments, and at the end of the Christmas Term the Royal School was very pleased to welcome **The Lord Renwick** when he performed the opening ceremony of our new Presentation Centre. **The Lord Renwick** was accompanied by **Mr Paul Martin**, Chairman of TOSCA, who has already instituted a system of rolling replacement such that our facilities are maintained as current and up to date as possible. **The Lord Renwick** was a most apt choice to open this splendid facility as amongst his many activities he lists: Member of the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology; Chairman of EURIM (the European Information Market); the House of Lords Representative on the Parliamentary Space Committee and Member for the National Council for Educational Technology.



(L to R): Sgt John McNamara, Sgt Paul Sutcliffe, Sgt Jack Payne

CIS ENGINEERING WING

In addition to the vast building programme currently ongoing to build the new Single Centre, CIS Engineering Wing has not been left out. Part of the formation of the Single Centre is the move of CIS Engineering Wing and its departments from their existing dispersed locations to new, purpose built, buildings in the area of Drake East, or where 'Dad's Army' used to reside. The building will accommodate the Wing HQ, Tactical Systems Division HQ, Royal Signals Systems Support Team and the REME Command, Control and Communications Equipment Support Group. It is planned that all departments will be functioning from their new locations in May 1995.

HEADQUARTERS ROYAL SIGNALS SERGEANTS' MESS

Mess President	**WO1 (RSM) G. Richards**
PMC	**WO2 (SSM) Gaston**

There are still turbulent times here in Blandford and the rebuild of the Mess continues, it includes 37 new bunks, the bar extended and several existing bunks enlarged. The entrance is due to be completely restructured with silver cabinets being made to hold the best of 11 Sig Regt, 8 Sig Regt, The Royal School of Signals and other disbanded units Sergeants' Mess silver.

We welcome the new RSM **WO1 (RSM) Guy Richards** and his wife to Blandford. We hope they both enjoy their 18 month tour. Where do they live? They are moving again!

CONGRATULATIONS

We were very fortunate that the SOinC(A) made time in his busy schedule to come to the Mess and present LS & GCs to **WO2 (FofS) Gower** and **WO2 (YofS) Swiffen**. Congratulations to them.



SOinC with recipients and families

EXERCISE BAYONET SPRAY

Ex Bayonet Spray was a three day exercise designed to give Troop Commanders Course 31 an introduction to offshore sailing. Three boats set sail from Gosport on Friday, 2 December 1994 and spent two and a half days sailing around the Solent. There were only five of the 18 strong course who had sailed before so **Col Kirby**, **Capt Walker** and **Lt** 'Dicky' **Newhouse**–the skippers–had a daunting few days ahead of them. Despite the cold and gloomy day that greeted the course there was a buoyant feeling within the two minibuses as they travelled to Gosport. This was probably as a result of the course missing a whole day of lectures!

On arrival at Gosport the skippers took over the boats whilst the remainder of the crews gathered the necessary stores and equipment for the trip. By 1400hrs all equipment was stored and the crews were receiving their briefings on how to sail. As one of the first mates could not even remember how to put on the harnesses the skippers began to realise just how much of an uphill struggle they were facing. However, all the boats safely set sail and headed for Cowes, which was to be the first port of call. There were only two hours of daylight left so it became something of a race. The crews were learning fast and as the weather had actually turned out well everyone agreed that offshore sailing was not as bad as some had imagined.

All three boats berthed together in Cowes and the preparation of food on a boat became the next priority. All boats had opted to cook on board and there were some adventurous attempts to disguise the compo. **Lt Navindra**–one of the Gurkha officers on the course–treated his boat to an authentic curry. **Lt Billy Anderson** mustered up a chilli, but the combination of **Lt** 'Taff' **Watts** and **Lt Rob Anderton Brown** proved to be the most potent of all. When asked to describe the meal, one of the crew was heard to say 'It is spaghetti with garlic in a bolognaise sauce with some added garlic'!

All crews seemed to find their way to the same pub–the nearest on the quay–and settled down to some good sea stories. **Lt Blair Mitchell** provided additional entertainment by performing a very exciting and unusual tambourine solo whilst accompanying a live band. At closing time everyone returned to their respective boats to finish off a good day with some 'special' coffees.

Day two started off bright and cheerful–well the weather was anyway! *Voluta* and *Ensis* made an early start whilst *Zidona* opted for the more cautious, lunchtime start. The later start proved to be the wiser option as a large squall hit the Solent at about 1100hrs. Whilst *Voluta* lost her mainsheet and *Ensis* lost her mainsheet, jib sheets and suffered an engine failure *Zidona* was practising 'bumps and grinds' in the harbour. The crew managed to 'bump' the boat quite hard, so decided to have brunch.

Ensis definitely had the most exciting day. After all her adventures on the high seas she then ran aground trying to get into Lymington. **Lt Rich Byfield** did not think that a lane of buoys was too important and neglected to tell the skipper when the boat went through the lane. A fault in the depth meter resulted in the boat being run aground on a mud bank. Disregarding their own personal danger the skipper–**Lt Dicky Newhouse**–and first mate–**Lt Matt Graham**–launched into a discussion as to exactly how the echo-sounder must work. As they are both Oxbridge Physicists they worked around the problem and came up with the highly technical solution that is was broken. By this time the tide had lifted them off the mud and they could continue into harbour, arriving three hours after *Zidona*!

Despite the three boats mooring in different places, the crews still managed to meet up in the same pub–the closest to the quay! Again stories of the day were exchanged and everyone agreed that the storm must have been at least force nine and they were all now experienced sea dogs. However, there was still some confusion as to whether they were on the Isle of Wight or not–a fact that must bode well for the navigational techniques of the new officers.

After a much quieter night all boats made an earlier start on the last day. The 1000hrs weather report however stopped many of the plans made in the pub the previous night. A warning of a steady 42 knot wind was given. The combination of tide and wind also put limits on how far could be sailed and still make it into Gosport before dusk.

The exercise was claimed by all to be a resounding success and a welcome break from lectures. Some even feel inspired enough to continue on with further sailing adventures. However, it is debatable as to whether the Gurkha officers will carry on this activity and may add it to the horse riding as an experience not to be repeated!



'Foredeck Monkies'
Top–Bottom
2Lts Rob Anderton-Brown; Richard Watts; Sue Pillar
Blair Mitchell and Andy Parfitt

END PIECE

Those who have noticed the lack of an 11 Sig Regt contribution in this section should turn to the 'News From Regiments' section of the magazine, where it will appear in future.

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

MR P. A. SHARP FITD DEM RECEIVES THE ROYAL SIGNALS INSTITUTION SILVER MEDAL
by Col C. J. Walters

On 24 November 1994 Mr Peter Sharp, the Senior Instructional Officer (SIO) received the Royal Signals Institution Silver Medal. The presentation was made at the London International Press Centre by **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL**, The Master of Signals.

The Silver Medal is regarded as a rare award that marks the attainment of an outstanding professional achievement in the Corps.

Mr Sharp joined Royal Signals at Catterick as a Boy Soldier in November 1946 at the age of 14. He was one of the first Royal Signals Boys to transfer to the Army Apprentices School, Harrogate in September 1948. Here he trained as a Telecommunications Mechanic. He went on to serve in Germany, Holland and Australia before he returned to Harrogate as a Military Instructor in 1954. He remained at Harrogate until he retired as a Staff Sergeant in 1959 and then he stayed on as a civilian instructor. In 1969 he was promoted to SIO where he has remained.

During his time at the College **Mr Sharp** has been at the forefront of training development in the field of City and Guilds (C&G) and Telecommunications Vocational Standards Council (TVSC) qualifications. He was made an Honorary Member of C&G in 1982. He became a Fellow of the Institution of Training Development in 1978 and also gained a Diploma in Educational Management.

Mr Sharp has devoted over 48 years of life to the Royal Corps of Signals. Of this, 40 years of loyal support has been given to the College. He has served 12 Commandants as SIO.

It is for the dedicated service which has been outlined above that **Mr Peter Sharp** was awarded the Silver Medal.

PENNEY SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Graham McNeill**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Terry Oakes**

For those of you out there who are scratching your heads and saying 'Penney Squadron?' it's true!! Penney Sqn has been brought back from the ashes and now encompasses Scott Tp, Rawson Tp and Phillips Tp.

It was decided, due to manpower requirements, that a single apprentice Squadron was needed rather than two, so to cut a long story short Penney Sqn was reformed.

Goodbyes go to **Maj Keith Danby** and wife **Jenny** and to **Maj John Perrett** and family who have gone off to new postings with a smile on their faces. Hello's go to **Maj Graham McNeill** and his family–we all hope you have a great time here.

THE LAST INTER SQUADRON MARCH AND SHOOT
by AT Cpl O'Donnell

In the last week of the Winter Term, Rawson and Scott Sqn had their last Inter-Squadron competition before the amalgamation of the two Squadrons. It was decided that the last battle of the year would be a five mile march and shoot. This was a very important competition for both Squadrons because it would decide who took the Inter Sqn Trophy for the last time.

There was a lot of preparation for this event as both Squadrons knew that whoever does best in the inspection at the beginning usually stands a good chance of winning. We were driven to the start point and then set off so that we had to navigate our own way to the range. However it was a windy day and the chances of shooting were getting pretty slim. At the start point we were briefed on what it was we had to do and also that the shoot had been cancelled and had been replaced with a first aid exercise.

We all climbed out of a nice warm coach and into the cold. We could see the course was going to be a bit of a challenge as it was a very steep start. We were told (by **Sgt** 'Fit' **Hargreaves**) 'run up this one and you'll win'. Our team said 'righty dokey' and as we got the go ahead, off we went sprinting for the top of the hill which seemed to last forever. After beating the hill at quite a fast pace our team was quite tired and it took a fair bit for the lads to get the pace back together and to really start working as a team which was what it was all about. As we started to cover the distance our team was doing well and we knew that we certainly had a chance of winning. Morale was high and we were all confident in completing the course despite the burden of **AT LCpl** 'Scouse' **Slater**. About a mile from the finish we could all see that battle bus parked at the beginning of the first aid challenge, or so we thought. As we put all our last effort into getting to the finish the team knew that if the effort paid off then we were sure to win. As we reached the finish of the march we were greeted by **Cpl Hennessey** who briefed us on the First Aid task in front of us. After a run down to the butts of the range where the casualties were, we were confronted with the problem of treating and evacuating them, prior to the mortar attack that was about to erupt. We attended to the casualties and managed to evacuate them in good time which earned us some points.

At the Commandant's presentation at the end of the day we discovered that we had won the competition. All our efforts had paid off.

A good day for those who took part and a good day too for the Squadron.

TECHNICIAN WING

Since our last *Wire* article, Technician Wing has hosted both Apprentice and Single Entry technician courses along with Single Entry Stores Accountants courses. The 92B Apprentice technician course passed out in December direct to the field army, having done their equipment courses at Catterick prior to its closure. The photo shows **AT SSgt Nicola Sweeney** of 92BT, (now **LCpl Sweeney**) 'spec' testing equipment a few weeks prior to Graduation. **LCpl Sweeney** is now serving as a Radio Technician in 2 Div Sig Regt at York. On parade with 92B, were 93A technicians who are the first Apprentices to go to Blandford for their T3 equipment training.



February saw the departure of the last Single Entry technician courses to Blandford for their T3 equipment training and coincidentally we said farewell to their instructors, **Pete Charles**, **Kevin East**, **Carl Butler**, **Kevin Wake**, **Arthur Pearce** and **Dave Rayner**. **John Phillips** and **Dave Norrie** are still with us teaching the latest Stores Accountants course and they should leave for Blandford later in the year.

The new intake 94C have finished their basic training and they started their technician training in the new year. The photo shows **Sgt Zdena Best** trying valiantly to persuade them that Ohms Law had not been repealed, contrary to popular belief.

OPERATOR WING

'*Wire* notes Yeoman?' said **Maj Phil Castle** to **(YofS) Mick Dawson**. 'Not a problem Sir; well in hand' said the Yeoman as he walked slowly towards his office. The Yeoman was then seen running to his computer muttering something to the effect that William Shakespeare didn't have to work to these sort of deadlines. So here goes 'To be or not to be, that is the . . .' Oops! wrong magazine.

The Wing has had a number of interesting episodes, the first one of note was the visit of a French Signals Officer, **Capt Leterme**. The aim of the visit was to discover how our training methods differed from theirs. The OC who has been attending French lessons for the past two months, met **Capt Leterme** at Leeds/Bradford Airport and immediately called in the services of an interpreter. The visit went extremely well with good cross-

pollination of ideas and information which gave much food for thought. An item of note was the briefing that the HIO Radio, **Mr Colin Lister**, gave to the French Officer. Using the Yorkshire idea that if you speak loud enough most foreigners will understand English, **Mr Lister**'s briefing was of sufficient vigour to centre-part the French Officer's hair from three yards.

It is said that on a Yeoman's Course the training prepares the individual for almost every eventuality. We have learned that there is one item of training which is completely overlooked. Oh? I hear you say! . . . I leave you in suspense no longer, it is the subject of adverse weather prediction profiling. Commex Tp Comd, **SSgt (YofS) Rick Carley** having deployed his Troop, with students from OTBM 190 to Bishop Monkton, failed to interpret the Atlantic Charts correctly, resulting in all exit routes from the location being flooded to a depth of six feet in some places. The Troop has subsequently been renamed HMS *Pinafore*. There have been unkind comments to the effect that the Yeoman is going to be replaced by either Capt Nemo or a newly commissioned officer, one Lt Canute.

Finally, congratulations to **Sgt Wayne Bradford** on his promotion from Cpl to Sgt and **Yeoman Ron Perry** on his selection for promotion to WO1 (well somebody had to win).

RETIREMENT

This term sees the retirement of two well known Burnham Lecturers. **Mr Roy Cooper** and **Mr Alan Green** will be retiring after a combined total of over 58 years service at the College.

MR ALAN GREEN

Alan Green retired on 31 January after 28 years service at the College.

After completing a five year apprenticeship in Production Engineering **Alan Green** was commissioned into REME. **Alan** rebadged RAEC in 1965 and was posted to the then Army Apprentices' School, Carlisle. Here he took the opportunity to civilianise his own post and thus he became a Burnham Lecturer. On the closure of AA Coll Carlisle, **Alan** was transferred to Harrogate in August 1968 where he joined the Science Dept. **Alan** helped develop the successful ONC (Electrical and Electronic Engineering) course and its subsequent successor the present BTEC National Diploma Course.

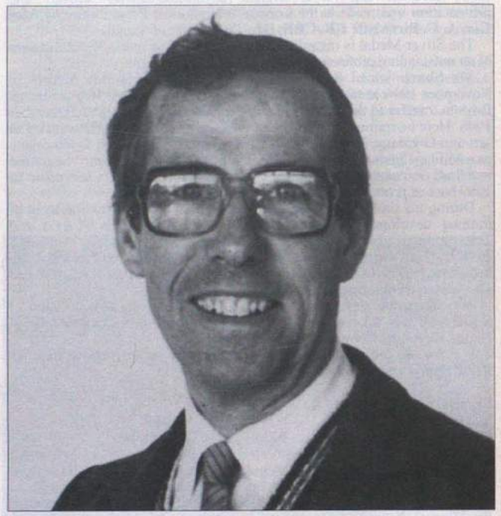


Alan Green

Throughout his career in Harrogate **Alan Green** willingly gave up many hours of his own time to organise and run activities and hobbies which included philately, chess and model railways. In 1968 **Alan** was appointed 'temporary OIC Cycling'; an appointment he relinquished upon retirement! However throughout those years **Alan** successfully coached many apprentices and members of the Permanent Staff to Army and Combined Services standard. He also won the Army Indoor Sprint Championships himself on a number of occasions!

Alan was always a very firm but fair man in his dealings with apprentices and he very successfully used these same qualities whilst representing the interests of the Burnham Lecturer branch of the Institution of Professionals, Managers and Specialists.

With his active interest in model railways, philately, travelling and the Church, **Alan** will have much to occupy him during his retirement. Throughout his career at the College **Alan** has always been ably supported by his wife **Elizabeth**. She also has plans for **Alan**'s retirement and I understand that the kitchen has been prepared for redecoration! Good wishes are extended to **Alan** and **Elizabeth** from both apprentices and staff of the Army Apprentices' College.



Roy Cooper

MR ROY COOPER

31 March 1995 marked the retirement of **Mr Roy Cooper** after 32 years of selfless service to the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate. **Roy** started his working life as an apprentice himself, not for a 'mere two years' as is the case today, but for a full five years during which he trained to become an Aeronautical Engineer. **Roy**'s skills were put to good use during his ten years service with the Fleet Air Arm and for some of that time he taught aeronautical engineering and technical drawing to Royal Navy apprentices. Following his service with the Fleet Air Arm **Roy** worked for a short while as an engineer before joining the Army Apprentices' School, as it was then known, on 11 January 1963.

Since that time **Roy** has worked tirelessly for the good of the apprentices in his care. It is estimated that more than 11,000 R Signals tradesmen have passed through the College since his arrival. Many of those will recall **Roy**'s patient and understanding teaching together with his insistence that things be done properly! Outside of the classroom **Roy**'s undoubted skill as a badminton and squash coach has created many top class players within the Corps and introduced the sports to many more less talented but equally enthusiastic players. It should be noted however that even through **Roy** has now reached retirement age there are still only a handful of players in the College who are capable of giving him a hard game!

The Army Apprentices' College and the Royal Corps of Signals owe much to **Mr Roy Cooper**. We join together in wishing him and his wife **Dorothy** a long and happy retirement and we look forward to seeing them in the future.

NEWS FROM THE REGIMENTS

1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

EXERCISE SILVER DIAMOND

Ex Silver Diamond was an offshore sailing expedition undertaken by five members of 208 Sig Sqn around the Danish Coast aboard *Quicksilver*, the Corps Yacht. The exercise was aimed essentially at novice sailors, but late October weather conditions ensured that all those on board were thrust into a sharp learning curve from the onset. The crew was ably led by **LCpl** 'Windy' **Gale**, who as the skipper of the yacht and the only man of experience certainly had his work cut out for him. With force 7 gales, the crew consisting of **Sig Jim O'Mahoney**, **2Lt Mel Rayner**, **Sig Matt Wild**, **LCpl Stu Mutch**, **Sig** 'Taff' **Mainwaring** and **LCpl** 'Windy' **Gale** had a challenging but fun time.



Sig 'Ski' McKie on his homemade raft



Sailing in the Baltic

REGIMENT NORDIC SKI TEAM 1995

The 1994-5 Nordic ski season started in Norway. The team departed from Herford in late November and after two days of driving, arrived at the aptly named village of Skei, close to the site of the last winter Olympics at Lillehammer. Snow was plentiful and training, supervised by **SSgt Scott** at Corps Nordic Ski Camp, began in earnest. A combination of local Nordic and military instructors conducted a punishing schedule.

A normal day's training would begin early with ski waxing, followed by two hour's technique, lunch, 10-15km distance work, range practice, a warm-down run, and finally 'fifties' (circuit training exercises). Although the team arrived in a physically fit condition, fatigue soon set in. **Lt Jones**, the team leader, had few difficulties in managing a team that spent most of its spare time sleeping. The training camp ended in late December with a number of hard fought selection races for future competition at Divisional and Army level.

The chosen few left for Les Saisies in the French Alps for a further ten days training. The high altitude and demanding terrain were ideal for race-tuning. Unfortunately a stray snow plough decided to write-off the team mini-bus. However, thanks to prompt action by 'Keddy', the hire company, a replacement soon arrived and the team moved unhindered to Les Contamines. The Divisional Championships started with **Cpl George**, **Bdr Middleton-Jones** and **LCpl Brass** proving their worth with some good results.

The team was easily on-line for qualification for the Army championships with just the patrol race to go. Thanks to the influence of **Brig Kerr**, the patrol became a tactical recce patrol, deployed after quick battle orders at first light. 30kms in deep snow and torrential rain interspersed with log racing, ranges, navigational bearings, casevac, and mountain safety were firm reminders of our military status in a civilian environment. To the team's dismay, fears of disqualification for straying from a section of the course were confirmed. Army qualification, however, was still comfortably achieved.

A move back to old training ground at Les Saisies heralded the start of the Army Championships. The prize was the Princess Marina Cup presented by **HRH The Duke of Kent** to the best Regiment at both downhill and Nordic skiing. Being the current holders, the pressure was on. After a hard-fought competition the team finished third behind 35 Engineers and 1 GS Regt RLC respectively. Victory in 1995 was not to be and all returned to Herford exhausted. A glowing suntan was scant consolation for our efforts.

REGIMENTAL NIGHT FIGHTING BATTLE CAMP

In order to increase the basic soldiering skills of the personnel serving in the Regiment it was decided that rather than just have the annual battlecamp, held in the summer, a short duration camp should be held in the winter with the emphasis on night operations. This exercise took place in January and was held at Haltern ranges near Munster. It consisted of two periods of three days during which four platoons of 40 men would be tested.

The exercise started with an 8km battle march, with full kit and bergens, to their respective bivvy sites. The platoons were then briefed on cold injuries and spent the remainder of the afternoon undergoing instruction from their platoon commanders and building their bash. That evening there was an inter-section patrol competition entailing them navigating at night around a 12km course with five stands of varying tasks to be completed. The following morning was a period of instruction from the DS involving four stands. These included elementary navigation and pacing, basher building (in order to highlight errors from the previous night when it had poured with rain), a platoon attack stand with particular emphasis on casualty evacuation and NBC first aid, and finally an introduction to pyro ready for that nights ranges. During the afternoon the platoons were again instructed by their platoon hierarchy on ambush drills

whilst the platoon commanders carried out a recce and wrote orders for a live firing ambush that night. After the evening meal, the platoons then proceeded to the ranges where they first completed a live firing section in defence range, followed by a very realistically run live firing ambush.

At about 2300 hrs once these ranges had been completed they moved to the night orienteering stand to take part in a 15km inter fire team event. On one of the nights arctic conditions were experienced with driving snow attacking all exposed parts of the body from a horizontal angle!

On the morning of the final day the platoons took part in an 8km march and shoot, again with full CEMO, after which they boarded the buses and returned to Herford. Congratulations are offered to all those who successfully completed, what was an arduous camp and hopefully many lessons have been learnt about personal administration in the field for future exercises of this nature, particularly in inclement weather.

RSAAM 95

The task of organising this year's event fell to 201 Sig Sqn. Every Squadron carefully selected its best shots and the teams gathered at Sennelager for two days of fierce competition. This year saw the Regiment competing for the first time with SUSAT, and high scores were expected. The event lasted two days, with the majority of the team matches decided on day 1. The Squadron teams comprised of two eight-man sections, and both sections underwent the March and Shoot and the Rifle match on the same day. Additionally the specialist firers in the Pistol and LSW matches had to fire around this gruelling timetable. The second day was scheduled to hold the Roupell Cup match for the Top Twenty rifle firers from day 1. This difficult shoot was included to sort the men from the boys and give them a real challenge. The competition was rounded off with the most popular shooting match of all–the Falling Plates. The high standard of combat shooting was evident with the fastest time of 26 seconds recorded.

Two days of excellent competition came to an end. The CRA, **Brig G. L. Kerr OBE**, presented the prizes as follows:

Winning Individual Rifle: **Sig Holt**, 201 Sig Sqn
Winning Section Rifle: 201 B
Winning LSW: **Cpl Bell**, 211 Sig Sqn
Winning Pair LSW: **Cpl Bell** and **Sig Bryan**, 211 Sig Sqn
Winning Section March & Shoot: 201 B
Winning Individual Pistol: **LCpl Parker**, 201 Sig Sqn
Winning Pair Pistol: **2Lt Gray** and **LCpl Cochrane**
Falling Plate: 201 B
Winning Individual Roupell Cup: **SSgt Dennis**, 212 Sig Sqn
Champion Shot: **SSgt Dennis**, 212 Sig Sqn
Champion Section: 201 A
Champion Squadron: 201 Sig Sqn

All teams are now busily preparing for DIVSAAM 95. 201 Sig Sqn has the challenge of competing against the Infantry, this is not easy task but the team can be relied upon to be worthy of the Corps. 'Watch and Shoot. Certa Cito.'



Champion Squadron
Back row: LCpl Warburton, Sigs Buchanan, Smillie, Ulley, Sgt Eden, Sigs Bennett, Campbell, Cpl Oliver
Front row: Sigs Saunders, Holt, Perkins, Cpl Graham, Capt Cathro, Sigs Lowes, Morrison, LCpl Parker

ARMY NOVICE AND JUNIOR BOBSLEIGH AND SKELETON WEEK

It's that time of year again for mad dogs and soldiers to throw themselves down ice tracks on tin trays and in 10 year old bobsleighs. As luck would have it both the Army bobsleigh and skeleton weeks took place at that same time and at the ever popular track in Igls, Austria. The Regiment introduced **LCpl Cess Mason** to skeleton under the guidance of the very successful **Cpl** 'Porky' **George** who is now representing the GB Team. She was competing against five other male novices and took to the sport like a duck to water. She survived the first four days without a bruise, quite an achievement when compared to **Capt Damian Quinn** who was persuaded to leave the safety of his bobsleigh! 'Cess' finished the week with the remarkable achievement of not only being the best novice but also beating the leading lady in the Swiss team who has been competing for several years. She will now compete in several ladies' events and it is hoped she will eventually go on to represent the GB Team.

The Bobsleigh team consisted of four novices and two seniors. The week started off well with no crashes, and **SSgt Phil Green** proved invaluable passing on the knowledge he had gained last year to the new brakemen. However, near the end of the week and with the pace of the bobsleighs increasing, several crashes occurred. Two of the team decided they rather liked the shape of their bodies as they were and said enough was enough. Bobsleighing is a sport you either love or hate and often it takes a braver person to admit that it is not for him. Overall the week proved successful, with **Sig Chris Palin** and **LCpl** 'Barney Biff' **Barnet** looking good prospects for the future. The team is now looking towards the Novice Championships and two unsuspecting victims have already been identified to boost team numbers, however volunteers are still required.

EXERCISE RHINO REPLEN

On a dark and damp November morning the Regiment began Ex Rhino Replen, a Divisional Logistic Exercise. Although all the Squadrons deployed only certain elements were required to support the Division, so the remaining assets participated in a Regiment exercise.

During the Exercise the Squadron was visited by Commander Comms UKSC(G) **Brig A. J. Raper MBE**. He initially toured Div Main HQ, receiving detailed briefings about the Squadron's role by **Cpls Andy Winkle** and 'Scotty' **Scott**, after which he had lunch with the Officers and Warrant Officers of the Regiment. After lunch the Brigadier moved on to Div Rear HQ to meet the personalities involved in the Logistic Ex. On 17 November the SOinC **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle** visited the Regiment. He arrived in what was a crucial stage of World War 3, according to the Battle Simulation Ex. However, he carried on undisturbed ensuring that he met as many soldiers as possible.

The highlight of the Exercise necessitated crossing the River Weser, in support of the German Pioneer Corps. This was accomplished in darkness and without vehicle lights, over the floating ribbon bridge. The successful completion was a fitting end to a demanding and worthwhile exercise.



The SOinC being briefed on the World War 3 Battle picture by 'Col' Scotty Scott

2 Sig Regt
York

CO	**Lt Col J. L. Fletcher**
Adjt	**Capt C. J. McIntosh**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) D. Whiting**

We bid a fond farewell to **Lt Col A. D. Forster** and his wife **Francis** and wish them every success at Shrivenham. Under his command the Regiment won the Birtwistle Pennant for Sport, were champions in the Army Major Units Cross-Country, Athletics and Marathon and finalists in the Army Major Units Rugby and Football Championships.

In turn we welcome the new Commanding Officer, **Lt Col J. L. Fletcher** and **Jenni** and wish them an enjoyable tour.



The Regiment bids farewell to Lt Col A. D. Forster and sends him off in style

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj L. Wood MBE**
2IC	**Capt R. Cory**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) R. Ibbotson**

We congratulate HQ Sqn Comd, **Maj Les Wood**, on being made a Member of the British Empire in the New Year Honours List (it will go well with the rest of his medals!), **WO1 (RSM) Dave Whiting**, on his recent selection for a commission, **WO2 (RQMS) Dave Showell** on his selection for promotion to WO1 and **Capt Ray Cory** on his recent promotion.

The MT say farewell to **Sig Paul Bury** to CivDiv and, from Mike Tp, **Sgt Ronnie Nixon** who is posted to 1 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt. We wish them both all the best for the future.

219 SIGNAL SQUADRON
PHOENIX TROOP

Tp Comd	**2Lt D.** 'Dodgy' **Edwards**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt A.** 'Badger' **Hurst**

There have been many comings and goings over the past month or so, not least in the Troop HQ. **Lt Robbie** 'FB' **King** has moved on to SHQ as 2IC followed by **Sgt Andy** 'Shaggy' **Jenno** who's beard is worthy of ZZ Top. **LCpl Paul** 'Bam Bam' **Blakey** and **Sig** 'Hoss' **Cartwright** leave us for 7 Sig Regt. It was hoped that we could send **Sig Cartwright** off with an Army Cup Winners medal but it was not to be. Also our condolences are extended to **Sig Paul Renwick** for his sad loss–parting with his beloved 5 Series BMW in exchange for something more sensible!

We have welcomed into the Troop a new Tp Comd, **2Lt Dave Edwards** who at 6ft 5 in. contrasts nicely with the terrier-like **Sgt Hurst**. We now have a 'Scousers Ltd' in the Squadron with **2Lt Dave Edwards**, **WO2 (SSM) Mick Williams** and **SSgt Terry Parle**! A welcome is also extended to **LCpl Jolley** ('Green Giant'), **Sig Brad Cotti**, **Sig** 'JF' **Kennedy** and **Sig White** and we hope that they enjoy their time with us.

Several members of the Troop have had to have counselling–**2Lt Dave Edwards**, **Cpls Bartliff**, **Curtis**, **LCpls Lawer**, **Parr** and **Sig Denham**. All were members of the Regimental Rugby team who, although putting up a magnificent endeavour, failed to bring back the Army Rugby cup. Welcome back, and the first lesson will be: Basic Beret Wearing! With Battle Camp looming they will soon be back in the groove. As we speak the Arctic tundra of Catterick beckons . . .!?

EAGLE TROOP

Tp Comd	**2Lt S. Boyne**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Webb**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Simons**

A hearty 'hello' to **2Lt Stuart Boyne**, who has been in the hot seat for a couple of months, replacing **Capt Dan Tomlinson**. 'Hello' also to **LCpl Bob Anthony**, **Cpl Whitty**, **Sig Gavin Gettings** and a 'Welcome Back' to **Sig John Clarke** after his six month holiday.

Farewells go to **Cpl Wood** who is off to pursue a potentially successful modelling career in Portugal **Sig Craig Malcolm** who retired to plant fences in Scotland; and finally **Sig Paul Hynard** and family who are off to 14 Sig Regt (EW) (you thought it was cold and wet in York, wait until you get to Wales!). We wish them all good luck.

After the mad rush at the end of 1994, life seems to have gained some sort of normality again. **SSM Williams** seems to be settling down into the job as **Sigs Miller**, **Hanes** and **Stenton** found to their cost! We must be the only Troop not to be affected by the Army Cup preparations. However, with the inter-squadron boxing on the horizon we do seem to have one or two Rockys amongst us. Notably **Sig Miller** who needs all the help he can get. **Sgt Simons** has yet to find out who cracked his ribs in the Offrs v Sgts Mess Rugby. We all hope he finds out soon–then may be he will stop lamenting about it?

The Troop is currently preparing for Battle Camp, minus **SSgt Miles** 'I am DS You Know' **Webb** and in true Catterick style it should be cold, wet and windy!

All this should be good practice for **Cpl** 'Dunc' **Cupit** who has just applied for 264 training. We all wish you the best of luck.

217 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj George Whyman**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) John Williams**

The Squadron would like to welcome **Capt Pete Drew** on his attachment whilst our regular 2IC, **Capt Graham Inglis**, is away on his JDSC course.

PHANTOM TROOP

Tp Comd	**2Lt Lee Hendricks**

Phantom Tp would like to say farewell to **LCpl Farrell** and wish him good luck on his posting to 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt.

We welcome to the Troop **LCpl Rob Thirsk** and his wife **Paula** and to **Cpl McIntyre** and wish them all an enjoyable stay in York.

Congratulations go to **LCpl Den Pryor-Healey** on his promotion and to **LCpls Trafford** and **Pengelly** on being selected for promotion.

Finally, the Troop would like to wish **2Lt Lee Hendricks** many happy returns on his (18th or is it 80th!) birthday–drinks on you?

TORNADO TROOP

Tp Comd	**2Lt Jurgen Wilson**

1995 and it was time to start doing some work. This time it was in the form of a short break at everybody's favourite place; Catterick!

The exercise started off cold, wet and windy–no surprises there–and when the luxury coaches (DAFs) arrived we knew we were on to something good. After a relatively easy, yet interesting first day of revising basic fieldcraft, we set up our 'first class' accommodation in the rain and wind. The DS had told us we were not doing anything that night–but we were not surprised when there was a change of plan. The quiet night rapidly changed into a nightmare navigation exercise. Section 1 completed the course and so did Section 3. Section 2 however, led by **Cpl Neil** 'Pathfinder' **Wellings**, returned somewhat later with the intrepid 'Pathfinder' soaked up to his chest. Later we found out that he had decided to take a midnight swimming lesson.

The second day started well with nice blue skies and the sun shining–but not for long. By the time it was time to go to the next 'bivvi' site (which had turned into a marsh by then) even our most resilient soldier, **Sig Gavin Makewell** had dug his teddy out of his bergan and thrown it in the corner. By some miracle we found ourselves in sheltered accommodation for the night, that is when we were not 'tabbing' around the training area looking for the last checkpoint of another short navex.

After we had completed the conventional phase of the exercise we hitched a lift up to the FIBUA complex. We were met by **Sgt Bob Wallace** who took us through house clearing skills. After going through a dry run we went for the real thing–the less said about that the better! Suffice to say, lessons were learnt.

ARRIVALS, FAREWELLS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Tornado Tp would like to welcome **Sgts Paul Bartliff, Dave Clarke** and **Cpl Pete Longworth**. We hope you and your families have an enjoyable stay.

Farewells go to **Sgt Andy Crabtree, Sgt Howie Barlow, Cpl Kenny Everett** and **Sig Phil Hall**. We wish you all the very best for the future.

Finally, congratulations must go to **Sig** 'Carty' **Cartmell** and **LCpl Adam Teale** for being selected for promotion and to **Sgt John Bailey** and his wife on the birth of their son, **Ryan**.

214 SIGNAL SQUADRON

VIKING TROOP

Tp Comd	**Lt Ian Heath**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Dereck Adams**

Viking Tp returned to York after leave to see what the New Year held in store for them. The main emphasis was the build up for Battle Camp (Sennybridge in March, do not forget your suntan cream) and the first Brigade exercise of the year, Ex Spring Eagle. It was decided that everyone's skills needed a little brush up in most areas so a programme of trade training and infantry training skills was the flavour of the month. On the infantry side the Troop deployed on Ex Hagars Revenge to fight the British Independent Freedom Fighters of Strensall, affectionately known as the BIFFS.

Of course we must not forget the congratulations. Well done to **Lt Ian Heath** on receiving his second pip; and **LCpl Sarah-Jane** 'Bob' **Orton** on her first stripe. Finally, the Guinness Book of Records has confirmed **Sig Knight**'s record of the shortest posting, two days with the Troop!

ROMAN TROOP

Tp Comd	**2Lt John Torrell**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Andy Terry**

Twelve months on and Roman Tp is a new, leaner, meaner trunk node. On arrival of its current Staff Sergeant, **SSgt Andy Terry**, it numbered 45. Now it stands at 27. All this and we are still doing the same job! How do we do it!

Ex York Aware, organised by **Sgt John Walsh** involved small groups from the Troop moving through York (!) with targets of: riding a train, singing in the Minster and sitting in a Porsche etc. It was good to see everybody put a great deal of effort into the exercise and also have a good time. Although, I wonder what the GOC EDIST, **Maj Gen Jeremy Cordingley DSO**, thought as he was asked for his autograph.

Congratulations and well done to **Sig Dave Christison** and **Sig Dave Pope** who both came off the Promotion Board.

Finally, farewell to **Sig Marcus** 'Dinger' **Bell** and **Sig David** 'Mac' **McCarthy** who changed Troops just before Christmas. They take with them our beloved Centrals!

SAXON TROOP

Tp Comd	**2Lt Duncan Noble**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Al Higgins**

Congratulations to **LCpl Constantine** on becoming a bona fide pad. Saxon Tp wish both him and his wife **Debbie** every happiness for the future.

Unfortunately, we have to say a fond farewell to several established members of the Troop. **Cpl** 'Mack' **McIntyre** leaving us for the Training Wing, **Cpl Pete Longworth** to HQ Sqn, **LCpl Glennard** moving on to the Squadron Stores Department, along with **Sig Wendy Perez** who will be in the Squadron offices and to **Sig** 'Rory' **Underwood** who has moved to HQ Sqn. Good wishes to you all.

Finally, a warm welcome to **Cpl** 'Robbie' **Robins** who came to us straight from Viking Tp.

ARMY MAJOR UNITS RUGBY FINAL

The heavy rain which had been prevalent in the South for the past week finally relented and the final of the Schweppes Army Major Units Cup, which had been in doubt, took place at Aldershot on 25 January. A heavy pitch and a wet ball meant that fast flowing rugby was not to be the order of the day.

It proved to be a game of two halves, but then most are! The first half saw 2 Sig Regt move into a 9–0 half time lead, through three penalties successfully converted by full back **Cpl Steve Bartliff**.

7 (Para) RHA were clearly rattled and indiscipline had proved costly. Many spectators in the large crowd believed that this was the Signallers' day. The Gunners were to prove them wrong with an awesome display of power rugby in the second half. Despite gallant defence by the Regiment the Gunners were able to score two tries, a conversion and, in the final seconds, a penalty. Final score 15–9 to 7 (Para) RHA.

The Regiment had performed well in atrocious conditions against a powerful team. Congratulations must go to **Lt Col** 'Geordie' **Gainford** and his squad plus all the members of the Regiment who have worked extended hours during the build up to the final, whilst the team were training.



2 Sig Reg soak up the pressure
Photo courtesy of Soldier Magazine

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7 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

THE SPORTSMAN'S DINNER

To celebrate the Regiment's winning of the Birtwistle Pennant for Sport the presentations of Regimental Sports Colours were held during a Sportsman's Dinner on 11 January 1995.

Chief Comms HQ ARRC **Brig A. J. Raper MBE** joined the CO **Lt Col D. McDowall MBE** for what proved to be an excellent evening.

The Sportsman of the Year for 1994 was awarded to **SSgt (SSI) Davidson APTC**. Well deserved for his contributions in not only organising most of the Regiments' sporting events but also competing in Rugby, Athletics, Tennis and Cross Country Running at the highest level.

The meal prepared by the catering staff was outstanding, worthy of a Royal Banquet, as was the wine that flowed freely (much to the delight of the rugby team).

The rugby team was one of many Regimental teams highlighted for their efforts during 1994. Winning the BAOR RFU Challenge Cup and becoming Army Champions after beating 7 RHA in March.

Other notable achievements in Regimental sports include:

Tug of War	– Winning at 660kg and coming Runners Up at 600kg at The Royal Tournament. Army Finalists.
Water Polo	– UKSC (G) Zone B Champions. **Lt Cooper, Sgt Weavers, Sgt Taylor** and **Cpl Ward** selected for Army (UK).
Orienteering	– UK SC(G) Runners up. **Maj Bateson** selected for England M35 and Army (UK).
Athletics	– UKSC (G) Runners Up, Army Finalists.
Martial Arts	– **WO2 Pettitt** 1st in individual Kata at UK Open Championship.
Football	– **LCpl Johnson** selected for Army and Combined Services UKSC (G).
Cricket	– Rhine Garrison League and Cup Champions.
Golf	– Rhine Garrison Summer League Champions in both A and B Divisions.

Success in all sports is clearly indicated looking through the results shown above with Regimental Colours being awarded to 82 people in a total of 17 sports. Success can also be seen by observing how much each team has improved during the 1994 season. The level of tuition and coaching being made available to each individual, has raised proficiency considerably. With continued work by coaches and participants alike, plus the support of the Regiment, 1995 should be as successful as was 1994.

COMMISSIONING OF WO1 (YOFS) KEVIN TOWNSEND

WO1 (YofS) Kevin Townsend was dined out of the Sergeants' Mess in style on Friday 9 December. At a pre-arranged point in the proceedings he was demoted, redressed, removed from the mess and regally transported the 150 metres to the Officers' Mess on the forks of a JCB. He was accompanied on the way by the RSM and Sergeants' Mess members, and was met by the CO, **Lt Col D. McDowall MBE** on arrival at the Officers' Mess. The photograph shows the CO greeting **Kevin Townsend** while **WO1 (RSM) Watts** and **Jacqueline Watts** look on.



KARATE

The 7 Sig Regt Shotokan Karate Club was established at Herford in 1992 by **SSgt (YofS) Tony Bunce** and played hosts to the 1992 BAOR Open Karate Championships; the first to be held for many years, and again in 1993.

The club closed down due to the move to Krefeld and re-opened in May of the same year. The club is currently 55 strong, consisting of 10 adults and 45 children, all of various grades and is instructed by **Sensi Tony Bunce**, Black Belt 3rd Dan. **Tony** has trained since 1977 and gained his First Dan in 1982. He now holds the position of Army Martial Arts Association Secretary UKSC(G) and is the Senior Ryoshin Instructor in UKSC(G). His wife **Heather** (Purple Belt) and daughter **Kelly** (Brown Belt) also train in the same club. In January 1995 he was awarded his Regimental Colours for Martial Arts.

Another recipient of Regimental Colours for Martial Arts was **WO2 (RAOWO) Kev Pettitt** AGC(SPS) who took up Karate in August 1994 with his daughter **Zowie** (12) Yellow Belt and son **Christopher** (8) Orange Belt. In September 1994 he achieved 2nd place in the male low grade individual Kata at the 1994 BAOR Open Karate Championships in Osnabruck. In October 1994 at the UK Open Championships he achieved first place in the low grade individual Kata.

Although the club is run in the Shotokan Style, **Sig Spencer Attridge** whose style is wadaro, and attends the twice weekly lessons to train, also deputises for **Sensi Bunce** during his absence.



Standing: Sig Spencer Attridge, SSgt (YofS) Tony Bunce (Instructor), WO2 (RAOWO) Kev Pettitt
Kneeling: Clair Jackson, Steven Jackson, Wain Ratcliffe, Kelly Bunce

Sqn Comd	**Maj David Powell**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Stan Standford**

TN011

Farewell and good luck to **Lt Colley, SSgts Keen, Read** and **Sig Henderson**.

Welcome to **2Lt Bever** and his wife **Camilla, SSgt Anderson, Sgt Owen, Cpls Aggar, Evans, LCpl Irvine** and **Sig Wilson**.

Congratulations also go to **Cpl Aggar** on his well deserved promotion.

TN012

We would like to extend a warm welcome to **Sig Annetts** who joins us from the rugby team and farewell and good luck to **Sig** 'Sax' **Saxelby** who is moving to MT.

Congratulations to **Sig Mark Hazlehurst** and his wife **Lisa** on the birth of their daughter **Jasmine**–well timed for the middle of the exercise.

Congratulations also go to **Sigs Kieron Slack** and **Sig Billy Morris** on their promotion to LCpl. Well done.

TN013

TN013 would like to welcome all its new arrivals–**LCpls Andy Clark** and **Brian Whitehead**, **Sigs Matt Farnsworth**, **Danny Mathis**, **Tracie Ross**, **Liam Tosh** and **Dave Taylor**.

The Troop bids farewell to **LCpl Robertson** and his wife **Annie**, **Sig** 'Taff' **Evans** and **Linda**, also **Sig Dave Taylor** who have all moved on to better things–or so they keep telling us. Congratulations go to **LCpl** 'Ollie' **Olford** and **LCpl** 'Skully' **Halliwell** on their long awaited promotion to Cpl.

EXERCISE WOODLAND FLIGHT

The Regiment deployed to the snowy wilderness of the Sauerland, but this did not deter 229 Sig Sqn. TN011 deployed to an ice skating rink in the middle of a Ski resort, TN012 to a wonderful NCP car park–very handy for Aldi, and TN013 deployed to a lovely hilltop site allowing them to achieve comms–an anomaly for this exercise.

Although not the most successful comms exercise, everyone enjoyed the snowball fights, the inter node snowman building competition and the sledging time trials. Roll on Woodland Flight 2.

230 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Bateson**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) O'Connor**

KILO TROOP

Tp SSgt **SSgt Davies**

On the last working day before Ex Woodland Flight the Troop showed its true colours. Early morning P.T., a SSM's Block Inspection, two 'O' Groups and all the normal pre-exercise activity. It was a relief to actually deploy. The absence of packed lunches on the journey down was not an oversight. Rather it was a carefully thought out plan to increase the popularity of our sandwich-toting married members. The deployment went well and once safely back in camp we rewarded ourselves with a 'Happy Hour'.

TN014

We say hello to **Sig Berry**, straight from training into a snowy Ex Woodland Flight. Sadly we say goodbye to **Cpl Wilson** who moves within the Squadron to Trunk Node 015, and to **Sig Evans** who has followed our previous Tp Comd. **Lt Dennis Thornton** to 4th Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204). Congratulations to **LCpl Ireland** on finally securing that elusive first tape. Let us hope he manages to hold on to it . . .

The Regiment's first exercise of 1995 was conducted in the depths of the German winter. Some two feet of snow covered the deployment area. We were not discouraged by the difficult driving conditions. Our first site, which gave an excellent view of the Winterberg Cross Country Skiing Championships did however make us wonder if there might have been a more efficient way to move about than via 4-Ton Bedfords. Sure enough our snow-boarding improved considerably and we look forward to returning to the area later in the year.

TRUNK NODE 015

Tp Comd **Lt W. J. Kirby**

Ex Woodland Flight was conducted in cold, snowy conditions across terrain not unlike Bosnia. This conspired to make hilltop sitings of Radio Relays somewhat more eventful than is usual. **Cpl Steve Guppy** assured us all that was required was a shoved and some determination. He was forced to re-consider this after a few hours of labour. Fortunately he had the presence of mind to flag down a passing snow plough . . .

New to the Troop were **Lt Kirby** who fortunately didn't expect us to parachute into location, **Sig Fiona Molloy** and **Cpl Willie Wilson**. **Cpl Wilson** came to us on promotion with a real reputation as a communicator. Although this was because of his mobile phone we are pleased to have him with us.

The most eagerly awaited broadcast of the Exercise was the Newcastle-Blackburn F.A. Cup game. Fortunately for us the 'Toon Army' were victorious and **SSgt Keilty**, Newcastle's most dedicated supporter, was able to complete the exercise.

TRUNK NODE 016

Tp Comd **Lt R. Webb**

We welcome **Cpl** 'Nellie' **Sorley** from the Squadron M.T. Section and **Sig South** fresh from training. We would also like to welcome the Tp Comd to work full time following the Rugby Team's defeat. Sadly we say farewell to **LCpl McSherry** who is off to 232 Sig Sqn and **Cpl Hodgskins** who moves within the Squadron to Trunk Node 014. Congratulations go to **LCpl Mason**, **Cpl Jones** and **Lt Webb**, all newly promoted but yet to buy us all a celebratory drink.

The following all received their Regimental Colours **Lt Webb** (Rugby), **Cpl Mason** (Tug of War) and **Sig Johnson** (Cross-Country and Athletics). Our real sports celebrity is **Sgt Ratcliffe**. He has masterminded the Football Second XI's progress to a record of Played 10, Lost 9 and Drawn 1. Fortunately relegation from the Second Division is not likely as there is no Third Division.

232 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj J. M. S. Turner RA Signals**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) M. A. Simcox**

SHQ TROOP

The Troop congratulates **WO2 (YofS) Kev Parker** on selection for promotion (no more courses now), and **WO2 (SSM) Mark Simcox** on becoming chairman of the Lost Mountain Bike Association (most of us lock them up Mark).

Finally a quote from **Sgt Kirkham** on exercise in Denmark–'So how much do the 50 Kroner phonecards cost then?'

MAN TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt O. D. Bryant**

Congratulations to **Sig Purdon** on his promotion and his bar course at Haus Magnus with **Capt Owen Bryant**. Congratulations also to **LCpl Richie Lees** on his promotion.

RADIO TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt M. Grierson**

The Troop has shown how flexible it is as with various exercises, where dets have been re-roled and manning switched around at short notice.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Farewell to the following recent departures from the Troop. **LCpls Sammy Lee** and his family, 'Smudge' **Smith**, **Trevor** 'Treefor' **Davies**, **Sigs Dave Honeywell**, 'Caz' **Duffy** and **Kev Roberts**. Best wishes to all.

Hello and welcome to **Sgt Mark Todd** and his family, **Cpl Sid James** and his family and straight from the 'Factory' **Sigs Mclennan**, **Ayre**, **Harrison**, **Johnson**, **MacMillan**, **Moye**, **Steele**, **Stevenson**, **Sustins**, **Thompson** and **Turner** (sorry no first names).

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **LCpls Andy Crawford** and **Rob Lewis** on their promotion, both are remaining with the Troop.

FSG TROOP

After a hectic year, 1995 started with a bang, and we have just returned from the first Regimental Bedford ice skating competition in Winterberg, sadly we lost to TN014 Langlauf Team!!

A sad farewell to the Troop Techs who are either posted to sunny Blandford, **Cpl Scott Margison**, and **LCpl Nick Marcovic** or deserting to Line Tp (SHQ) **LCpl Neil Walsh**. The Troop is now looking for an 'easier' Tp Comd as our latest one **Lt Lee O'Rourke** spends far too much time working and not enough time on courses!

LINE TROOP

Comd Tp **2Lt E. Caroe**

The Troop said farewell to **2Lt** 'JC' **Caesar**, off to Blandford for his Troop Commander's course. Welcome to **2Lt Emily Caroe**, the first female Troop Commander of a Line Tp–sure to be an interesting time ahead! Welcome back to **Sig Evans** and newly promoted **LCpl** 'Taff' **Kennet** from Bosnia. The Troop congratulates **Sig Dean Andrews** on doing well on the Regimental Cadre course and **Sgt Mark Browitt** and his wife **Julie**, on the birth of their son **Callum**.

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11 Sig Regt Blandford

RHQ–ALL CHANGE

Lt Col V. G. Strivens handed command over to **Lt Col L. A. Relph** in February.

Lt Col Strivens has moved to York to take up his new post of SO1 CIS in HQ Eastern District. The Regiment thanks him for all his work whilst in Command and wishes him all the best for the future. All ranks are pleased to welcome our new CO, **Lt Col L. A. Relph** and hope she enjoys her tour. We also welcome our new RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Richards**.



The Corps Stick Climbing Competition has again taken place at Blandford
WO1 (RSM) P. Abbott passes on the Regimental Pace Stick to WO1 (RSM) G. Richards, Mr Abbott's grin shows how pleased he is to hand over the 'building site'

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON
FROM 8 TO 11 IN ONE 'EASY' MOVE

Sqn Comd **Maj T. J. Friend MBE**
SSM **WO (SSM) C. Gopsill**

THE WARNING ORDER (EARLY 1994)

Sqn Comd: 'Sarnt Major, we're going south for the winter.'

SSM: 'Details, Sir?'

Sqn Comd: 'Out of Catterick by 16 December 1994, pack only essentials, Blandford has everything we need and they are expecting us. Oh by the way, our Colonel-in-Chief is visiting before we leave. I'm told we will have a little parade, so please get on with it, there's a good chap.'

SSM: 'Sounds easy, I'll get on to it now, Sir.' Mutter, mutter, mutter!

THE MOVE

So a devious plan was formulated and the orders for the move were disseminated to the Troops.

Offices were emptied and anything that could be lifted was wrapped, packed and double boxed. There were more De-Commissioning parties, Farewell Dinners and Lunches than you could shake a Pace Stick at, and amongst all the bubble wrap and styrofoam chips there was Drill, Drill, Drill and more Drill. By mid-October the drill mayhem was over and our Colonel-in-Chief had visited on what must have been the hottest day in October on record, or was that one too many glasses of port before march-on?

Two days off then we began the 'Mother of all March-Outs', with the constant reminder ringing in our ears that Blandford are expecting us and everything is ready!

The 'Vultures' who weren't going to Blandford pounced on anything not required using the excuse that it was to be donated to various schools! There were even sightings of a certain YofS rummaging in the skips, 'It's for the local ACF' was his standard reply when challenged.

The Sqn Comd and SSM spent a long and tearful morning visiting and bidding farewell to the various HQ Sqn departments not moving south, then shot out of Camp under heavy clouds of rain (the only way to leave Catterick) and headed onto the A1 to reappear revitalised in 1995 under the same heavy clouds of rain. Who said it was always better weather down south?

THE ARRIVAL

Offices were found, however, no keys, no telephones, no furniture, no bodies and no clerical staff, but we did have duties and mess bills, so they were expecting us after all.

We spent a very dusty, sweaty fortnight cajoling and forcibly obtaining favours to establish our 'suite' of offices and eventually we had comms, furniture, clerical support and a few keys.

The day came when we requested our meagre possessions to be delivered from the isocontainer only to be informed that it could take at least a year to unload (that's how far down the 'Priority List' we were). The QM (Gen) who is sharper than scissors when it comes to cutting through red tape went to work and by the end of January we had all our 'Parrots and Monkeys' around us.

We are now happy to state that HQ Sqn, 11 Sig Regt, is up and running, or it will be conce the Sqn Comd has finished crying about having to leave his beloved Catterick (we think it's the Theakstons he misses).

1 SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj T. J. Pengelley**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Bobby Snow**

It is becoming a frequently common occurrence within *The Wire* for articles to revolve around unit moves, and it is with this in mind that 1 Sqn will document the true story of its departure from Catterick, and its 'recommissioning' in Blandford.

With the demise of training and a hoard of hungry Infanteers slowly but surely infiltrating Vimy Barracks the Squadron set about the task of clearing, cleaning and repairing the Camp for handover. Led by their fearless leader, **Maj** 'Pudge' **Townend**, and a band of hand picked volunteers, **Cpls** 'Deano' **Cartledge**, 'Doz' **Penfold** and **Spence Ord** to name but a few, they set to work.

Under the watchful eyes of **SSgt** 'Dicky' **Malt** and **Sgt Keith Clayton** a new form of cleaning developed as suspicious looking marks were patch painted over with paint that matched neither of the two shades already on the walls. Delays were frequent as **Sigs Sonja Corris** and **Lindsay Howson** put the world to rights, this however does not explain why **Cpl** 'Mexico' **Graham** and his band of girls took two weeks to clean the female wing. When his team left for leave the wing had to be re-done, which raised the question 'What went on there!'

With the onset of training the Squadron can report that things are 'nearly' back to normal and it only leaves us to congratulate **SSgt Steve** and **Sue Hughes** on the birth of their son, **John**, and say goodbye and best wishes to **Maj** 'Pudge' **Townend**, and his wife **Vicky**, who went back to Canada in February.

TRAINING SUPPORT SQUADRON
NEW ARRIVALS

Welcome to **SSgt** 'Si' **Tatman** and **Jackie** with daughter **Frances**. **Sgt** 'Hank' **Cappleman** and his wife **Pauline**. **Sgt Pete Mullen** and his wife **Kerry**. **Cpl Mick Eades**. **Cpl** 'Geordie' **Smee** with his wife **Jill** and family **Dean**, **Joe** and **Nicol**. **Cpl Don Cox**. **Cpl Al Finn** and his wife **Vannesa** with family **Heidi**, **Sorrell** and **Saffron**. **Cpl** 'Paddy' **Porter**. **Cpl Bob Giffard** and his wife **Karen** with family **Christopher**, **Jason** and **Ryan**. **Cpl** 'Chris' **Binnington**, all from 8 Sig Regt. Last, but not least, **Cpl** 'Baz' **Cadman** and his wife **Cherie** from 21 Sig Regt (AS).

DEPARTURES

Goodbye to **Cpl Mark Gray** and his wife **Sarah** and family **Daniel** and **Matthew** who are off to 7 Sig Regt. **Sig** 'Lee' **Lello**, also off to 7 Sig Regt. Good luck for the future.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Cpl Sean Meadows** on his marriage to **Jayne**.

PROMOTIONS

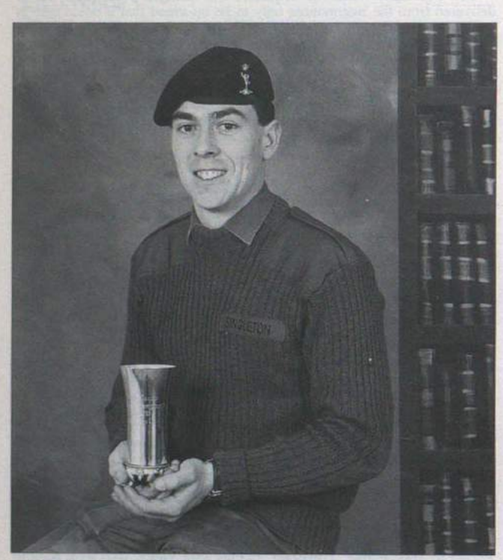
Congratulations go to **Cpls Jim Skimins**, 'Del' **Goodenough**, 'Els' **Elson**, 'Adi' **Duplock** and **Ian Devonport**. **LCpls Micky Dawes**, 'Randy' **Randerson**, 'Jo' **Ruth** and 'Pastie' **Thomas** on their well deserved promotions.

CADET LIAISON TEAM

The newly formed Cadet Liaison Team has been busy. The team has been tasked with providing advice and assistance to 16 Combined Cadet Forces (CCF) and 6 Army Cadet Forces (ACF) ranging from Cornwall, Dorset, Hampshire, Devon and Somerset. The team headed by **Sgt Steve White** and comprising **Cpls Mark Gray** and **Archie Gemmell** paid an initial courtesy visit to each of the CCFs which then led to an influx of requests for assistance. Canford School Cadet Force came to Blandford to be tested on their basic signalling skills, and managed to achieve a 100% pass. The majority of the time it spent with the team visiting the schools, some of which are up to four hours away. **Cpl Mark Gray** had a somewhat wet experience when after only one hour into his journey, on a blustery wet day, his sun roof blew off leaving a large gaping hole for the water to come in. He has not really had a great start to his new job. The team is sorry to see **Cpl Gray** leave us after such a short time and wish him and his family all the best for the future. Good luck!

ARMY JUNIOR AND NOVICE BOBSLEIGH CHAMPIONSHIPS
by Sig Singleton

Having started as a Novice two years ago and not having done any bobsleighing for the past two years my returning to the sport was tinged with both a touch of fear and anticipation of the buzz that I knew I would get from hurtling down a mountain at up to 70 mph pulling up to four times the force of gravity.



Sig Singleton with his well earned runner-up trophy for the Army Junior Championships

I decided that, to be on the safe side, I would start by doing my training from the Damon Start, however, after my first run down the ice I decided that I had remembered enough and still had what it takes to go from the top. The rest of my training runs went really well, each one faster than the one before.

It was 18 January and race day had finally arrived and everyone was feeling on edge and in a serious frame of mind. The draw for the race had not been too favourable but I knew what had to be done. Our time had arrived and there we were on the start point. The buzzer sounded and it was time to go.

We were off running down the track and it is time for me to jump in, after a few paces more my brakeman gets in. I knew he had got in as he managed to put his left spikes into my back. Quickly putting this out of my mind I got on with the driving. I did not get as fast a time as I would have liked and I knew I had to do better on my second run. This I achieved but only fast enough to finish with an accumulated time for second place. So that is how I finished the race, as runner up in the Army Junior Bobsleigh Championships.

Note: **Sig Singleton** went on to compete in the British Championships where he achieved 20th place, with a faster time than the Army Junior and Novice Championships.

MILITARY TRAINING SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Andy Bowering**
RQMS — **WO2 (RQMS) Dave Cox**

Sadly Catterick and 8 Sig Regt are no more. But, the Military Training Squadron has risen like the pheonix from the ashes and is now based alongside 21 Sig Regt (AS) at Colerne near Bath.

The move went relatively smoothly and by mid-November the Squadron, as we are now known, had taken root at Azimghur (how is that pronounced?) Barracks and work began to unpack under the watchful eye of **SSgt Richie Arundel**. A month later and things looked a lot healthier, with the priority of stores and classrooms given to the TA Trg team in preparation for the first recruits course 14-28 January.

Our grateful thanks go to the members of 21 Sig Regt (AS) who welcomed us with open arms and offered us every assistance to enable us to function. At the time of writing TA recruit training has already started. There are another three recruits courses and a TA RSSSC to run before we receive the first regular soldiers and the instructors are busy preparing for their arrival.

The building we have moved into is currently undergoing extensive refurbishment from the roof down (at present, waterproofs are needed inside the building as well as outside when it rains!), but it has a great deal of potential, and we look forward to its completion. Student accommodation is also receiving a major facelift to provide a greater standard of comfort.

Although we have lost the luxury of having training areas on our doorsteps as we had in Catterick, several recces have brought forth the fruit of new exercise locations, suitable for the varying levels of training required, albeit a fair drive away!

Range days are set to be revolutionised for Royal Signals soldiers attending courses here. **WO1 Kev Fitzpatrick**–late QMSI Wpns at the wing in Catterick and now OC TA Trg, has found the only automatic marking range in the world, at Warminster. A high tech piece of modern technology which will greatly help firers and instructors alike, enhancing the ability to plot the fall of shot and therefore aid coaching. At the time of writing, the recruits have since used this range and it has become apparent that technology got the better of the instructors–but not for long. Help is at hand in the heroic shape of Technoman! or **Maj Bowering** as he likes to be called, never without the computer and always willing to lend an educated opinion to us lesser mortals!

WO1 Kev Fitzpatrick left earlier than expected in March and the Wing wishes him and his wife **Debbie** and family the best of luck in Germany. **Capt Young** has also left to take control of the Corps Palace guard duties which by coincidence is being done from here in Colerne.

Tony and **Lindsey Manktelow** are both away on courses again, **Tony** on All Arms Drill and **Lindsey** on All Arms NBC–they must be the most qualified husband and wife team in the Corps! It's hard enough trying to understand the 'Geordie' accent at the moment, let alone putting the respirator on as well.

Basically, everyone is keen and eager to start, the location may have changed but the standards certainly haven't; you have been warned!

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 36

226 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Don Macaulay**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Martin Waclawek**

SHQ TROOP

Congratulations to **LCpl Danny Rundle** on his promotion–'storing can be fun'! We warmly welcome **Cpl** 'Daz' **Collins** back from Bosnia, and back into newly wedded bliss. **LCpl Greg Cropper** has taken up the reigns of Beady Eye power (etc) in Bosnia; no doubt he will love it, because he is a veritable bullet! Congratulations to **Cpl** 'Hoppy' **Hopkins** on his engagement to **LCpl Amanda Maragh** (no truth in the rumour that he was interested in the extra LOA). Commiserations to **Sig** 'Smudge' **Smith** for his Saturday afternoon navigational skills. Troop life continues to be both busy and challenging providing support for all the Squadron exercises. The cry from the bays is still 'why do people break these generators?'

DEF EW TEAM UKSC(G)

Tp Comd — **Lt** 'Mac' **McCrindle**

Currently the team are taking a short 'rest cure' from the heavy exercise schedule while the 'Bruin' box bodies are revitalised to last another 20 years–let's hope the millennium brings new equipment and many more 'punters'!

Welcome to **Lt** 'Mac' **McCrindle** and his wife **Julie**. He has assumed command of the Def EW Team UKSC(G) on commissioning. Welcome also to **Cpl Mick Murphy** and his wife **Ceri** on posting from 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207).

C(COMMS) TROOP

Tp Comd — **2Lt John Collyer**

There have been a few coming and goings. We say hello to **Sigs Del Spry** and **Colin Thompson** straight from the factory and we bid farewell to **Sigs Reggie Walsh**, **Colin Coote** and **Nic Beaver** all off to a very different life in Civ Div.

R(ROMEO) TROOP

Tp Comd — **2Lt Jayne Appleby**

Since our last instalment, Romeo Tp, minus 2 BDIs and two crews (one in Bosnia, the other on post det leave) has been kept busy. This included Ex Whale Hunt 1/95, a week long, in-barracks Squadron exercise. The different elements were all linked together and the Troops carried out their EW or comms roles. Romeo Tp carried out a liberal scoop of trade-related training to keep everyone's skills up to scratch and detachment drill practice (after practice after practice . . .). During the week we also had a day working with Comms Tp–thanks guys for a good day, particularly to **Cpl** 'Willy' **Wilson** for keeping the kettle fired up.

A big hello to **Cpl John Perry** from 9 Sig Regt and **LCpl Mark Robshaw** from 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. Also welcome back to **Cpls** 'Robbo' **Robson**, **Steve Garner** and **Sgt John Winn**, 'Bosnian, battle-hardened BDI inc.' (B3I ?!?), and to **Cpl Tel Parr** who has returned from his detachment.

Farewell and take care to **Sgt Timothy Stevens**, **Cpl** 'Geordie' **West** and **LCpl** 'Taff' **Evans** who have just left for a four month B3I tour.

Finally, 'adios' to **LCpl** 'Ambrose' **Rice** who is off to work in MoD for six months, much to the disgust of the other Londoner, **Cpl Lines**!

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H (HF) TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Ros Artley**

The great expectations of reliable kit were short lived as the Troop deployed on Ex Whale Hunt 1/95–a major road move around the camp circuit! New and old Troop members had much needed operator training inflicted on them by the hierarchy throughout the week. There was a plaintive and constant cry for technicians and screwdrivers. However, the exercise progressed well with the new members of the Troop gaining valuable experience.

Sgt Lodge has had enough of 1995 already and has acquired some more sick leave whilst **Sgt John Fielder** is trying to recover all the stores that have been nicked by **Cpl Jaffa** 'if it's not tied down it must be mine' **Martin.** Finally, **Cpls** 'Ginge' **Hall** and **Nige Francis** have managed to quell the spread of rust on their BSV–if only they could remember where they parked it.

We welcome back **Cpl Nige Francis** and **LCpl** 'Small' **Teck**. Returning from Bosnia are **LCpls Elderbrant** and **Andy Nurding**.

We say farewell to **LCpl Danny Clayton** who has left with his wife and fluffy slippers to annoy those at RAF Digby. On the detachment scene, newly married **LCpl Sarah Whitney** has decided to honeymoon in Bosnia for four months. **LCpl** 'Macham' **Anderson** has left wintery Osnabruck for a drier climate?

Finally, **LCpls** 'Pav' **Fenwick** and 'Small' **Teck** are shortly to undergo a 'rigorous' exercise in Cyprus with 640 Sig Tp.

EXERCISE WHALE SPEAR

Ex Whale Spear was a Squadron battle camp based loosely on a UN scenario. The aim was to prepare all the junior members of the Squadron for operations in a Bosnia type situation. The eight days progressed through tuition to a whole lot more 'fun and games'. So, on a cold morning the Squadron deployed to a local training area equipped with a week's compo, lots of tentage and lighting equipment. All this took place under the eagle eye of our own 'General Rose' lookalike, **Maj** 'DD' **Macaulay**, 226 Sig Sqn Comd. The Troops embarked on four days of instruction, two days in Sennelager on the ranges and training simulators, and ending with a two day consolidation phase to assess capabilities. The instruction covered the military skills of harbour drills, patrolling, anti-ambush drills (vehicle and foot), VCPs, orders, recognition and wood clearance. In addition there were many other related topics such as media handling, mine awareness, foreign weapons etc. The reader may be asking, 'How do you fit all this training into four days?'. Well, it's simple; everybody gets up early and retires very late, organisation being the key word. **WO2 (SSM) Waclawek** came good. He ironed out all the minor administrative points with a cheeky smile and a swear word or two from somewhere within his ever-increasing moustache. Almost all the military lessons were delivered in a very professional fashion by two JNCOs from the Green Howards, attached for the exercise. Our own Squadron personnel provided the balance of the lessons including some sobering material from those recently returned from Bosnia. Memorable lectures included **Sgt Skelton**'s lecture on 'How to cam up a basha'–Student comment, 'Sarge, where is it?'; **Sgt Skelton**, 'Well cammed in'it'. The Royal Irish Regiment version of disco dancing was another classic.

The APTIs also did their bit every morning at silly o'clock by running us all around a very dark training area, somehow finishing at the assault course. It was here that **Cpl** 'Ginge' **Hall** tried walking on water. **Cpl Hall** thought the water was only an inch deep, whereas it was at least three feet. Needless to say he carried it off in his own inimitable style.

Wood clearance took on a whole new meaning with the 'professionals' in charge and a lot of blank available, really highlighting the problems of control in the fire fight.

The two day consolidation phase was both testing and full of fun. A quick deployment to a harbour turned into a small trek. (**Cpl Nige Francis**, 'if the map had been luminous I would have been all right'). Anyhow, everyone at last made it to the patrol base, formed a triangle, lost one glove, cursed and swore, got cold–but soldiered on regardless. Morning broke (as did the tempers) and, after a change of command appointments, the platoons carried on with the numerous tasks at hand. These included VCP problems in a highly realistic Bosnia village (with **LCpl McLaughlin** adding realism with his 'dive' off the Bedford), anti-ambush drills while moving between safe bases, wood clearance against small enemy pockets and good old fashioned shooting the DS.

The CO, **Lt Col A. W. Russ**, presented the prizes in the bar after the return to barracks, with **Cpl** 'Hoppy' **Hopkins** getting the best soldier award and a number of other more flippant awards such as **Sig Kerry Cavell** winning the 'loudest voice of the week' competition. The exercise was deemed by all ranks to be good preparation for possible ops ahead and a great success–as we all got back in one piece, albeit considerably colder. Thankfully the Sqn Comd has relented and this year Whale Spear will take place in August!



'. . . and that's all there is to it'–LCpl Honeywood giving orders



'Right . . . listen lads . . . I have a cunning plan'
Sig Reggie Walsh in command!



Cpl Jason Meek on local protection for the vehicles

16 Sig Regt
BFPO 40

SUPPORT TROOP

It has taken a while to settle in to our new location but we are now well established, and thanks to a little self help, together with assistance from the Rheindahlen Support Unit, we are now able to provide the service that the Regiment expects. After a slight re-adjustment to the Troop in the form of the re-introduction of a centralised Tech Workshop led by **WO1 (FofS) Nige Cullen**, we welcomed the following: **Maj Ken Clark**, **Capt Ian Parry**, **WO1 (YofS) Terry Crosby**, **WO2 (RQMS/MTWO) Paul Stevenson**, **SSgt Jai Patel** (Chief Clk), **SSgt Eric Strefford** (Trg Wing), **Sgt Paul Buckley** (RAO Sgt), **Cpl Ian Bain** (QM's Dept).

We also said farewell to: **Capt** (now Maj) **Tony Shaw**, **Capt** (RAO) **Louise Calow** AGC, **Capt Steve Power** (REME), **WO2 (ORQMS) Charlie Foster**, **Sgt** (now SSgt) 'Tich' **Ritchie** AGC, **Cpl Billy Fowler**.

Congratulations for a number of new infant arrivals: **WO1 (RSM) Steve Toms** and **Mrs Toms** on the birth of their son **Simon**, **WO2 (RQMS) Steve Stevenson** and **Mrs Stevenson** on the birth of their son **Scott**, **Sgt Scholly Martwich** and **Mrs Martwich** on the birth of their son also called **Scott**, **Sgt Ritchie Matless** and **Mrs Matless** on the birth of their son **Jake**, **Cpl Billy Fowler** and **Mrs Fowler** on the birth of their son **Matthew**, and **LCpl** 'Biscuit' **Bisatt** (REME) and **Mrs Bisatt** on the birth of their daughter **Paige**. It must be something in the air!

252 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj R. A. B. Floyd**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) A. Fullwood**

Life moves on at a hectic pace (Ops must now hold the record for the amount of exercises you can squeeze on to one year planner!). That aside, SHQ had the sad task of saying goodbye to one of the Corp's stalwarts on his retirement, **SSgt Tony Talbot** who moves abroad to Florida after 27 years service in the Corps; we wish both him and **Bev** all the best for their future.

COMMS TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt K. Graham**

Comms Tp welcomed the New Year by celebrating the recent promotions of **LCpls** 'Chalky' **White** and **Dan Burdus** to Cpl and **Sigs Kerry White** and **Lorraine Longmoor** to LCpl. We have also, unfortunately, had to say goodbye to **Sgt Jane Marsden**, who has left us after only a short period of time to go and do great things at 21 Sig Regt (AS), also to **Cpl Caroline Walker** who is off to sunny Cyprus, **LCpls Sharon Wilson** leaving to have her baby, **Fay Nelson** and **Helen Comerford** to Civvy Street, **Jo Telford** to JCUFI and **Sig Emma Lee** to Chelsea; finally, but by no means least, **Sig Emma Lowe**, who will be greatly missed by her colleagues, is posted to Aldershot on her promotion–Well done.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to **Sgts Ginge Morgan** and 'Daisy' **Mundy** as well as **Sig Sharon Barwick** who has joined us from Hong Kong.

SYSTEMS TROOP

Tp Comd **Maj R. C. Offord MBE**

Over the past few months the Troop has undergone many changes in both manpower and our working environment. Now that it is all up and running we are looking forward to another interesting and busy year. Currently the Troop consists of Strategic SEP, EST(A), STARRNET and JDCMS, and this month we thought we would feature Strategic SEP.

STRATEGIC SEP

The section has over the past few months seen a lot of people go and not so many come. A fond farewell and good luck is wished to **Cpl Tracey Docherty** now a civilian employee of Tels House, **Sgt Rog Philp** (civvy street), **Sgts Neil McGreggor** and **George Henry** (both posted out), and in the near future the section must also say goodbye and good luck to **SSgt Steve King** and **Sgt Dave Martin** both posted to UK prior to leaving the Army. On a better note we say hello to **Sgt Neil McKenzie** and his wife **Anke** from 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207) and to **Sgt Andy Crabtree** and **Liz** recently arrived from UK. We wish them and their families all the best during their time in the Regiment.

The buzz word seems to be Skibobbing or Skibiking, and there is no truth in the rumour that the Troop worked from a ski hut in the Austrian Alps during January.

253 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj W. Ritchie**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) P. J. Ramsey**

The Squadron continues to draw down its manpower and refurbish or relocate its commcens. Much is going on and much has changed. It will be some time before all the work is completed and our manning levels reflect the correct establishment. Suffice to say no one shies away from the scrum and the Squadron's labours are self evident.

Finally, we say goodbyes, this time to **Lt Karen Lilley**, **SSgt Eric Strefford** who has moved to a crack and a thump role in the Regtl Trg Wing, and **Cpl Vicky Adamson** who has moved off to the ebb and flow of SHAPE. With new arrivals **WO2 (SSM) Dave Murray**, **SSgt Danny O'Brian** 'the new Q' and **LCpl Bod Mountfield**, welcomed by us all.

255 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj P. H. Smith**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) A. Bird**

GOLF TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt P. R. Griffiths**

After a busy and entertaining four months it is time to say hello and goodbye to a few personalities. Goodbyes go to the following **Lt Andy Harrison** who has moved to bigger and better things. **Sig Paul Thompson** who has disappeared to the commcen at Osnabruck. **Sgt Lloyd Bath** off to 220 Sig Sqn at RAF Bruggen and finally to **Sigs** 'Baz' **Roche** and **Pete Lewis** who have both made the break into civvy street; good luck to all.

Hellos go to **2Lt Paul Griffiths** fresh from Line Tp and **Sig** 'Blacky' **Black** from 253 Sig Sqn. Last but not least congratulations to **Sig Ian Blacklock** and **Mrs Blacklock** on the arrival of their baby daughter.

FOXTROT TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt A. M. McLaughlin**

The complications of '94' pattern webbing overcome, the Troop went straight into preparation for Ex First Taste 95. After a few hiccups on the final day of exercise preparation (what else could be expected on Friday the 13th?) the Troop deployed on Monday morning. This was successfully carried out despite **LCpl Damon Walmsley** using the local telephone network to give a new definition to 'comms on the move'!

There have been a few changes by way of postings in and out, promotions and additions to families. We welcome **Sgt** 'Hutch' **Hutchings**, **Cpl Yury Ransom**, **LCpl Steve Wilson** and **LCpl Roger Bousefield**. Those who have left are **Sgt Richie Matless** and **Cpl** 'Taff' **John** to Support Tp, **LCpl** 'Robbo' **Robertson** on redundancy and **Sigs Mark Owen**, **Linton Breaks** and 'Taff' **Morgan** on posting. Promotion boards have seen **LCpl Neil Cawthorne** become a Cpl and **Sig** 'Woz' **Wright** now a LCpl. **LCpl** 'Sanch' **Crookes** and **Ian Overal** are also to be congratulated for coming off the board and, hopefully, it will not be too long before they can wear their new ranks. The final category of additions sees a son for **Sgt** and **Mrs Matless** and daughters for **LCpl** and **Mrs Bousefield** and **LCpl** and **Mrs Walmsley** and **Sig** and **Mrs Richie Kear**.

All in all, this has proved a good way to have started 1995.



SKIBOBBING '95

By Maj Dick Offord

Last year after several seasons of training and development, led by **Cpl Paddy Maybin** the reigning British and Army Champion, the Regiment found itself in the rewarding but slightly embarrassing situation of capturing most of the honours at both Army and National levels in the winter sport of Skibobbing (or Skibiking as it is to be known in future). At the same time, it was recognised that if Great Britain was to compete with the Alpine nations in international competition, we needed to broaden the base of the sport to bring in new talent and share the excitement and enjoyment of the sport with as many people as possible. We, therefore, decided to run a full season of courses in 1995 for up to 30 students per course, open to everyone. So on 4 January I set up a training school in Bavaria at the British Forces Alpine Hang and Paragliding Centre with a permanent staff comprising: **SSgt Keith Dwyer**–Administration, **Cpl Paddy Maybin**–Senior Instructor, **Cpl Wayne Ballard**–Equipment Manager and Instructor, **Cpl Neil Pollitt**–Instructor, late of the Regiment and kindly loaned by 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207) and **Cpl Vicky Hardisty**. During the season we will be assisted by external instructors which include: **Col Richard Platt,** Chairman of the Army Skibob Association, **Mr Kevin Rochford**, Chief Instructor of the Skibob Association of Great Britain (SAGB), **LCpl Alan O'Kell**, 7 Sig Regt and, late of this Regiment, **Sgt Jane Robinson** RLC, **Mrs Anne White** and **Mrs Sally Grath** of the SAGB. At the end of the first course, attended by 24 students, **Cpl Vicky Hardisty**, to whom it had been my great pleasure to surprise on the first day with the presentation of a bottle of champagne to celebrate her promotion (well Sekt actually), was invited to record her perceptions of the first week and her report follows. Although previously inexperienced in Skibobbing, she is an accomplished sports personality and was brought into the team as a potential instructor.

SKIBOBBING–A STUDENT'S VIEW

By Cpl Vicky Hardisty

In August 1994 after being in 16 Sig Regt for just over a year, a great opportunity arose for me and I seized it. The Regiment was to play a lead role in Skibobbing during the winter season. As Female Focus NCO, my responsibility was to recruit and encourage female participation in the sport, to provide the lead for conduct and standards of female students during the courses and once qualified, to carry out instruction. The sport interested me from the start; it was a fast, exciting alternative to skiing and having watched a professional video as a taste of what was to come, I was eager to have a go.

The administrative staff and I arrived in Bavaria on 4 January to be met at the British Forces Alpine Paragliding Centre by their permanent staff. They were exceedingly helpful and this enabled everyone to settle comfortably into their accommodation that evening. The next day I was quickly fitted out with the appropriate equipment and clothing.

My first Skibob lesson in a small class was under the guidance of **Cpl Neil Pollitt**, a qualified instructor. It had snowed the previous night but the sun was shining and the snow conditions could not have been better.

I found the first day quite hard work. We were unfortunately not yet experienced enough to use the lifts and consequently, we spent most of the day pushing our Skibobs up huge hills which our instructor preferred to name as 'gentle slopes'. This was a good test of fitness!

On the second day, we were sufficiently competent to take the easy way to the top of the mountains and from there on–thankfully–it was all downhill (pun). That same afternoon **Maj Offord** asked me to do a dramatic fast racing turn on my Skibob for a photograph which unfortunately I was unable to master. It took me a little while longer before I was able to execute this technique, hence the 'still life' photograph accompanying this article.

On an afternoon when Skibobbing was not possible due to blizzard conditions, the permanent staff organised two races. The first on foot skis and the second on sledges. The reasons for the races were not only for entertainment value but also to test out an electronic starting system designed and produced by **Mr Kevin Rochfort**, the Chief Instructor of the Skibob Association of Great Britain (SAGB).

The most amusing incidents of the day occurred when an Alsatian dog from a local house impressed itself on several of the earlier skiers by dragging them to the ground. The dog finally learnt its lesson when it charged flat out at one of the very fast oncoming racers. The head-on impact, which was captured on video, just had to be seen to be believed and everyone found it highly amusing when it was shown later that afternoon.

Luckily, the weather was kind to us for the remainder of the week and we were all able to take to the slopes once again with our Skibobs. We all continued to progress such that, by the final day, the whole course was ready for their assessments against SAGB standards.

Another amusing incident happened as we were making our way up to the starting point for our assessment. The course was delighted to see **Cpl Paddy Maybin** (Senior Instructor) demonstrate the incorrect way of using a T-bar lift. As he picked himself and his bike out of the snow, it was difficult for everyone to disguise their amusement even though we were all about to be assessed. Everyone was then rigorously tested on all techniques and in the presentation ceremony that took place later that evening, I was delighted to receive my Silver Standard Skibobbing certificate.

Earlier that afternoon, everybody had taken part in a race down a varied and testing course approximately 1km in length. Those who were unlucky enough to fall received little sympathy from the rest of the course when they watched the video later on that evening.

I managed to finish in the top half of the competitors and of course allowed **Maj Offord** to finish one position ahead of me.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the week despite one or two minor injuries. After the presentation on the final evening, a great time was had by all in the very convivial and sociable atmosphere of the bar.

Hopefully, all the Skibobbing courses during this season will be equally successful. If I do not break my neck and manage to get the opportunity, I will file another report later in the season. The past week has taught me that Skibobbing takes great skill, nerve, fitness and judgement. It most certainly is not 'as easy as riding a bike'.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Maj Offord** and **Cpl Paddy Maybin** for affording soldiers, like myself, an opportunity to improve our quality of life in the Army by giving us the chance to participate in such a fast, exciting and daring sport. From my early experiences, I can thoroughly recommend it as a fantastic opportunity not to be missed.



Skibobbing 95–Course 1



Cpl Vicky Hardisty of 16 Sig Regt, British National Ladies Skibob Champion 1995

21 Sig Regt (AS) Colerne



220 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Firstly the major news within SHQ Tp.

A fond farewell to **Capt Andy Cameron** and a big hello and welcome to **Capt Nick Tomkins**. **Capt Andy Cameron** has left the post of 2IC for the dizzy heights of Adjutant at 31 Sig Regt (V) via JCSC. **Capt Nick Tomkins** arrives fresh from Dhekelia to walk on the knife-edge of 'Pongo' officer in a sea of RAF blue.

The post of H Tp Comd has also undergone a re-fit. **Capt Pete Whitehouse** departs for 20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200) and **Lt Andy Percival** moves to Briggen to learn about the black art of Tele Mechs. Apart from the installation of digital exchanges at both Laarbruch and Bruggen, so all of our friends in the Corps can now call us, the major project of recent times has been down in the South Atlantic. Ten regular Tele Mechs from 220 Sig Sqn and 10 volunteers from 81 Sig Sqn (V) departed the northern hemisphere for a major replacement of the cable infrastructure on Ascension Island. Thirty-seven tonnes of cable were laid over the surreal lunar landscape in the space of ten days. As if this arduous task was insufficient to keep the Tele Mechs busy, they also made the front page of the local newspaper. Contrary to what everyone is now thinking, they achieved this fame through what must be the most ecologically sound act, saving the life of a giant turtle that had been stranded on rocks in a high sea. The chief 'turtle-turners' from the Squadron were **Cpl Andy Jones** and **Sig** 'Piggy' **Lee-Davis**.

An excellent project incorporating hard work around the Island and a green issue thrown in for good measure, well done lads! Everyone is now taking bets on how long **SSgt Pete Atkinson** takes to staff another sunny project down south; not long I should think!

244 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Nigel Gill**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Cox**

The Squadron would like to extend a warm welcome to **Maj Nigel Gill** and his wife **Margaret** and wish him well during his tour at 21 Sig Regt (AS).

After the rigours of Ex Green Blade in Scotland the Squadron decided to unwind with an arduous training camp based at Crickhowell where such delights as the combat trail and the Black Mountains in winter were enjoyed by all. The new year brought the annual A Tp AMF(L) deployment to Norway and the start of a complete refit of the Squadron. No sooner had all the vehicles been reroled and refitted we were then warned for a possible Op Grapple deployment. Ce'La Vie.

J TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Duncan Parkinson**

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

A busy couple of months as far as personnel are concerned. A sad farewell to **Sig** 'Shane' **Lowdon** and **Sig** 'Dinger' **Bell** to life in the fast lane of Civvy Street. **LCpl Atherton** and his wife **Maggie** had departed for 8 Inf Bde, shortly followed by a homecoming for **Sig** 'Paddy' **Thompson** on his move to the same unit. **LCpl** 'Knocker' **Dore** moved to JCUNI hopefully without his DJ kit, **Cpl** 'Aidy' **Lowe** has disappeared to BATUS for nine months, **Sigs** 'AJ' **Palmer** and 'Vic' **Brown** have moved on to 249 Sig Sqn. Finally, a big farewell to **SSgt** 'Mr Roy' **Holcombe** and **Debs** who are leaving the Troop after 22 years service. He is hoping for a job with the Hampshire Constabulary so watch out J Tp he can still bounce you. Good luck to you all.

A warm welcome to **SSgt Tim Abbott** and **Judith** from the AAC Harrogate and to **Sigs Glasspool**, **Lindley**, **Dalton**, **Corris** and **Garrett** straight from training.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Troop would like to congratulate **Lt Parkinson** on his recent promotion. Now he can afford to buy a round when he goes out, although old habits die hard.

VISIT TO RAC CENTRE BOVINGTON

The Tp Sgt, **Sgt** 'Oz' **Hewson**, organised a visit to the RAC Centre in Bovington for 15 members of the Troop. They visited the museum then moved on to the driving simulator where **Sig Brian Milne** decided it would look better if he put it on its side.

The day culminated with most of the team having a drive in a Challenger. Thanks to **Sgt** 'Frankie' **Caldwell** and the RAC Centre for all their help.

I TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Fiona Tomkins**

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are due to **Sig Rob Lyon** on his award for being the Regimental Best Soldier of the Year. Congratulations on promotion to **LCpl Lee Hickman** and **LCpl Kev Wright**.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Farewells to **Cpl** 'Baz' **Cadman** (on promotion) and **Cheri**, **Cpl George Sutherland** (on promotion) and **Ali** and to **Cpl Mike Kilburn**. Hello to **Sigs Pincott**, **Tudge**, **Howson**, **Payton**, **Smith**, **Thurston**, **Milligan** and finally **Rumbold**.

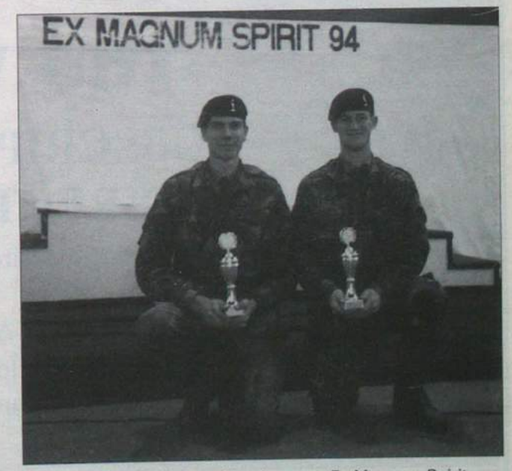
REGIMENTAL LPC/RM COURSE

By Sig Mel England

At Last! The latest LPC/RM course has introduced female MAOTS (**Sig England** and **Sig Leonard**) into the Squadron. After three days of boredom in the classroom we went on to the airfield to put all the theory into practice, under the watchful eye of our senior HHI, **RSM (WO1) Baldry**. Loads were lifted from LP to LP by a Chinook and a Puma. All went well, adrenalin pumping, happy smiley faces, until the Chinook generated a fault in one engine that was shortly followed by a fault in the other resulting in it being stranded for two days on Colerne airfield. The Puma continued for a while and then went home for tea. Qualified and confident we can now all attack Op Grapple training with enthusiasm.

43 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

The Squadron's annual dinner on Saturday 4 February marked the end of **Maj Rosemary Tuhey**'s tour as Sqn Comd with **Maj Graham Leyland** taking over command of the Squadron on 7 February. The dinner was a busy affair with **Brig Bruce Jackman**, Chief Executive of Western Wessex TAVRA, presenting Territorial Efficiency Medals to **Sgt Dunlop** and **Cpls Hayden** and **Hemens** in recognition of the tremendous commitment they have all made to the TA throughout the past 12 years. In addition, the Squadron bade farewell to **Capt Mike Parnell** and **Capt Sue Jeans** who are both leaving the TA after many years service. As if that was not enough action for one dinner night the Sqn Comd promoted **Cpls Glanville** and **Reid** to the rank of Sgt to much popular applause from the assembled ranks. The dinner was greatly enhanced by a quartet from the Corps band who performed with great skill and the Reggae disco who did the biz late into the night (or early into the morning!).



Sigs Clarke and Downing victors on Ex Magnum Spirit

Other recent events of note include **Cpl Sweets** success in Ex Magnum Spirit, a driver training exercise held at RAF Gutersloh in November 1994, where he led **Sigs Clarke** and **Downing** to become the top TA team in the competition and the range day early in January where **Lt** 'Bob' **Sleigh** presided having passed his range management course. The APWT results were exceptionally good in contrast to the weather which wasn't. Later in January Squadron's officers and seniors descended upon Colerne for their annual training weekend. This was very successful with **YofS (PSI) Prater** wishing he had not resurrected the Squadron tradition of having to buy a round every time your name is mentioned in *The Wire* (**Prater, Prater, Prater . . .**), luckily being a thrusting young Yeoman he can afford it!

81 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd	**Maj R. H. Manifold**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) S. W. Beveridge**

PERMANENT STAFF

PSAO **Capt C. G. Stubbings**

In April 1994, 155 members of the Squadron arrived by various means at Leek Training Camp for the annual Out of Camp Training (OOCT). They were then put through the various aspects of ATDs and administration for four days.

On the Friday evening the RSM, **WO1 G. J. Baldry**, held a parade for the visit of SOinC (**Maj Gen A. H. Boyle**). The SOinC presented medals to several members of the Squadron namely, **Maj R. H. Manifold** (V) the TD, **WO2 (SSM) Beveridge**, Clasp to TEM, **Cpl Shires** TEM, **LCpl Oldfield** TEM, **Sig Donaghue** TEM, and **Sig Stevens** Clasp to TEM.

Saturday, after the training for the day was finished, the Squadron once again assembled on the parade square to march past the out-going Sqn Comd (**Maj Bernard Harrison**). **Brig N. Wood**, the Commd Comms, visited the OOCT during the day.

Sunday saw the second phase of OOCT which was an exercise on the training area consisting of various stands including NBC and First Aid.

During the rest of the year various projects were undertaken.

These were:

Ex Aphrodite which saw the Squadron supporting 259 Sig Sqn in sunny Cyprus.

Corsham saw us installing a fibre-optic LAN for 2 (NC) Sig Bde.

Ascension, where the Squadron maintained copper cable on the island and carried out forward planning for future projects.

Ex Static Role in Germany, which saw the Squadron supporting 220 Sig Sqn in their role as airfield support Squadron.

Also this year the Squadron training SNCO, **WO2 G. Johnson**, was awarded the MBE for his services to the Squadron and the TA. We, as a Squadron, would like to congratulate him on receipt of this prestigious award.

The Squadron bade a sad but fond farewell to **SSgt J. Rodger** who was an excellent SSM during his time in that post and was always helping soldiers prepare for their military courses, putting in many extra curriculum hours.

In conclusion the Squadron had a good year in 1994 and we look forward to training year 95/96 and to the deployment scheduled for October.



The SSM knows something that the SOinC doesn't!

The Wire

SUBSCRIPTIONS BY DIRECT DEBIT

- Many of you have converted to the Direct Debit system but failed to cancel your Standing Order.
- For your 1995 Wire subscriptions the Accounts Department will be able to adjust your Direct Debit contribution to retrieve the correct amount for this year.
- Please ensure that you cancel your Standing Order before 1996.



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 peace.

There are two 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.

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.



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.

30 Sig Regt
Bramcote

OPERATION GABRIEL
30 SIGNAL REGIMENT

Lt Billingham, Sgts Sheerin, Nandabahadur Gurung, Cpls Bell, Moss, Scott, Smith, LCpl Moffat, Sigs Andrews, Bloxham, Hodgkinson, Netrabahadur Gurung, Openshaw, Wilkinson, Young.

5 AIRBORNE BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (216 PARA)

WO2 (YofS) Sirr, SSgt Couzins, Cpls De Burgh, Forrester, Lawn, Morris, Saunders, LCpls Christie, Maxwell, Winder, Stanwick, Sig Fisher, Oliver, Pick.

Under command of the now famous 'Angel of Mercy' **Lt Sara Billingham**, the first elements of 30 Sig Regt, comprising a VSC 501 Detachment and supporting power, line and technician cover, flew out on 1 August 1994 and landed in a sunny, but ravaged Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, on 2 August 1994. Whilst **SSgt (FofS) Ady** 'No Medal' **Knight** and **Cpl Charlie** 'Skin and Bones' **Bell** were forced to sample the nightlife of Frankfurt, the remainder of the detachment personnel, plus the VSC 322 detachment, arrived within the week to complete the 30 Sig Regt STRATCOM detachment of the BRITCON Signal Tp.

Home for the next four months was Rwanda's version of Wembley; during the Civil War over 20,000 refugees had sought shelter in the Anmahoro Sports Stadium of Kigali and with no sanitation facilities we faced an unpleasant clean-up job to make it habitable for the 300 soldiers who were to be based there at the BRITCON HQ. While the clean-up carried on we lived and worked in a combination of tents; **Sgt** 'Daz' 'Il Presidente' **Sheerin** took this opportunity to play musical tents, moving us, on average, once every 12 hours.

The detachment's admin in the initial stages was spot on; our social life revolved around **Cpl** 'Smudge' **Smith**'s electric cooker and culinary miracles with Compo were created every evening by whoever commandeered the cooking pots first. The detachment was providing an excellent service well in advance of our Lords and Masters, 5 AB Bde Log Bn, being declared operational on 17 August 1994. By this stage the 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para) components of the BRITCON Signal Tp, headed by **WO2 (YofS) Ken Sirr**, had joined us in theatre and two 321/353 RATT detachments deployed, one to Byumba in the North with 9 Para Sqn RE and one to Kitabi in the South West with 23 Para Field Ambulance.

Once we had moved into the freshly cleaned rooms of the stadium and established a COMMCEN in the main building we were finally able to fall into a routine. For obvious reasons downtown Kigali was out of bounds and unless you wanted to train for the next Olympics there was not a great deal to do in the Stadium. An EFI was opened after a couple of weeks, though it was not exactly Tescos and with beer rationed to three bottles of African brewed 'Tusker' a night, even the inspiring nightlife of Nuneaton became increasingly appealing. Most off duty time was spent either sunbathing (except **Cpl Bell** and **Sig Mark Bloxham**) or replying to the bevy of beauties that had answered **Cpl Scott**'s pen pal plea in the *Daily Star*–it is reassuring to know that Britain is still full of people who respond?



Cpl Bell

PT was another regular Troop feature with our very own Pre-Para Instructor **Cpl Pete Lawn** from 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para), running us ragged three times a week. All the Troop managed to see the country with the various re-supply runs and **Cpl Lawn**, **Sig** 'Andy' **Andrews** and **Sig Young** impersonated medics for a week and joined 23 PFA as they worked in refugee camps whilst **Cpl Moss** and **Sig** 'Andy' **Wilkinson** helped the Loggies with convoys of food and refugees. Towards the end of the operation most of the Troop went to Uganda for a two day Safari, where seeing the herds of hippos reminded everyone of the CO's run at 8 Sig Regt. Back in Kigali some of the Troop visited a local orphanage adopted by BRITCON to lend a hand or, in **Cpl Scott**'s case, to prove to the children that the bogeyman does exist. On 12 November 1994 the Troop held a Charity Auction, ably led by **SSgt Stu Couszins** and **Sgt Sheerin**, to raise money for **Spr Copsey** of 9 Para Sqn RE who had lost his lower right leg in a mine explosion; items ranging from a Wedgwood plate donated by **The Prime Minister Mr John Major** to the first seat on the first flight home were auctioned and more than $7,500 was raised.

As the end of our official 90-day tour drew near the days passed more slowly and it was with relief that, finally, the last day of the 'Chuff Charts' was crossed off. The recovery proved to be nearly as chaotic as the deployment but, eventually, all equipment and personnel made it back to home territory, and following a busy post-deployment week the detachment headed off to enjoy, and re-acquaint themselves with family, friends and civilization. Overall, it had been a long four months; sometimes amusing and rewarding, sometimes stressful and frustrating but, all-in-all, an experience with unique memories.



Sig Hodgkinson and Cpl Smith



Cpl Lawn (5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para))

256 SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Squadron welcomes **SSgt Mick O'Brien** on being posted to one of the most demanding SQMS appointments in the Army. He has successfully completed his treasure hunt to identify equipment in Norway, Bosnia, Croatia, Bramcote and a civilian container ship adrift somewhere between Ascension Island and Gravesend. Ex Strong Resolve deployed to Norway with 3 Cdo Bde, led by **Lt Andy McCole**, disappeared into a very large snow hole insulated with vast quantities of alcohol and wasn't heard of again.

The Recce for Ex Cygnet Rock deployed to Gibraltar in February. This was led by **Lt Richard Rumsey** who was armed only with **Cpl Eddie Timms** and a very flexible credit card.

The Squadron raised £300 for the local Scanner Appeal by running a Car Boot Sale, led by **SSM Chris McGinley**.

Finally, congratulations go to **Foreman Mark Hardy** and **Ellie** on their wedding, **Sgt Bob Watson** and **Penny** on the birth of their first son, **Callum** and to the recently promoted **LCpls Cowan, Jenkins, Timms** and **Wrenn**.

SUPPORT SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj P. Cain**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) J. B. Duckworth**

MT TROOP

All in all, a busy year. A few sad farewells to **LCpl Smith** and his wife **Debbie** and son **Callum**, posted to 16 Sig Regt, closely followed by **LCpl** 'Jock' **Warden** and his wife **Sharon** and son **Joshua**. **Sig** 'Side' **Burns**, his wife **Ros** and daughter **Rebbeka** are on their way to 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207). **Sgt Craig Davis** returns to civilian life.

Welcome to **Sgt** 'Lead' **Pellett** and his wife **Tracey**. Also to **LCpl Russ Morley**, his wife **Miranda** and son **Benjamin**.

Cpl 'Scouse' **Holmes** carried the MT flag to the States (the first outing of the flag since the Gulf!), posing as a coach driver.

Category D and C and E driver training has been going well with **LCpl Jezzard** eventually managing to pass his test and **Sig** 'Leave the coach doors open' **Marr** managing to pass after all the passengers had disappeared out of the doors.

QM(T) DEPARTMENT
NEW ARRIVALS

WO2 (RQMS) Bottomley and his wife **Diane** from 9 Sig Regt (R). **Sig Douglas** straight from the factory. Welcome to the department.

Sig Richie Carlton arrived from the factory but we managed to palm him off to 256 Sig Sqn, which will also be the fate of **Sig Douglas** to 258 Sig Sqn. Our resident Gurkha **LCpl Shailendra** has been sent out on to Op Grapple for a few months 'before he gets his leave'.

RECENT DEPARTURES

WO2 (RQMS) Duckworth now becomes **WO2 (SSM) Duckworth** within the Squadron. **Sgt S. Howard** and his wife to the land of luxury at AFCENT. **LCpl M. Potter** and his wife to 7 Sig Regt.

The Department is just about settled from the move to Bramcote from Blandford. The closure of 3 OPs threw that again for a while but being a sturdy crew we can live through these rough times. The only thing is, 'what's round the next corner?'

250 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON

1995 is a very important year for 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn. By the middle of the year the Squadron should be fully manned to meet its new establishment, as more soldiers come to us from the drawdown in Hong Kong. At the same time, the Squadron prepares to move from a 4 ton based force to an airportable landrover based one. Life, of course, within 30 Sig Regt goes on as normal with approximately 20 soldiers from the Squadron deployed on roulement duties to operations in Bosnia, Croatia, Turkey and Saudi Arabia. Exercises will take some of our soldiers to USA, Norway, Nepal, Brunei and Germany. Local travel opportunities to Wales will be provided by the Regimental and Squadron Battle Camps and the Squadron Summer Camp is planned to take place in Scotland. Also in August we are set to play our part in the local VJ day commemoration events.

All in all 1995 should be a rewarding time with much variety and opportunity for travel. Of course this forecast is based on current plans, but as we all know life in 30 Sig Regt can change at very short notice!

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The Queen's Gurkha Signals
Hong Kong

Comd	**Lt Col R. M. Crombie**
Adjt	**Capt A. I. M. Gordon**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Omprakash Gurung**

EXERCISE TRAILWALKER 1994

Ex Trail Walker is the largest charity event in Hong Kong, and is organised by QG Signals and Oxfam HK with the Hong Kong Bank providing the sponsorship. The event is a 100km walk (run for the superfit) over the hills of Hong Kong that must be completed within 48 hrs. This year was the largest since the event's conception in the early 1980s as a Military Training exercise, with nearly 650 military and civilian four man/woman teams entering. Last year the event raised over Hk$10.3m which is split equally between the Gurkha Welfare Trust, OXFAM HK and local charities such as the Hong Kong Association for the Mentally Handicapped. Even in the financial world of Hong Kong this is an impressive total. It is hoped that this year will bring even larger sums for the charities.

The future of the event is still being negotiated, and this year saw a number of representatives from the Royal Hong Kong Police, Civil Aid Services and Auxiliary Medical Services deploying to investigate the feasibility of taking on the event after 1995. Trailwalker 95 is however going ahead with QG Signals in the lead role, although as a result of the drawdown of Hong Kong there will be considerable support from the rest of British Forces Hong Kong. Units wishing to send teams are, of course, more than welcome but are warned that, in the past, the event has not been given adventure training status and therefore flights have to be paid for. The POC within the Regiment is OC HKGSS, QG Signals, POWB, BFPO 1. The event this year will be run on 3-5 November and once again is likely to be heavily subscribed.

QG SIGNALS WINS!

Having lost Trailwalker '93 to 10 GR by a matter of five minutes, and the record in the process, the Regiment was determined to win in '94. Inevitably, the newly formed 1 RGR was also out to record a win and prove their supposed superiority. **Lt (QGO) Mahendra Kumat Gurung** and his sidekick **Sgt Perendrajeng Gurung** were tasked to produce the winning team on pain of early pension at the prospect of failure. It was particularly important this year to produce a high quality team as a group of international runners had entered (the team included a woman who had lost the sight of one eye) which had sparked great press interest at the possibility of a civilian team beating the 'legendary Gurkhas'.

After a well-paced initial stage the team overtook the two leading teams between Checkpoint 1 and 2 with a very fast stage. The energy and enthusiasm as they reached Checkpoint 2 had members of the Regiment anticipating a record breaking attempt, no small feat with the record set at 13 hrs and 20 mins. Unfortunately, disaster struck just before Checkpoint 3, with a strained calf muscle that required a fairly lengthy break at the checkpoint. Although still out in the lead, the record was now out of the question, and worries were beginning to develop about the prospect of completing the course.



QG Signals Trailwalker team winners 1994.
With CBF Maj Gen B. H. Dutton, *(L to R)*: Sig Danbir Limbu, Sig Rickman Darlami, Sig Tirtha Rai, Sig Manbahadur Thada

Despite being run quite close at various stages by the leading civilian team, the team managed to run through their injuries and stay out in the lead. The 1 RGR 'A' team had by this time dropped right back with an unfortunate torn muscle. After a gruelling 14 hrs and 48 min the team triumphantly crossed the finishing line, beating the civilian team in second place by approximately half an hour. They were met by a delighted Comd, **Lt Col** 'Dick' **Crombie**, Gurkha Major, **Maj (QGO) Silajit Gurung**, and Brig BG, **Brig S. M. A. Lee**. The honour of the Regiment was restored!

TRAILWALKER JOINT SPORTS DAY FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED ADULTS

The Trailwalker Joint Sports Day for the Mentally Handicapped Adults is organised once a year by The Hong Kong Association for the Mentally Handicapped (HKAMH). The event is one of many sponsored by the Trailwalker Charitable Trust. The event this year took place on Sunday 27 November 1994, at the Sham Shui Po Stadium. Due to the Regiment's involvement in Trailwalker it was invited to send a party along to represent the Trailwalker Trust and provide a short Nepali Cultural Show. **Capt (QGO) Chandraparsad Gurung** was tasked with selecting the best musicians and dancers and represent the Regiment. There were around 1,000 people attending the Sports Day of which over 300 were mentally disabled participants from some 19 centres in Hong Kong.

The morning consisted of a number of track and field events which were all entered into with great gusto and enthusiasm. A surprised **Chandra Saheb** found himself to be the guest of honour and was invited to present the prize to the winning teams, a rather flattering display of gratitude for the work that the Regiment does through Trailwalker for such charities.

Lunch was followed by a display by the Regimental Natch (dance) Party, led by **SSgt (FofS) Prembahadur Thakali** and his band of musicians. Inevitably, the crowd favourite was the famous Khukri Dance. This was followed by more sports and the VIP Tug-of-War. Six Gurkhas were invited to participate but for reasons of fairplay were split three on each side, although how effective they were dressed in their regimental Mufti is questionable!

The day concluded with a presentation to the Regiment and vote of thanks from the HKAMH by their Chairman, **Mr John Budge**.



QG Signals Natch Team doing the Kukri Dance

MOVEMENTS

The last few months has marked a sad time for the Regiment with the drawdown hitting hard and a large number of officers and soldiers departing for Nepal on redundancy or pension. While the list is too long to name them all, there is no doubt that the Regiment owes them a great deal for all they have done over the years, and we wish them all the very best of luck for the future wherever it may take them.

31 Sig Regt (V)
Southfields

CO	**Col Keith Bruce-Smith TD**
Adjt	**Capt Andy Cameron**

FAREWELLS

Our best wishes go to **Maj Steve Potter** Sqn Comd 47 Sig Sqn (V), **Capt Mike Bailes**, **Capt Justin Hodges**, and **Lt Jo Carsley** on leaving the Regiment.

WELCOME

Welcome to **Capt Andy Cameron**, who has replaced **Justin Hodges** as Adjutant and **Capt Don Pawlow** from 4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204) who has taken over from **Mike Bailes**.

IN MEMORY

Sadly one of the founder members of the 31 Sig Regt Association, **Mr Johnnie Walker**, has died. He had originally been a member of 56 Div and therefore joined our Regiment on its formation. He became SSM at 83 Sig Sqn (V) and left the Regiment in 1972 after holding the post of RQMS. In recent years he had moved to Gloucestershire with his wife, **Beryl**, and we send our condolences to her and the family.

BURNS NIGHT

'Hornpipes, Jigs, Strathspeys and Reels
Put life and mettle in their heels'.

A superb evening was organised by **Capts George Devine** and **Jim Adams** for Burns Night on 28 January in the Sergeants' Mess. Most people donned kilts, with a few 'honorary jokers such as **Majs Fred Southey** and **Andrew Cornish** (a very good array of knees were on display!).

We a' met i' the Officers' Mess for drinks afore supper then gang awa ahint the piper tae the Sergeants' Mess for supper. After the Address to the Haggis by **Brian Main** with the chef, piper and assistant with the Quaich, in attendance, the evening continued in the traditional Scottish style.

The Immortal Memory was given by **George Devine**, the humorous Toast to the Lassies was given by **Fred Southey** which received a suitably apt Reply from the Lassies by the Adjutants' Scottish wife–**Shirley Hodges**–to get their ain back!

We hae a wee bit o'verse frae **Lt Col Conrad Graham**, Cottar's of Saturday Night.

The menu was Tammy Troot, Haggis–what else, Cahmpit Tatties, Bashed Neeps, Wee Green Peas followed by Cranachan wi' Raspberries.

The piper gie us a blaw and then led us back tae the Mess for kebuck and bannocks while the Sergeants' Mess was cleared for jigging.

A team of 'experts' demonstrated tae jigging steps then the piper played whilst everyone attempted to dance, it was very humorous and energetic. There must have been numerous bruised toes and exhausted participants the following day. It was a superb evening.



Capt Brian Main addressing the Haggis at Burns Night

THE LAST DINNER NIGHT

The last Officers' Mess Dinner Night was held at the Hammersmith TAC on 4 February. The Regiment moved in on formation in 1967, following the Princess Louise of Kensington Regiment. The TAC is no longer suitable to cope with the infrastructure and equipment of the Regiment's role. 83 Sig Sqn (V) will be moving to the Duke of York's in May, which once restructured and refurbished will be much more suitable for all the Squadron's vehicles and radio equipment.

With many previous Officers of the Regiment present, it was a fine farewell to five Officers, a farewell to the TAC and 47 Sig Sqn (V) who are joining 67 Sig Sqn (V) later this year.

The Commanding Officer gave a lengthy speech followed by farewells, it was certainly a record breaker for length–1 hr 8 mins, 6 secs.

Maj Steve Potter joined the Regiment in 1983. After moving around the Squadrons he became OC Recruit Reception team, Ops Officer and 2IC 83 Sig Sqn (V) before finally becoming 47 Sig Sqn (V) Comd.



Lt Col Keith Bruce-Smith thanking Mrs Potter for her years of patience and support to her husband, Steve Potter

Capt Mike Bailes is moving on with promotion to Major to Command a Squadron at Harrogate. He will be sadly missed. He concluded a very smooth handover of the equipment from the old role to the new role, which was quite a feat.

Mike gave a very good reply to the Colonel, in the form of an Ode.

Capt Justin Hodges, joined the Regiment as a young, single energetic man, he left us–well, not so young, married man and say no more! He was certainly the computer whizz kid, who moved the Regiment from the dinosaur age of computer knowledge and typewriters to mod cons such as colour printers.

However, before he leaves he will be offered a few driving lessons by MT Dept so less sheep visit the paddock in the sky, on future exercises. **Maj Linda Harrison TD** is now established in her new job at Bde HQ.

Lt Jo Carsley is moving on soon. She joined the Regiment from Bristol OTC in 1991, whilst training to become a Doctor and has spent a lot of time improving the Recruit Reception team.

A lovely dinner was accompanied by wonderful music from The Band of the Middlesex Yeomanry Old Comrades Association, by kind permission of **Lt Col S. J. Williams MBE TD**.



The Middlesex Yeomanry Association Band, probably its last evening with the Regiment

COBHAM TAC

The TAC has now been officially vacated by B Tp. The soldiers will transfer to the other Squadrons.

EXERCISE PREMIER COCKNEY

The first exercise of the year. 28 public spirited members of the Regiment accompanied by six chaps from 225 Sig Sqn volunteered to take part in the skiing exercise organised by **Lt Kate Harris** to Val Thorens.

On arrival 11 beginners attended novice classes. **Sig Ian Byrne** graduated from circus performer to fearless downhill racer. **Cpl Rebecca Strickland** perfected a technique, never before seen on the slopes, whereby sudden involuntary movement was preceded by a yell before disappearing, often backwards, sometimes sideways and occasionally forwards.

The tales of woe of those brave enough to try snowboarding made really good listening, especially as these were the people coaching the novice skiers on day one with cries of 'It's really easy, just do this' . . . 'you'll soon get the hang of it' . . . 'just turn into the slope to stop!' **Maj Rod Thomas** and **Sgt Lynne Doughty** stuck at it, however, providing much amusement for the group of intermediates who just happened to be passing.

The beginners soldiered on in blizzard conditions. **Sgt Dave Alleyne** is going to remember to use his arctic camouflage on his thermos rather than DPM! **Sig Mel Mendonca** realised it was much easier to 'go like hell' in a straight line rather than bother with controlled turns.

One minor injury resulted in **Lt Rachel Jones** missing out on the last day, **SSgt Cathy Bassey** took her to the medical centre, as she showed a masterful command of the French language–especially when explaining in slow English to the English speaking receptionists that 'she has hurt her leg' which just goes to show that occasionally officers can be lost for words!

41 (PRINCESS LOUISE'S OF KENSINGTON) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–COULSDON
VISIT BY MAYOR

The Mayor of Croydon, **Cllr Wally Garratt**, visited the Squadron on 8 February. He watched a demonstration of recruit reception, induction and training procedures. This normally takes three months, but on this occasion everything was condensed into just half an hour, which was possible because of the clever use of 'identical twins' **Sig Clive Williams** and **Sig Colin Thibeault**. Apparently even their mothers cannot tell them apart. The Mayor was certainly astonished when he saw them both in the same place at the same time at the end of the demonstration.

The Sqn Comd, **Maj Malcolm Bryan**, guided the Mayor around the recently refurbished TA Centre, following which he was entertained at a buffet in the Sergeants' Mess and drinks in the junior ranks club.

The Mayor felt that the soldiers of 41 Sig Sqn (V) were such a smart, disciplined team that he promptly decided to send two of his councillors on the next Regimental Exercise for their education! Another meaning for the term 'Council of War' perhaps?

47 (MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON–HARROW

The last three months have been very quiet. The Squadron has concentrated on bounty training and testing with the majority now being qualified. Seven members attended Ex Premier Cockney in Val Thorens. The skiing was excellent. A good time was had by all, especially **SSgt Cath** 'Crasher' **Bassey** and **2Lt Guy** 'Airline pilot' **Anstiss** whose snow ploughing amused everyone.

The Squadron recently had a visit from CO 39 Sig Regt (SC) (V), to explain what its new role will be on transfer. The temporary Sqn Comd, **Capt Guy Lester** had reorganised the orbat slightly to take account of the new equipment expected soon. The Squadron is now looking forward to the move to end all the speculation!

INTER TROOP MARKSMAN COMPETITION

Congratulations to **Cpl Cheshire** the individual winner of the competition and Cambridge Tp who won overall. The scores were: Cambridge Tp 335, Uxbridge Tp 299, Lafone Tp 276, Recruits Tp 259, Harrow Tp 207. The top three individuals: **Cpl Cheshire** 114, **Cpl Huxtable** 111, **Cpl Giles** 94, who will no doubt be taking part in the Pearson Trophy Shoot.

ASSAULT COURSE/POTTED SPORTS COMPETITION

On the RTW 3 47 Sqn A Team won the Assault Course Competition, with the other teams coming joint third and sixth in the Potted Sports.

ANNUAL SHOOT FOR THE PEARSON TROPHY

The Annual Competition for the Pearson Trophy was held between the Squadron and Middlesex Yeomanry Association on 14 December. It was a convincing win for the Squadron, which is rather reassuring for the Regiment's defence! Association Scores–**Lt Col Scarlett** 53 pts, **Maj Fowler** 37, **Mr Nuttal** 79, **Mr Barnett** 58, **Mr Brannington** 5. Squadron Scores–**Cpl Cheshire** 83, **Cpl Huxtable** 48, **Cpl Giles** 86, **LCpl Jones** 78, **Sig Lane** 78.



2Lt Guy Anstiss wearing his new Middlesex Yeomanry Mess Dress, made to the exact specifications of the original Officers' Mess dress



Trav The Nav!
This way, Sirs, trust me!
(Navigator/Leader of the year).

32 Sig Regt (V) Glasgow

CO **Lt Col I. O. Robertson**
Adjt **Capt C. J. Hinsley**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) G. G. A. Reith**

ARRIVALS

The 'Scottish' Signal Regiment welcomes the following recent arrivals:

The new Training Major, yes we have another Scot in the RHQ team, **Maj Ian Seraph** and his wife **Christine** and family who arrived from Catterick in January.

Cpl Bob Gregory, his wife **Jacqueline** and family who has joined the Regiment for his last ten months in the Army is with RHQ in Glasgow, and **Cpl Chris Warren** and his wife **Sandra** who is with 61 (City of Edinburgh) Sig Sqn (V).

Congratulations also go to **WO2 (SSM) Ian Walker** and **Heather** on the birth of their son **Matthew**.

REGIMENTAL TRAINING WEEKEND

The Advance 'Party' set off for Cultybraggen Training Camp in Stirling in January to prepare for the arrival of the Squadrons from Northern Ireland, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen. However, the weather closed in and with heavy snow falling all day and more forecast, it was decided to cancel the weekend at Cultybraggen and train in respective TACs.

This left the Advance Party effectively snowed in with all of the Officers and Sergeants' Mess bar stocks. The QM, **Capt Andy McBain** quickly decided to remove the Advance element of their title and have a party! We are led to believe that it was only for medicinal purposes due to the lack of heating at the camp!

Back at the TACs, most personnel reported in and a very successful training package was implemented at Squadron level which showed the normal TA flexibility and ability to improvise at short notice.

The Burns Supper planned for Cultybraggen was quickly reorganised for the Glasgow location. Again a great deal of work went into re-booking entertainment, getting the haggis back from the frozen North (one had escaped at the last minute) and obtaining 'volunteer' speakers.

The evening proved a great success and the Ceilidh Band succeeded in attracting most to the floor for some Highland Dancing.

NEWS FROM SQUADRONS
HQ SQUADRON

HQ Squadron's **Lt Joseph Meade** organised an action packed weekend for HQ and 52nd Squadrons on the slopes of Scotlands' own ski resort.

Cairngorm, renowned for its excellent skiing overlooks the village of Aviemore and the Spey Valley. As Britain's highest mountain range, the Cairngorms can provide a comprehensive ski area with Coire Na Ciste and Coire Na Cas. As most of us were novices to this sport the conditions couldn't have been better, although we would have been grateful for more sunshine . . . then again we are in Scotland.

The weekend was a great success with a mixture of skiing, swimming, sport and glühwein! It will certainly be repeated.

69th (NORTH IRISH HORSE) SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Regiment is sadly losing 69 (North Irish Horse) Sig Sqn from 1 April who are re-roling to join 40 Sig Regt. At the same time the Regiment is to assume command of 2 Sig Sqn based in Dundee who are currently part of 39 Sig Regt (SC) (V) based in London. While the above makes economic and geographical sense, it will be with great sadness that the Regiment will say farewell to the 'Horse'.

With their usual generosity, 69 (NIH) Sig Sqn held a Combined Officers' and Sergeants' Mess dinner with representatives from all Squadrons of both 32 and 40 Sig Regt attending.

The dinner was a complete success but required **WO1 (RSM) Little** and **WO1 (RSM) Reith** at either end of the top table to support the combined weight of **Brig J. E. Neeve**, **Brig J. R. Smales**, **Col Sir M. C. McCorkell KCVO, OBE, TD, JP**, **Col A. J. Cramsie DL**, **Col J. F. Leslie TD, JP, DL**, **Col A. S. Petrie OStJ FIEIE, TD, JP**, **Lt Col R. W. Batho** and **Lt Col I. O. Robertson** with **Maj George Wylie**, Sqn Comd, 69 (North Irish Horse) Sig Sqn presiding.

52nd (LOWLAND) SIGNAL SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS)

52nd Squadron's fairest; 'The Lassies', **Maj Fiona Farquarson**, **Lt Jill Burgess** and **2Lt Angela Galli** began work on a special project early in the new year. It was to prove extremely difficult . . . but not impossible, the training of the 'Laddies' in Scottish Country Dancing, it was indeed a challenge. The 'Laddies' consisting of **Capt Roddy Sutherland**, **Lts Donald Gordon**, **Colin Borthwick** and **2Lt Phil Donegan** from 52nd Squadron, with the Adjutant, **Capt Colin Hinsley** and **Lt Joseph Meade** from HQ Sqn bringing up the rear. A few left feet combined with great enthusiasm for the activity ensures that Thursday evenings after Drill Night training are the highlight of the week for many.



Highland Dancing

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

The Officers' and Sergeants' Mess of Liverpool based 33 Sig Regt mustered recently to say farewell in grand style to their Honorary Colonel, **Sir Christopher Hewetson TD, DL**.

Sir Christopher was dined out at a formal dinner held at the RHQ in Huyton. He had been the Honorary Colonel for three turbulent years in the Regiment's history. This period has covered the Regiment's transition to Ptarmigan and re-roling to support the ARRC.

At the dinner the CO, **Lt Col Peter Parfitt**, paid tribute to the role **Sir Christopher** has played during his tenure as Honorary Colonel, **Sir Christopher** had, he said, provided much needed support at a difficult time. His support, advice and wisdom played no small part in the Regiment's success.



During the dinner, presided over by **WO1 (RSM) Dale Ikin**, **Lt Col P. Parfitt** presented **Sir Christopher** with a gift on behalf on the Regiment to mark his time as Honorary Colonel. Replying to the CO **Sir Christopher** paid tribute to the part time soldiers who, he said, gave unstintingly of their time in order to do a real job vital to the defence of the Nation and its interests. He was continually inspired by the standards they set themselves and in the manner in which they carried out the tasks set them.

Also seen off in style were two long serving TA Warrant Officers. **WO2 John Slamon** and **WO2 Jimmy Forbes** were dined out in traditional style after almost 50 years service between them. They were both sad to leave the unit.

On the regular side those posted back to the front (or is it those posted back to front!) include the Adjt, **Capt Neil Stevens**, **WO2 (YofS) Pete McInally**, **Sgt Pete Lamont** and on retirement **Capt Graham Atkinson**. In their places a hearty scouse welcome to **Capt Phil Baker**, **WO2 (YofS) Jerry Hughes** and **Sgt Dave Coussons**.

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj Eric Murphy**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Frank McCormick**

The Squadron had the honour of hosting two VIPs. **Brig M. P. S. Shaw**, Comd 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde, visited the Alamein TAC as part of his initial visit to the Regiment on Saturday, 12 November 1994. He spoke to many members of the Squadron and renewed some old acquaintances amongst the regular staff. His visit culminated in lunch with the Officers in the Merseyside Garrison Mess.

The Honorary Colonel, **Col Sir Christopher Hewetson TD, TL**, came to Huyton on 8 December 1994, as part of his farewell to the Regiment. His appointment expired on 26 December 1994 and he is succeeded by **Brig I. R. D. Shapter DL**. Although his visit was brief, he managed to present a TA efficiency medal, have some supper in the JRC and talk to most members of the Squadron before departing for 59 Sig Sqn (V) at Deysbrook.

Our photograph shows **Col Sir Christopher Hewetson TD, TL**, asking **Pte Gerry O'Brien RAMC** if she has any idea why the bar is shut? **Cpl Clint Kerry** and **LCpl Mike Prendergast** remain prudently silent, while an anxious **Maj Eric Murphy** bites his nails and the CO, **Lt Col P. Parfitt**, tries to decide on an appropriate punishment for this most heinous of crimes.



42 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Belated welcomes to **SSgt Alan Keene** and his wife **Julie** from 16 Sig Regt and **Cpl McRae** and **Nicki**. **Cpl McRae** came straight from his TI course and departed soon after to the Falklands. **Nicki**, his wife, is serving elsewhere with the Corps. We are also pleased to welcome **SSgt Phil Daniels** as our new SSM on the retirement of **WO2 John Slamon**.

A proud day for **Shirley Stott**, our recently retired Stores Acct, who received her MBE from **HRH The Prince of Wales** at Buckingham Palace. With her in the photo is **Lilian Hall** our Admin Officer and **LCpl Stuart Norton**, who drove them to Buckingham Palace. **Shirley** has contributed a considerable amount of time and commitment to the Squadron. In addition to her civilian job with us, she spent 15 years in the TA, rising to the rank of SSgt in the WRAC attached to this Squadron.



FAREWELL

WO2 John Slamon retired at the end of 1994. He joined the TA in 1975 and served as SSM. He enjoyed everyone's respect and loyalty and we thank you for your contribution to the Squadron and wish you well for the future.

In the best traditions of the TA, **WO2** 'Master Chef' **Gooley**, attended a recent exercise location, with his sons, **Pte Steve Gooley** and **Cfn Ray Gooley**. **WO2 Gooley** completed 22 years in the Regular Army, before joining the Regiment and we are pleased to announce that his son, **Ray**, leaves shortly to commence his service with the REME as a Regular Soldier. This means that HQ Sqn will have to confess that it has 'dropped a Gooley', albeit in a good cause.

34 Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

CO **Lt Col M. K. Stretch**

The Regiment is ploughing ahead into 1995 with no stopping it. The £500,000 new Ptarmigan Training Centre build is almost complete. The finished building will just meet the Regiment's training needs for the future. It is a splendid building with many innovative features.

A big warm hand and an outstretched arm goes out to our new Tech Adjt, **Capt Andy Saddington**, **Nicole** and young **Aaron**. The trip from Bulford was long but the prize was worth the having. Stockton at this time of year is certainly one of the North's hidden pleasures.



The Trg Maj, Maj John Newman welcomes the new Tech Adjt, Capt Andy Saddington to 34 (N) Sig Regt (V). John and Andy will be working very close together



RSM Mick Ara proves that the secret to leadership tasks is if you have the will you can succeed at anything

THE ANTHONY NOLAN BONE MARROW TRUST

The Regiment continues to participate with its sister Regiments within 11 Bde team to raise funds for charity during the annual competition Race the Sun.

The aim is to double the amount raised in 1994. The team has commenced training.

In May the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust is going to hold a clinic at the TA Centre, Brambles Farm from the funds raised by the Regiment with the aim of encouraging members of the Regiment to become potential donors, by a simple process of completing the paperwork and having a blood test.

SPORTING LIFE

Lt Col M. K. Stretch and **WO1 (RSM) Ara** booted the backsides of the Middlesbrough-based regulars up an arduous hill climb on the Howardian Hills. The aim was to break in the new combat assault boot and this was easily done by a brisk run uphill. The afternoon was highlighted with the RSM displaying his lightning sharp wit and imagination when he pointed out the attractions of Middlesbrough whilst on the summit. A good climb was rewarded with a satisfied tiredness and supple boots.

Cpl Trevor McSween is doing his best to uphold the Corps honour in athletics–we are all sure here in sunny Middlesbrough that his training in Cyprus will be a hard slog that will serve to enhance his prowess on the track. **Cpl Fred Oakes** continues to bash brains on the Rugby field for our further edification. **Cpl 'Daz' Wilson** succeeded in passing his Four Star Gold Test in Austrian Alpine skiing. In addition to this **Cpl Wilson** also won silver in the course competition. A demon on the slopes of Kitzsteinhorn to be sure–if not on the running tracks!

YofS Sid Perks recently took a regional orienteering title clocking up yet more miles in his sport portfolio.

RSM Mike Ara and **RQMS Ken Sykes** continue to impress the girls at the Malt Shop when they receive their College letters. These lettermen were raising money at the Pep rally before the February Charity Sock Hop. Glory days indeed.

A TERRITORIAL GUIDE TO PERSONALITIES

The TA may, to most readers, seem an undefinable quantity. Who are they? what do they do? and who cares? are the common cries. Therefore in order to give you an insight here is a guide, for you to cut out and keep just in case the unimaginable happens and you get posted to the Territorials . . .

The Regiment–a collection of some 500 personnel, some energetic, some enthusiastic, some dynamic, oh and about 60 Regulars.

The Training Major–has his own office, plays golf, very old and waxes lyrical on war experiences, by the way did I tell you about . . .

The QM–has some kit but not for you, has food but don't ask to be fed, likes to be comfortable on exercises, has two dogs and an RQMS.

The Adjutant–works hard when the CO is around, enjoys Burgers, hates writing and loves the North!

The Tech Adjt–has his own computer but cannot switch it on, loves communications and sometimes gets things to work.

The RSM–a very busy man when in the office, whenever that is!

The RQMS–spends most of his time booking portaloos for exercises, very chatty but can only talk about exercise lavatories, enjoys toilet humour.

The Regt YofS–works hard, loves Gyros, lives for the weekends, makes poor coffee.

HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD

90 Sig Sqn (V) has gone into the film business, in that in co-operation with students from the University of Teesside, they are producing a short film to boost regimental recruiting.

The film was the brainchild of **OCdt Bill Holbrooke** and is being produced by **Capt Peter McTiernan**. Subjects which are to feature include recruit training, trade training, Section Battle Drills and the forthcoming regimental exercise.

It is hoped that the film will be a powerful aid to the Regiment's recruitment drive to appeal to as many local young people as possible.

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

XXXV

FOND FAREWELL

In the latter part of last year the Officers' and SNCOs' of 48 Sig Sqn (V) dined out **WO2 (SSM) Mal Furber**. **Mal** leaves the Squadron to take up a new appointment as TA FofS with 95 Sig Sqn (V). He will be sadly missed by all ranks within the Squadron who came to know and respect his dedication and professionalism. The farewell dinner was a huge success and was attended by outside guests which included **Maj Ian Brown** and his wife **Ann** and **WO1 (RSM) Guy Richards** and his wife **Fran**. The evening, as usual, was superbly organised by that master of social function preparation, **Capt George Cairns**.



Maj Chris Fidler presenting WO2 (SSM) Mal Furber with his farewell gift

REGIMENTAL CADRE COURSE

Although not a unique event in the Regimental calendar, the Cadre Course that took place during the period 29 January-5 February was a little unusual. This was due to its composition, because for the first time ever, several Recruits who had displayed special abilities and aptitude were selected to attend this demanding course. No special treatment was reserved for them and they were required to compete directly with fully trained soldiers, some of whom were preparing for Det Comds Courses. They also had to cope with an intensive course programme designed to test their military skills' proficiency to the limit without the benefit of a Phase 2 Course–but would they rise to the challenge? This indeed was a course full of surprises; **LCpl David Meyer** of 95 Sig Sqn (V) took the honour of achieving top student by producing an excellent all round performance.

But, singled out for special mention and congratulations is **Sig Paul Slade** of 48 Sig Sqn (V). **Paul**, who had only recently completed Phase 1 of his recruit training, produced a commendable performance that secured him the runner-up position which of course earned him well-deserved praise from instructors and fellow students alike. **Sig Sarah Cheyney** of 95 Sig Sqn (V) can also be proud of her performance. **Sarah**, another recruit, had suffered a series of setbacks during her earlier recruit training and was bitterly disappointed at her rueful Phase 1 performance.

During the cadre course however, she clearly put her earlier problems behind her and came through victoriously and is now looking forward to attending Phase 2 of her recruit training. Nonetheless, all students, without exception, produced creditable performances that enhanced their military skills considerably which in effect will have long term benefits for their TA career. Continuing the praise, this special Cadre Course would not have been so successful without the endeavours of the Training Wing Staff in the shapes of **SSgt Keith Stewart**, **SSgt Chris Hymas**–who is to be congratulated on his recent selection for promotion to Warrant rank–**SSgt Paul Mellish** and finally **Cpl Dennis Feely** who handled all the admin arrangements in his usual efficient manner.



The Course photo.

THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BUSINESS

Traditionally the TAVRA and Regimental recruiting campaigns begin in earnest at this time of the year, a time when regimental strengths and recruiting trends are closely scrutinised (usually with some degree of horror by unit commanders). But what better way to entice recruits can there be except by producing an exciting publicity video to be shown at prime-time over the mighty and all powerful TV network. All that was required, however, was a subject that met the exacting demands of the Directorate of Public Relations. The hunt was on therefore to find a candidate that was both dynamic and photogenic, with star like qualities and who came from a civilian employment background that was completely unrelated to their TA employment.

A suitable candidate was eventually found in the shape of **Cpl Brett** (now known as Rhett) **Barfield**, a Central Det Comd serving with 89 Sig Sqn (V). **Cpl Brett**, in civilian life, is a Produce Manager with Sainsburys and we are confident none of these exist within the TA. What follows is his personal account of the day he became a 'star'.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PART-TIME SUPERSTAR

I would never have believed that my days in the Territorial Army would shoot me to star status? When I joined the TA in 1990 the recruiting information never prepared me for my future television role! It all began on Sunday 8 January. On returning from a successful Range Day, I was approached by the Sqn Comd, **Maj Colin Meikle**. His exclamation **'Cpl Barfield** I need a volunteer' became words that preceded a roller coaster series of events. I should have realised when I said yes that I was entering uncharted waters, especially when I discovered that I was to be visited by a professional PR company and made the subject of a major recruiting



A star is born

campaign–that is, if I were lucky enough to figure in the final selection! The weeks passed and I had completely forgotten about my verbal contract with the Sqn Comd, until I received an unexpected call on Tuesday 17 January from the PSAO, **Capt David Brough**. He dropped the bombshell that I was to be visited at work by a film crew on Friday. My company knew, I didn't. Following a stunned silence my brain began to go into overdrive with thoughts of filming on location, TV interviews etc, suddenly my TA and civilian career was elevated to a very high profile platform.



Cpl Brett Barfield and his Motley crew.

After a few days of intensive 'Mickey' taking at work, Friday soon arrived and the full extent of events to be covered were soon unfolded by the camera crew and journalist. Their aim was to film me at work carrying out my role as a Department Manager for J Sainsbury. This was to be followed by some unexpected interviews at home with my fiancée and myself and, finally, showing me in action with my unit on Saturday. The interview at home caused a great deal of feverish activity by my fiancée, who insisted on a major renovation of the living room, but happily all went well and this phase of the filming was both enjoyable and funny. The filming at work also went reasonably well, even though the store was packed with customers, most of whom would have been delighted to see themselves on regional TV some weeks later. Saturday came and filming began in earnest at the TA Centre. The 'Mickey' taking increased tenfold. After various shots of pre-exercise activities such as detachment briefings (with a script), receiving orders, loading and the actual move from the TA Centre, my detachment was filmed moving into its designated field location. Naturally, there are always one or two things that are uncontrollable while making movies; the first was the weather, and just as we arrived at our field location the heavens opened drenching everyone including the film crew, at least it added more than a spark of reality to the occasion. Another uncontrollable element are those members of your crew who also want to grab the spotlight and this was especially true of **Cpl Paul** 'le poseur' **Beckett** who would not forgive me if I failed to mention him!

Filming concluded late Saturday afternoon, and so ended an unforgettable experience I never imagined would actually happen and would dearly love to repeat! TV fame finally arrived during early February when the action packed video was shown over 12 TV regions. Although it is too early to tell what effect it has had on recruiting, I'm now open to offers but don't expect to receive any!

WALES AND WESTERN DISTRICT ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

True to form and as reliable as the atomic clock, 89 Sig Sqn (V) once again entered a team in the Wales and Western District Orienteering Championships which took place during the weekend 28/29 January at Chester. Following a few early mishaps at the TA Centre trying to raise a rather sleepy **LCpl Steve Rothwell**, the team set off in their pursuit of further honours to add to their long list of victories in a series of competitions. On the B course the team did exceptionally well with **Lt David Hooper** being placed as the fastest TA runner. **Sig Karen Jeskins** deserves special mention as she was competing for the first time, although we are convinced she could have bettered her time of 1 hour and 50 minutes on the C course if she hadn't spent the whole time walking around the course talking to two friends from Coventry! Unfortunately, our form had deteriorated slightly due to some inactivity and we only managed to secure second place in the TA team event of the competition. However, we were still very pleased with this performance as it secured the team a place in the UKLF Championships due to take place at Catterick in May.

We are also convinced that by then the team will be on top form and we intend to make our usual concerted assault on that competition and recapture former glories! Finally, congratulations and thanks to all team members which included **Lt David Hooper**, **SSgt Dave** 'Road Runner' **Arnot**, **SSgt Mick Purdy**, **Sgt Martin Jeanes**, **Cpl Colin Marshall**, **LCpl** 'Sleepy' **Rothwell** and **Sig Karen** 'why run when you can walk' **Jeskins**.

DEMOLITION DERBY

A number of 'now I can see the funny side' incidents have occurred recently in the Regiment that can not go unreported and are repeated here at the special request of those involved. It has to be said at the time of the incidents they suffered great embarrassment, indignity, humility and horror at the possible repercussions, but happily have now recovered sufficiently to begin smiling again! First, off the catalogue of disaster starting block is **Cpl Naveed Muhammad**, of 48 Sig Sqn (V), who now has the dubious honour of causing the first reported damage to our new garages when he inadvertently took one of the new doors with him as he reversed out. The reaction of his PSAO, **Capt George Cairns**, when **Cpl Muhammad** asked whether or not his Bounty would be affected, cannot be reported here, neither can the reaction of the CO **Lt Col John Ewbank** who had hoped, in vain, that no garage would be damaged during his tour! Needless to say a very valuable but costly lesson was learnt and the usual steps have been taken to prevent a re-occurrence. Next off the block is **LCpl David Dewfall** of 95 Sig Sqn (V).

Whilst manoevuring a 4 ton vehicle in the TA Centre compound **LCpl Dewfall** engaged the wrong gear and inadvertently ram-raided and demolished the Shropshire ACF Stores. Coincidently, his father happens to be the RSM of the Shropshire ACF and he still can't find the words to forgive him! Finally, an unusual report has just been received from 58 Sig Sqn (V).

Subject to confirmation it is reported that the PSAO **Capt Roger Breese** no longer has a roof over his head due to some disaster with the refurbishing programme, consequently 58 Sig Sqn (V) now have flow through ventilation. There is no truth in the rumour however, that he is now known as Roger Breezy!

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please advise the Subscriptions Clerk at RHQ, IN WRITING, of any change of address.

This information should not be telephoned.

36 Sig Regt (V)
Ilford

The Regiment is enjoying a period of calm before the storm. Trade training continues and the final weekend of five will see a total of 75 members of the Regiment qualified in a trade or being upgraded to class 2. This is an excellent result and a result that our trainers should be proud of and we thank them for their hard work and professionalism. Unlike our Regular counterpart, our soldiers do not come trained.

VISIT OF THE SOINC(A)

On 12 January **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle** visited the TA Centre in Ilford. He was shown various activities which included an indoor command task, organised by HQ Sqn PSI **SSgt Ann Marie McNally**. The SOinC then went on to impress **Sgt** 'Horse' **Taylor** with his shooting skills on the indoor range. After meeting other members of the Regiment the SOinC then presented the TA Efficiency medal to **Sgt Keith Williams**, **Cpl Jeff Suckling** and **Cpl Allen Bell**, finally the Imperial Service Medal was presented to **Mr Bill Law** to mark his 40 years dedication to the Civil Service. The SOinC presented a bouquet of flowers to **Bill**'s wife **Carole**.

FAREWELLS

The Golf team has been thrown into turmoil with the posting of **SSgt (YofS) Neil Ferris**. All members of the Regiment wish **Neil** and his wife **Julie** a fond farewell and wish them luck in the new posting to the HAC.

The Regiment also says farewell to **Capt Rob Healey**, who was not only the Adjt but OIC of the escape committee, he managed to secure his own escape (complete with promotion) to the depths of the MoD. We would like to wish **Rob** and his wife **Helen** all the very best for the future and, of course, not forgetting the new addition to the family, baby **Eleanor**.



Rear Cpl Jeff Suckling, Sgt Keith Williams, Cpl Allen Bell
Front: Mr Bill Law, Maj Gen A. H. Boyle, Mrs Carole Law

GREETINGS

Two key personnel departing must mean two key personnel arriving. The Regiment welcomes **SSgt (YofS) Frank Branson** and his wife **Tracey** into the fold and hope they have an enjoyable time here.

A warm welcome also the new Adjt, **Capt Phil Harlow** and his wife **Bernadette**, who, at the time of writing, are enjoying a belated honeymoon in South Africa.

ON HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE

Autoglass employees **Eddie** and **Linda Allen** are both keen members of the Territorial Army. So what's it like being a member of Her Majesty's part time forces. Here, in a specially written article for *Autoglass News*, **Eddie** tells their story:

The 1994 Bedford River Festival has a lot to answer for. After waking up late and having a leisurely cooked breakfast and reading the papers, we decided to take a look at the River Festival.

There we were enjoying a stroll along the river bank in the sunshine, when we came across the Royal Signals Territorial Army Display. Having been a Sergeant Instructor with the Army Cadet Force located at the same TA Centre, I met some colleagues I had not seen for a couple of years. We stopped and chatted and I introduced **Linda**. We didn't know then that this particular day was about to change our lives.

I have always enjoyed military life and **Linda** fancied doing something different, so one Thursday last May off we went to the TA Centre in Kempston, home of 36 Sig Regt (V). The next week we returned carrying our enlistment forms, which had been carefully filled out. To be truthful, we have not looked back since.

After attending two recruit weekends at a regular army barracks, where we were taught basic soldiering skills and assessed, we were sworn in, in front of the Commanding Officer.

We then attended our third and final recruit weekend. This was a little bit more rigorous than the first two. After being issued with weapons and composite rations, we 'yomped' out to the exercise area, some three miles from the barracks. The weather was terrible. We reached our encampment areas and promptly erected our improvised shelter. We dropped our bergens, leaving our belt order webbing on, and swiftly decided to have a well earned brew.

We then went through some more lectures and at the end of the day we were split into two fire sections and despatched, after a briefing, in a recce patrol. We patrolled our designated area and, after exchanging fire with 'the enemy', we returned to our encampment area at 0100 hours.

It was still raining and our bodies were so wet that we actually started to 'prune'! The duty guard list was posted and **Linda** was up first. After searching for one hour in the darkness for movement and shapes that should not have been there, she found my improved shelter and woke me up. I then dragged myself from my nice warm, dry sleeping bag back into the cold wet night.

I thankfully had a nice quiet guard night with nothing to report. Eventually, after watching the minute hand on my watch reach 0300 hours, I woke up the next guard and took off my wet combats and got my head down. Three hours later we were all woken by a 'stand to'. After breakfast and cleaning our weapons we broke camp and faced the three mile 'yomp' back. It was still raining hard and we were all tired. It was nice to see civilisation again.

Now we are both mid-way through our Trade Training. I am training to become a Radio Relay Operator and **Linda** is training to become a Mechanic.

In January we faced two weeks of 'boot camp' whereby we ran ragged, woken up at 6am and got to bed at past midnight. We shall both attend a week's HGV training and, hopefully pass, obtaining our HGV Class 1 licences . . . and then the fun really begins.

Oh! and by the way, we forgot to tell you, the beer is cheap and we also get paid!

37 Sig Regt (V)
Redditch

CO — **Lt Col Stamford Cartwright (V)**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) John Riley**

TOTAL CONCEPT WEEKEND

The Regiment assembled at RAF Cosford in January for a full weekend's training, including the novelty of a CPX for the officers. This has the bonus of testing the comms provided by the operators. We must admit that the test was hardly severe, with VRC321s at 100 metres, but as the officers were to be entrusted with the pressel switches, **WO2 (YofS) Cliff Montgomery** and Ops Offr **Maj Andy Berncastle** wanted nothing left to chance. All went well, however, and Adjt **Capt Andy Duncan**'s map marking lesson had clearly been well digested. We even managed a bit of encoding and decoding, thanks to **Sgt** 'Mac' **McDonald**.

That evening the WOs and SNCOs took the opportunity to dine out **SSgt Geoff Fraser**, PSI at 67 Sig Sqn (V), retiring after 22 years regular service. We wish him all the best and hope he has found a job by the time you read this. The mess also dined out two stalwart TA members from 67 Sig Sqn (V). Both enlisted at Stourbridge when motor-bikes, long hair and leather jackets were fashionable but, not in the Army, of course! **Capt** (ex-SSM) **Malcolm Cooper** has returned to Stourbridge to command the Troop. **Sgt Mick Edwards** has decided to hang up his boots and enjoy weekends at home for a change.

Congratulations go to **Sgt Lyndon Jones** of 53 Sig Sqn (V) on his promotion.



WO1 (RSM) John Riley makes the presentation to SSgt Geoff Fraser; WO2 Eddie O'Connor hovers to make sure the RSM doesn't drop it



WO2 Gary Dodd and Capt Dave Marsden discuss the aftermath of the mess dinner as WO2 (Master Chef) Neil Burgin takes a nap on his feet

67 (QUEENS OWN WARWICKSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Roy Naylor (V)**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Ray Campbell (V)**

Maj Roy Naylor and **Lt Jo Dellamuro** planned a weekend at Bramcote to develop the leadership skills of the JNCO's. Four syndicate leaders, **Cpls Lucy Pennington**, **Keren Brocklebank-Smith**, **Dawn Elwell-Sutton** and **Irene Walker**, were tasked with constructing command tasks for their teams, making use of the various facilities available on camp, which included the assault course, swimming pool and gym facilities. Each member of the syndicate was required to lead at least one command task, under the watchful eye of their Syndicate Leader and a SNCO. This event was enjoyed by all those who took part, as it gave many their first taste of leadership.

Thanks to the CO, 30 Sig Regt we were able to use the excellent facilities at Bramcote.

Ex Hoar Frost took place at Swynnerton Camp, where the facilities enabled the Squadron to practice its military skills and take part in the 'OC's Challenge'.

A Squadron attack was planned to rescue a hostage, ably played by **Sig Guest**, from the enemy in a FIBUA situation. This was enjoyed immensely by all those who took part, as we do not often get the opportunity to practice our infantry skills. Needless to say, the hostage was successfully rescued and lived to lead the winning team in the OC's Challenge the following day! This was the first year that the competition took place for the Naylor Trophy. Team leaders were **Sig Clare Guest**, **Sgt Monty Walker**, **Sig** 'Arnie' **Canning** and **2Lt Elaine Firth**. The first part of the competition consisted of a command task to get a landrover trailer, with no wheels, across the finishing line. Various methods were used, including using **WO2 (SSM) Ray Campbell**'s foot as a roller, but the brute strength of the men, coupled with the brains of the women won the day! Once the task was completed, the teams had to run to the range for the shooting competition, where ten rounds had to be fired by each competitor in a set time and where unfired rounds were heavily penalised.

1994 saw the first award of the Yeomanry Sword, given to a Corporal or below who has achieved the most in the following categories in the past year: personal achievement, attendance, contribution to the Squadron and extra-mural activities. The Sword was presented at Ex Hoar Frost by **Col A. Fender TD, DL**, to **Cpl Lucy Pennington**, who was the unanimous choice of the Officers and SNCO's of the Squadron. **Cpl Pennington** is now entitled to wear the pear blossom on the lower right arm of her uniform in honour of her award.

93 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–BLACKBURN

Sqn Comd — **Maj Alan Whittle (V)**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Paul Todd (V)**

The TCW at RAF Cosford proved a bit of a reunion for 93 Sqn's officers as former Tp Comd **Lt Doug Bye** is now an instructor there. **Doug** joined the RAF in 1993 and is presently serving at RAF Cosford which he is enjoying.

The Squadron training weekend in January, planned over many months as a shake-down with the emphasis on data and commcen work, met with the worst snow to hit East Lancashire in 20 years. As the roads and motorways traffic ground to a halt, resulting in 15 minute journeys taking an hour and a half to complete, the Squadron assembly was somewhat delayed. The Sqn Comd prudently put off the move to Lancaster until the following morning. By then a thaw and heavy rain had started and a good solid weekend of training followed. Thanks go to the 2IC **Capt Ross Parsell** and the Yeoman, **WO2 (YofS) Marcus Cosgrove** for their efforts.

Congratulations go to **Cpls Tracy Ireland** and **Christine McIntyre** on their promotion from LCpl.

96 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–COVENTRY

Sqn Comd — **Maj Steve Holder (V)**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Mick Comber (V)**

The first exercise this year was Ex Sure Swift. a comms exercise in which **SSgt Mark Baxter** newly arrived as PSI took part.

The following have been promoted since the last report:

Sig Ewan Lake to LCpl, **LCpls John Davies** and **Ian Ross** (RLC) to Cpl.

Recruiting is in full swing. If there are any regular soldiers out there who are leaving the army remember that the TA is always on the look out for experienced ex soldiers, so if you are in the Coventry area 96 Sig Sqn (V) would be pleased to hear from you.

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

OPERATIONS/TRAINING
Trg Maj **Maj Pete Baron**

With the impending introduction into service of the National Communications Radio System (NCRS), the Ops Team, headed by the Training Major/Ops Officer, **Maj Pete Baron** and consisting of **WO2 (YofS) Chris Nutt**, **SSgt (FofS) Jim Vincent** and **SSgt Keith Dunk** have had their work load increased considerably. This has been brought about in the main by the prolonged absence of the latter three, undergoing long periods of 'intensive training' at Siemens Plessey, enhancing their knowledge of adaptive radio and enjoying life in Christchurch!

Secondary NCRS training is now in full swing, however with time limited, the course content has been somewhat refined and five days' training on the sunny coast is now condensed into two wet and windy weekends at the Manor Top, Sheffield.

The NCRS 15m mast, whilst not quite requiring a PhD in civil engineering, proved too much for the next best thing. **FofS Jim Vincent** stood helplessly by and watched as the mast slowly and gracefully completed a 180 degrees nose dive on to the adjacent monitor mast.

With the Regiment currently undergoing Trade Training weekends at Harrogate, and the UK-wide three week NCRS Trial only six weeks away, the prospects of **SSgt Dunk** getting more time off for fishing are becoming more remote by the minute!

REGIMENTAL WO/SNCOS' CADRE WEEKEND

After an absence of a few years it was decided to resurrect the Regimental WO/SNCO's Cadre Weekend, so after a lot of talking and planning, the preparations were completed and the Cadre Weekend took place at that well known State of the Art Training Camp, Proteus, over the weekend 4-5 February 1995.

Now, I know what you are probably thinking–a cadre weekend that means lots of square bashing ('cos we all want to be Tarmac Technicians) and lots of early morning PT ('cos we like being superfit mushrooms), but unfortunately this was not the case. The aim of the weekend was actually twofold: firstly, to enhance individual's military knowledge and broaden their regimental experience in order that they would become more effective members of the Regimental Middle Management Team; secondly, to keep them up-to-date with the latest information available on a variety of subjects that would be of benefit to the individual, their Squadrons, and the Regiment.

Everyone eventually assembled in the Regimental Sergeants' Mess on the Friday evening for a social get-together and to chat with friends from other Squadrons, and after a few hours sleep the weekend got under way proper on early Saturday morning with the CO's opening address.

Everyone then listened to a series of presentations which covered a wide variety of subjects ranging from MT matters to Det Maint and Folders to Crypto Procedures and Accounting, to name but a few. We also managed to arrange two excellent presentations from outside agencies, one being a drugs presentation given by **Detective Sergeant Graham Jarrett** and **Detective Constable Dick Land** of the Derbyshire Police Drugs Squad, and the second, a Threat Security presentation given by **SSgt Carey** of York Security Section.

After Saturday's presentations, the evening saw the Sgts' Mess dine in the CO, **Lt Col R. Davenport TD**, and a truly superb Regimental Dinner Night was had by all and by the looks and enthusiasm of the gathered masses at the first presentation on the Sunday morning, some of them had not wasted their time in going to bed! But after all, isn't that what regimental dinner nights are for? Life would not be the same without these occasional events.

The weekend Cadre finally finished at midday on Sunday with the closing address, by the CO, then there just time for a bit of lunch before the journey back to the respective training centres. All in all those who attended the Cadre weekend agreed that it had been very worthwhile with much learned and everyone is looking forward to next year's Regimental WO/SNCOs' Cadre weekend.

RECRUIT TRAINING

With the arrival of truly foul weather, it must be time for the Regiment's recruits to experience their first night under a basha. After suitable training over the previous eight weeks, 14 recruits and their six instructors ('oh no . . . rain and snow *again*') headed for the comforts of two small stands of trees on Ripon Parks training area.

The area had been recce'd earlier that day. On the recce, the off-road driving skills of **Cpl Peter Jackson** were tested to the full on the slush, snow and thick mud of the training area. **Cpl Craig Godbehere** also gave a fine display of obstacle-crossing skills on the recce, trying but not quite succeeding to vault a fence, his efforts landing him on his back in the snow with none of his recruits to see this truly wonderful display of physical co-ordination and grace.

The recruits tasted their first tab, carrying CEMO for about one and a half km. The afternoon continued with various military skills, basha-building, cooking a rat-pack, searching for the dead and so on. The morning's First Aid lecture was tested to the full with a practical demonstration of the treatment of burns when **WO2 Ian Perry** changed the butane can on his burner. His comment was '. . . I thought butane was much more volatile than that,' as he extinguished his bergen and the other two instructors he had attempted to incinerate, **WO2 Ron Wilbraham** and **Cpl Stuart Nesbitt**.

As the afternoon turned to evening (and the smell of smouldering kip-mat cleared) the recruits enjoyed another compo meal, followed by their first patrol in the dark. Luckily by now it had warmed up a little, in fact just enough to rain for a couple of hours during the patrol and into the night. After the patrol debrief, normal night routine started with guard stags, rain and wet sleeping-bags all round.

Sunday morning started with the two recruit sections being bumped, the sound of rifle fire and accompanying mini-flares shaking them from their sleeping bags. After a 'combat wash' and a new covering of cam-cream, training continued back at camp with an assault course and a quick visit to a CS chamber after the NBC theory lesson. When the weekend was over, the recruits were tired but obviously still keen, crying as they left the camp because the training was over–or was that the CS . . .?

46 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–DERBY

Congratulations to our 2IC, **Capt David Tomlinson**, on his selection and appointment to the Staff of 49 (East Midlands) Bde, and to **Capt Julia Bridge** on her appointment as OC RRTT. We also celebrate the granting of permanent status to our Leicester Detachment 875 Tp. We are delighted to announce **Sgt Karen Kavenagh**'s forthcoming marriage and offer our best wishes to her for the future.

On a sadder note we offer our sympathy and support to **Dot Williamson** whose husband, **Sands**, is in poor health. **Dot** is, as most will know, an ex-member WO2 of the unit and Chairman of the Royal Signals Association Derby Branch. We all hope **Sands** gets better soon.

64 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–SHEFFIELD

As the result of an appeal on Yorkshire Television's Action Line programme requesting volunteers to assist in the building of a goat compound at the Millhouse Animal Sanctuary in Sheffield, 13 members of the Squadron took up the challenge. In addition, under the leadership of **Sgt Gill Whitehouse**, it was decided to adopt the Sanctuary as one of the Squadron's annual fund raising projects.

Sponsorship monies raised from the Regimental Walk totalling £517 were donated to the Sanctuary and in addition to the assistance in the way of materials they received from the Prince's Trust it enabled a completion date to be set for 12 November 1994. The construction work and grand opening ceremony, which had to be completed on the one day, was to be televised by Yorkshire TV and presented by the TV celebrity, **Gaynor Barnes**.

The day duly arrived and the team of volunteers consisting of **Capt Kevan Flanagan**, **WO2 Jim Mees**, **Sgts Gill Whitehouse** and **Paul Parker**, **Cpls Trevor Grant** and **Adrian Simmons**, **LCpls Lee Cook**, **Wilson** and **Fraser Newton**, **Sigs Jack Culf** and **Vince Shay**, **Cfn Mark Ethelstone** and **Chris Hartley** set to work in absolutely atrocious weather conditions. Despite this set back everyone set to work erecting fences and constructing the goat shelters. With all bodies covered in mud and knee deep in sludge but nevertheless in very good humour, the camera crews duly arrived. Everyone tried to appear nonchalant in front of the cameras but **Cpl Grant** grabbed most of the limelight when he had his cut finger personally bandaged by **Miss Barnes**.

Eventually the project was completed, much to the delight of the sanctuary owner and of course the 30 goats who were duly released into their new compound. The programme went out on the air on 6 December and most personnel managed to get into focus at some time or another. To round off the event a cheque presentation ceremony was held at Manor Top TA Centre and in return we were presented with a framed certificate by the Millhouse Animal Sanctuary to commemorate our gallant achievements.

70 (ESSEX YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj Jonathan Pyman (V)**
2IC	**Capt Simon Palmer (V)**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Richard Pieper (V)**

MILITARY TRAINING

A military training weekend was held at the local training area in Colchester, organised by the PSI, **SSgt George Farrar** and **WO2 (SSM) Richard Pieper**, assisted by **WO2 Ian Perry** (NBC). **SSgt Ian Metcalfe** (First Aid) put the Squadron through its paces. The weekend also provided an opportunity to complete the Bounty Qualifying tests, a tiring but enjoyable weekend.



LCpl Sandra Mutch administers First Aid



Cpl Trevor Grant and Sig Jack Culf digging post holes

AWARDS

A ceremony was held at the Chelmsford TAC to award HM Lord Lieutenant's Certificate of Meritorious Service to **WO2 (SSM) Richard Pieper** which was presented by **Col David Casstle TD, DL**, a former Sqn Comd of the Squadron and CO of the Yeomanry Sig Regt.

Territorial Efficiency Medals were presented to **WO2 Ian Perry** and former **WO2 (SSM) Bob Lodge**. The presentation was carried out by the Squadron Honorary Colonel, **Brig Colin Brown**.



WO2 Ian Perry receives the TEM from Brig Colin Brown

FAREWELL TO PSI HARLOW

Due to the TA restructuring **SSgt** (NRPS) **Paul Lockie** is leaving the Squadron on redundancy. A farewell party was held at Harlow at which many of his former colleagues in the Corps and TA attended. All ranks of the Squadron wished him and his wife, **Sue**, best wishes for his return to civilian life. He will not be severing all his military links as he is enlisting with 87 Sig Sqn (V) as a YofS in the TA.

AND FINALLY

70 Sig Sqn, Chelmsford and Harlow, will have returned from whence they came to 71 (Yeo) Sig Regt. Despite the sadness of this event, the Regiment can confirm that the fine traditions and standards of the Yeomanry have been upheld during 70 Sig Sqn's two year sabbatical.

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

CONGRATULATIONS

During a special parade held on Sunday 8 January, HM's Lord Lieutenant for the City of Belfast, **Col J. E. Wilson OBE, JP**, presented medals to the following members of the Regiment: **Sgt Bobby Ballance, Cpl** 'Daz' **Dalzell, LCpl** 'Fergie' **Ferguson** and **LCpl Wendy Cush** received the Territorial Efficiency Medal.

Sgts Trevor Roulston, Rab McCluskey received a Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Medal.

Lt Aaron Ballantyne received the Corps Colours for his distinguished performance in Corps Fencing. Hearty congratulations are extended to all.



Lt Aaron Ballantyne receives the Corps Colours from the Lord Lieutenant, Belfast



The medal recipients pose for the camera with the Lord Lieutenant, Belfast
Front row *(L to R)*: Sgt Rab McCluskey, Lord Lieutenant, Sgt Trevor Roulston
Back row *(L to R)*: Sgt Bobby Ballance, LCpl 'Fergie' Ferguson, LCpl Wendy Cush, Cpl 'Daz' Dalzell

EXERCISE CELTIC CAPER

Ex Celtic Caper took place in the Stranraer area of Scotland during the weekend 21-22 January. The main aim of the exercise was Young Officer Training but the opportunity to have an Irish Burns Night on the Saturday evening could not be missed. An evening of Prose, Pints, Whiskey and of course the 'Haggis' was enjoyed by those officers present before returning early next morning to the exercise and the horizontal rain.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Fond farewells are extended to our 'Old Adjutant' **Capt Matt Fensom**, off to UKLF and a warm welcome to our new Adjutant **Capt Lee Smart**.

PRESENTATIONS

The Regiment held its annual raffle in aid of the Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied (PHAB) Belfast Branch. The tickets were sold by **Cpl Jacqui Wisely** and **LCpl Brian Townsend**. A cheque for £150 was handed over to the PHAB representative, **Maj Derek Smyth** at a small presentation.



Cpl Jacqui Wisely and LCpl Brian Townsend hand over a cheque to Maj Derek Smyth (PHAB)



Lt Aaron Ballantyne presents an unusual plaque to Capt Matt Fensom during the latter's farewell lunch



The CO, Lt Col Roger Batho receives a presentation to the mess from Capt Matt Fensom during his farewell lunch

71 (Yeo) Sig Regt
Bexleyheath

There has been a vast change in the regular permanent staff within the Regiment. We hope it is now safe to take stock and see just who we do have.

Trg Maj **Maj Andy Johnstone**, QM **Maj Phil Daisey**, Adjt **Capt Martin Barnes**, RSM **WO1 (RSM) Mal Geer** RQMS **WO2 (RQMS) Chez Cheslett** YofS **WO2 (YofS) Andy Campbell** Chief Clerk **SSgt Ann Marsden** (AGC) PSI Mil Trg **SSgt Rod Cowan** PSI LAD **SSgt Bernie Pallet** (REME) PSI 265 Sqn **SSgt** 'Q' **Rose** PSI 57 Sqn **SSgt Brad Bradley** PSI 68 Sqn **SSgt Steve Clarke** PSI 94 Sqn **SSgt Al Churchward**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) Andy Burns**, Sys Tech **Sgt John Linck**, Radio Tech's **Sgts** 'Toddy' **Todd, Martin Pascoe, Andy Westlake, Shaun Walsh**. CO Dvr **LCpl** 'Daz' **Lythe**.

Alas this not an end to the moves as we are soon to lose 57 Sig Sqn (V) and gain 70 Sig Sqn (V). Joining us then will be **SSgt George Farrar** and **Sgt Andy Amis**.

DINING IN THE RSM
By Sgt Andy Westlake

The Regimental training weekend on Saturday 28 January gave the WOs and SNCOs the opportunity to dine in the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Mal Geer**. Since his arrival in October the RSM has been busy visiting the Regiment's nine TA centres and attending various functions at which he has been introduced to many Yeomanry traditions. Not to be out done, the RSM decided to introduce some traditions of his own. Firstly, a mess meeting at 0700 hrs on Saturday morning then PE on Sunday morning after the Dinner.

Finally, he modelled the new Regimental bow tie during the dinner. However, that innovation is destined to be very shortlived.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Throughout the last six months or so the Regiment, at various levels, has done its best to raise money for good causes, both locally and within the London area. One of the major fund raising events was the Regiment's first attempt at the Lanyard Trophy competition. A scatch team from 68 Sig Sqn (V) led by **Lt** 'tab till you die' **Turner** raised just under £1,400 for The Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, an excellent effort.

Unfortunately, another fundraising event, parachuting into water from a C130, had to be cancelled due to bad weather. Not to worry though, another intrepid team will attempt to go again in May. The team will consist of the QM **Maj Phil Daisey, WO2 (YofS) Andy Campbell, SSgt George Farrar** SPSI 70 Sig Sqn (V) and **Sgt Shaun Walsh** the PSI Tech at 68 Sig Sqn (V).

Finally, one of the more local fund raising events held last year was for a local girl who needed a special wheelchair. 265 Sig Sqn (V) raised some much needed cash, and **SSgt Rod Cowan** and **SSgt Quentin Rose**, from the permanent staff, raised some money as a result of their first and second placings in the London District cross-country championships.

57 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–BRISTOL

Sqn Comd	**Maj John Crackett TD**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Stan Gane**

The first two months of the year have seen a busy period for the Squadron both in training and operationally.

With the announcement of the final strength of the Reserve Forces and 2 (NC) Sig Bdes implementation of its reorganisation, the Squadron were sorry to receive confirmation that it was changing Regiments for the second time in two years. It not only said farewell to 71st (Yeomanry) Sig Regt in March, but welcomed HQ Sqn of 39 Sig Regt (SC) (V) into our TA Centre in Bristol during the same month.

Not only do we move into new offices but we shall be implementing establishment changes to take on our new role as the regional Squadron supporting 43 (Wessex) Bde and will be accepting NCRS into the Squadron.

On the exercise front, January proved to be a busy month with the Officers and SNCO's study day based on Corsham with a management brief on the Regimental change, operational reorganisation and NCRS equipment overview. The day was rounded off with cocktails at the home of the Honorary Colonel **Col J. B. Bryant JP** and another splendid dinner at the Bristol Mess cooked almost single handedly by **SSgt Bob Coggins**.

The month closed with a Squadron comms ex on Bramley. **LCpl Lisa Gane** and a few of the more squeamish members of the Squadron shed a tear during the safety brief before deployment onto the exercise when they were warned about the following days deer cull, pheasant shoot and duck shoot all taking place at different locations of the training area.

The job of the live enemy (**SSgt** 'Brad' **Bradley** and **Sgt Martin Pascoe**) was to locate the new A Tp position that became much easier when the SCP vehicle and 16/24 geni were seen to bog down when entering the site. Quote of the evening goes to **Sgt Chris Spencer** with 'I thought that you had loaded the shovels' when they were faced with digging the vehicles out by hand.

265 (KCLY) SIGNAL SQUADRON–BEXLEYHEATH

In November our RMO, **Maj Barry Fearn** retired. **Maj Fearn** served in the KCLY in the 1960s (when it was still part of the RAC) and rejoined as RMO of 71 (Yeo) Sig Regt in 1982. His knowledge, both of medicine and fine wines has been a great asset to the Regiment, and he is also probably the only RMO to have appeared on 'That's Life'! At his dining out at Longmoor the CO, **Lt Col Stephen Foakes**, presented him with a silver salver as a token of the Regiment's appreciation.



CO Lt Col Stephen Foakes presents Maj Barry Fern with a salver on his retirement

SQUADRON AWARDS

January also saw 265's annual mobex when documents are checked, stores counted and bounty tests conducted. This is also the occasion for the Squadron's annual dinner and awards ceremony. The 1994 award winners were:

Moore Trophy (best female soldier)	**Cpl Vanessa Read** SHQ Tp
Lushington Cup (best recruit)	**Sig Julia Lattaway** 884 Sig Tp
Appleby Cup (best trade course result)	**Sig Andrew Colls** 887 Sig Tp
Lucky Trophy (best male soldier)	**Sig Phillip Marchant** 884 Sig Tp



Squadron award winners: *(L to R)* Cpl Vanessa Read, Sigs Julia Lattaway, Andrew Colls, Phillip Marchant

NEWS FROM THE SQUADRONS

HQ BRITFOR Sig Sqn
Op Grapple
BFPO 544

OPERATION GRAPPLE

Sqn Comd	**Maj D. A. Hargreaves**
2IC	**Capt A. B. Stocker**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) P. Woodward**

BRITFOR TROOP

Tp Comd	**Lt Andy Knott**
SSgt	**SSgt** 'Russ' **Conway**

The Split based Troop has had a varied time during the last two months, with some notable activities, including the hosting of the Combined Services Entertainment (CSE) show of two comedians, a singer and a magic act. **Lt Andy Knott** was nominated as chief 'roadie' (it's a hard job but someone had to do it), and was supported by the lucky crew of **Cpl Russ Shields, LCpls Dean Booker, Jason Bogden,** and **Sig** 'Taff' **Evans**. Duties included getting the cast of the Op Grapple 5 concert party from Zepce in the North of Sector South West, down through some five other locations to arrive safely in one piece at the final 'gig' (yes, all the 'roadie speak' in these notes) at Split where the audience numbered some 900.



Yet another hold up. Troop Commanders Lts Ian Ellis and Andy Knott stuck on Route triangle in heavy snow in January



The photograph depicts an LO comms team equipped with INMARSAT and HF equipment ready to deploy deep into Serbian held territory, as part of the Cessation of Hostilities Implementation Plan 105

On the tech side, projects have seen the rewiring of bases, despite the setback of the GTPD (Great Telegraph Pole Disaster), after a DROPS vehicle took out the main crossing at the RHF location at Vitez. Now that the Sappers have finished the concrete mast bases, there are three more masts to be erected in theatre.

FAREWELLS

The Troop says farewell to **Sig Chris Baughurst** who returns to Romeo Tp prior to becoming a civilian in his home town of Ashford. With him goes **LCpl** 'Buzz' **Buzzard** from Sector South West Tp, who also leaves for civ div. Good luck!

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd	**Capt Chas Dale**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) Steve Johnson**

The last couple of months has seen the boys and girls in Support Tp settling down under the UN system. The trial of the latest Soldier 95 equipment continues to go well with the members sporting the latest issue.

SECTOR SOUTH WEST TROOP

Tp Comd	**Lt Ian Ellis**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Gary** 'Smudge' **Smith**
Sgt	**Sgt Andy Allan**

Since the snow arrived we have renamed Gornji Vakuf the winter wonderland. From here we can see the lower part of the local ski slope that was once featured in the skiing brochures for this part of the country. It is actually quite tempting to have a go, but so far we have not done so.

On the work front, and with peace breaking out, the Troop now have four detachments on six hours notice to move, ready to deploy with Sector Liaison Officers to BSA HQs across the former confrontation line, as part of the recent Carter peace initiative. The Troop worked tirelessly through the night in order to get the dets out on time, with **Sgt Steve Holloway** checking and rechecking the equipment for faults before deployment. By the morning the FFRs were loaded to the gunnels with the theatre's supply of fuel, and warm kit. This left just enough room for the lads themselves to squeeze in.

STRATCOM TROOP

Tp Comd	**Lt James O'Brien**
YofS	**WO1 (YofS) Dennis Prince**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Martin Drake**
SSgt	**SSgt Jim Pollit**

One of the detachments Stratcom supplies is Sarajevo. The crew of eight is headed by **Sgt John Blyth, LCpls Ralph Farmer** and **Matt Potter**, and **Sigs** 'Chippy' **Carpenter**, 'Taff' **Morris** and **Emma Pelc**, with ED and tech support being provided by **Cpl Keef Betts** and **Sgt** 'Taff' **Tanner** respectively. The detachment currently has a VSC 501 and 502 on strength which keeps them busy.

UAO

Adjt	**Capt Dan Taylor**
SSgt	**SSgt John Bellingham**

Life in the UAO has settled in to a more reasonable pace although the battle to keep PAMPAS up to date continues.

Congratulations go to **Sgt Paul Anwyll** and **Mrs Anwyll** on the arrival of their baby daughter. Whilst he has had the misfortune to be medivaced with a recurrent knee problem, his departure enabled him to be near at the time of the birth.

LCpl 'Scooty' **Black** is currently aboard HMS *Invincible* for an exchange visit to the Royal Navy. We eagerly await her account of how life on the ocean waves compares to that of Split.

1 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215)
Tidworth

Sqn Comd	**Maj Ted Flint**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Al Haines**

ARRIVAL OF NEW SQUADRON COMMANDER

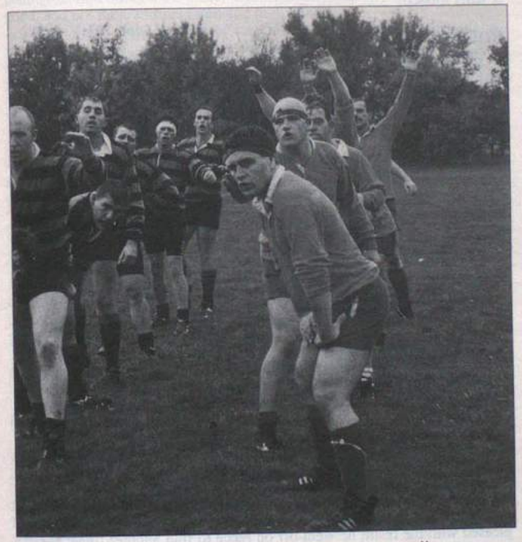
The Squadron said farewell to **Maj Andy Kendall** and welcomed **Maj Ted Flint**. We understand that **Maj Flint** is delighted to be wearing uniform again, having spent the last two years in London! We hope that he and his family will be very happy during their tour with the Squadron and that they will soon adapt to living out in the sticks.

SHQ

Congratulations to the Yeoman, **WO2 (YofS) Jim Large** and to the Foreman, **SSgt (FofS) Phil Court** on being selected for promotion.

RUGBY

The Squadron's newly-formed rugby team is going from strength to strength under the guidance of **Capts David Kenyon** and **Simon Hutchinson**. Despite several setbacks in the points department during earlier matches, the team trains hard and with great enthusiasm; a win is confidently expected in the near future! This sporting enthusiasm is continued after the match; despite being new on the circuit, their generous hospitality is already legendary. Keep up the good work.



The rugby team would like to be excused!

ALPINE SKIING CHAMPIONSHIP–MINOR UNITS CHAMPIONS

by Sigs Tim Barker and Sean Grierson

We left Tidworth on the evening of 1 December 1994. It took us just over 24 hours to get to Kaprun, Austria, where the Corps Training Camp and Corps Championships were to be held. Before the camp started we had three days in which to get our ski legs back; it didn't take long before we were flying around all over the glacier.

The Corps Camp started and we then had a whole week of training on poles, through both Slalom and Giant Slalom courses. By now **Sig Sean Grierson** was well ahead on the 'Dob List' with a two figure total. **Sgt** 'Robbo' **Robinson** spent most of the time telling us how important it was to stay on your feet during a team race.

Race week seemed to come around very fast. For **Sigs Barker, Grierson** and 'Dunc' **Marsh** it was our first ever race. Unfortunately, we didn't win any team events during the Corps Championships and missed third place in the Team Slalom by 1/100 of a second. **Sgt Robinson** made amends, however, achieving runner-up in both the Individual Giant Slalom and the Individual Combination. Our next goal was to be the 3 (UK) Div Championships.

We hired a French race trainer for a week in January, immediately prior to the competition. The coaching paid off, as the team won the Minor Unit GS, followed by a convincing win in the team Slalom, with over a minute's lead. The downhill course was a different matter. The meeting ended with the prize giving, at which we collected the Minor Unit Team Slalom, Team Giant Slalom and Alpine Combination trophies. In addition, **Sig Marsh**, to our great pleasure, won first place in the Divisional Novice category.



Sig Sean Grierson at Mach 2

BENGAL TROOP

Tp Comd	**Lt Andy Mould**

The Troop welcomes **Sgt Mark Langton**, making his return to the Corps after a tour with the infantry in Bosnia and says goodbye to **Cpl Carl Brotherston**, posted to sunny Bulford.

SABRE TROOP

Tp Comd	**Lt Al Long**

Sabre Tp are very pleased to welcome **Sgt Eric Head** to its merry band.

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd	**Capt Mal Heaney**

It's business as usual in the **Capt** 'Arkwright' **Heaney**'s department–Open All Hours!



SSgt 'Geordie' Shave and Lt Al Long–there are no lightweights in Sabre Tp!

4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204)
BFPO 36

Sqn Comd **Maj Jim McKee**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Mark Wright-Jones**

More Rats are leaving the ship this month, with **Capt Matt Hanson** off to Sigh-prus to do his first Adjutant's parade in highly bulled sports kit. **Capt Howard Hughes** takes over, having moved from the Ops hot seat where **Capt Rich Deans** is already developing his first 'Ops room ulcer'. **Lt Paul Rennie** has done a bunk to Bath on promotion and he is replaced by **Lt Denis Thornton** from 7 Sig Regt who has discovered to his dismay that his new posting is two hours further away from Calais than his last one. **Capt Don Pawlow** has moved on to the TA and is replaced by **Capt Graham Douglas** from 16 Sig Regt. Do the officers know something the rest of the Squadron doesn't?

EXERCISE KING RAT

With the New Year the Squadron was plunged into a refreshingly new way of looking at leadership and initiative–Anneka Rice style.

Gone were bergans, sleepless nights and getting bumped. Ex King Rat, the concept of **Capt Howard Hughes**, was to test the planning initiative and panache of selected JNCOs. They were given a small team and several tasks to complete within 36 hours. They had little by way of resources, limited time and the pressure of the Sqn Comd assessing their efforts.

The tasks were given to the section commanders on their first day back after leave. **Cpl Ian Chapple** had to raise DM2000 so that the relatives of one of our soldiers who was killed in a motorcycle accident could attend his memorial service. **Cpl Ben Bates** from the LAD had to construct an assault course from scratch and **Cpl Tony Dawson** ran a very successful rifle range.

All the tasks were useful to the entire Squadron. **Cpl Thomas**, who had only been in the unit for a week, was tasked to produce an information pack about the Squadron and Osnabruck. The pack was exceptionally well produced and contains everything any newly posted soldier or family could wish to know, and is now sent to all members of the Squadron before they arrive.

The exercise was an outstanding success. Judging the winner was a difficult and close-run thing. The final positions were only settled after the sect comds made a presentation on how their tasks were completed. The eventual winners were led by **Cpl Thomas** and included: **LCpl Sean Smith**, **LCpl Brown**, **Pte Brown**, **Sig Chapman** and **LCpl Craig Elsdon**.

JOB SWOP DAY

One of the money raising schemes to be spawned by the warped mind of **Cpl Ian Chapple** was a draw to raffle off the jobs of various Squadron personalities. Subsequently, the officers and seniors were either jailed, screamed at, pushed about or generally treated with the kind of contempt one normally reserves for mass murderers. Undeterred, **Pte** 'RSM' **Brown** jailed the Sqn Comd **Maj Jim McKee** and **Sig** 'OC' **Campbell** set Total Quality Management back into the dark ages.

Meanwhile, down in Oscar Tp **SSgt** 'Sig' **Skinner** just couldn't get enough of running about with a shell casing in his arms and Papa Tp Comd **Lt** 'LCpl' **Denis Thornton** failed to get the urinals unblocked before the arrival of SSVC cameras.

By the time pips and stripes were handed back to the people who owned them, the day had proved a great success and helped raise a good deal of the target DM2000.

PARACHUTING–EXERCISE RAT DZ

Ten members of the Squadron went off to JSPC(L) in Sennelager in an attempt to sprain enough ankles to scupper PT. Unfortunately, only one person managed to actually do it, **Pte Mantell** from the Brigade admin office. The rest, **Cpls Ward**, **Dudley**, **LCpl Dawson** and **Sigs May**, **Chapman**, **Doran**, **Cowie** and **Coker** all managed five jumps in the week. They were joined by four ladies from 14 Sig Regt (EW)–**LCpl Hinsley**, and **Sigs Cavell**, **Williams** and **Mellalieu**. It proved to be a scary week, and the prize for the greatest show-off goes to **LCpl Dawson**. Just because he is a PTI and tries climbing back into the aircraft using only his fingertips and lower lip doesn't prove anything–apart from how easy it is to stamp on them.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

On 8 February a service was held in memory of **Sig Tony Keen**, who was tragically killed last year. As a result of the Squadron's fund-raising activities, some members of his family were able to attend and included his sister, aunt, their respective fiancés and his girlfriend, **Birgit**. The service was conducted by **Father Martin Cadell** who blessed a memorial stone and led the prayers. **Sig Keen** was a great asset to the Squadron and is sadly missed.

HOCKEY–UKSC(G) FINAL

On 9 February the Squadron Hockey team marched off to Gutersloh to do battle with a combined team drawn from all the units in Rhinedahlen Garrison. In a closely-fought match, Rhinedahlen took the lead with two goals to nil, but this was quickly countered by a goal from our own **LCpl Malcolm** and shortly afterwards another from **Capt Hanson**. Unfortunately, this was disallowed and despite keeping the action in Rhinedahlen's half, another goal against us forced us to concede a 3–1 defeat in a fast, nail-biting game. Well done to all team members, who will certainly prove to be a force to be reckoned with in forthcoming competitions.

ROUNDUP

All in all, the first two months of 1995 have been a typically varied but enjoyable one in 4 Bde.

If *you* would like to join 4 Armd Bde and Sig Sqn then contact **Maj J. K. McKee** on Osnabruck mil 5279 or write to us at BFPO 36.

EXERCISE LAST CHANCE

Ex Last Chance was a mini-battlecamp designed to evaluate the Squadron's military skills. The first half of the week involved ATD training, and the latter half was supposed to be a slow time learning deployment as infantry, which quickly developed into a towering saga of one Squadron's valiant struggle against the elements. Mud, snow, rain, sleet and trees falling into bashas were the norm. **Cpl Jim Lyons** and **LCpl Scott Dernie** will be remembered for their blood-curdling screams when assaulting enemy positions. The freezing cold, water-logged trench they charged through had, they assured us, absolutely nothing to do with it. In the end, we won (just) and Training Wing's **Sgt Ken Snell** was so pleased with the result he went off on recce to find another freezing cold swamp for us to crawl through for the proper Battlecamp. In the words of **Capt Howard Hughes** it will be 'the one to end them all!'–not to mention half the Squadron, presumably.

7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207)
BFPO 30

Sqn Comd **Maj J. P. Wilson**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) T. Smith**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We welcome to the Squadron **SSgt (FofS) S. Davies**, the new Pay Sgt, **Sgt J. Griffiths**, **Cpl Neil Pollitt** and **Sig Jim Millar**. We also welcome the new female element to the unit in the form of **Sigs Michelle Frew**, **Natasha Young** and **Karen Duffy**.

It is with regret that we lose FofS **SSgt Dave Alexander**, **Cpl** 'Jock' **McDonald**, **LCpls Grant Gipson**, 'Bart' **Simpson** and Sigs 'Chinny' **Matthews** and **John Reardon** (going on promotion).

CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to **LCpls Al Wilson** and **Mat Kutzner** on their promotion. Best wishes to **Sig Simon Rowley** and his wife **Amy** on their new addition to the family and to **LCpl** 'Bart' **Simpson** and his recent bride **Jane**.

CROSS COUNTRY

On Friday 3 February the first Bde HQ and Sig Sqn inter-troop cross country competition took place. Unfortunately, the weather was really good, and not the traditional rain and high winds.

WO2 (YofS) Paul Sexby had carefully picked a course to include as much water and mud as possible, over the local area covering approximately 9 km. The team setting up the course in the morning was very kind and broke all the ice on the way round.

At 1410 hrs all personnel reported to the gymnasium for a briefing on the course and the race commenced at 1430 hrs. Very quickly a breakaway group of the YofS, **LCpl Girling** and **Sig Wheeler** opened up a significant gap on the remainder of the field.

One or two people found themselves losing shoes at the bottom of the hill, in the thick mud, (someone, who shall be nameless, circumnavigated the hill, because it looked too hard!).

The winner of the individual event was **WO2 (YofS) Paul Sexby**, nearly a minute clear of **LCpl Girling** and **Sig Wheeler** who came in third. The field was very spread out and the last runner completed the course some 20 minutes after the winner.

Afterwards, everyone retired to the bar, where **Mrs Wilson**, the Sqn Comd's wife, kindly presented the array of prizes. In the overall competition the Bde HQ staff came a valiant second, but Alpha Tp were the runaway winners.

Thanks go to the Boxing Squad and other volunteers who assisted with officiating for the event. We are led to believe that **Sgt** 'Taff' **Webb** is still trying to find one of the course markers **Sig Jones** who wandered off into the training area. If anyone sees him next time they are out there can they bring him home!

ARMOURED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON CONFERENCE

The first Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn Conference was held in Hohne, 10 February. The aim of the Conference was to discuss current issues facing the three Armd Bde Sig Sqns and to co-ordinate responses, where appropriate.

Amongst many points the Sqn Comds discussed Squadron management plans, with **Maj McKee** (Sqn Comd 4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204)) giving an enlightening presentation on Total Quality Management. The challenge of each identical Squadron receiving different equipment tables was discussed amongst the QMs, with UKSC(G) represented by **Maj Ledwards**. **Capt Pickersgill** (1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt) also attended and chaired the Ops Offrs' Conference.

A successful day's work was concluded by watching the UKSC(G) Minor Units Boxing Final.

BOXING

For the fourth year in a row 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207) was once again in the BA(G) Minor Units Novice Grade III Team Boxing Championships. In what was an extremely close fought competition, with some very high quality boxing, the Squadron narrowly lost three bouts to four against 280 (UK) Sig Sqn, in this all Corps final.

The first fight was between **Cpl Caulfield** and **Sig Richards**, after the full three rounds of skilful boxing **Cpl Caulfield** won for 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207). In the next round, **Sig Dukes**, of 280 (UK) Sig Sqn, won after the referee stopped the fight in the last minute of the third round due to a large cut above **Cpl Hamblin**'s left eye; after a fast and furious contest. **Cpl Hilton** won the next for 280 (UK) Sig Sqn after **Sig Bettelley** was counted out in the third round of this untidy but exciting fight. In the light middleweight **Sig Daly** and **Cpl Gill** put on an excellent display with some accurate jabbing. After a close fought fight **Sig Daly** won for 7 Bde Sig Sqn, making it two all at half time.

After the interval and a display by the musicians of the Devonshire and Dorset Regt **Sig Lancett** showed his superior skill and extreme confidence beating **Sgt Simcock** and putting 280 (UK) Sig Sqn in front. **SSgt Murray** then evened the score after a very close and hard fought contest against **LCpl Bain** with both boxers showing fitness and determination. The Welterweights were to decide the outcome in a contest that showed aggression, determination, fitness and speed. **Sig Aimi** won after a good punch left a very disappointed **LCpl Girling** to be counted out by the referee.

Col Chaganis, chairman of BA(G) Boxing, presented the prizes for what was the culmination of weeks of intensive training for both teams.

FURIOUS DRIVING
SKIBOBBING IN BAVARIA

Nine members of Alpha Tp are indebted to both 16 Sig Regt and **Cpl** 'Paddy' **Maybin**, for being given the chance to go for a week's skibobbing in Bavaria/Austria.

The Tp Comd, **2Lt Darren Offord**, met up with his father **Maj Dick Offord** (who happens to have a great deal to do with running Army Skibobbing) on the course.

During the week the following event is recounted. Enthused by his father's boast of being a youthful and skilful sledger in his time, **Offord** Junior with misplaced confidence, happily climbed on to the back of the sledge behind **Offord** Major. The mission was simply to get from the skibob lodge, down into the village.

After a steady start the sleigh gathered speed. Slight adjustments were made by the helmsman as the sledge rapidly accelerated down the hill. Ahead, the course became very steep and very icy, with the road diverting to the right.

The helmsman deftly initiated the necessary manoeuvres to negotiate the bend. Roaring past **Pte Sandy Sanderson** (the Chef) on his sledge with **Offord** Junior whooping gleefully, onlooker **Cpl Vicky Hardisty**, was heard to say 'They're never going to make it'.

As the bend was reached the helmsman had totally misjudged the effect of his 13 stone freeloader, as the sledge turned not an inch.

Leaving the beaten track, not to mention the ground, the pair were granted some 'air time', narrowly missing a very sturdy tree on the banks of the stream. Yes, stream! Son hit stream, father hit son and sleigh hit father. Wet, covered in mud, bruised and not a little shocked, moments went by as both checked for any injuries, which fortunately were not too serious.

As our illustrious pair got to their feet and crawled out of the stream a group of instructors who were sensibly walking down the hill, were obviously responding to a joke, as they burst into fits of laughter. However, with the typical aplomb one would expect of Officers of the Corps, the intrepid two, not to be diverted from the mission, climbed up the bank, dusted themselves off and continued their journey, albeit at a more sedate pace.

Wife and mother of the **Offord**s will be pleased in the knowledge, that, with their forthcoming posting to Saudi Arabia, there will be neither bobsleigh nor snow.



Sig Andy Morris being given some 'air time'

24 Airmob Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210)
Colchester

APPOINTMENT SWAPPING
A Personal View by LCpl 'RSM' Morgan

It seemed like a good idea at the time. I had never served in a unit which had done it, nor had the Squadron Commander **Maj** 'soon to be signaller' **Meyer**, but **Cpl Taylor** from Alpha Tp had. He assured us that not only was it a marvellous way to raise money for a worthy cause, but it was also great fun. In a moment of weakness we agreed that we would give it a try. Too late did we realise that the 'great fun' bit only applied to the junior ranks.

And so it was decided that we would go to the NAAFI and auction off the senior squadron appointments to the highest bidder. It was also decided that we would assume the rank of whoever succeeded in buying ours. As in real life, some appointments were more popular than others, with £43 being the highest bid (for Sqn Comd/RSM). The lowest bid was one old sixpence, rising to £6.25, for the Foreman–£6 of which was a sympathy payment.

Successful bidders were:

Sqn Comd	**Sig** 'Blind Pugh' **Stevenson**
QM	**LCpl** 'Gash' **Doe**
A Tp Comd	**Cpl** 'VC' **Wringe**
B Tp Comd	**LCpl Tim Baldwin**
2Lt Worden	**Pte Elaine Little**
RSM	**LCpl John Kilner**
RQMS	**Sig** 'Meesh' **Berkovitch**
YofS	**Sig** 'Gav' **Storey**
FofS	**Cpl Brian Dundas**
Chief Clerk	**Pte Jacky Buchanan**
SSgt A Tp	**Cpl** 'Churchy' **Churchward**
SSgt B Tp	**Sig** 'Tommo' **Thomassen**
SSgt Sp Tp	**Cpl Tony Taylor**
Provost Sgt	**LCpl** 'Ossie' **Osborn**

In addition, numerous Signallers bought out Troop Corporals in a short lived bid for revenge; while **Cfn** 'Smiff' **Smith**, realising he was on duty the day of the swap, bought out the Tiffy (**SSgt Brian Jones**) who then found himself on gate guard all morning.

Pullovers were swapped long before the official 0900 hrs start time the following morning, and an early visitor to the cells was **SSgt Jed Robinson** from Support Tp–appearing as 'Sig' **Robinson** 15 minutes early, he found himself jailed by **SSgt Colin Milne**, the real B Tp SSgt, for being improperly dressed. On arrival at the guardroom he found other cells occupied by two other early birds, 'YofS' **Storey** and 'SSgt' **Thomassen** who were far too keen to wear their new badges.

The parade went well, most of the real officers and SNCOs being jailed for a variety of offences, ranging from being in possession of an orange moustache (**SSgt Milne**), zips in boots (Sqn Comd) and wearing a skirt (Mr Worden!).

1000 hrs and the mid morning break came as a welcome relief for some. The newly promoted officers and SNCOs retired to their respective messes for free tea and toast, while the newly reverted signallers ran for the NAAFI and a nostalgic meat pie. The pies coming from a batch that were on sale 10 years ago!

I, on the other hand, as a newly promoted LCpl was detailed by 'RSM' **Kilner** to become a waiter in the Sergeants' Mess, something I hadn't done in 15 years. All went well until the SNCOs of the Brigade staff appeared for their tea and toast and took great delight in ordering me from one task to the next. For some strange reason this stopped when I reminded them that I still controlled the duties box.

Tea and toast over (and the washing up done) it was back to work and a spell in the garages. I quickly learned (or should that be relearned?) that the man to avoid was my Troop SSgt, the newly promoted 'SSgt' 'Tommo' **Thomassen**, a man with a wicked turn of phrase and a penchant for double time drill–dishing it out that is–as 'Sigs' **Robinson** and **Milne** found out the hard way, getting themselves jailed a record four times.

Life slowed a little later on in the morning. 'Staff' appeared to be losing his voice and giving himself a headache, and there was time for a relaxing game of cards in the garages, disturbed only by having to leap up and grab a broom every time 'Staff' appeared in sight. Meanwhile, 'Sig' **Collins**, taking his fall from RQMS with good grace, found painting lines on the garage floor quite therapeutic, stating that if he could keep his normal daily rate of pay he wouldn't mind doing it for a living–a view echoed by 'Sig' **Coatsworth**, Ex A Tp SSgt, as he was leaning on a broom outside the guardroom.

Having been sent for by 'RSM' **Kilner**, I arrived at SHQ to find that it was being exceptionally well run. This was because the new Chief Clerk, ex **Pte** (now 'SSgt') **Jacky Buchanan** and ex **Pte** (now 2Lt) **Elaine Little**, ably led by the newly commissioned 'Major' 'Blind Pugh' **Stevenson**, were now in a position to see how the other half lives.

'Pte' **Storrs** (ex Chief Clerk) suddenly found himself making endless cups of coffee for the new Chief Clerk and doing all the boring, routine jobs that he had given to the then Pte **Buchanan** the day before. Ex Major, now 'Sig' **Meyer** (better known as 'Dave Mate') was busily employed collecting, sorting and delivering the Squadron's mail. This entailed strolling around the different troops and departments doing virtually nothing all day (much like the Sqn Comd's normal job really). This came to an abrupt end when 'SSgt' 'Churchy' **Churchward** ordered him to clean out and mop his office floor before returning to SHQ. The task was performed with good grace and no little skill–another string to the Sqn Comd's bow.

It was about this time that '2Lt' **Little**, looking more like a 2Lt than 2Lts normally do (ie smartly turned out) ventured out of the office on a walkabout. She was soon spotted by the only female Brigade Staff Officer, **Capt Erskine-Tulloch** AGC (SPS). **Capt E-T**, seeing a new female 'officer', did the polite thing and greeted her with outstretched hand and the words 'Hello, we haven't met, my name's **Sam**. Are you on attachment'? A red faced '2Lt' **Little** replied that she was really **Pte Little**, the Orderly Room clerk. **Capt E-T**, now with the redder face, exited stage left.

By 1130 hrs the 'new' management started splitting into two distinct groups: those who realised that their time in charge was nearly up and tried to make amends before we all changed back; and those who saw only half an hour left in which to reek havoc.

'Maj' **Stevenson** and 'RSM' **Kilner** fell into the second category. Called to the office the 'RSM' informed me that I was going to be charged under section 69, for being 'too short on parade'. Needless to say I strenuously denied it at great length, pointing out that the charge was completely unjust and illegal. 'RSM' **Kilner** agreed and informed me I was going down anyway. (He will make a good RSM one day). It would have been optimistic in the extreme for me to think I would remain a LCpl all morning–I was reverted to Signaller by 'Maj' **Stevenson**.

The 'RSM's' final act of the day was to order a 'knock off parade' and we all duly formed up on the square, 'RSM' **Kilner** (this time holding his pace stick correctly) gave the rather unusual order of 'change jumpers'. In one fell swoop I went from Signaller to RSM–what a relief!

In all things military there is always a part in a report headed 'lessons learned'. These are some of the things learned, or in some cases remembered, from those dark and distant days when I was a Signaller:

- You can play cards in the garages providing you have a look out
- You can get away with most things if you stride purposefully from place to place
- Being innocent is never a defence
- When you are wearing a big coloured badge people listen
- Rank swapping is great fun providing you swap for a bigger badge
- Three hours duration is 2 hrs 55 mins too long if you haven't a badge

With over £300 being raised towards re-equipping the gym and everyone having enjoyed a great morning we will probably do it all again next year–after I'm posted!



The 'officers' of the Squadron. *(L to R):* '2Lt' Elaine Little, 'Capt' Tony Wringe, 'WO1 (RSM)' John Kilner, 'Maj' Stevo Stevenson

240 Sig Sqn
York

Sqn Comd — **Maj Stan Howard**
SQMS — **SSgt (SQMS) Dave Simpson**

FAREWELL MESSAGE

A small unit, to be made even smaller after the implementation of DCS, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all our military and civilian staff at Colchester who will be transferring to 251 Sig Sqn, good luck for the future and thank you for all your loyalty and support in the past.

SQUADRON WALK

After much planning and preparation, 240 Sig Sqn finally escaped from the rigours of York for the day. **SSgt Dave Simpson** and **Cpl Tony Brown** took everyone on a scenic hike from the Hole of Hoccum through Cropton Forest to the Blacksmiths Arms, where we 'sampled' the local brew.

The three teams set off laughing and joking, apart from section 3 who were minus one member, **Mr Gerry Colgan**, who decided that half the walk would be enough for him.

Meanwhile, **Sgt Brian Ridley**, **Cpl Gary Skeels** and **LCpl Jo Watson** romped home first and were soon enjoying a well earned tipple. They were quickly followed by **Maj Stan Howard**, **Sgts Ron Bates** and **McNair**.

Two hours later, after looking for the pixies in the forest, **Maj Eames**, **Mr Colgan**, **LCpl Robbie Quigley** and **Sig Rachel Storey** finally arrived at the Inn. During the time they were lost **Pte Vicky Gall** had great fun practising her rally driving skills through the forest looking for the lost souls.

The en route quiz just happened to be won by the Boss, **Maj Stan Howard** (is somebody looking for promotion?).



Back row: SSgt Simpson, Cpl Brown, Sgt Ridley, Maj Howard, Sgt Bates, Cpl Skeels
Middle row: Maj Eames, LCpl Watson, LCpl Quigley, Sig Storey, Sgt McNair, Pte Gall
Mr Colgan's dogs–Jess and Bill
(Photograph by Mr Colgan)

FAREWELLS AND ARRIVALS

We would like to wish **Pte Vicky Gall** all the best for the future as she leaves for pastures new. We would also like to say a happy farewell to **Sig Rachel Storey** who leaves us to start a new career in civvy street. Good luck for the future to both you and your husband **Paul**. Goodbye also to **Cpl Jason White** who is leaving us to go to sunny Cyprus.

We would like to welcome into our happy clan **Sgts Caroline Gordon**, **Sgt Heather McNair** and **LCpl Jo Watson**.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Cpl Tony Brown** on his promotion.

243 Sig Sqn
Bulford Camp

Sqn Comd — **Maj Peter Davis**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Linda Cooper**

This period has seen the continued successful involvement of the Squadron in sporting activities. The ladies of the Squadron won the triathlon at Colerne (September 1994) and got to the finals of the Inter-Corps Hockey. **Sig Appleton** and **SSgt Warnes** representing the Squadron in the R Signals Team in November 1994. The ladies were also runners-up in the Southern District (West) Army Cross-Country Championships at Blandford on 7 December 1994. Well done **Cpls Bennett, Smart, Sigs Appleton** and **Glenister**.



SWS Tp (Bulford)
60 years between them
Trevor Stevens (Mapping Officer), Mike McMahon (HPTO) and Steve Scriven (PTO Lines)



Male and female triathlon teams
The men were not first in their triathlon contest but they had the honour of taking part. They were: SSgt Merrie, Cpls Lawson, Keith, Sig Dennison

249 Siq Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Maj John Terrington handed over the Squadron on 6 January to **Maj Neil Couch**, who has joined the unit from Ministry of Defence. Everyone at the Squadron wishes **Maj Terrington** good luck in his new job at HQ UKLF and hopes that he and **Heather** enjoy a well earned rest from the rigors of unit life.

EXERCISE HARDFALL '95

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) deployed for their two month Norwegian 'skiing holiday' at the beginning of January with elements from 2 Sig Regt, 602 Sig Tp (SC) and 609 TACP joining us for the ride. January was to see some hard training but was particularly demanding for the newcomers to the Squadron on the Novice Ski and Survival Course (NSSC) which took place from 14-30 January. The course was run by **Capt Keith Mannings** with the able assistance of **Lt Gareth Marsh**, **Sgt Johnston**, and **Cpls Million**, **Chambers** and **Redstone**. For this phase of training, A Tp, 244 Sig Sqn, joined the Squadron and also provided three Arctic Warfare Instructors of their own, **Cpls Thomas**, **Hawkins** and **Barker**. Three training troops were formed and one of them found itself with a last minute substitute as Troop Commander. **SSgt Frank Gainey** of D Tp tells the rest of the story:

The following is a personal overview of D Tps experiences on NSSC. It should have been otherwise but it's amazing how critical voices can disappear when asked to put pen to paper.

The NSSC course consisted of three phases: novice ski instruction, practical living in the field and further ski training and finally tactical training.

The novice phase went well. Instruction in the morning followed by free skiing in the afternoon, combined with plenty of falling and many living snowmen, soon turned 28 sets of 'Two left skis' into budding **Franz Clammers**. It was at this stage in training that such phrases as 'You don't need your Gortex on' and the old time favourite 'Never hang around in the Arctic' were learnt.

Phase two was four days practical living in the field and began in earnest on 21 January at 0901hrs with 'You're late, you owe me. To the BV and back. Go!' Okay it was a fair cop, but if 'You never hang around in the Arctic', how do you get 28 men to appear instantly on parade at 0900 hrs without being late or early (which was equally punishable?). On deployment to the field the troops dug in a harbour position for five-man tents. It's at this stage that you learn to dig your tent hole to exactly the right size, thus avoiding digging three tons of snow instead of two. That evening the troops did a night ski which is an incredible experience. The senses are sharpened to a fine degree and you feel that you are going down a helter skelter with six foot planks strapped to your feet to the cry 'Man down' echoing round the valley every 30 seconds.

The second day started with a very impressive avalanche drill and rescue demo, produced by the Norwegian advisor (**Lt Bade**) and a member of the Norwegian Avalanche Rescue Service. The highlight of the display was watching a search dog identify, within minutes, two separate locations where 'willing' volunteers had been buried under two metres of snow hours earlier. The low point of the display was that it took place in a blizzard with wind chill bringing temperatures down to near minus 30. ('You don't hang around in the Arctic'). That night everyone slept in snow trenches. An experience made interesting by the blizzard raging outside that constantly filled up the entrances with drifting snow and threatened to entrap the occupants.

Day three commenced with 'You don't need your Gortex on it's not wet'. (Oh no! Well what's snow when you fall over in it and it melts on you?), followed by practical skiing carrying 'green sacks of pain.' After digging in the platoon position, this time using four-man tents, there were demos on cam and concealment, and tactical harbours. Then back to the tents for tea and medals at 1600 hrs. In the evening there was a noise and light demo. This was followed by a thunderflash and 'You've been attacked. Your position is destroyed.' (Not that old chestnut) 'You're in a survival situation.' Having found a suitable snow bank we dug in as sections, producing an array of survival snow holes from caverns to cubby holes.

The final day saw a move to a new location and, at parade time, a surprising 'Get your Gortex on lads.' Not bad advice. The day's accommodation was a tactical snow hole dug to the correct specification. Plenty of potential there for a very wet day.

The interlude between phases saw two very interesting events. The first was Ice Breaking Drills (a practice on what to do if you go through the ice when crossing water). Having watched the video it all seemed very simple. Ski to the hole, slide in, throw your bergen and skis on to the ice, then use your ski poles to claw your way out. All over in 40 seconds without getting your hair wet. Not so. 'It wasn't like this in the film' I told myself as I took four strokes to resurface to find that I had one ski pole to get out with and the other was lost under the ice. The second interesting event was a 20 km biathlon, except that the range was closed and, after completing the course, it was alleged to have been 28 km long.

The final phase of training was conducted with a tactical scenario. This started with the war being put on hold and the QM demanding that the peace time location be given a quick clean before hostilities were permitted to recommence. An hour later troops were moved by BV to the Jordalen valley, where after drop-off, troop commanders recced and established their own tactical harbour positions. Nine hours of digging later the harbour was established and patrols were on the ground. Following a series of recces, patrols and OPs, a plan of attack was formed. The attack against the enemy, A Tp 244 Sig Sqn, was to go in on the early hours of the third day. D Tp were to provide the attacking sections, E Tp the fire support and illuminations. Fire and movement in snowshoes is a really fun aerobic activity recommended to all readers (who needs Mr Motivator). The deed was done and the battle won (what else), and war stories were told in the BV's on the way home. This ended what was regarded as a demanding, informative and enjoyable period of training.

VISIT OF BRIG A. J. SCHULER TO EXERCISE HARDFALL '95

Over the period 30 January-4 February, R Signals units participating in Ex Hardfall 95 were visited by **Brig A. J. Schuler**, Comd Comms/CIS UKLF. **Brig Schuler** was reacquainted with military style cross country skis after an absence of many years and was given a detailed insight into the role of 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)). He also had the opportunity to observe the special-to-arm-training that it conducts in Norway which prepares its operators for duties in an arctic and mountain warfare environment.

CAMBRIAN PATROL

The Cambrian Patrol team of 10 men was led by **Capt K. Mannings** and ably backed by **Cpl** 'Tug' **Wilson**. The other team members included **LCpl** 'JC' **Chamberlain**, **Sig** 'DC' **Drudge-Coates**, **Sig** 'Forest' **Marlow**, **Sig** 'Outward' **Bound**, **Sig** 'Quinster' **Quinn** and **Sig** 'Matt' **Hill**. The Admin team was made up of **SSgt Mark Elliot**, **Sigs** 'Nobby' **Noble** and 'Thomo' **Thomas**. Two weeks before the patrol began the team found itself in camp practising what were to become SOP routines and basics such as map reading, orders, first aid and so on.

It was with great pleasure that the team received a Silver award for its efforts, adding further Cambrian honours to the Squadron's excellent Cambrian record. It was noted with pleasure that the other Corps teams did very well, both 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para) and 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt gained Bronze awards.



Cambrian Patrol 94 Silver Medal Winners
Back Row *(L to R)*: Sigs Chris Bound, Matt Hill
Front Row *(L to R)*: Capt Keith Mannings, Cpl Clive Wilson, Sigs Chris Marlow, Matthew Quinn and LCpl John Chamberlain

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

Sqn Comd — **Maj Gary Mason**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Gary Waters**

BATTLECAMP 1994 EXERCISE BITTER LEMONS

Battle Camp Ex Bitter Lemons was held over the period of 28 November-9 December 1994 and was split into two separate weeks. The first week consisted of in barracks military training, revising or in the case of several, learning for the first time fieldcraft and associated military skills. The highlight of the first week was a 'simple' night navigation exercise of only four and a half kilometres. Many members of the Squadron had a baptism of fire as it was the first time they had encountered the 'flat' training areas of the WSBA. All patrols returned safely, however just to set the record straight **Sgt Mark Sherwood** was 'not' lost, he knew exactly where he was, and that he was in the wrong place.

For week two we all assembled at 'The Jimmy Club' to receive orders and by 0530hrs on Monday 4 December, the platoon were sailing down the coast on an LSL. **Sgt Blenkinsopp** and **Sig James Boon** enjoyed the journey more than others. The landing at Melanda was unopposed all except for **LCpl Gibson**, being first off the craft he decided to take immediate cover. **Sig Dave** 'Bratty' **Beattie** was the first casualty of war only ten minutes into the exercise–maybe it was a mistake to make him platoon Radio Op.

The exercise continued with various patrols from patrol harbours in which many lessons in field admin were learnt. A special mention must go to **SSgt Tony Sartorius** for his impeccable field admin.

The exercise culminated with the obligatory OBUA on Paramali village. Led by **Sgt Damien Bolton**, with a rousing set of orders, complete with model moved to their LUP for a good, but cold, nights sleep. The approach to the LD was up a dry river bed–well dry from the waist up.

After a successful attack they were all bussed (or should I say bounced) up to the Akamas training area for a morning's live firing section attacks. **Cpl Stennet** was awarded marks for his assault against overwhelming wooden targets, not to mention the threat from fire from his own section. The exercise proved to be an eye-opener for all. Thanks go to **SSM Gary Waters** without whom all of this would not have happened. Thanks too, to the directing staff and admin support staff who helped make it such an 'enjoyable' and successful exercise.

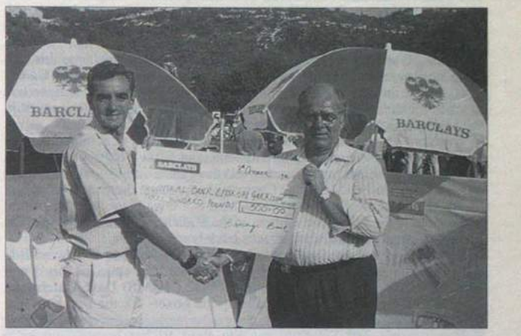


Sgt Bolton voices his feelings about the final exercise.
Sig Boon, on left, waits in anticipation

EPISKOPI GARRISON CHARITY FÊTE 1994

The annual Episkopi Garrison Charity Fête was once again held in the glorious surroundings of 'Happy Valley' Episkopi. As the temperature soared into the 90s, the Squadron, under the guidance of **YofS Nigel Donohue**, set about selling tickets for the Grand Raffle Draw, our nominated stand. The aim this year was if possible to break the previous years record donation. The Raffle Team had worked tirelessly for many weeks cajoling local businesses to donate goods or cash for the draw with the assurance that all money raised would go to Cyprus based charities. Our main sponsors, once again, were Barclays Bank (Cyprus) who paid not only for the 10,000 Raffle Tickets, but also donated a cheque for £C300. Without their support the Grand Draw would not have been such a prestigious affair and we owe a debt of thanks to **Kuriacos Kuriacou,** the Episkopi Bank Manager and his 'Boss' in Nicosia. Yes, bank managers here really do help!

We would also like to thank the rest of the Grand Draw team for their efforts and, no, they don't have to do it again next yext. Congratulations all on raising a new record total of £C1850.



Sqn Comd Maj G. Mason receives £300 from Mr 'Boss Man' Barclays Bank manager

VISIT BY ANGUS AND DUNDEE BATTALION ARMY CADET FORCE (ACF)

The Squadron were visited by the Angus and Dundee Battalion ACF during the month of November. With visions of 54 Cadets ranging in age from 13 to 18 'running amok' in Cyprus it was with great trepidation that the Sqn Comd decreed that we were to host them on annual camp. **SSM Waters** is to be congratulated for his sterling work behind the scenes 'warning off' too many people to mention and helping to organise 'beach landings', 'helicopter flights' and a host of other military activities for their stay. Thanks also go out to **Maj Bob Lockwood** for managing to kit out in warm weather combats the whole contingent. The photograph is living proof that the future of our country lies with the young elements of our society and not the 'Old and Bold' and yes, the predominantly female section won the best section award.

We would like to thank **Col K. Simpson OBE** for his generous photograph and plaques which are now hanging in our Squadron conference room and for **WO1 Selkirk** for donating goretex jackets to the PRI. We wish the battalion all the best for the future, which we believe under the guidance of **Col Simpson** is assured. Finally we would like to thank all the young cadets for behaving in such an impeccable manner. Hope to see you all again soon.



Angus and Dundee Bn ACF visit 259 Sig Sqn

280 (UK) Sig Sqn
BFPO 35

Sqn Comd **Maj Bob Weston**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Jeff Williams**

BRITISH ARMY (GERMANY) MINOR UNITS
NOVICE GRADE 3 BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The final of the above mentioned championships was held at Hohne Camp on Friday 10 February 1995, between 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207), and 280 (UK) Sig Sqn. This was a repeat of last year's final, and our boxers were determined to to exact revenge on the Signallers of the Desert Rat Brigade.

The Squadron Commander had decreed that all ranks in the Squadron could have the Friday off, as long as it was spent travelling the 350+ kms up to Hohne from St Tonis! Funnily enough, there were no dissenters, and the Squadron set off in a fleet of coaches, minibuses and cars to give the boxers the benefit of our vocal support.

Everyone arrived in Hohne by mid afternoon with no mishaps, although there was nearly a disaster at Herford Rastatte, when **2Lt Neil Caddy** almost slept through the Officers' lunch break! Confirmation that we had reached the right camp was evident when the Squadron bus was spotted in the LAD, having its exhaust system repaired for the journey back!

Everyone then retired to their various messes and accommodation in preparation for the night's entertainment. Thankfully, transport had been arranged by our hosts to take us down to the gymnasium, and those readers amongst you who know Hohne Camp will appreciate the reason why!

For the uninitiated, the Garrison Camp is a huge place, and was a real eye opener to the younger members of the Squadron who could only make comparisons with Fransisca Barracks back home.

Into the Gymnasium, and a word of praise for the lads of 7 Armd Bde who had done such a magnificent job preparing the venue for this event. Master of Ceremonies for the evening, **WO2 (RQMS) Dave Catchpole**, commenced the evening by announcing the boxers for the first bout, the Featherweight.

Representing 280 Sig Sqn was **Sig Paul Richards**, who put up a tremendous performance against an obviously stronger opponent (**Cpl Caulfield**), but eventually lost on a majority decision. Up next for the Squadron was **Sig Jason Dukes**, who got off to a very frustrating start in his lightweight bout when he lost his head-guard four times in the first round. Once a new head-guard had been found, however, he was inspirational, and powered to an impressive victory against **Cpl Hamblin**.

Cpl Wayne Hilton was the next man in the ring for 280, and as the known star of the team, coasted to a predictable victory against his gallant opponent, **Sig Bettelley** in the light-welterweight bout. The final bout before the interval saw an excellent fight to the finish in the light middleweight, between **Cpl John Gill** of 280, and **Sig Daly** of 7 Armd Bde. Despite losing a huge amount of blood from a burst nose, **Cpl Gill** put up a tremendous fight before losing on a majority decision. The referee rightfully praised both boxers for a great effort.



Cpl Hilton is awarded the third bout against Sig Bettelley (7 Bde)

The interval was reached with both teams winning two bouts each, and everyone relishing the prospect of the remaining three bouts. First on after the interval was the middleweight clash between **Sig Luke Lancett** of 280 Sqn and **Sig Simcock** of the home side. Another excellent fight saw **Sig Lancett** proving too strong for his opponent to give 280 Sig Sqn a 3–2 lead. The next bout was widely regarded as the fight of the night, and was a light heavyweight bout between **LCpl Dave Bain** (280), and **SSgt Murray** (7 Bde). In a replay of the fourth bout, the 280 Sig Sqn boxer ignored a bloody nose, and fought his opponent to a standstill, losing on another majority decision, and squaring the match at three bouts each.

The referee again congratulated both boxers on a brilliant and well fought fight. A memorable fight indeed.

So to the final match of the night, which was a welterweight bout between **Sig Steph Aimi** (280), and **LCpl Girling** (7 Bde). With both boxers obviously aware of the importance of their bout, the opening minutes were a nerve racking affair, but **LCpl Girling** then began to dominate the fight, and looked the likely winner midway through round 2.

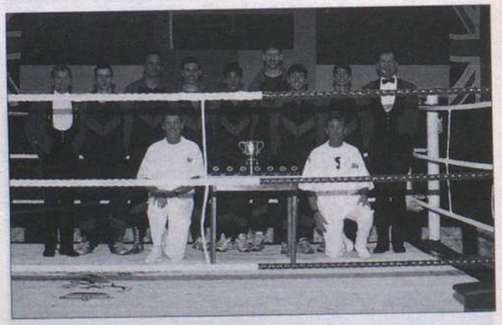
Sig Aimi had other ideas however, and produced an excellent combination of punches that resulted in the 7 Bde boxer being counted out by the referee, despite his pleas to be allowed to continue.

Weston's 'Barmy Army' then erupted in a frenzy of celebrations as it became clear that the 280 boxers had taken revenge for the defeat suffered the previous year in St Tonis.

The trophies and medals were presented, and both sides went off to 7 Armd Bde Squadron bar to talk over an excellent evening. Thanks must be extended to the following people for their efforts and assistance:

SSgt John Berry APTC and **Cpl** 'Weasel' **Campbell**, for their training and guidance–no more runs please! The Sqn Comd 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207) **Maj J. P. Wilson** and all ranks for making us all so welcome, and for being such sporting hosts. The musicians of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, and the piper for some excellent accompanying music–Rocky, eat your heart out! The Master of Ceremonies, **WO2 Dave Catchpole**, 7 Armd Bde, for a clear control of the proceedings. **Maj** (MMA) **B. Lilywhite APTC** and all his officials, referees, Judges, Timekeepers and Medical Officers.

The Sqn Comd, **Maj Bob Weston**, and his Troop Commanders for allowing the boxers the time to prepare for this event. Finally, to both teams for maintaining the high standards and sportsmanship of Army Boxing, and providing a magnificent evenings sport. Here's to next year!



The victorious 280 (UK) Sig Sqn team
(L to R): WO1 (RSM) Williams, Sig Aimie, Sig Lancett, Cpl Gill, Cpl Hilton, LCpl Bain, Sig Dukes, Sig Richards, Maj Weston.
Front: SSgt Berry APTC, Cpl Campbell

NORDIC SKIING

Cpl Brenda Cooper represented the Army Ladies Nordic Ski Team which firstly consisted of learning how to master the techniques of cross-country skiing and incorporating the skills of firing a Biathlon rifle.

Cpl Brenda Cooper had two fourth positions and two fifth positions in the British National Races, she also won three Bronze medals in the Army Ladies Biathlon Sprint, the 15km Classic and the 15th Biathlon. The Army Ladies also competed against the RAF ladies and yet again the Army Ladies won the Inter-Service Trophy.

At the end of the day Nordic Skiing is one tough sport, most of us ended up battered and bruised but having achieved skiing Olympic courses as a first year skiier and the honour of being photographed with **HRH The Duke of Kent**, made it very worthwhile.

JCUFI
BFPO 655

OC **Maj F. Riley**

PORT STANLEY HALF MARATHON

The Stanley Half Marathon was held on Saturday 5 November 94 and, the JCUFI fun runners had been training hard for it, hoping to do well as a team and individual. Each runner had his own game plan according to what he thought the weather conditions would be like on the day which was almost always strong winds head on which ever way you ran. The day arrived after many sessions of pounding the Swan Inlet to MPA road nine miles a time and the team embarked on the transport to Stanley in high spirits. On arrival there was no wind, no cloud cover, just glorious sunshine. The course was to be from the Totem Pole just outside Stanley to the lighthouse and back ending in Stanley on the main high street green. Simple enough, however, eight miles of it was across country and sand dunes and we must make mention of the mine fields and two fences to be climbed over. All things aside the race was run and JCUFI managed third place team overall with their coach and motivator **SSgt Mick Fleming** coming 11th in 1hr.27 mins, **WO2 (USM) Pete Griffiths** 14th in 1hr.30 mins, **WO2 (FofS) Mark Edwards** 22nd in 1hr.32 mins and **Cpl Willy Williams** 35th in 1hr.37 mins. A special mention must go to **Maj Frank Riley** OC JCUFI for running and finishing in 1hr.39 mins.

C TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Boxhall**

With a major changeover of personnel at the end of the year it is time for the largest troop in JCUFI to say hello to the rest of the Corps. Many personnel will have undertaken roulement tours in C Tp and to those of you that have, it hasn't changed much. C Tp has several busy sections manned by Technicians and Driver Electricians from field units and TeleMechs from 220 Sig Sqn, not forgetting **John Nicol** our Marconi engineer and FITS the cat. The Foreman has been as busy as usual looking after the Master Systems Control Point and the Exchange Technicians or, so he tells us. The continual changeover of personnel, each with their own specific comms requirement, makes his life a really easy one! **SSgt Rick Hughes** obviously knows someone in Manning and Records as he has just arrived for his third tour. He takes over from **SSgt** 'He's lost it' **Mick Fleming** who leaves us on posting to Cyprus; well done **Mick** and thanks for the Sunday morning show on BFBS. **Sgt** Chalky **White** has been up to his usual tricks moving generators around using **Cpl Shaun Jones** the 'human crane', kindly loaned to us by 2 Sig Regt. The rest of Power section have been kept busy with regular callouts to such exciting hot spots as Caroline, Bombilla and Moody. ACC, under the watchful eye of **Sgt** Taff **Bryant,** its members have recently completed the major installation of the RAF USAS system and have still managed to get in their normal R&R runs to Stanley. The IT cell with **Sgt** 'I'm not a spotter' **Evans** and **Cpl** 'I'm a Radio Tech' **Barlow** has almost completed the installation of another 40 PCs around MPA. They seldom seem to be in the workshop which may have something to do with the large number of female PC users and their on-going attempts to feature in the Shark report every Friday. JCUFI is a fine example of tri-service working and an ideal tour for those of you wanting to get away from the Field Army for four to six months; have a great time and experience a unique environment.

PORT LOUIS TO PORT STANLEY CHALLENGE

There are many comings and goings in the Falklands at JCUFI but a special farewell must be said to **SSgt Mick** 'He's barking' **Fleming** the inventor of the JCUFI fun runners and motivator for the Stanley half marathon. Just as we all thought it was safe to wave him off he just had to ensure the fun run team took part in the Centenary of the Capitals move from Port Louis to Port Stanley. The event was to be 25 miles long and held over some of the toughest terrain some of us had seen, to include going up the top of Long Island Mountain and Mount Longdon ending in the Stanley Leisure Centre. It was to be run in pairs for safety reasons and day sacks with emergency equipment and kit was to be carried by each competitor. There were check points on the way where both team members had to book in so no sending your mate up and waiting at the bottom, once again special mention must go to the mine fields round Longdon and the waist deep river to be crossed. The event took place on Saturday 10 December 1994 with 80 pairs taking part including **Dr Ron Hill** from UK taking part; the winning team crossed the finish in 3hr and 3mins. The first team in JCUFI out of the eight pairs running came home in seventh place in 3hr and 42mins and consisted of SSgt Mick Fleming and WO2 (USM) Griffiths (am I glad he's gone or what) everybody completed the distance, the weather remained good and it was a very enjoyable day for all those who took part.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

The JCUFI Remembrance Service was held on Mount Pleasant Peak on Sunday 13 November 94. Wreaths were laid by **Maj F Riley** OC JCUFI and **Capt J Smith** OC JSSU. 118 servicemen and women attended the service.



Remembrance Service–1994

56 Sig Sqn (V)
Eastbourne

Sqn Comd — **Maj Ray Wilkinson**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Phil Waterhouse**

NEWS FROM SHQ

'The moving finger writes; and having writ, moves on'. A famous quote that holds true for the Squadron, we have completed our initial reorganisation into two troops and will soon achieve our objective of three troops, as we progress to becoming a Squadron of 31 Sig Regt (V) as part of the TA restructuring. Whilst mindful of the past, we look forward to the future and the challenges it holds. Undoubtedly our new role, equipment and training objectives will test our mettle, but like the phoenix we will rise from the ashes to enhance the capabilities of our new Regiment.

Our thoughts go out to **Cfn North**, whose son was injured in a recent road traffic accident. We send our sympathy to his family and wish his son a full and speedy recovery.

858 SIGNAL TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt Jackie Blake**

We are now firmly settled in our bright, newly painted office, all past relics removed and the search for a new Troop logo is on, led by **Cpl Chris Maginnis**. I am sure it will be innovative, bright, colourful, loud and emblazoned on every available space. We continue with our trade training weekends which have been extremely well attended and hope to be celebrating numerous trade passes soon. **LCpl Steve Hatton** has attended and passed a rigger marshals course with 24 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210), (we would like to thank the Squadron for its support with this and numerous other ventures: we can feel a twinning coming on). The strain of the course told however, for two weeks now **LCpl Hatton** has suffered with 'riggers arm', whilst **Sgt Jim Paine** and other senior members of the Squadron appear to be suffering from 'rigor mortis'. A vote of thanks to all those who attended the pre-prep weekend, braving the elements and boldly running along Eastbourne seafront.

Finally, congratulations go to **Lt Jackie Blake** and **Cpl Gary Crick**, on their recent well deserved promotions.

859 TROOP

Tp Comd — **2Lt Sarah Streete**

We too have settled into our new office accommodation, which is also newly painted, past relics removed. The search for our logo is complete however; it will be disclosed in the next issue of *The Wire*, proving to be, we think, better than anything the opposition can come up with. The gauntlet is down, will 'Benny Tp' pick it up. We are looking forward to the first field deployment of the year when we can begin to show our true worth, trade training is essential, but nothing like the real thing (as they say). Finally, we would like to wish **Sig Heather Lawrie** success in her attempt at RCB and offer a word of caution to the Squadron, **Cpl** 'I can hide on a snooker table' **Cooper** is off on a sniper's course, keep your heads down 858!

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd — **2Lt Jill Pearson**

A warm welcome to our three new arrivals in Tech Tp, **Cpls Peplow** and **McGoldrick** on completion of their regular service and **LCpl Light**, who has seen the light and transferred from 5 PWRR. Since our last report the REME has been firmly established with **Cpl George Newnam**, **LCpl Legg** and **Sig North** all rebadging. Our congratulations to them all (we promise to call you Cfn in the future). PRE is now in full swing, we know it will be alright thanks to the efforts of the two dwarfs **Sgt John Atherton** and **Sgt** 'Ollie' **Lambert**, our erstwhile NRPS REME and PSI MT respectively. The question is, will the inspection team test the sense of humour of this unique double act? Only time and their willing helpers will tell. A final vote of thanks to **2Lt Jill Pearson**, her arrival from Belfast UOTC has been a revelation, culminating in her excellent organisation of a Burn's Supper, enjoyed by all. Her unique sense of style and humour will hopefully grace the Squadron for a long time to come, as they say in the province–what about ye **Jill**.

Royal Signals Detachment
UNFICYP
BFPO 567



Sgt Charlie Hanson (I/C R Sigs Det) handing over Commcen keys to SSM McDonagh Camp Command HQ UNFICYP. Commcen Operators LCpl Bevan and Signaller's Kennedy and Cooper looking on

CLOSURE OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS COMMUNICATION CENTRE UNFICYP

On 6 February the Royal Signals Communication Centre in UNFICYP ended over 30 years of service with the United Nations in Cyprus.

During this time it supported the British contingent and other contingencies processing Signal Message Traffic for both the Britcon Defence Communication Network, Rear Link and the UNFICYP facsimile network. Before departure it installed a new user friendly system, Dial UP Secure Telegraph (DUST) in Woseley Barracks the home of the six monthly roulement regiment, where the Queens Royal Lancers are now doing a tour. This equipment was handed to the Regiment's Signal trained personnel after training from the Royal Signals Detachment.

Thanks goes out to all who have served in the Comcen over the years, a job well done.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please advise the Subscriptions Clerk at RHQ, IN WRITING, of any change of address. This information should not be telephoned.

NEWS FROM THE TROOPS

602 Sig Tp (SC)
Bicester

VISIT OF COL SIGS 31

On Tuesday 25 October 1994, **Col J. M. Shaw MBE** visited 602 Sig Tp (SC) at our Headquarters in Bicester. The reason for the visit was threefold–update and progress of the Troop, presentation of medals and the acceptance of a cheque for the Corps New Museum.

PRESENTATION OF LS & GC MEDALS

The Colonel made two LS & GC presentations, in the Sergeants' Mess; to **SSgt Bateman** and **Sgt Cooper**. The presentation was followed by a buffet lunch and drinks, attended by all senior Troop members.



Col J. M. Shaw presents the LS & GC Medal to Sgt Cooper



Col J. M. Shaw presents the LS & GC Medal to SSgt Bateman

UPDATE AND PROGRESS

During the visit, the Colonel was briefed by Troop members on the operational role of the Unit in peacetime and in war, and also the past year's exercise programme which were undertaken in Denmark, Cyprus, Scotland, Canada and Norway.

FAREWELLS

Due to the drawdown of the Troop, there have been a great many departures, too many to mention. Those remaining, too few to mention, bid them a fond farewell and all the very best for the future (except the over rich redundees!!)

To this end, a farewell dinner was well attended on Friday 25 November 1994. The 'late' **Maj** 'Jon Possessor of the Troop Car' **Dakin** presented numerous leaving gifts, then left himself, in possession of a prestigious watercolour of Bicester! We wish him and his wife **Sarah** all the best in Shrivenham.

OUT WITH THE OLD–IN WITH THE OLDER

The Troop takes this opportunity to welcome its Tp Comd, **Capt Duncan**, his wife **Marie** and their two children. He joins us from 30 Sig Regt and we hope he will be happy in his new appointment.

THE FUTURE

Sadly, this is the last Troop article prior to its disbandment and move to Bletchley, where it will re-form as 1 Sig Sqn (SC) (V). The unit has had a proud history. It formed in 1948 in Nairobi, Kenya and in 1956 based in Brecon it was known as No 1 Special Communication Tp. Its title changed in 1959 to 602 Sig Tp (Special Communications) and in 1960 the Tp HQ started its nomadic moves being located in Nairobi, Gloucester, Worcester, Hereford, Bicester and soon Bletchley.

Although much reduced in regular soldier strength; now being two thirds TA manned; the future looks good for 'special communications'.

PRESENTATION TO CORPS NEW MUSEUM FUND

On behalf of the Corps Museum Fund, the Colonel accepted a cheque from **LCpl Jim Shaw**. The Troop raised £1,000 for the Fund in all manner of ways including sponsored runs, a 'Human Fruit Machine' stall, loss of ID cards and, endless amounts of begging.



LCpl Shaw presents a cheque for £1,000 to Col J. M. Shaw for the Corps Museum Fund

THE ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

Admiral	Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander CB OBE
Commodore	Col J. E. F. Kirby OBE

Rear Commodores: Offshore, Lt Col J. R. S. Amberton;
Dinghies, Lt Col M. J. McKinlay; Windsurfing, Maj D. I. Gilchrist.

CONTACTS

Yachtmasters:	UK: Capt P. F. Johnson, Blandford Mil 2464
	BAOR: Capt R. K. Orr, Birgelen Mil 286
Secretaries:	General Capt N. A Walker, Blandford Mil 2256
	Dinghy Racing UK: Capt D. C. A. Ellis, Blandford Mil 2340
	Dinghy BAOR:Maj S. I. Andrews, Osnabruk Mil 5247
	Windsurfing UK: Lt M. C. Wadsley, Hullavington Mil 8815
	Windsurfing BAOR: Maj M. W. Edwards, RAF Laarbruch Mil 5711
	Retired Members Rep: Lt Col (Retd) C. K. Powell, Blandford Mil 2437
Soldier Reps:	Sgt Finnigan: Thorney Island 8263 Sgt P. Downie: Bulford Mil 2837

The Royal Signals Yacht Club communicates with its members through the medium of **The Wire**, *which regularly prints a forecast of events, accounts of activities and contains details for club officials.*

Any member of the Corps who subscribes to Corps funds is automatically a member of the Yacht Club: this membership is activated simply by registering with one of the Club secretaries.

QUEST FOR GOLD
THE 1996 SAILING OLYMPICS, SAVANNAH, USA

Three Army sailors are mounting a campaign for selection to represent Great Britain in the three man Soling keelboat class in the 1996 Olympics.

The team comprises **Capt David Ellis**, **Sgt Phil Hawkins** (RLC) and **Cpl Phil Lever**. These three have sailed together since 1991, and over this period have achieved various successes. These include second in the 1991 J24 class European Championships, and reaching the quarter finals of the National RYA/BT Match Racing Championships in 1994.

The Soling class in the Olympics will embrace both fleet racing, followed by match racing for the top six to decide the medal placings.

The Army Sailing Association have given this campaign their full endorsement on the basis of the team's past performance in keelboats in both fleet and match racing. The crew have also obtained the enthusiastic backing of their respective Corps. Furthermore they have been extremely fortunate in obtaining the commercial sponsorship of Norsk Data Service Team to help fund their campaign.

To enable them to compete with the best on level terms they have purchased an excellent second hand boat in America, which was previously sailed by **Dave Curtis** of North Sails. Delivery was taken of it in Florida, together with some top North sails at a good discount!

The trials for the Soling class are due to be held in September 1995, in Weymouth Bay, so the crew have planned an intensive programme of competitions and training between now and then. This has already embraced two regattas in the USA, at St Petersburg and Miami in Florida, followed by a further week's training in Miami with other members of the UK Soling squad. Without doubt this time spent in intensive sailing competition and training in a warm water environment have paid huge dividends in getting the team up to speed in both boat handling and boat speed.

The boat is currently on its way back from the USA by Ro-Ro ferry from Jacksonville to Southampton. From there it is straight into training, ready for the first competition on the 8/9 April, the UK qualifiers for the European Soling match racing to be held in May.



A busy start line at St Petersburg



Close reaching under Spinnaker

WINDSURFING

First a few promotional words for those of you who have reached this far in *The Wire*. The sport is fun, exciting and dynamic, with the key elements of sun, sea, sand and surf. There are courses available throughout the UK, so get some air time and surf down to your local instructors course.

The windsurfing newsletters have been sent to your unit reps who will be able to answer any questions that you may have on the subject. The most updated windsurfing equipment is available to hire from the Corps including Mistral Equipes and Demon sails. To become the proud user of one of these boards all you have to do is prove that you are a dedicated racer for the season of '95. To reiterate, the forthcoming events that should be red-inked in your diary:

Corps UK Championships	17-10 May
Army Championships	13-15 July
Jt Services Championships	29-30 July
Corps Wide Championships	13-15 Sept

Finally if you have any questions about the sport or forthcoming events please do not hesitate to contact your unit windsurfing representative NOW!

SPORT

SQUASH

ROYAL SIGNALS SQUASH REPORT

Some 25 entrants competed in the Royal Signals Squash Championships which were held in the new glass back courts at Blandford Camp. The tournament played in this excellent venue provided no great new surprises but did allow the Corps to formulate a team for the ensuing Inter Corps Championships. The results are as follows:

Men's Singles Champion	**Cpl Gallagher**	2 Sig Regt
R/U	**Sgt Humphries**	7 Sig Regt
Over 35 Champion	**Maj Weaver**	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
R/U	**WO2 Altham**	7 Sig Regt
Vets Champion	**Capt Watson**	2 Sig Regt
R/U	**Maj Miles**	21 Sig Regt (AS)
3 Man Team Event	Winners	2 Sig Regt
(Davis-Stewart Cup)	Runners Up	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)

Team selected for the Corps:

No 1 – **Cpl Gallagher** (Capt)	2 Sig Regt
No 2 – **Sgt Humphries**	7 Sig Regt
No 3 – **Cpl Ridgers**	264 Sig Sqn
No 4 – **Sig Lobb**	21 Sig Regt (AS)
No 5 – **SSgt Richardson**	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
No 6 – **Cpl Coleman**	2 Sig Regt
No 7 – **WO2 Altham**	7 Sig Regt

ARMY SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS 1994-95

The Corps had three players playing in the Army Championships, **Cpls Davy Gallagher, John Ridgers** and **Sig Marcus Lobb**. **Cpl Gallagher** reached the semi-finals of the main open competition thus ensuring himself a place in the Army Team for the Inter Services match. He also picked up the third place prize after defeating **Sgt Nigel Hussey** in the third/fourth play offs.

Cpl John Ridgers reached the Super Plate final defeating **Sig Marcus Lobb** in the final. **John** is fast improving and should be reaching for higher honours next season. **Marcus Lobb** had an excellent Army Championships reaching two finals. In the Under 25 final he went down 3–0 to **LCpl Nigel Simpson**, a more experienced player. **Sig Lobb** was selected as seed No 2 for the Army Under 25 team in the Inter Services fixture.

INTER CORPS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

The Inter Corps Championships were held at the civilian courts at Sindleshams near Arborfield. Once again this competition proved to be demanding on all players as there are no easy games. And again, survival was the name of the game in trying to ensure the Corps remained in the premier division. This was achieved by each player giving of his very best especially in our opening match when we defeated the AGC 'A' by 3–2. The team lost their next three matches against strong opposition from the RE 'A', REME 'A' and RLC 'A' but in our final match we delivered a sound beating of the APTC relegating them to Div 2. The results are as follows:

AGC 'A'

Gallagher	9/7	9/3	9/3			W
Humphries	5/9	7/9	9/5	9/5	3/9	L
Ridgers	1/9	9/7	8/10	4/9		L
Lobb	9/5	2/9	9/4	9/2		W
Richardson	9/1	9/0	5/9	9/3		W

WON 3–2

RE

Gallagher	9/3	9/1	10/8			W
Humphries	6/9	6/9	3/9			L
Ridgers	1/9	8/10	7/9			L
Lobb	6/9	5/9	2/9			L
Coleman	1/9	2/9	8/10			L

LOST 4–1

REME

Gallagher	0/9	4/9	9/10			L
Humphries	3/9	9/4	9/2	7/9	4/9	L
Ridgers	9/5	2/9	9/3	9/4		W
Lobb	2/9	9/3	9/6	4/9	7/9	L
Richardson	9/7	9/7	9/0			W

LOST 3–2

RLC 'A'

Gallagher	1/9	3/9	3/9		L
Humphries	7/9	3/9	4/9		L
Ridgers	3/9	9/2	0/9	0/9	L
Lobb	1/9	6/9	1/9		L
Coleman	5/9	4/9	6/9		L

LOST 5–0

APTC

Gallagher	9/4	9/1	9/4	W
Humphries	9/2	9/0	9/0	W
Ridgers	9/3	10/8	9/5	W
Lobb	9/7	9/3	9/3	W
Richardson	9/7	9/5	9/6	W

WON 5–0

FINAL TABLE

	Pts	Pos
RLC 'A'	94	1
RE 'A'	77	2
REME 'A'	61	3
R Sigs	51	4
AGC 'A'	45	5
APTC 'A'	16	6 (Relegated)

FOOTNOTE

There are three leagues with several Corps producing a 'B' team. Next year maybe the Corps can produce a 'B' team.

TENNIS

ROYAL SIGNALS TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Royal Signals Tennis Championships are to be held in Colerne over the period Thursday 22 June to Sunday 25 June. This competition is open to all female and males serving with R Signals. In the ladies doubles and mixed doubles the female may be a serving member or a close relative of a serving member. Entry forms are with your Unit Tennis Officers or contact **Maj W. V. Miles** on Colerne Mil (738) 5302. Holders of present titles are as follows:

1994 Singles Champion	–	**Maj Mason**	(Then) 259 Sig Sqn
1994 Mens Doubles	–	**Maj Mason**	(Then) 259 Sig Sqn
	–	**SSgt Fisher**	9 Sig Regt (R)
1994 Unit Doubles	–	**Maj Miles**	21 Sig Regt (AS)
	–	**Sig Pearson**	
1994 Ladies Champion	–	**Sig Steel**	13 Sig Regt (R)
1994 Ladies Doubles	–	**Sig Malloy**	7 Sig Regt
	–	**Sig Smallman**	
1994 Mixed Doubles	–	**LCpl Ingham**	7 Sig Regt
	–	**Sig Malloy**	
1994 Plate	–	**Sig Lobb**	21 Sig Regt (AS)



CORPS CHAMPIONSHIPS
SWIMMING AND WATERPOLO

For a variety of reasons too numerous (and boring!) to mention, the Corps Swimming and Water Polo Championships scheduled to take place at Colerne in November 1994 had to be postponed until March 1995.

Following last year's successful inaugural championships, following which the Corps went on to win the Inter-Corps Water Polo Championships for the first time ever, it was decided to repeat the same format.

To this end three teams were formed: Royal Signals UKSC (G), Royal Signals UK (ITO) and Royal Signals UK (less ITO).

Each team had it own team manager who was responsible for team selection and all administrative arrangements. At this point the phrase 'The best laid plans . . .' comes to mind as, despite the very best of intentions, not all the people originally selected to be team managers could carry out the task, albeit through no fault of their own.

A decision had been taken in early 1994 that, following the move of the Corps from Catterick, the Championships should be held at Colerne and that CO 21 Sig Regt (AS) should always be President of Corps Swimming and Water Polo. In this way the venue would never be a problem. In any event the 1994 Championships were held on 2 March. The results are tabled below:

100m Freestyle			
1st	**Sig Horner**	UKSC (G)	1min 06.53sec
2nd	**Sig Breydin**	UK	1min 17.81sec
3rd	**Sig Warn**	ITO	1min 19.81sec
100m Breaststroke			
1st	**Cpl Ward**	UKSC (G)	1min 19.78sec
2nd	**Sig Manthorpe**	ITO	1min 30.74sec
Disq	**Cpl Kenyon**	UK	
100m Backstroke			
1st	**Lt Hargreaves**	ITO	1min 14.03sec
2nd	**Sig Pincott**	UK	1min 23.57sec
3rd	**Sig Oliver**	UKSC (G)	1min 26.95sec
50m Butterfly			
1st	**Cpl Meek**	UKSC (G)	34.4sec
2nd	**Sgt Keble**	UK	34.74sec
3rd	**Cpl Ord**	ITO	34.75sec
200m Individual Medley			
1st	**Sig Barr**	UKSC (G)	2min 40.45sec
2nd	**Sgt Beattie**	ITO	2min 41.46sec
4x50m Freestyle Relay			
1st	UKSC (G)		1min 58.07sec
2nd	UK		1min 59.84sec
3rd	ITO		2min 16.81sec
4x50m Breaststroke Relay			
1st	UK		2min 27.45sec
2nd	UKSC (G)		2min 41.35sec
3rd	ITO		3min 09.03sec
4x50m Medley Relay			
1st	ITO		2min 19.23sec
2nd	UKSC (T)		2min 20.41sec
3rd	UK		2min 21.45sec
4x100m Freestyle Relay			
1st	UK		4min 57.18sec
2nd	ITO		4min 58.43sec
Final Scores			
1st	UKSC (G)		27pts
2nd	UK		24pts
3rd	ITO		23pts

WATERPOLO

The format was again the same as last year with each team playing each other in a league form and the two highest placed teams playing each other in a play-off final.

Game 1	UKSC (G)	7 ITO	2
Game 2	UKSC (G)	5 UK	5
Game 3	UK	6 ITO	3
Final	UK	7 UKSC (G)	4

SUMMARY

This year's Championships saw a lot of previously unknown talent making an appearance. Several known 'stars' were unavoidably absent but the enthusiasm of the newcomers did much to overcome this disappointment.

THANKS

As always it is hazardous to nominate individuals for praise as inevitably someone will be missed out and offence caused . . . but here goes anyway!

Thanks are due to **SSI Roberts** APTC for his efforts in setting up the pool and running the swimming events so efficiently. **WO2 Hitchen, Sgt Ibbotson, Sgt Weavers, Sgt Jenkins** and **Cpl Ord** who had the thankless task of picking up the pieces and running their respective teams.

It was also pleasing to see a number of female competitors. There were not enough to have a separate competition for them but they competed alongside the men and gave of their best.

AND FINALLY

All good? things come to an end and this is no exception. **Capt Tim Langford** has been snapping at my heels for some time and has now taken over as Secretary. I would like to take this opportunity to wish him, the Corps Team and all the many people who have responded to my pleading and sometimes downright bullying, over the years and taking part in the various competitions, all the very best for the future.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Regimental Headquarters

London District Military or STD 0171-930 4466 and ask for extension as below or by direct dialling as shown

Appointment	Name	Extension	(STD Direct Dial)
Regt Col	**Col M. McI Ayrton**	8420	(0171-414 8420)
SO2 (Sldr Rec)	**Maj B. H. Rowe**	8444	(0171-414 8444)
Corps Resettlement Offr	**Lt Col A. de V. Hunt**	8427	(0171-414 8427)
Clerk, Regt Col	**Mr M. Clark**	8433	(0171-414 8443)
Regt Sec	**Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon**	8421	(0171-414 8421)
Asst Regt Sec	**Maj G. Schofield MBE**	8422	(0171-414 8422)
Chief Clerk	**Miss C. Feltham**	8432	(0171-414 8432)
Ord Room		8430	(0171-414 8430)
FAX		8429	(0171-414 8429)
Ret Offrs	**Lt Col Beattie/Capt Dugdale**	8431	(0171-414 8431)
Welfare Sec	**Mrs P. J. Haw**	8423	(0171-414 8423)
Assn AO	**Mr R. Whittle**	8424	(0171-414-8424)
Corps Acct	**Mr A. Wilkinson**	8425	(0171-414 8425)
Subscriptions Clerk	**Miss B. Simmons**	8426	(0171-414 8426)
Ed *Wire* Journal	**Lt Col M. Q. M. Greaves**	8428	(0171-414 8428)
Asst Ed *Wire*	**Mrs M. A. Riggs**	8433	(0171-414 8433)

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

President: The Master of Signals

Chairman and Treasurer: Major General P. D. Alexander CB MBE

Vice Chairmen: Brig C. T. Garton Area 1; To be appointed Area 3;
Brig T. H. Wheawell Area 4; Brig A. M. Willcox Area 5; Brig G. J. Curl CBE DL Wales

General Secretary: Colonel A. N. de Bretton-Gordon — **Assistant General Secretary: Major G. Schofield MBE**
Welfare Secretary: Mrs P. J. Haw — **Administrative Officer: Mr. R. H. Whittle**

Association Office, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Tel Military System: London District 8424. STD 0171 414 8424 Welfare Secretary (direct line) 0171 630 0801. All contributions for *The Wire* should be addressed to the Editor and any queries referred to him on extensions 8428 or 8433.

The Association communicates with its branches and individual members through the pages of The Wire, *which contains accounts of Branch affairs as well as a forecast of Association events.*

Branch Secretaries are asked to check that their Branch members receive sufficient copies of The Wire. *Association HQ can arrange for copies to be delivered in bulk to Branch Secretaries for further distribution if this is convenient: it helps us save on postage.*

Dates of Branch events can always be published in The Wire *and should be submitted to the Editor. We also welcome letters, requests to contact old comrades and announcements of births, marriages and deaths. We hope that each Branch will contribute a short account of its activities, preferably with photographs, at least once a year.*

The Royal Signals Association Member No 1,
the late Brigadier RA Bagnold OBE FRS

Life Member Serial No 1

DO NOT FOLD.

ROYAL SIGNALS
OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION
H.Q.: 88, ECCLESTON SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.1.

I, (Surname) BAGNOLD *(Initials)* R.A.
(BLOCKS, PLEASE)
(address) ~~"Rickwoods", Mark Beech NR Edenbridge~~
7, MAJOR WAY, BLACKHEATH, LONDON SE3 9EF. KENT

wish to register as a Life/~~Annual~~ member of the Association, and enclose herewith a remittance of £5—

No ..... *Rank* BRIGADIER ~~MAJOR~~

Service with Royal Signals from {1915 / 1939} *to* {20-35 / 1939 / 1946}

RATES OF SUBSCRIPTIONS
LIFE MEMBER: Officers £5, Other Ranks 30/-
ANNUAL MEMBER: Officers 5/-, Other Ranks 2/-

Signature

1921 *Date*

OBE MA. FRS. AMIEE

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

Maj Hywel Thomas was the Choirmaster at our January meeting which took the form of a 'Sing Along' Mince Pie evening and buffet. We owe our thanks to **Maj Thomas**, ably supported by an organist and enthusiastic songsters, and to **Maj John Gerrard** and **SSM Kevin Jenkins** of 251 Sig Sqn who hosted the event at the Duchess of Kent Barracks.

The Meeting was the occasion for the presentation by our President, **Maj Gen Henry Hild** of the 50 Year Badge to three of our distinguished Members, **Lt Col Douglas Crookes**, our Treasurer, **Maj Ken Risby**, Vice Chairman and **Mr** 'Dodger' **Green**, founder Member, past Chairman and now Vice President of the Aldershot Branch. In presenting the Badge to Mr Green our President congratulated 'Dodger' who, having enlisted on boy service in the 1920s, had distinguished himself as a Corps sportsman throughout his long service, from which he retired as a Warrant Officer. (He still goes out running in the morning!)

Now we look forward to our Spring Luncheon, curry tiffin at the Aldershot Army Golf Club on Sunday, 9 April 1995, Noon for 1300 hours. The cost is £9 per head and there will be a pay bar. Our Annual General Meeting will be held on the occasion of this Luncheon. Past and present Corps are welcome and we hope to see friends from other Branches. Notice to attend should be made to **Lt Col (Retd) D. Crookes OBE**, 110 Fieldway, Aldershot, Hants GU12 4UL, accompanied by a cheque.



'Dodger' Green receiving his 50-year badge from Maj Gen Hild, President of the Branch



(L to R): Maj Ken Risby, Mr Dodger Green and Lt Col Douglas Crookes

BRISTOL BRANCH

Our appreciation is extended to Branch Standard bearer **Mr Brian Davidson** and assistant Standard bearer **Mr Geoff Solomon**, for keeping the 'flag flying' on several occasions during 1994.

One sad representation by **Mr Davidson** was the funeral of a very loyal member **Miss P. Burford**.

Miss Peggy Burford was an extremely well known, and popular figure at Horfield TA Centre, and the RSA Bristol Branch.

She had an avid interest in the Association even though a prolonged illness prevented her attending meetings, etc. Our Branch President attended her funeral, also uniformed serving members of the 57 Sig Sqn (V), relocated members of 37 Sig Regt (V), a large contingent of Bristol and Bath Association members, supported by three Standards–Bristol, Bath and Bristol Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Little did **Mr Solomon** realise, when he proudly, and apprehensively, packed the appropriate kit for his parade ground Standard initiation, that he had 'volunteered' for four parades at the Great Catterick Reunion! Although he had not ventured on to a parade ground since his N.S. in the 50's, the word is–'he did us proud'. No greater compliment **Geoff**.

Commencing the 1994 A.G.M., the Chairman, **Miss Jean Chiswell**, welcomed **Col K. D. Brown OBE TD**, as the new Bristol Branch president. **Col Brown** was, at one time, CO of 37 Sig Regt (V) in Bristol.

As many of the members present had served under the popular command of **Col Brown** he was very warmly received, and he was able to renew old acquaintances, later, in 57 Sig Sqn (V) Sergeants' Mess.

Despite being obliged to introduce a Branch annual subscription last year due to sudden additional expenses, we were relieved to retain 27 loyal members, and their continued support is much appreciated.

A very pleasant River Avon cruise, on board the *Tower Belle*, was enjoyed by a few members and partners, in August, stopping at Beese's tea gardens for refreshments.

The year ended, as cordially as ever, with our Christmas Social. This was, for the second time, in the form of dinner at the Longwell Green Community Centre in Bristol.

The traditional meal was splendid, followed by a seemingly, endless raffle draw. This was because the Treasurer, announcing the draw winners, was unaware that the items beneath the table were reserved for future raffles in 1995! No one left without a prize.

Mr Cliff Bull, acting as David Bailey, arranged a 'photo-call' which he told us was necessary for posterity.

COTSWOLDS BRANCH

About 25 members and partners gathered at the Victory Club in Cheltenham for what was thought to be our usual Christmas Social, but before it got under way **Lt Col John Waite**, our Vice-President announced that he had arranged a presentation to our long serving Secretary, **Mrs Marjorie Cropp**, who four years ago had been made an Associate Life Member of the Association.

Our President, **Col Freddie Worth OBE** presented a mounted and inscribed 'Silver Jimmy' to **Marjorie**.

Our next social evening is in May.

To all Signallers and ex-Signallers living in the Cotswolds, why don't you come and join us at the Victory Club, Cheltenham on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm (1930hrs) and pass on your tales of the past?

EAST KENT BRANCH

The branch AGM was held on 8 January at the Westgate Hall, Canterbury and was attended by 77 members. Our Chairman **Maj Dickie Dyer** was ill in hospital so **Roy Andrews**, Vice Chairman jumped into the breach. Sadly, **Dickie** has since died and his obituary appears on page 74.

Maj Gordon Schofield, Assistant General Secretary RHQ was the chief guest and gave a most enlightening talk about the Corps in general and the Association in particular. Sadly, the delay in starting the Blandford building project, which, because it has to be spread over two years means that the Blandford re-union on 9 July will now be restricted to one day. Despite the many problems it is faced with the Corps is in very good heart and the Association continues to expand.

Gordon will finally retire towards the end of the year and he was warmly applauded by all members for the fine contribution he has made to the Association and for his help to the East Kent Branch.

There followed an excellent lunch after which members took their leave.

Our next event is a buffet luncheon at the Ashford International Hotel with a Guest speaker.

EAST LONDON BRANCH

It was with great sadness that members of the East London Branch attended the funeral of our past Chairman **Stan Thorpe-Tracey** on 12 January 1995. He was a member of the Normandy Veterans Association and the British Legion and members of those associations were present. The three associations had their Standards on parade and led the funeral cortege to the Chapel door where a Guard of Honour stood either side of the entrance and after the service led the cortege to the graveside.

Stanley was one of the founder members of the Branch and during his time the branch grew from just four members to our present number. In the last two years **Stan** had been seriously ill but like the old soldier that he was he fought to the last. He will be missed by us all.

MANCHESTER BRANCH

The Branch held a very satisfactory Dinner and Dance at the Hotel Cornelius last December.

Unfortunately, our guest of honour could not attend due to his wife's illness. Dancing/boozing went on until 4.00am and thankfully most of the members had arranged to stay overnight.

A raffle on behalf of Broughton House home for ex-service men successfully raised £832.78 and the winners were spread far and wide i.e. bedroom fitment to **Maj (Retd) R. Smith** of Liverpool; £5 voucher to **R. Whittle** RHQ London; toaster to **Cfn Blease**, REME Beverley, Yorks; vouchers instead of a turkey to **Maj Rowe** RHQ London; Manchester City Football Club Brochure to **Sgt Mitchell** Catterick R Signals; Tickets for Lancashire County Cricket Club to **Mrs Wooley** of Bough, Lincs; Christmas cards plus a small gift were sent to the two R Signals residents at Broughton House **Mr W. Grundy**, date of birth 3.9.29 and recently **Mr H. McKay** date of birth 3.5.31. Recognise them anyone? We will gladly put you in touch.

MIDDLESBROUGH BRANCH

On Friday 14 October 1994 a party of 18 of our members including six ladies, attended the R Signals Farewell to Catterick. The Corps has been on our doorstep for 70 years so, for us, it was a particularly sad occasion. Nevertheless, we feel that we owe a deep sense of gratitude to **HRH The Princess Royal**, the Corps Band and 8 Sig Regt for the manner in which the departure was made a triumph, and the parade an expression of a job well done. Finally credit must go the Corporals' Mess for an excellent buffet before our own farewell to Catterick. We thought we may have some TV stars among us! After the unveiling of the plaque, several members were approached and interviewed by TV camera crews and radio reporters but only **Vince Gibson** appeared on local television which was preceded by a shot of **Arthur Johnson**'s medals.

5 November 1994 was the occasion of our coach trip to Cadburyworld Bournville, Birmingham. As usual the **Grainges** and the **Dadsons** prepared tea, coffee and cold drinks throughout the journey and managed to distribute them without any serious mishap.

On Saturday 19 November 1994 we held our Annual Event, the Christmas Raffle. Actually it was an advance Christmas Party attended by some 80 members and friends. The Ladies provided the food and **Liz Chambers** set it out in the JRC at Brambles Farm to form an excellent buffet. In the adjoining gym some 37 prizes were raffled between bingo sessions and a quiz. The usual bar arrangements were available, thanks to the efforts of 34 Sig Regt (V) run very capably by **Keith Selby** 'Taffy' and **Keith Chambers**.

Meetings are usually held on the last Thursday of each month and anyone interested in joining us should contact our Secretary–**Margaret Dadson**, 01642 478347.

NORFOLK BRANCH

The Branch is looking forward to a very active year. As part of the V.E. Day celebrations and the 75th anniversary of the Corps, we are putting on a static display of old and more modern wireless and line equipment to simulate a wartime Infantry Brigade HQ. We are doing this in conjunction with 755 Sig Tp (V) under the able leadership of **SSgt P. K. Allen** and prime mover Ex 'Y' service **Derrick Carr**, who can be contacted on 01603 38845 for details. The date is 6 and 7 May at Middleton near Kings Lynn, Norfolk. All are welcome and we hope to meet many old friends and interested parties who would like to try out their old skills on the morse key and radio techniques etc. This year also we shall be celebrating the 97th Birthday of our President **Maj Gen D. A. L. Wade CB, OBE, MC** on 13 March. The General is still very active and has a burning ambition to travel through the Channel Tunnel, but his wife **Cynthia** is putting that idea on hold for the time being! We were all very 'chuffed' on seeing the photo of **Sig R. P. Jones** on the front cover of *The Wire* and also to learn that at 93 he is still with us and that he visited Blandford; the Norfolk Branch sends him their best wishes. On a sad note four members of the Branch attended the funeral of **Brig M. R. Topple CBE** in January. The Brigadier will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He was very popular with the Norfolk Branch and along with wife **Chris** was a regular attender at various functions and Dinners. We extend our deepest sympathy to wife **Chris**.

SCARBOROUGH BRANCH

BOOKS FOR BED-BOUND YOUNGSTERS

Young patients at Scarborough Hospital will be able to wile away the hours with their heads in the pages of lots of new books. The Scarborough Branch of the Royal Signals Association has just handed over £200 worth of books to the children's ward at the hospital. The Branch has a charity bottle into which members put their contributions when they meet at the Territorial Centre on Coldyhill Lane. The cash is counted at the end of the year and a donation made to charity. Deputy Standard Bearer of the Association **Keith Parsons** told us that a teacher at the hospital had told him that they were short of books so we decided to provide some new ones.



From Left: Chairman Derek Rigby, Deputy Standard Bearer Keith Parsons and Vice Chairman and Social Secretary Derek Fowler present the books to Sulina Navarro 14, and the ward teacher Chris Dyson

Photo courtesy The Scarborough Evening News

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH

Sunday 30 April, Reunion Lunch at Avenue Hotel, Stag Gates, The Avenue, Southampton, 12 noon for 1pm. Enquiries to Treasurer, **Mrs C. W. Cluett**, Flat 9 Pinehurst, Winn Road, Southampton SO17 1WB.

WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

We come from two World Wars, Korea, Kenya, Malaya, Aden, Cyprus, Ulster, The Falklands and all those areas of turmoil where peace must be restored.

Now, disabled and mainly aged, we must look to you for help. Please help by helping our Association.

BLESMA looks after the limbless from all the Services. It helps to overcome the shock of losing arms or legs or an eye. And, for the severely handicapped, it provides Residential Homes where they can live in peace and dignity.

Help the disabled by helping BLESMA with a donation now or a legacy in the future. We promise you that not one penny will be wasted.



THE FIRST STEP by a recent, young double amputee

PLEASE GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE

Give to those who gave—please

Donations and information: The Chairman, National Appeal Committee, BLESMA, Midland Bank PLC, 60 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9DX



BLESMA

BRITISH LIMBLESS EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION

3 DIVISION SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

Late in 1994 **Lt Col I. Foxley**, CO of 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt, informed the Club that the Regiment was to be honoured by a visit from the Colonel in Chief, **Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal**, on Friday, 10 February. He kindly invited those members of the Club who had been involved in the Normandy landings and campaign to join the Regiment for the Royal Visit. Out of a total of 60 members eligible to attend 26 were able to accept.

The rest of this report is mainly provided by notes from **John Auger** and **Tom Williams**.

The Normandy veterans arrived at the Normandy Mess in Picton Barracks, Bulford Camp, on the afternoon of 9 February to be met by the usual warm welcome from the Regiment and given a preliminary briefing on the events to take place during the Royal Visit. Dinner in the Mess was followed by a natural progression to the bar where many old friendships were renewed and new ones formed. Typical was the reunion of **John Auger**, **Jack** (Ianto) **Davies** and **D. G. Edwards** who all landed on 'D' Day with the old 'J' Section and were now meeting again for the first time after 50 years. It was quite some reunion, but all were bright eyed and bushy tailed in readiness for the final briefing at 0930hrs on the Friday when we were told what would be our part in the day's proceedings. We were then escorted to the VIP enclosure to await the arrival of **HRH The Princess Royal**.

The part of **HRH**'s busy programme which most concerned the veterans was the unveiling of a new Corps painting depicting 3rd Division and its Signal Regiment on 'D' Day. At the Normandy Mess **Lt Col I. Foxley** invited **HRH** to unveil the painting, which **HRH** graciously did to applause from the assembled veterans. The painting, titled 'Swiftly Ashore' is a fine painting and the veterans all agreed that it was true to the spirit of the operation and that it brought back many memories. The artist, **Mr Peter Archer**, and **Lt Col (Retd) Peter Hoskins**, the Adjutant on 'D' Day, who had advised on the scope and detail of the painting were presented to **HRH** and explained the ideas behind the painting and how they had visited the beaches in order to rekindle the atmosphere of that fateful day. **HRH** was clearly interested and on moving round the room spoke to each and every one of the veterans and asked many questions about their experiences and seemed intrigued by the stories they had to tell. **HRH** had a long chat with **Ernest Packham** and asked him about the Reunion Club and **Ernest** gave a good account of its origins, activities and membership. **The Princess** wished the Club good luck and expressed the hope that it would continue for a long time to come. Finally **HRH** spoke to **Mrs E. Broad** and **Mrs K. Percival**, two of our Honorary Members, whose husbands had given long and faithful service to the Regiment and the Club. Both ladies were charmed by the kindness and consideration shown to them by the **Princess**. **HRH The Princess Royal** spent about 40 minutes with the veterans and departed, to more applause, leaving behind a lasting and pleasant memory for those of us privileged to be present.

The media was well represented and the photographers had a field day. **Ernest Packham**, dazzled no doubt by the charms of a young lady from BBC Wiltshire, 'volunteered' **Peter Clifford** and **Tom Williams** to be interviewed live for about 12 minutes on their 'D' Day experiences, their thoughts on last year's 'D' Day Commemorative events and the link between the Normandy veterans and the present Regiment. Of course they were able to get in quite a few plugs for the Reunion Club! They were very impressed by the radio car with all its ultra modern equipment but what really made them envious was the 30 foot telescopic aerial which shot up from the roof of the car at the touch of a button. If only the No 3, 11 or 22 sets had had the same luxury.

We thank **Lt Col Foxley** and the Regiment for their kindness in inviting us to join them on this most important occasion and for giving us the chance to meet our Colonel in Chief.

31 SIGNAL REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Our very first *Wire* Notes and very pleased at the closer ties as 'part of the family'. Our pretty active committee, led by our Chairman **Col Donald Crawford**, was out and about in '94. We visited the Royal Star and Garter Home in Richmond. Two Kneller Hall band concerts, The Last Catterick Reunion, The Governor's Parade at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea and a trip down memory lane with a weekend visit to SHAPE HQ, hosted by a former CO of 31 Sig Regt (V), **Lt Col David Strong** and his wife **Maureen**, who felt that they were in a time warp! The laughter and lampswinging went on late into the night.

The Annual Dinner gathers everyone under one roof and unfortunately this will be our last at Hammersmith TA Centre on 18 March. (The IRA didn't do it, but market forces did!) The TAC will be closing down. A sad time for the 'Kensingtons' who have been there for 75 years.

Our membership secretary **Sgt Chrissy Mills** says that our numbers are still rising (must be getting near Yeaster??!!!) and is always pleased to hear from any 'Ex' 31 Signals personnel.

Plans for '95 are well in hand, starting with a long weekend in Arnhem on 7/8/9 April (parachutes will be issued). 'Dusty' **Miller** our functions organiser has a river trip, plus one or two other goodies up his sleeve, let's hope 'Plan A' works.



A few members under the flight path of Chievres Airfield, Belgium

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during January 1995.

In memory of Brig W. R. Smijth-Windham	£612.84
Mr D. Meggitt	£50.00
56 Div (City of London) OCA Branch	£32.00
In memory of Maj F. A. Stork	£25.00
Glossop & District OCA	£25.00
In memory of Mr D. Bowen	£20.00
In memory of Mr E. E. Perry	£20.00
Mr G. M. Curry	£15.00
Maj E. D. Halton	£15.00
In memory of J. H. A. 'Boots' Potter	£15.00
Mr M. Hopcroft	£13.00
Mr D. H. Briggs	£10.00
Mrs A. B. Sykes	£10.00
	£862.84

The following donations were gratefully received during February 1995.

In memory of Brig M. R. Topple CBE	£1310.00
Garrison Chaplain Blandford	£200.00
Certa Cito Lodge	£140.00
Maj J. H. Thom	£70.00
Mr P. W. Hitchcock	£50.00
Eastbourne Branch RSA	£25.00
In memory of Maj E. Hunt	£20.00
East London Branch RSA	£10.00
In memory of Lt Col W. J. Morris	£5.00
	£1830.00

REUNIONS

602 SIGNAL TROOP (SC)–ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS 9TH ANNUAL REUNION DINNER

The ninth Annual Reunion Dinner for the 602 AOF is to be held in York on 22 April 1995. This will be a particularly important occasion, as it will mark the end of an era. 602 Sig Tp disbanded on 1 April some 47 years since it was formed in Kenya. Those ex Troop members who have not yet joined the AOF should contact: **Jim Brown**, Secretary 602 AOF, Stoneleigh, Harwell Close, Tuffley, Gloucester GL4 0QE or **Dave Hay**, Treasurer 602 AOF, 22 Well Cross Road, Robinswood, Gloucester GL4 9SN.

LANGELEBEN REUNION

The Langeleben Reunion Branch is holding its annual reunion this year over the weekend 19/22 May in Konigslutter Am Elm. It coincides with the local Schutzen Feste. Further details can be obtained from **Frank Mitchell**, Assistant Secretary, 6 Derwent House, Timber Street, Elland, Halifax HX5 0DH. Tel: 01422 376915 who has a list of hotels etc: in the area.

219 SIGNAL SQUADRON–TRIPOLITANIA 1963

219 Sig Sqn Tripolitania 1963 held its first reunion at Loughborough in September last. The next reunion will be held 8/9 September 1995 at the same venue. Further information from: **Mr E. T. Hearldon**. Telephone 01925 822816.

FOUNDER'S DAY 1995, ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA

Founder's Day of The Royal Hospital Chelsea, will be held on Thursday, 8 June. The Reviewing Officer is **Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon**.

Bids for tickets are very often in excess of those available to us from The Royal Hospital. It is for this reason that The Hospital is concerned that tickets should go to Association Members who have served in the Army, not their families or friends.

Your requirements for tickets should reach this HQ by 29 April at the latest.

THE BURMA STAR ASSOCIATION–BLACKPOOL REUNION 1995

The Ninth Annual Blackpool Weekend Reunion Event is being held in Blackpool on 23/25 June. All holders of the 'Burma Star'; whether members of the Association or not, their families and friends, are invited to attend. All the events will be held in the Empress Ballroom, Winter Gardens. The cost per person for the full weekend of events is £4 (£7 if a buffet is required on the Sunday lunchtime following the parade).

For further information and tickets please contact **Mr J. F. Nield**, 188 Whitegate Drive, Blackpool, Lancashire FY3 9HJ. Tel: (01253) 763134.

We look forward to welcoming any R Signals personnel who served in the Burma Campaign and also those who served in South East Asia Command.

SOUTH DEVON RAILWAY TRUST–REUNION

The South Devon Railway Trust plan to organise a reunion for Despatch Riders to coincide with its 'Railway at War Weekend' on 17/18 June at Buckfastleigh, Devon. Any reader who served as a Motor Cycle Despatch Rider during and after the Second World War is invited to contact **Mr W. A. Wright**, Special Events Organiser, 31 Hillcroft Crescent, Oxhey, Watford, Herts WD1 4PB, for further information.

WERE YOU THERE?

ALL RANKS
HQ BTA AT KLAGENFURT IN AUSTRIA 1945-1955

If you were, then my colleague **Peter Humphries**, who was at HQ RASC, and I would like to hear from you. We had a reasonable response from **Peter**'s first National Press 'slot', but we know there are many more of you out there somewhere, hence this further attempt to find you.

In your reply please include your Corps/Regt/Arm, dates and place of service in Austria. Should you have any anecdotes to recall about yourself or others, we would like to hear about them. Please inform any others you know of who also served in the region of our search for them.

We plan a reunion in early 1995, so let's hear from you.

BAC Burt 'Dick', 2 Darcy Court, Catterick Garrison, North Yorks DL9 4SG (Ex Klagenfurt Sig Tp).

If responding to any advertisements in The Wire please mention that you saw it in your Corps magazine

MRS DAVID GREENBROOK

Readers will be saddened by the news that **Joy**, wife of **Dave Greenbrook** (1942-68), member of 254 Old Boys Association and sometime Association Admin Officer at RHQ for 21 years, died 14 February 1995, peacefully in her sleep.

We send our condolences to **Dave**, their two sons, three daughters, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Dave Greenbrook writes: **Joy** and I were looking through photographs recently and we came across this one of a football match held in Singapore in 1967 between members and their wives of 18 Sig Regt, Sergeants' Mess. **Joy** is the nurse.

If I remember rightly the ladies claimed to have won, 50-49, only because they kept feeding our Goalkeeper, **Ken Hadfield**, with a glass of ale every time the ladies were about to score (**Ken** has the evidence in his hand). There was no shortage of volunteers from the men's team to receive 'treatment' from the nurse! The 'manager' of the team, seen wearing a big hat, informed the referee of the rules of the game by which he had to abide. The final score was declared to be 50-50.

I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who may remember us during our 45 years with the Corps. Please write to: **Mr David Greenbrook**, 54 Malcolmson House, Aylesford Street, London SW1V 3RR.



STOCK CLEARANCE!

SURPLUS BOOKS WRITTEN/PUBLISHED BY EX-CORPS MEMBER, MUST BE SOLD IMMEDIATELY, TO MAKE WAY FOR NEW TITLES WAITING TO BE PUBLISHED. PROFITS FROM SALES MADE THROUGH *THE WIRE*, WILL ENABLE DONATIONS TO BE MADE TO THE RSA BENEVOLENT FUND, AND TO THE NEW MUSEUM PROJECT AT BLANDFORD.

ANNIVERSARIES:
A concise and comprehensive source of reference for home, school, and office use. A collection of dates related to nearly 2,700 assorted personalities, drawn from those now living, those who lived in comparatively recent times, and those who lived during past centuries; each of whom may have simply become part of history, or actually influenced it. Entries include those from politics, explorers, sport, music, art, science, military, films, TV, invention, and general interest. Dates of notable historical events have also been included, to widen the book's scope as an invaluable reference book.
Size: A5. Paperback. 288pp
Normal retail price: £8.95, **but now offered at £7.50 (incl. p&p).**

THE WHISPERING WOOD:
A collection of ten natural history stories, based upon a woodland, and some of its many wildlife residents. This book has proved to be popular with *all* age groups!
Size: A5. Hardback. 152pp, incl. 12 colour plates, plus 44 ink line sketches.
Normal retail price: £9.95, **but now offered at £8.50 (incl. p&p).**

All orders to: Tompson Publishing, 'Oak House', Moor Park, Chagford, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ13 8BY.

IMPORTANT NOTES: Orders will be despatched as soon as possible, but please allow up to 28 days for delivery. Please include payment in full with your order. (No credit cards). All orders are accepted subject to continued availability while stocks last.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU MENTION *'THE WIRE'* WHEN YOU ORDER!

LETTERS

From **Stephen Lowe**
Dear Sir,

The Mercury Theatre, Alexandria.

I am presently engaged writing a book about my late father, the actor Arthur Lowe.

During his war service he was attached to the 15th Radio Repair Workshops, REME and perhaps not surprisingly spent a large part of his time working on amateur stage productions for the entertainment of the troops.

Towards the end of his time in North Africa, about 1944, he is reported to have been directing plays at the Mercury Theatre, Alexandria. I can find no reference to this theatre, nor can the Imperial War Museum, nor the REME Museum. It seems possible there is a Royal Signals connection because of the name and Dr Thwaites of the Royal Signals Museum tells me there was a Royal Signals Mercury Theatre in Germany at the end of the last war.

I was hoping you might publish my letter in *The Wire* in case any of your readers can help me.

Yours sincerely
Stephen Lowe

c/o Editor, *The Wire*
RHQ

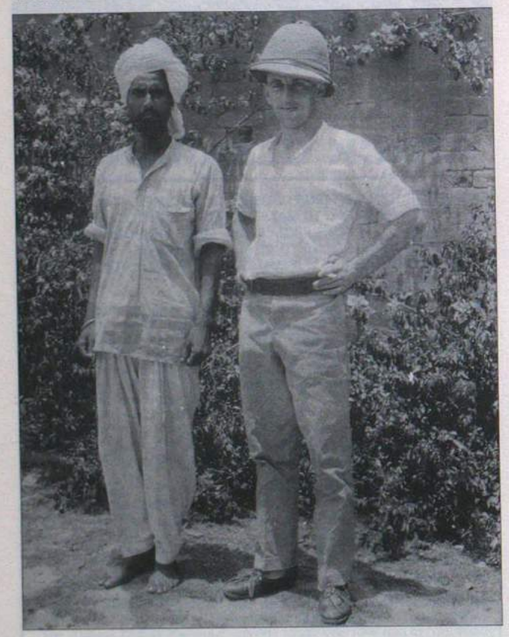
From: **22111021 Sig G. McFarlane**
Dear Sir,

Ref the December 1994 issue of *The Wire*, I read in the Obituary Column of the death of **WO2 G. C. Spearman** (died 12 July 1994). Can any of our readers say if this was one time **Sgt Spearman** of 7 Armd Div Signals, based at Trenchard Barracks, Celle, BAOR around 1949/1950.

If this is the case then I am sorry to learn of his death and I would be pleased to hear from anyone who served with 7 Armd Signals around that time either at Celle or at Bad Lippspringe.

Yours faithfully
G. B. McFarlane

103 New Street
Dalry, Ayrshire
Scotland KA24 5BY



Rawalpindi–1925

From: **Mr F. Mitchell**, Asst Sec. Langeleben Reunion Branch
Dear Sir,

Can any readers of *The Wire* help me to locate two of my old R Signals pals from the '60s, and stationed in Langeleben, Germany. The first one is **Malcolm** 'Mac' **Bowker**, who I believed came from Leeds. He was a Spec Op and served in Cyprus as well as Germany and would be about 55 years of age now. The second one is **Tim Donovan**, also a Spec Op. **Tim** also served in the Gurkha Signals, and came from an army family. I have heard he married a young Lady from the WRAC, as it was. **Tim**, I think, either came from the London area, or Exeter area. So if anyone can help me find these two, I would be much obliged. Thanking you in anticipation.

Frank Mitchell (Asst Sec.)
6 Derwent House, Timber Street
Elland, Halifax HX5 0DH

From: **Lt Col James Yule**
Dear Sir,

It was really quite strange. There was I, in the process of collecting material from another 'old sweat' who lives in this village, when I saw **Sig R. P. James** looking out at me. I don't know at all if you are still interested in another old stager but perhaps you are collecting stories from those Maresfield Vets who are still around. I hope you are(!) because here are three photos of **Eddie Warner**, known affectionately as 'Shoey' by his friends.

Sgt E. Warner transferred to the Corps from the RA in 1920 at the age of 18. He went to Maresfield where he stayed for some six months or more. He was posted to Crowborough, then sent to Southern Ireland where he served for more than a year. He returned to Crowborough, then in 1922 went to India. He moved around going to Deolali, Jubbulpore then to B Corps Signals at Rawalpindi where he qualified as a farrier. He chose to 'sign on' rather than join the Rhodesia Mounted Police as a farrier. He returned to the UK in 1930, joined the Cavalry Troop at Aldershot then left that for 4 Div Signals where he served until 1933.

He rather regretted leaving the Army but he joined theTA–a Gunner unit–in 1936. The Portsmouth Coast Defence benefited from his presence for the first two years of the war. He went to the Middle East, then to East Africa where he stayed until 1946 when he returned home for demob.

He married **Ellen** in 1932. Married life has suited them both. They are both in great shape and an example to all of us.

Is there anyone who still remembers **Sgt** 'Shoey' **Warner**? If there is, would they get in touch?

Yours faithfully
James Yule

P.S. It does occur to me that you ought to have **Eddie**'s home address. Here it is. **Mr E. Warner**, 13, Glebe Road, Kelvedon, Colchester, Essex CO5 9JR.

1920-1995

If you have any interesting photographs or wish to submit a short article of historical interest to contribute to the 75th Anniversary issues of *The Wire*, please send them to the Editor as soon as possible

75th Anniversary

CENTRAL EVENTS

TUESDAY 4 JULY 1995

A Dinner at the London Hilton on Park Lane.

WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY 5/6 JULY 1995

A programme of visits to industry for overseas guests and a separate programme for their wives.

FRIDAY 7 JULY 1995

Blandford – Colonels Commandant, Past and Present, Overseas Guests and their Wives, Dinner, Headquarters Officers' Mess.

SATURDAY 8 JULY 1995

Blandford – The Corps Lunch.

SUNDAY 9 JULY 1995

Blandford – Royal Signals Association Reunion, Reception, Church Service, Opening the New Museum, Lunch and an afternoon programme of Arena Events including the Corps Staff Band, the Band of 34 Sig Regt (V), the Staff Band of the Royal Engineers and The White Helmets.

OTHER EVENTS

Palace Guards, led by the Corps Staff Band, during June, July and August 1995.

Corps Staff Band will play in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace on 28 June (Princess Royal Day).

Unit Celebrations to take place throughout 1995 and to be a focus for soldiers' celebrations.

Indian Signals Association Separate Programme for Heads and other senior Officers, India and Pakistan, to be arranged by Indian Signals Association during period 11-25 June 1995.

75th Anniversary

THE Wire

June 1995



The Royal Corps of Signals
75th Anniversary



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 peace.

There are two 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.

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.



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

June 1995 Vol. 49 No: 3

The Wire

All correspondence and matter for publication in **The Wire** should be addressed to **The Editor, The Wire,** RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD
Tel No: London District Ext 8428 and 8433
STD 0171-414 8428 and 8433
Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of February, April, June, August, October and 10th December for publication six weeks later.

All enquiries regarding subscriptions/despatch should be made to ext: 8426

Subscription rates 1995 (Bi-monthly) (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, and Dec). Individual: Yearly **£9.00**; Bi-monthly **£1.50.**

Remittances should be made payable to Royal Signals Corps Fund

Editor Lt Col M. O. M. Greaves
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

The Wire **is a member of the Association of Service Newspapers**

THE WIRE
AUGUST 1995
This issue will be published during the second half of August 1995

HONOURS AND AWARDS

OBE
Lieutenant Colonel C. L. Le Gallais Royal Signals

MBE
Warrant Officer Class 2 (Foreman of Signals) N. T. Stirk

QCB
Warrant Officer Class 2 N. J. Barnett Staff Sergeant S. Clark

QCVS
Lieutenant S. T. Gillespie Royal Signals

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Our front cover picture depicts Cpl Thomas Waters MM crossing Caen Canal Bridge on 6 June 1994 and is the subject of the Corps' painting 'Go to it'.

Our back cover picture is the new Corps' painting 'Swiftly Ashore' commissioned by 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt to mark the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Corps and the 50th anniversary of the Normandy landings.

The opinions expressed in **The Wire** ***are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of the Corps or the MOD. This publication contains official information. It should be treated with discretion by the recipient.***

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75th Anniversary Year

"Battles are won by slaughter and manoeuvre . . . Nearly all the battles which are regarded as the masterpieces of the military art . . . have been battles of manoeuvre in which very often the enemy has found himself defeated by some novel expedient or device, some queer, swift, unexpected thrust or strategem. In such battles the losses of the victors have been small. There is required for the composition of a great commander not only massive commonsense and reasoning power, not only imagination, but also an element of legerdemain, an original and sinister touch, which leaves the enemy puzzled as well as beaten."

Rt. Hon. Winston S. Churchill

This was written after Churchill resigned following the debacle of the Dardenelles, reflecting on massive loss of life in World War 1 and the possible contribution that could be made by secret and clandestine operations; communications would inevitably play a vital part in these and the more conventional military operations. The extensive communication networks required to control the massive forces needed to fight the bloody battles of World War 1 resulted in The Signal Service of the Royal Engineers virtually becoming a separate entity from its parent Corps, and it was considered appropriate to form a specialist Signal Corps to support the Army. It was the **Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill** who conveyed the Sovereign's approval, through The Royal Warrants, decreeing the formation of The Royal Corps of Signals on the 28th of June 1920, and recognising the work of the Signal Service of the Royal Engineers during World War 1 by the new Corps of Signals enjoying the distinction of 'Royal'.

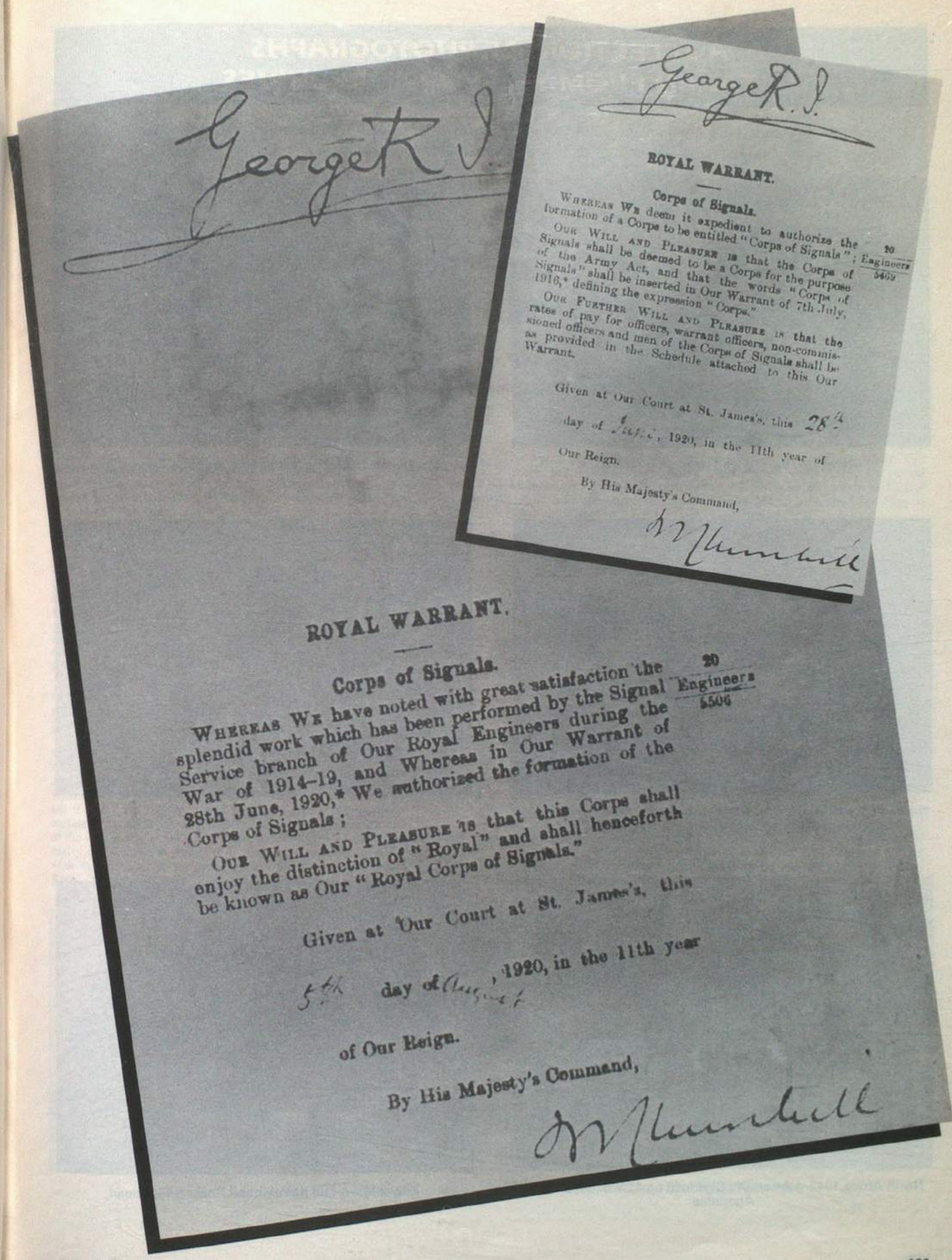
The fledgling Royal Corps of Signals embarked on its life at a time when communications faced radical changes. The advent of wireless offered greater flexibility and mobility to the Army, it was probably the single most notable advance during those early days. World War 2 saw further major progress and in the 75 years since its formation the Corps has experienced dramatic advances in communication techniques, providing commanders at all levels with a means of conveying their intentions and plans with certainty. The Corps has played a vital role in the development of the modern manoeuvre battle, but it also contributed to the less well publicised operations of the SOE, Airborne and Special Forces, and the Deception and Intelligence gathering activities, all of which allowed commanders to bring the appropriate forces to bear at critical times. The speed of development over the past 50 years has provided the army with extensive communication networks and satellite systems, and combined with the advances in computer technology commanders and staff, at all levels, are able to handle vast amounts of information. The Corps is poised on the brink of a new era, certainly as exciting and challenging as that facing it when it first formed.

Since 1970 the Corps has been involved in the Falkland Islands and the Gulf conflicts, and the continuing operations in Ulster, where, largely unacclaimed by the public, the Corps has maintained the vital anchor of communications. The relatively recent events in the former Yugoslavia, and latterly in Rwanda, have emphasised the prompt and major contribution that the Corps makes to the efforts of the United Nations to bring peace around the world.

In 1920 the Corps made its first home in Maresfield Park, where it spent its first five years before making its permanent home by establishing the Signal Training Centre in Catterick, where it remained until 1994. Unquestionably, the most profound event since World War 2 has been the historic shift in Eastern Europe which has led to major changes and reorganisations in both the regular and volunteer units of the Corps. The emotive move to Blandford is an important event in the history of The Royal Signals, and is happening at the time when the Corps is celebrating its 75th Anniversary. The establishment of the new Single Centre in Blandford makes a significant contribution to this anniversary year's celebrations by providing the new home for the Corps' and affording us the opportunity to look forward to an exciting and stimulating future.

The Wire is also 75 years old this year, reporting on the events in the life of the regular and volunteer units, and publishing the news of the ex-members of the Corps through their Association Branches.

It started out as the *Maresfield Camp Magazine*, when **Sig G Pain** was the Editor, and now has a circulation of 3,500. *The Wire* relies on the enthusiasm and support of its contributors to bring the news of what is happening within the Corps. During this 75th Anniversary year the Editorial staff is endeavouring to depict some of the important events in the history of the Corps, and to give some prominence to individuals who have accomplished a significant act or achievement during their service. It is hoped that these six issues of *The Wire* will form a commemorative item of 75 years in the life of the Corps.



GeorgeR.I.

ROYAL WARRANT.

Corps of Signals.

WHEREAS WE deem it expedient to authorize the formation of a Corps to be entitled "Corps of Signals"; to Engineers 5469

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 July, 1920, in the 11th year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

W Churchill

GeorgeR.I.

ROYAL WARRANT.

Corps of Signals.

WHEREAS WE have noted with great satisfaction the splendid work which has been performed by the Signal Service branch of Our Royal Engineers during the War of 1914–19, and Whereas in Our Warrant of 28th June, 1920,* We authorized the formation of the Corps of Signals; to Engineers 5506

OUR WILL AND PLEASURE is that this Corps shall enjoy the distinction of "Royal" and shall henceforth be known as Our "Royal Corps of Signals."

Given at Our Court at St. James's, this 5th day of August, 1920, in the 11th year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

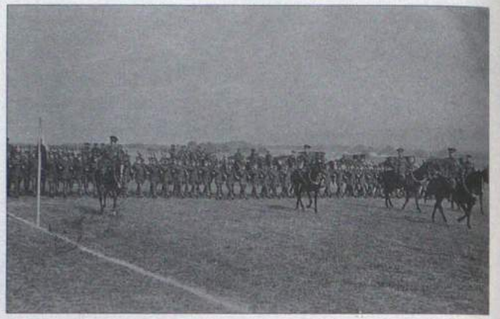
W Churchill

A SELECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN FROM THE CORPS' ARCHIVES

The Corps' Museum is displaying photographs depicting the 75 years in the life of the Corps, together with a display showing Victory in Europe, Italy and the Far East.



Maresfield Park 1923–The large guardroom



Weisbaden 1929–The last parade of Rhine Army Signals



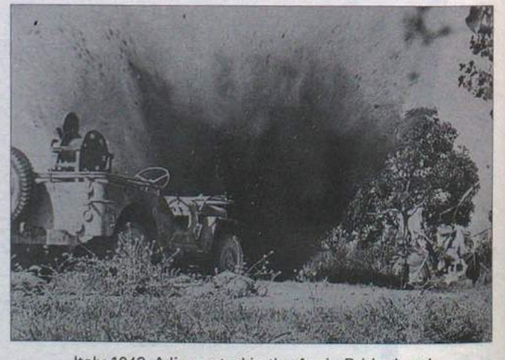
North Africa 1941–Communications by heliograph (by day) and lamp (by night) during the siege of Halfaya District



North Africa 1941–A line party in action



North Africa 1942–1 Armd Div Sigs lose an ACV in action near Agedabia



Italy 1943–A line patrol in the Anzio Bridgehead

THE BAND OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS FORMED IN 1921

An article by the late Jerome S. Gatehouse, Military Band Historian



The Corps band, Maresfield Park, Sussex 1921 or 1922
Officer on right is probably Lt M. R. Kemp

In 1921 a few ex members of the Royal Engineers Depot Band, Bedford, set about forming the nucleus of a 'Corps Band' at Maresfield Park, Sussex. The Band soon had many members, but was only run on a voluntary basis and supported by the officers subscriptions for the next 18 years. During the early years the Band helped out on funds by playing 'for a small fee' at garden fetes, village sports events and even at weddings.

In 1926 the Band was fortunate in obtaining the services of **Mr Randolph Rickets** who took over the Band as Civilian Musical Director. **Mr Rickets** who was better known as **Leo Stanley**, brought the Band up to an excellent standard and managed with the help of his brother **Kenneth Alford** (of 'Colonel Bogey' and much other fame), to secure bookings for the Band. **Mr Ricketts** stayed with the Band for 13 years and was instrumental in gaining an excellent reputation for it, despite the fact that it was still unofficial. One of the more prestigious events it took part in was the Review of the Troops at Aldershot Command by **HM King George V** on 13 July 1935. **Mr Ricketts** was also responsible for composing the Corps Slow March 'HRH The Princess Royal' which was officially adopted by the Corps in 1952.

The Signal Training Centre moved to Catterick Camp in 1925. During this period the Band played at Military Tattoos, Exhibitions, and on the seaside bandstands in many parts of the British Isles, started broadcasting to listeners to BBC Radio in the summer of 1929.

In 1939 the Band was given official recognition, and they also had a change of Leader as **Mr Ricketts**, who was not a serving Bandmaster, was replaced by **Mr Arthur Hibbert** for two years followed by **Mr John L. Judd** who took over as Warrant Officer Bandmaster. At the onset of the second world war there was some disruption to the routine of the Band, but it was soon reformed and playing a major role in keeping up the morale of troops around the United Kingdom, Canada, America and a tour of the 21st Army Units on the Continent in the early part of 1945. By the end of the war, the Band had been moulded into a first class Military Band with an excellent string orchestra, broadcasting every month for BBC Radio from many Seaside Resorts around Britain.



Capt John Judd, Director of Music at the Glen, Dunfermline, early 1950s

In 1947 the Band was upgraded to Staff Band status. **Mr Judd** was commissioned as a Director of Music. During the fifties the Band continued to broadcast with programmes including 'Music While You Work' and 'Friday Night is Music Night'. Other events during this period included taking part in the Coronation of **HM Queen Elizabeth II**. **Lt Col John Judd** was succeeded as Director of Music by **Capt Cliff Pike** in 1962 and **Capt** (later Lt Col) **Keith Boulding** in 1969.

In the early seventies the Band moved to the School of Signals. One of its earliest engagements in this decade was to perform at the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the Corps, with a Cathedral service and March Past in Salisbury and, in June 1970 they took part in the Royal Tournament.

During the summer of 1977 the Band took part in the Royal Tour of Lancashire, Merseyside and Greater Manchester taking in Wigan and Bootle.

The Band continued their full programme throughout the eighties and into the nineties, **Maj Gordon Turner** taking over as Director of Music in 1982 and **Capt** (now Maj) **Wall** succeeding him in 1987. The Band performed for the celebrations at Alderney when 30 Sig Regt received the Freedom of the Island in 1989.

The Band fulfilled its usual quota of commitments to the Corps during 1992 finishing with a tour of Cyprus and Germany.

From 3 May to 16 August 1993 the Band undertook a tour of duty at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and with the help of 34 Sig Regt (V) Band they were also able to carry out many other engagements—34 Sig Regt (V) Band was inspected by an ex-member of the Corps Band, **Lt Col Tomlinson** as Senior Director of Music of the Army and part of the Kneller Hall inspectorate on its Kneller Hall Inspection on 15 May 1994. **Lt Col Tomlinson** was a member of the Corps Band for nine years under the leadership of **John Judd** when the Band had over 90 National Service musicians and 35 regulars making a total of 135 members. As a result of Options for Change the band is required to reduce to a strength of 35 and convert from its secondary role of basic signals to musical assistants by October 1995.



The Staff Band of The Royal Corps of Signals at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst Term 1993

TRACING THE HISTORY OF THE HARROGATE APPRENTICE

by Colonel C. J. Walters

Editor's Note

Colonel Cliff Walters is currently Commandant of the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate. He is researching the history of the College and would be pleased to hear from anyone who has any interesting recollections of their time there.

Early Days

The history of Boy Soldiers of the British Army can be traced back to medieval times when armies, such as those of King Harold at the time of the Norman invasion, comprised underage soldiers. There are exhibits on display, in the armouries of the Tower of London, which date back to these battles and show composite half-suits of body armour for boys under 10 years of age.

Edward III was himself a boy of only 14 when he came to the throne and set forth with his army to wage war against the Scots. He commanded his army for over 20 years and there were many young soldiers in its ranks and a good percentage of them were serving apprenticeships. Undoubtedly the Archers and Knights employed young boys to assist them. Many of them aspired to Knighthoods and commenced their military careers as apprentice harness-makers, horsemen, saddler, minstrels, farriers, wagon drivers or other relevant trades. These boys probably served the original military apprenticeships.

There was no formal training for any boys in the Army until 1741 when the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich was established by the Royal Regiment of Artillery. The boy cadets were between the ages of 12 and 14 and the aim of the Academy was to teach them the rudiments of military discipline and education. It was at this very early stage that a rank structure amongst the boys was instituted to bring a measure of control and supervision. However, it caused more problems than it solved and was a ready source of bullying, misuse of privileges and unruliness.

The Sapper 'Tele-Boys'

The history of Royal Signals Boys does not date back as far as these 18th Century times but it can be traced back to the late 19th Century before the formation of the Corps from the Sappers. At this time, when Army communications were provided by the Telegraph Battalion RE, most Sapper boys joined at Chatham, between the age of 14 and 16, for training as buglers, bricklayers or telegraphists. The latter became known as the 'Tele-boys' and would number about 10 at any one time. At first the pay of all Boys was the equivalent of about 23p a week. From this there were deductions for laundry, haircutting, library and other stoppages which reduced their weekly pay to 5p. But the 'Tele-boys' were the envy of the others because after only six months they qualified for Sapper pay of 6p per day.

For their training the 'Tele-boys' were posted to 'D' Company, 1st Training Battalion, in Brompton Barracks, Chatham. Later, the majority were attached to 2nd Division, Telegraph Battalion RE (later renamed 'K' Company) and seconded to the General Post Office to gain valuable practical experience. It was a great joy for them to be attached to a major telegraph office, such as Southampton or Plymouth, and work alongside civilians. The occasional night shift would also accrue extra pay.

The preliminary training consisted of sending and receiving Morse code. Pay increases were gained as speeds increased so there was no shortage of incentive. The procedure taught was that set out in 'Rules for Postmasters'. They became proficient at reading Morse from sounders, vibrators and single-needle instruments and could send on Morse keys and punch up Wheatstone slip[1]. Telephone switchboard operator training was carried out on two working exchanges at the School of Military Engineering, and Telegraph School, both of which were in Chatham. There was no wireless training as wireless sets were unreliable and had not made much headway.

On attaining the age of 18 a Boy would return to Chatham to complete the final stage of his training which comprised recruits drill and some field work. He would then be posted to one of the two field Telegraph Divisions, where he learned his field telegraph work, and after normal working hours he would prepare for his first class school certificate (if he did not already have it).

'F' (Boys) Company is formed

This procedure continued until 1920 when the Signals Service RE became the Corps of Signals and Boys who were serving with it also transferred to the new Corps. The Boys changed their badges for 'Jimmy' and commenced training at Maresfield Camp, in Sussex, by which time their number had swelled to about 70. There were Boys being trained as Signals Mechanics and Operators and there were also Trumpeters, who besides the musical side of their education, were trained as DRs and Linemen. During this early period Boys lived and worked in whatever men's Company dealt with their trades; for example, Operators were in 'C' Company and Trumpeters were in 'E' Company.

In 1925 all Boys irrespective of trades were transferred to 'G' Company which was then renamed 'F' Company. In September 1925 the Signals Training Centre (STC) moved from Maresfield Park, where it had been since the summer of 1919, to Catterick. Within a few months of its arrival 'F' Company was emptied of all men apart from the cadre required for the training and administration of the Boys. 'F' Company remained as a Boys' Company until the outbreak of war in 1939. To this day there is an annual reunion of the Boys of 'F' Company. In fact, by the outbreak of war there had been a proliferation of Boys' recruiting and there were over 12,000 Boys under training in the Army.

On the outbreak of war the accommodation assigned to the Boys at Catterick was required for other purposes. Those in training completed their course and went to units. No further intakes were accepted until April 1942 when the ceiling was put initially at 200 but later raised to 300. They became a part of the newly established Boys' Training Company (later Squadron). Until the end of the war there were Boys trained as Operator Wireless and Keyboard, Operator Wireless and Line, Operator Keyboard and Line, Line Mechanic, Telegraph Mechanic, Electrician Signals and General Duties.

The First Army Apprentices' School

All of this traces the history, up to the Second World War, of Boy soldiers in general and Royal Signals Boys' specifically, but it is necessary to return to the time of the Great War to trace the history of the Apprentices' Schools. It was not until the introduction of tank warfare and the increased use of mechanised transport in the First World War that the need for highly skilled technical tradesmen, in great numbers, became apparent. In 1919 the Army Council set up a War Office Committee that was to 'examine the necessity for, and practicability of, establishing a school for training boys as tradesmen for the Army in order to supply the deficiency consequent upon the impossibility of recruiting tradesmen in sufficient quantity from civilian life'. At the time there were already four Army Boys' training establishments but they were only small. The recommendation of the Committee was to establish a central school for 1,000 Boys covering 11 trades (in the event only four were selected).

The Committee advised that, 'The primary object of the School is to produce tradesmen, and that only such military and physical training should be included as are necessary for the maintenance of the discipline and health of the boys at the School ... a swimming bath or pond should be provided'.

The site initially selected for the Central Training School for Boys was at Blandford, Dorset, and the planned opening date was 1 September 1923. However, it was later found that Blandford was not suitable and Chepstow was selected. Unfortunately, this site could not be prepared in time so the first course started in Buller Barracks, Aldershot on 25 September 1923. It was not until 28 February 1924 that the School moved to its permanent location at Bleachley, near Chepstow. On arrival it was also given a new name—Boys' Technical School (BTS). This was a name that was to last until 1929 when it was altered to Army Technical School (ATS).

Initially, Chepstow provided tradesmen mainly for the Sappers, Gunners, RASC and RTR, but from the first to graduate, one soldier joined Royal Signals in Catterick and by 1938, 19 had joined the Corps. The success of Chepstow encouraged the War Office to extend the Apprentice scheme and by 1937 there were plans for similar organisations at Arborfield, Chatham and Jersey (Channel Islands). Each was to accommodate 1,000 Boys for RAOC, RE and RASC respectively. The latter of these was established in the Channel Islands, but was over-run by the Germans in 1940 and was never re-opened after the war. The School at Arborfield opened on 1 May 1939 but Chatham was not established.

The Army Apprentices' School, Harrogate is Established

It was not until the end of the Second World War that it was considered necessary to establish a further Apprentices' School at Harrogate. This stemmed from the need to maintain the newfound peace in Europe. It was envisaged that the size and technical expertise required to maintain a large military force would only be achieved if Boys' units were established to encourage volunteer recruits for technical trades who would remain in service longer than their conscripted colleagues. So, whilst the history of boy soldiering can be traced back to medieval times the Army Apprentices of Harrogate grew from these comparatively recent seeds of success to meet the demands of peace and modern technology.

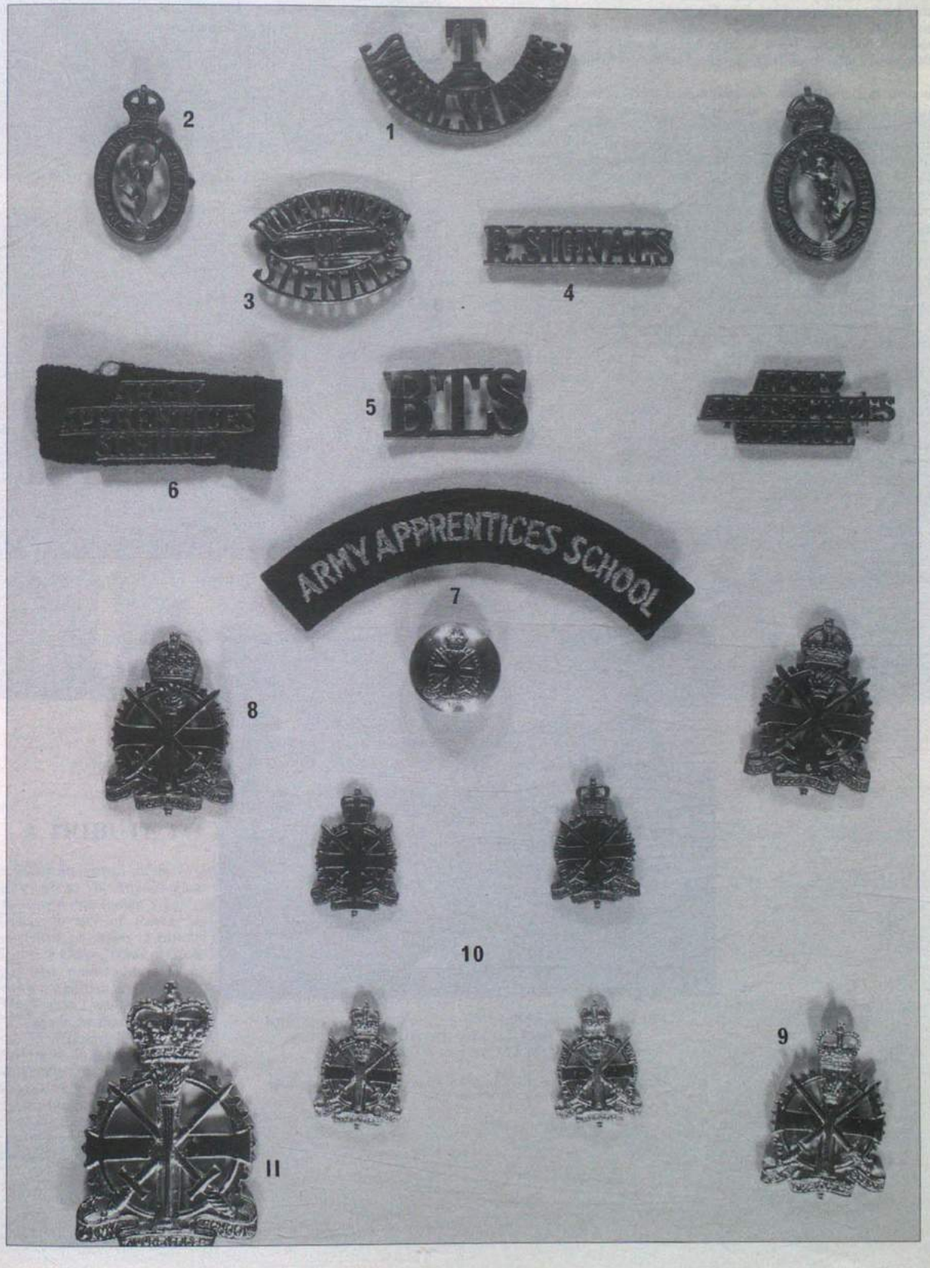
The staff for the new Apprentices' School at Harrogate began to form up in their new surroundings in May 1947. The wooden hutted camps on either side of Penny Pot Lane had been built in 1939 with the purpose of accommodating militiamen. On the outbreak of war the plans were changed and the NCO Training Battalion, Royal Signals took over the Northern camp and renamed it Hildebrand Barracks. 9th Field Regiment RA occupied the Southern camp and renamed it Uniacke Barracks. The

Continued on Page 144

SOME OF THE EMBELLISHMENTS WORN BY BOYS AND APPRENTICES

1. Metal shoulder titles worn by RE Telegraph (later Signal) Companies.
2. Metal collar dog and cap badge—1921 to 1946.
3. Metal shoulder titles—1920 to 1929.
4. Metal shoulder titles—1929+.
5. Metal shoulder titles of the Boys' Technical School.
6. Metal shoulder titles (with Company backing) of the Army Apprentices' Schools.
7. Metal button and cloth shoulder title of the Army Apprentices' School.
8. Metal cap badge of the Army Apprentices' Schools (King's crown).
9. Anodised cap badge with Queen's crown.
10. Metal and anodised collar dogs.
11. Musicians cross belt badge.

From the collection of ***Colonel C. J. Walters****.*



Continued from Page 142

Barracks, which were no longer required by these units, were not ideal for a Boys' unit, but by September 1947 the first 50 Apprentice recruits arrived. The early purpose of the School was to train tradesmen of the RE, RA, REME and clerks from all Arms.

It was not until September 1948 that the first Royal Signals Boys arrived at Harrogate. They came from the Boys' Squadron at Catterick which was the successor to 'F' Company. There were 400 Boys and staff involved in the move. And thus it is that the lineage of the Apprenticeship is traced through the Boys' Squadron. The oldest of the Boys went on to pass out on 1 February 1949 and thereby commenced an unbroken relationship between Harrogate and the Corps.

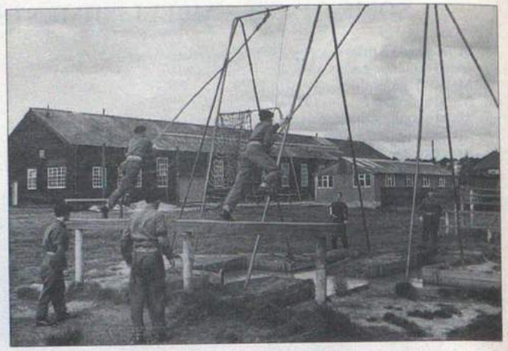
In June 1949 the establishment of the School was extended to accommodate 1,000 Boys. These were to be made up of 700 Apprentices and 300 General Duty Boys. The increased total was achieved by early 1950.

At the time that the School was established there were already three other Apprentices' Schools in existence at Chepstow, Taunton and Arborfield. The oldest of these was Chepstow. The newest was The Army Apprentices' School, Taunton, which had only opened in 1947. However, it was closed in September 1949 and 400 of the Apprentices were posted to Harrogate; it had been a close decision whether to disestablish Harrogate or not, but the Northern outpost survived.

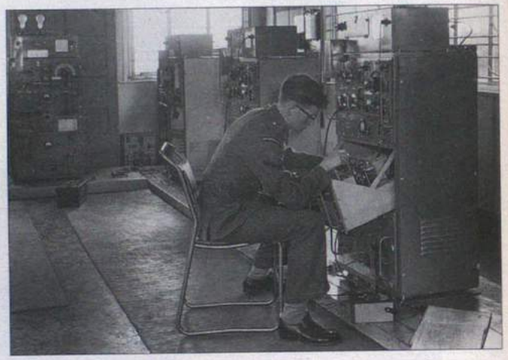
This put greater emphasis on the need for Harrogate which absorbed the extra Sappers, including the building trades, and in doing so became the largest of the Apprentices' Schools with 1,070 Apprentices under training. It also resulted in some of the tradesmen moving to either Chepstow (Welders and Sheet Metal Workers) or Arborfield (Vehicle Mechanics and Fitters). Thus, by September 1949 the School was predominantly Royal Engineers but Royal Signals were now established. The allocation of Signals trades was, 210 Operators Wireless and Line, 70 Radio Mechanics, and 35 each of Line and Telegraph Mechanics.

During the 1950s there was considerable rationalisation of the Apprentices' Schools and another School was opened at Carlisle. By 1962 Harrogate was Royal Signals trades only; Telegraph Operator, Electronic Technician, Line Technician, Radio Technician, Radio Technician Light, Radio Relay Technician and Telegraph Technician. In 1966 the School was renamed—Army Apprentices' College—and with a major £3 million rebuild in the late 1960s, the modern training establishment was set to see the Corps through to the end of the Century with a steady supply of up to 500 high grade tradesmen each year.

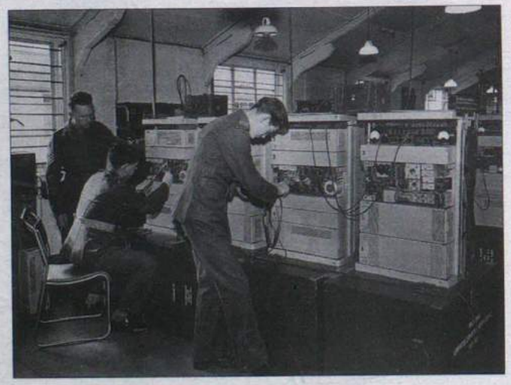
(1) For details see—The Royal Corps of Signals, a History of its Antecedents and Development, by **Major General R. F. H. Nalder CB OBE**—Pages 6 and 52.
Reference—Sons of the Brave by A. W. Cockerill.



The Uniacke Barracks assault course



Apprentice LCpl Coulson fault finding on a 53 Set



Line Technicians fault finding on a carrier equipment
ACT 1+4 Mark 2 under the supervision of
Sgt (later Lt Col) Brian O'Connor

All photographs taken at the Army Apprentices' School, Harrogate in December 1960

THE LONDON DISTRICT SIGNALS 'SECRET WEAPON MYSTERY'

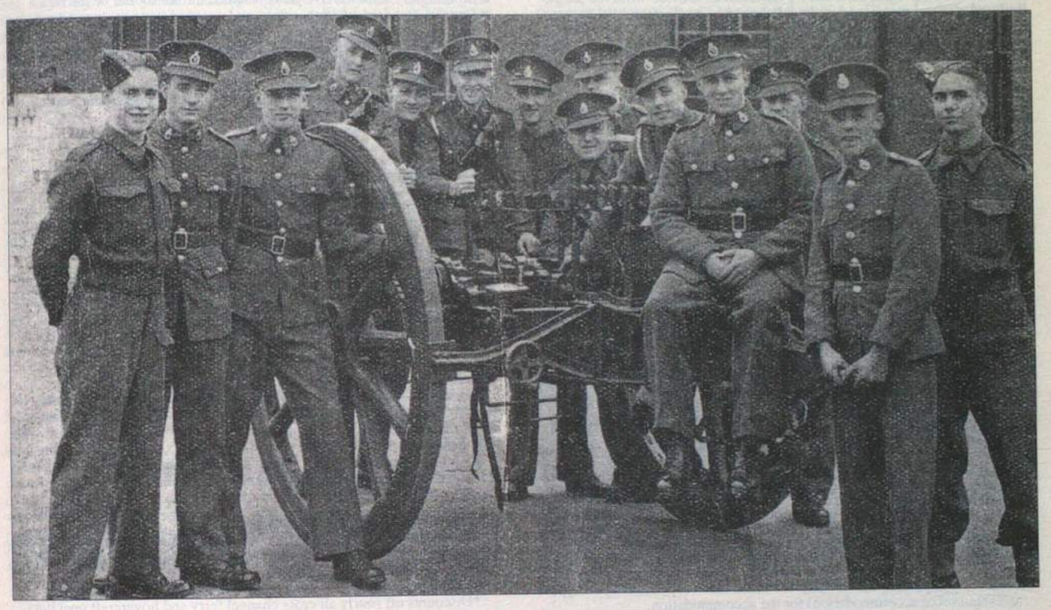
Mr Gordon S. Fackrell has sent the following anecdote which will be of interest to many readers during our 75th anniversary year.

'In 1941 the London District Signals occupied the RHA Barracks in St John's Wood.

On being posted from Catterick to St John's Wood, I found that the unit was in possession of the 'secret weapon', a horse-drawn cable wagon, albeit without horses. The mystery?–How did this ancient piece of equipment come to be in the centre of London? Was it intended to lay cable through the streets of London, drawn by the pictured linemen? Where did it find a resting place eventually?'

Perhaps someone may be able to tell us?

(**Gordon Fackrell** still has his copy of the 1941 *Wire* and photographs of the complete LDS complement. He is a member of the RSA).



A TRIBUTE TO THE CORPS FROM MAJOR GENERAL BRAHM DEV KAPUR

As the 'Elder Statesman' of the Indian Signal Corps, I would like to pay a personal tribute to The Royal Signals on this historic occasion.

Commissioned into Indian Signals on 2nd February 1937, the integrity and unfailing loyalty of Royal Signals Officers and other ranks I commanded will go down in history as the basic tenets and *Esprit de Corps* of a great Corps. I was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel at 27 years age and my first command was 'B' Corps Signal Regiment at Quetta. All my officers were British and the British ranks complement was about 400. Later in the Arakan I was given command of a rather unwieldy Regiment, 'S' L of C Signals, spanning a communication system of over 260 miles. Among my 45 Officers, 40 were British, and about 800 British ranks and 1400 Indian ranks. In hindsight I cannot imagine how I inspired respect for the Commanding Officer, but the British discipline was axiomatic in the British national character.

Having submitted my plan for the post-war nationalisation of the Indian Signals from the Burma Theatre, **Maj Gen C. H. H.** 'Tiger' **Vulliamy**, the Director of Signals ordered my posting to the General Headquarters of **Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchenleck**. I duly reported on 10 August 1945 and as GSOI (Signals) I put my plan into action for the nationalisation of the Corps. By the time **Major General Johnny Nalder** took over as Director of Signals, India had gained independence from 15 August 1947 and I was directed to hasten the replacement of British Commanding Officers of Regiments by that date. **General Nalder** arrived at a crucial time; he not only helped to instal the Corps Flag in Mhow, thus establishing our right to set up the College of Telecommunications Engineering, which he personally planned, but he also gave the Indian Signal Corps the constitution of the Indian Signals Association.

Although the support for nationalisation came from all the British Commanding Officers, I must single out **Colonel** (later **Major General**) **Richard Moberly**, who commanded the School of Signals at this crucial time and later became the Commandant of the Signals Training Centre, Jabalpur.

And lastly my Instructor at Staff College, **Maj Gen David Horsfield** (Lt Col then) who used his red ink liberally on my submissions and thus training me for a rewarding career outside my Corps. Thank you Sir!

I salute the Royal Signals.

THE MAN FROM THE MINISTRY

(with continued apologies to all other R Signals personnel working in the MoD)
by Maj Steve Turnbull

SO2 PS10a2(A), Directorate of Personal Services (Army)

What's in a name? The sharper readers will have noted that yes, the MoD has gone through one of its endless reorganisations and D Pers (A) is no more. Happily no responsibility can be attributed to me for the new title, however I can assure you that references to Miss Whiplash and the type of personal service she may offer will be deeply resented!

So what is happening in the personnel world? If you haven't heard of the Bett Review by now, you must be living on an OP on the island of St Kilda, so I will talk a little about that. Many of you (2 Sig Regt, 210, 238, 242 and 249 Sig Sqns) will have been or soon will be involved in the Railcard survey I mentioned in the last issue of *The Wire*, and I'll have an update on that. Then to round things off I will talk about the Forces' Discount Brochure and some new offers for Service Personnel that you may find interesting.

The Bett Review

Or to give it its full title, The Independent Review of the Armed Forces Manpower, Career and Renumeration Structures was a 19th month review into the Armed Forces. Its intention was to identify what changes would be necessary to the way the Forces operate between now and the year 2015.

The review has produced a report for the Secretary of State (for Defence–do keep up!) which is intended to be a discussion document rather than a blueprint for the future. At the same time as the report was published a letter was sent to all Service personnel which carried a message from both the Secretary of State and Mr Michael Brett the Chairman of the review.

The report which the review body issued made some 151 recommendations on everything from future pension provision to deployment allowance, and from the establishment of a 3 star MoD Director of Personnel to the need to get local authorities to do more in the Garrison Towns.

There is a lot in the report, and now the services are evaluating it and taking the opportunity given by the Secretary of State to produce a response and this will be due in the late summer.

It is important that we don't dismiss the report out of hand. Certainly there are parts of it which are very contentious, but there are also some aspects which are positive and certainly merit further examination. This is a summary of how I see the main points (I stress these are my ideas rather than the MoD's, and are only a few highly selective points. I'm sure you have your own ideas):

Bad points

- Leave Travel allowances, except for those under 18 should cease.
- Anyone living in service accommodation whether married, single or voluntarily separated should pay the same rate (dependent upon type and standard of accommodation) for the accommodation.
- Early pensions should end and be replaced by preserved pensions at age 50 and end of service grants.

More Work Required

- Introduction of a new pay scheme to replace existing system–quite a lot of pros and cons to this!
- Introduce a regional posting policy to improve family stability–good idea but can it work?
- Phase out time promotion–good in principle but needs to be linked to changes to the trade structure.
- New appraisal system developed and linked in with new pay ranges (performance pay)–won't it be very complex to manage?
- New deployment allowance to replace Northern Ireland pay, Falkland Islands pay etc–good idea, easier to get additional pay on operations ie. Bosnia, Rwanda, Gulf war–but what would be the eligibility criteria?
- Leave should become an entitlement–good, but what about all those odd days off, or COs leave–would an entitlement be more rigidly controlled and strictly enforced?

Good Points

- Rationalisation of trade structure and greater multi-skilling–good news especially if tied to . . .
- Wherever possible training should lead to recognised civilian qualifications.
- Extend existing RN assisted house purchase scheme to other two services–beware you may have to change to new pension terms of service to get this!
- Removal and disturbance allowances should be improved for single personnel and service contract removals should include full insurance.
- Introduction of pay-as-you-dine system.
- More family stability, five years between moves should be the aim.
- General standard of both single and married service accommodation should be improved.
- The MoD should identify the ways in which Service personnel are disadvantaged compared to civilians in the provision of services from other government departments.
- Service children should not be disadvantaged in obtaining access to popular local schools.

As I said it is a long report.

Forces Railcard Survey

By now the interview part of this survey should be well under way. If you have been selected for interview I hope you told them what they wanted to know, but more importantly I hope you told them that you make many extra rail journeys because of the discounted tickets available with your Railcard–(hint for anyone with an interview coming up!)

To back up this interview there is also to be a simple postal survey. This will involve 3,000 Service personnel based in mainland UK. The survey sample is large because they only expect to get about 33% of the questionnaires back. If you get one, send it back. It's your card and if we get this wrong then next April there won't be a Forces' Railcard at all!

Forces' Discount Brochure

Have you got one? The 1994 Forces' Discount Brochure! Just over 300,000 were printed for the three services, units had to bid for them on a scale of one per Service person from a central distribution point at CSE Llangennech. On 1 March there were over 100,000 unissued brochures! If you didn't get one last year see your Troop Staff Sergeant or Troop Comd and ask them to get the Orderly Room to order them for this year.

The 1995 Forces' Discount Brochure

This publication is normally due out in April of each year (not February as given in the last *Wire*). This year, printing has been delayed and it is not likely to be available before late June or early July.

Not worth the bother?–well here are some of the offers available:

*Discounts off nearly all cross channel ferry and hovercraft operators.

*Eurotrain discounts for the under 26s.

*American Express Corporate cards for all officers, warrant officers and now SNCOs–too late to amend the brochure but ring them and ask!

*Discounted air travel from a range of operators.

*Discounted membership of all major motoring organisations–if you're already a member join the group scheme at your next renewal, it will save the money.

*Discounted car rentals–all major firms.

*Discounted holidays–some offers exclusive to service personnel.

*Discounts from hotels, shops, attractions, on computers and health insurance and many others.

Coming up in 1995:

*Rent a TV, Video or satellite?–Check out Granada UK new armed Force discount rates.

*Clothes from Dunn & Co.

*Possibility–The Army Credit Card–better terms than Barclaycard!

(Please note not all the 'coming up' offers are yet to be finalised, so they may change or not happen at all).

So make sure you get your copy, because if you don't, then only you will be the one who misses out. More information in the next issue of *The Wire*.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please advise the Subscriptions Clerk at RHQ, IN WRITING, of any change of address. This information should not be telephoned.

ROYAL SIGNALS IN SOUTHERN CHILE

On 9 January 1995, **Cpl Jim Toms**, a Tele Op (Tg), from 7 Sig Regt departed from London Heathrow on Raleigh International's Expedition 95A to Patagonian Chile in the role of expedition Communications Officer (fancy way of saying Radio Operator!) and as one of the Assistant Logistics Managers (even fancier way of saying general dogsbody). After travelling for nearly four days, the staff arrived at the Field Base just outside Coyhaique, the largest town in Chile's Region XI which has an area equivalent to both Scotland and Wales combined, but with a population of only approximately 40,000.

Raleigh International, formerly known as Operation Raleigh, is a UK based International youth development charity, whose aims are to develop young people aged between 17 and 25 through challenging adventurous, scientific, community and environmental projects. In Chile these include Sea Kayaking in the Chonos Archipelago and down to the Laguna San Rafael, whose glacier is the closest one in the world which reaches the sea this close to the equator. Also included are projects held in conjunction with both Cambridge and Liverpool Universities in geological and environmental studies. Community projects include building a community hall for a widespread and very isolated community to the north of Lago General Carrera, and building a carpentry workshop, post office and renovation of a school at various other project sites.

After arriving in El Verdin, the staff had to do their project recces, work out how much equipment they would need and be trained in the various techniques they may need out on site. A training team was despatched to Lago Castor, which is right on the border between Chile and Argentina—in fact to get to it we had to drive through the Chilean border post. This was the chance to practise my communications training prior to the Venturers arriving. After some fine tuning and lesson plans blowing away in the wind/carried off by the enormous horse flies endemic in the area, all was ready.

V-Day arrived, and the screaming hoards arrived at El Verdin after travelling for two days by coach from Santiago, through Argentina and back into Chile. The very next day they started their training by bus, except for the last 10km, which they had to walk. Many blisters later, they arrived at the training area all ready for the first radio lesson. A student to teacher ratio of 124:1 is not recommended! Introducing them to the complexities of the PRC320, dipoles, sloping wires, counterpoises and relay procedure was never wasted. So far though, all the communications have gone well, far better than we could have hoped after only 2½ hours of instruction, so I suppose the lessons must have been taken in, at least by some of them.

Once the expedition had deployed, and Field Base settled into a sort of chaotic routine, I had the chance to get out and visit some of the sites. A lot of the early visits were due to medical evacuations, and equipment that was originally thought not to be required, but then discovered to be most important. Whilst the role of Communications Officer keeps me based at Field Base, I have still had the chance to go to the El Claro project site for a week, helping to construct a large community hall for a very isolated and dispersed community of some 30-40 families. Whilst thtere I had the opportunity to go trekking along the southern shore of Lago Lapparent. We had also hoped to get onto the mountain ridge overlooking the lake, but the two of us were forced back by increasingly difficult terrain and thick vegetation, I never want to see a thorn bush again–these were like razor wire! In the near future it is intended to go to the San Rafael Glacier by boat, by all accounts a spectacular sight, with dophins, seals and penguins thrown in.

Chile is a fantastic country, the scenery is just out of this world, and every day something different happens, and you have to be ready for anything, including going looking for trekking project groups who haven't been in touch for 48 hours–the cut off period. Luckily contact was made before I had to go trekking into the wilderness with my PRC 320 in my bergan, but only just. Thanks must be given to the CO 7 Sig Regt, Lt Col D. McDowall MBE, and to Maj J. M. S. Turner RA Sigs, 232 Sig Sqn Comd for allowing me to take part in the expedition, and to WO2 (SSM) M. Simcox for suggesting it to me in the first place, and finally to WO2 (YofS) K. M. Parker for letting me out of the cage for three months into the sunlight.

The photograph shows Cpl Jim Toms giving some more detailed hints on the 320 at the El Claro project site to a group of both venturers and staff members.



ARMY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

SSgt Alan Higgins, 2 Sig Regt, recently joined the Army Football Association's elite 'Silver Salver' club having made a century of appearances (current total 105) for the Army at representative level.

In addition, he has played for the Combined Services on numerous occasions including captaining the combined side in the recent Kentish Cup matches against the Belgian (won 2–0) and Dutch (lost 5–2) Armed Forces XIs.

ARMY CHALLENGE CUP FINAL

2 Sig Regt won the Army Challenge Cup when they beat 3 RSME Regt RE on 26 April, at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, by one goal to nil. **Sig S.** 'Barney' **Bambrook**, who was a member of this year's Army Senior Squad, scored the only goal after half an hour of the opening half of the game.

The prestigious 'Bob Wilson Memorial Trophy' awarded annually to the 'Player of the Match' in the Army Challenge Cup Final (which is sponsored by Wilsons Independent Financial Advisers (Wilson Hogg Robinson)), and, on this occasion, chosen by **Mr Jimmy Armfield**, former England, Blackpool and Army Footballer, went to **Sig Joe Collins**, another member of the current Army and Combined Services squads.

Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle, CB, CBE, DL, The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen Alan Yeoman** (Director of the Army Sports Control Board) and former Commanding Officer of the Regiment, and **Brig N. F. Wood** the Deputy SOinC were present.



Pictured with the Army Challenge Football Cup is the team from 2 Sig Regt (*L to R*) back row: Cpl Barry Flintoff, Sig Joe Collins, Sgt Lee Turbitt, LCpl Mark Schorah, Sigs Dave Connelly, Simon Mandy, John Rochford, Cpls Gerry McGachy, Steve Pengelly, Charlie Charlwood, Calvin Bent, Gary Hayhurst, Pte Mick Sellers, Cpl Steve Burke. Front row: Sig Os Rowley, SSgt Terry Parle, Cpl Andy McWilliam, SSgt Al Higgins. Holding the cup is Sgt Steve Perkins (captain)

1994 TRIATHLON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS—NEW ZEALAND

by Karen Metcalfe, 63 Sig Sqn (V)

INTRODUCTION

The Olympic Distance Triathlon consists of a 1500m open water swim, a 40k bike section and a 10k run. All elements are timed, including the transitional stages in between the three different elements. The sport has just received probationary status for the 2000 Olympics.

TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER (not to be confused with Monday)
Auckland/Wellington, New Zealand

Arrived at Auckland a little late. The transfer flight for Wellington departs from another terminal (15 minutes bus ride away) and I haven't cleared customs; mad dash to the bus, where a lady GB team member with a baby has lost a man looking after her bike—leaves baby with me, to find the man, bus arrives, no mother of baby . . . miraculously we finally make the connection, but only because the flight is delayed 20 minutes for us, much to the displeasure of the other 'business' type passengers. Our approach to Wellington was in keeping with its reputation of being the 'windy city'. The crew appear totally unperturbed by the whole business and rightly so because at 0930hrs we touch down quite smoothly. Now to find my accommodation and bed!

WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER
Wellington

After 16½ hours of sleep I feel half human, so it's time to have a look around and find my bearings. 0700hrs out on the bike, it's all in one piece and functioning as it should be with the exception of my tri-bars which I have been unable to tighten, as I appear to have forgotten to bring the appropriately sized spanner. Out along the coast road where there are scores of people out running, cycling and walking to the Freyberg swimming pool, where all of the competitors have free use in the run up to race day. Then off to register at GB team HQ, meet **Stacy** and **Phil** (fellow Tri-club members) and arrange a practice swim around the course for that afternoon.

The wind has picked up again and the water looks very choppy, if it is like this on race day the stronger swimmers will have a distinct advantage. The water is not too cold but difficult to swim in because of the waves, already I have taken a number of unwanted mouthfuls of sea water. It seems to take forever to reach the first buoy at 600m, what I call 'survival swimming'. I opt for bi-lateral breathing as I generally find this more relaxing but I have forgotten the Vaseline for my neck and the collar of my wetsuit is beginning to rub quite badly, (four weeks on I still have the scars from this!). Eventually I am on the last leg of the swim and when I eventually scramble out and up the 20 or so steps to the quayside I feel quite dizzy. This is not unusual, just keep running, it gradually wears off. **Stacy** and **Phil** are already out waiting for me, I don't think I will be doing that again before race day! Still on schedule with **Spencer** though, he's just exiting the water and walks past us passing the time of day with his ever present Dad, **Bill**, offering some words of encouragement. To round the day off a gentle jog along the run course, it's too late to do any serious stuff now with only three days to go, and so to bed.

THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER

Attend swim coaching at the pool with GB Team, my neck looks even worse than yesterday but the good news (or is it?), the sea has calmed significantly. Team photographs are being taken today at 1430hrs at the Civic Centre, but I must try and get a cycle in today, preferably around the non-motorway section of the course.

The team photographs are followed by the opening ceremony, parade and pasta party for 1500 people! There was traditional Maori dancing and singing and 'tongue waggling' challenges to the unfortunate representatives of the national teams. After this we piled into the 'Adventurer' camper van, to take a look at the bike course. There is only one real hill on the course but it was a monster, at least it felt like it in the 'Adventurer' Van. I will find out for real tomorrow.

FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER Race Day

Well the climb wasn't too bad, out of the saddle for 95% of the time but at least I was going in the right direction, lots of thanks to 'H' and 'Woolfie' (new found friends from the RGJ) for keeping me company. When I get back, an easy jog just to keep things moving, then 1400hrs for the GB Team race briefing and a couple of hours in the sun.

SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER Race Day

Almost there, early morning swim and a recce of the transition area, there are queues of competitors sporting their team colours waiting to check in their bikes and equipment. We have to wait until 1400hrs.

With over 1500 bikes in the transition area it is important to be able to recognise yours, when you stagger in from the swim section, your mind numbed by the cold and oxygen deprivation, so I note a couple of reference points and practice a few dry runs.

SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER—Race Day

Well here it is, almost the end of 18 months of eat, sleep and breathe Triathlon. I take a light breakfast, my stomach couldn't cope with anything else, grab my gear and head off to Lambton Quay for my 0726hrs start. Although it's only 0610hrs there are hundreds of people milling around. The weather is cool, cloudy with a gusty wind—just a little too gusty for my liking. Tyres checked, shoes laid out, computer zeroed, final check of my relocation reference points and now to get numbered and hand in my kit into Shed 6. A cannon firing outside indicates the start of the Junior's Elite race at 0700hrs. Outside I meet with some other teammates. Start times are different for each age group and different coloured swim caps indicate which wave we are in. We wish each other luck and I am sure we all felt equally nervous. I move to the top of the 20 steps which lead to the sea. My wave is called into the water, it's freezing! So cold I have difficulty submerging my face without gasping frantically—and we have go race 1500m in this?

We are given the one minute warning, check my goggles, take a deep breath and we're off. The first 200m are always the worst, a real dog fight for a position, arms and legs kicking, pulling and grabbing everywhere. I have forgotten the cold now. It takes an absolute age to get to the first buoy at 600m. The waves here are about 3ft high, you can't see over them that's for sure. At 800m the fastest men of the next wave catch up, wearing purple swim caps. I start to overtake some from the wave before us, green swim caps. At 1000m I am trying to lock on to my aiming points of the two tall buildings which will guide me to the swim exit point. My left arm is aching and I feel as though I have been in the water forever but soon the end of the swim looms and I scramble on my hands and knees and stagger up another 20 steps.

At the top I run through the timing tent dragging my wetsuit off to the waist as I go, run the 300m to my bike, find it, thankfully. Wetsuit off, helmet on, shoes on, grab the bike and head off for the bike mounting zone, another 200m away.

The bike section proves to be testing, the wind is very strong on the elevated stretches of motorway. I hit the Brooklyn Hill climb, confident from my training ride two days earlier and that less than a quarter of the way up a rival is walking! However about half way up the hill I am overtaken by my training partner, **Roz**, I am hopeless on hills! At the top I start the long descent to the coast, I can see **Roz** ahead and I am determined to catch her, as I do I shout some 'encouragement', knowing that she will not overtake me again until the 10k run, I still have an eight minute lead on her from the swim so I should still be able to beat her overall.

Heading back towards Wellington the wind is, once more, head on. 'Woolfie' comes past me going uphill shouting 'back of the saddle, heels down!' or words to that effect. Cheers 'Woolfie'. The motorcycle draftbusters are out in real force and along the road there has been a pile up, most likely caused by people dodging and weaving to avoid being accused of illegal drafting and being forced to stop the bike, or even disqualified. Now back on the motorway for the final 10k of the bike section, shortly after a 360 degree turn I see another teammate, **Amanda**, behind me, she must have had a good bike and her best discipline is yet to come, this looks ominous for me so any extra distance I can put between the two of us now is the only security I am going to get.

Back into transition for the last time and out onto the run course. The course is a double out and back course (good for spectators) and about 20,000 locals have turned out, in what is now brilliant sunshine, to cheer us on. Also lots of opportunities to see what your fellow competitors are up to. Many thanks to all those GB teammates who shouted encouragement as we passed. This is my weakest event, the first 5k are a lot stronger than the last, when I feel as though I am going backwards. At the turn round points I can establish the time between me and my main rivals. It's not good news; although I am overtaking others, my rivals are closing and at 6k **Roz** overtakes me and 1k later so does **Amanda**. But just 3k to go and it will all be over. As I cross the finish line I cannot be disappointed, I was beaten by **Amanda** but my eight minute advantage over **Roz** proved too much for her to pull back on the run. I had recorded my third fastest time over the Olympic Distance on what was a difficult course by anyone's standards.

MOVEMENTS

OFFICERS

APRIL 1995

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj M. Banks	The Royal School of Signals
Maj B. T. Dearman	HQ 3 Inf Bde
Maj I. L. Dudding	37 Sig Regt (V)
Maj R. H. Gladwin	HQ 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde
Maj C. R. Lawrence	HQ CSSG (G)
Maj M. V. Ledwards	HQ LANDCOM
Maj R. C. Offord	SANGCOM
Maj P. Robertshaw	AA Coll Harrogate
Maj M. G. Shaw	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt B. Alderson	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Capt N. A. Beecher	280 (UK) Sig Sqn
Capt K. Bell	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
Capt M. J. Boxall	HQ 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde
Capt A. D. Burgin	The Royal School of Signals
Capt G. R. Burrows	JCUNI
Capt A. D. Cathro	30 Sig Regt
Capt R. F. W. Chapman	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Capt C. N. Cooper	15 Sig Regt
Capt J. W. Cooper	The Royal School of Signals
Capt J. H. Fraser	The Royal School of Signals
Capt P. H. Grainger	30 Cdt Trg Team
Capt N. J. Griffiths	The Royal School of Signals
Capt T. W. Heelan	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (203)
Capt T. M. Jones	The Royal School of Signals
Capt J. E. Mullender	HQ LANDCOM
Capt F. J. Say	RMAS
Capt M. Smith	The Royal School of Signals
Capt N. F. Thompson	The Royal School of Signals
Capt C. J. Whitehead	21 Sig Regt (AS)

MAY 1995

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col G. A. James	Bowman Military Team
Lt Col I. A. Noble	BMM SANGCOM
Lt Col A. M. Wallace	SANGCOM
Capt R. G. Allan	30 Sig Regt
Capt P. Bosher	Exch Offr CDN 1 Sig Regtt
Capt N. D. Fraser	8 R Irish
Capt L. Y. Giles	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt D. C. Marsden	RAF MPA Admin Wing
Capt P. A. Smith	Op Grapple–HQ BRITFOR
Capt J. S. T. Sykes	9 Sig Regt (R)
Lt M. C. Correll	7 Sig Regt

WOs AND SNCOs

APRIL 1995

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 D. A. Wright	Birmingham UOTC
A/WO1 A. S. Dos-Martyres	The Royal School of Signals
A/WO1 D. S. Toon	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218)
WO2 M. P. Boyle	The Royal School of Signals
WO2 S. J. Chudleigh	14 Sig Regt (EW)
WO2 S. Grantham	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
WO2 C. P. Mountain	CDCN
WO2 T. Oakes	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 W. Ogden	40 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 P. J. Plant	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/WO2 T. P. Crane	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/WO2 M. E. G. Heelan	14 Sig Regt (EW)
A/WO2 J. K. Martin	39 Sig Regt (SC) (V)
A/WO2 N. D. Parry	DGTA & ORG
SSgt M. R. Bain	HQ PSCNORTH (BAE)
SSgt C. L. Brown	ACIO Hull
SSgt M. Henley	2 Sig Regt
SSgt M. Hoy	ACIO Bristol
SSgt S. K. King	240 Sig Sqn
SSgt K. Murray	600 Sig Tp
SSgt S. A. Smoothy	280 (UK) Sig Sqn
SSgt D. S. Whiting	225 Sig Sqn
A/SSgt R. H. Angrove	237 Sig Sqn
A/SSgt G. A. Coffin	HQ ARRC
A/SSgt M. P. Hodkinson	UK NAT MIL REP SHAPE
A/SSgt G. C. N. Keane	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
Sgt A. C. Armitage	1 Green Howards
Sgt J. H. Body	7 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Campbell	16 Sig Regt
Sgt D. R. P. Dagnall	237 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. L. Dedman	HQ Brunei Garrison
Sgt A. R. Dixon	34 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt F. J. W. Duddy	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt K. Ellams	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt J. E. Evans	280 (UK) Sig Sqn
Sgt A. Foster	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt S. C. Fowler	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (203)
Sgt C. R. Garratt	ARRC Sp Bn
Sgt A. Ironside	280 (UK) Sig Sqn
Sgt M. J. Keeble	16 Sig Regt
Sgt L. D. Kemp	RMAS
Sgt P. B. S. Lambert	237 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. M. May	251 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. O. Morley	38 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt M. S. Payne	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
Sgt P. J. L. Peterken	223 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. G. Pickersgill	17 CTT
Sgt E. Pomperoy	ACIO Liverpool
Sgt J. D. Richardson	251 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. Thompson	251 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. P. Walsh	2 Sig Regt
Sgt L. A. Webster	223 Sig Sqn
A/Sgt A. P. Bohanna	The Royal School of Signals
A/Sgt R. B. Moore	The Royal School of Signals
A/Sgt P. S. Parkes	The Royal School of Signals
A/Sgt J. R. Payne	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218)
A/Sgt W. L. Payne	1 Irish Guards
A/Sgt D. J. Thwaite	243 Sig Sqn
A/Sgt D. J. White	2 Sig Regt

MAY 1995

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
A/WO1 T. J. Keates	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/WO1 (FofS) P. McGiveron	9 Sig Regt (R)
WO2 P. J. Griffiths	The Royal School of Signals
WO2 C. M. McCue	Leeds UOTC
WO2 T. A. McCutcheon	7 Sig Regt
WO2 T. Singleton	238 Sig Sqn
WO2 D. W. Smy	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
A/WO2 N. R. Coatsworth	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/WO2 (FofS) M. R. Edwards	19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209)
A/WO2 M. D. Elliott	Liverpool UOTC
A/WO2 S. C. Kelly	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
A/WO2 (FofS) W. Simpson	225 Sig Sqn
A/WO2 (FofS) S. Wardle	63 Sig Sqn (V)
SSgt (FofS) A. J. Bain	30 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) T. M. Brown	34 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (FofS) M. J. Cowle	37 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (FofS) J. Docherty	2 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) M. Gibbons	55 Sig Sqn (V)
SSgt (FofS) A. P. Glover	30 Sig Regt
SSgt A. Higgins	7 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) A. G. Jenkins	ARRC Sp Bn
SSgt (FofS) P. Johnson	33 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (FofS) D. G. Jones	2 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) I. M. Matthews	RSA Larkhill
SSgt (FofS) M. A. Oliver	32 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (FofS) T. T. Sanderson	The Royal School of Signals
SSgt (FofS) A. Scott	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) M. A. Solomons	21 Sig Regt (AS)
SSgt (FofS) J. J. Whitty	35 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (FofS) A. D. Williams	237 Sig Sqn
SSgt (FofS) R. J. Wymer	31 Sig Regt (V)
A/SSgt J. J. Alger	30 Sig Regt
A/SSgt A. C. Painter	238 Sig Sqn
Sgt L. W. Colquhoun	11 Sig Regt
Sgt D. M. Cook	30 Sig Regt
Sgt N. W. Fletcher	604 Sig Tp
Sgt A. J. Gordon	JCUFI
Sgt A. Harbord	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
Sgt J. J. Holland	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. J. Kelly	30 Sig Regt
Sgt J. L. Kidby	Depot Tp Blandford
Sgt A. G. Lewis	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt W. J. Loch	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
Sgt J. P. Marsden	21 Sig Regt (AS)
Sgt S. L. McKinnon	7 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Pace	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt N. L. L. Perham	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt C. Pullen	237 Sig Sqn
Sgt W. Ryan	7 Sig Regt
Sgt S. F. Slade	2 Sig Regt
Sgt G. Terry	20 Cadet Trg Team
Sgt A. J. D. Walker-Morecroft	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt I. J. Walling	225 Sig Sqn
A/SSgt W. J. Cardwell	31 Sig Regt (V)
A/SSgt B. Heslop	1 BW
A/SSgt S. F. M. Lawes	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

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DEATHS

Ashton–Sgt K. V. Ashton–served 1949-50–died 25 February 1995.

Baines–Sig C. E. J. Baines–served 1949-62–died 29 November 1994.

Carruthers–Sgt J. Carruthers–served 1949-1971–died 18 December 1994.

Crawford–Capt W. Crawford (V)–served 1957-64–died March 1995.

Drane–WO2 D. Drane–served 1956-78–died 14 February 1995.

Edwards–WO2 W. Edwards–died 11 February 1995.

Graney–Sig H. Graney–served 1939-45–died 19 March 1995.

Greenwood–Sgt P. E. Greenwood–served 1948-70–died 30 January 1995.

Hayden–Lt V. S. H. Hayden–died 8 December 1994.

Hayes–Cpl W. M. Hayes–served 1964-0000–died 24 February 1995.

MacKay–Sgt D. MacKay–served 1949-0000–died 11 November 1994.

MacLennan–Maj M. J. MacLennan–died 3 January 1995.

Martin–Maj R. T. Martin–died 26 September 1993.

McClarron–Capt R. McClarron–died 31 August 1994.

Parker–Maj L. J. Parker–died 6 October 1994.

Parry–Maj P. K. Parry–died 15 December 1994.

Robson–LCpl R. Robson–served 1942-46–died 6 May 1995.

Spitttal–LCp W. Spittal–served 1943-46–died 21 April 1995.

Sugden–Capt D. Sugden–died 17 November 1994.

Wylie–Sgt H. Wylie MBE–served 1931-1966–died 7 October 1994.

MISS LETITIA FOWLER

Miss Letitia Fowler died on 23 April 1995, aged 85 years. She was the daughter of the first Colonel Commandant of the Corps, the late **Lt Gen Sir John Fowler KCB, KCMG, DSO**.

OBITUARIES

Bailey–Joseph (better known as **Bill**). **Lt Col (Retd) M. A. Philp** writes:

Bill Bailey died suddenly on 14 March 1995. I do not know any details of his early career in the Corps but he served as my batman driver while we were training for the Normandy invasion and later in Normandy itself. He landed on the morning of D-Day 1944. In civilian life he had been a Manchester lorry driver and he was a first class driver and very competent mechanic who always kept his vehicle in first class order. He went through the whole of the Normandy and North-West Campaign until VE Day with 3 Divisional Signals and never suffered a scratch. After the war he went back to his heavy lorry driving in Manchester.

We wish to extend our most sincere condolences to his widow and married daughter and grandchildren.

Homewood–SSgt William Frank Homewood. The death of **William Homewood** occurred on 21 March 1995, aged 83 years. He joined the Corps in 1939 and during his 22 year's service he went to Italy, Palestine, Cyprus and Malaya. He will be much missed by his many friends. We send our condolences to his widow **Josie** and to the family.

Latter—Raymond Edward Latter. Ray who died on 16 March 1995, joined 238 Sig Sqn on 11 October 1976 when it was part of 10 Sig Regt. Throughout his time with the Squadron **Ray** worked in the MT, bringing a robust and unique style to the job. Never afraid to express an opinion he soon became a strong character in the Squadron. During his 19 years with the Squadron **Ray Latter** saw many changes and a great number of people come and go; his presence often providing MT with the continuity it needed. He will be sorely missed. Our condolences go to his son **Mark**.

Roberts—ex WO2 (RQMS) L. L. Roberts died peacefully after a short illness, on Wednesday 22 February 1995.

He re-enlisted after war service; in 1952 serving with King's African Rifles in Kenya; Hammersmith, London, returned to Kenya and finally to 14 Sig Regt (EW) at Bampton, Oxon, retiring in 1968. He will be sadly missed. We send our condolences to his family.

We are grateful to our subscribers who inform us of deaths of former members of the Corps.
We do like to keep our records as complete as possible and, more importantly, keep in touch with widows or other members of the family. If you wish to write a small tribute to a deceased member, we shall be pleased to publish this. Also, if you know of widows who are no longer in touch with the Corps and who would like to hear from us–let us know.

NOTICES

CORPS DATES

28 June	Princess Royal Day
2 September	Corps Luncheon (North), Catterick
12 October	Master's Guest Night including Hon Colonels Briefing, Blandford
3 November	Corps Scottish Dinner, Glasgow
9 November	Field of Remembrance, Westminster
23 November	Royal Signals Institution London Lecture, London
19 December	Corps Carol Service

MASTER OF SIGNALS DINNER AT BLANDFORD–12 OCTOBER 1995

Since it was decided that eligibility for attendance at the London Dinner at The Hilton on 4 July 1995 is to be based on the rules governing the annual London Dinner sponsored by the Officers' Dinner Club, thereby excluding wives, The Master of Signals Dinner in Blandford on 12 October 1995 will be a Ladies Guest Night as part of the 75th Anniversary Celebrations with priority for the Retired Corps. Wives of Honorary Colonels are additionally welcome to attend the afternoon briefing scheduled for Honorary Colonels.

Those who wish to be considered for a place at The Master of Signals Dinner should apply to RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. If more than a full complement of applications is received, every attempt will be made to allocate places as equitably as possible.

Applications should be made as soon as possible and not later than 1 July 1995. They should state whether or not overnight accommodation is requested. It is hoped that successful applicants will be advised by the end of July.

ROYAL SIGNALS BAND REUNION 1994

29 October heralded the first ever reunion of the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals. Approximately 180 people from all over the United Kingdom attended on Saturday. Guest houses and hotels were full to bursting.

Saturday began with a reception in the Band Block where many expressions of amazement and even shock could be seen as people who had not seen each other, some for 40 years, were brought together. At 1400hrs the venue changed to the Cinema where a concert, first given by the ex-members, and then by the currently serving band, was planned. **Mrs Marion Griffin**, wife of the Garrison Commander, and the then Garrison Sergeant Major **WO1 Philip Abbott** and his wife **Jayne** kindly attended. Despite some of the musicians not having played in a band for many years, and with no rehearsal, they could still produce such a rousing and professional performance, I congratulate them. Two of the pieces of music were conducted in turn by **Capt (Retd) Cliff Pike** who was Director of Music from 1962-69 and **Lt Col (Retd) Roger Tomlinson** who, until very recently, has been the Senior Director of Music British Army at Kneller Hall. Their presence at the reunion was appreciated by all.

The evening events were designed to enable everyone to rekindle old friendships and relive past experiences, and this, coupled with the atmosphere quickly created a heady cocktail which ensured the success of the evening. After the buffet and raffle there was the opportunity for those who wished, to have a 'jam session', but for the majority talking was the main priority. I am sure that many a story that was told would not have seen the light of day for many a year, and for some of them that's probably a good thing. As the evening progressed it also became evident that the musical skills that survived the intervening years were accompanied by the drinking ability that seems to be in most musicians repertoire. It's nice to know that skills once learned are not easily forgotten!

We hope that all those who attended not only took home a lasting memory of a great weekend, but also an evangelical determination to seek out and contact the enormous number of ex-members who were unable to attend this year.

Anyone who is interested in a 1995 reunion or who wishes information of the whereabouts of ex-band members please contact **Mr W. Lawson**, Royal Signals Band, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.

JOB ADVERTISEMENT

HEAD OF ROYAL SIGNALS PUBLICATIONS

The Corps Committee of the Royal Corps of Signals wish to employ an Editor to produce their Corps publications. The post equates to a Retired Officer Grade II with a gross salary of £17,000 a year, which includes an increment to allow for contributions to a personal pension scheme. Conditions of service, hours of work, leave etc are related to normal Civil Service rules.

The main responsibilities will be the production and distribution of the following publications:

The Wire. An 80 page bi-monthly publication which provides the news of the activities of the serving and retired members of the Corps.

The Journal. The publication of the Royal Signals Institution, which includes articles of professional interest to all members of the Corps. Issued every four months.

The Retired Officer List and Newsletter (The Blue List). Issued annually and containing information on Corps affairs and activities, and a current list of all retired officers.

The List of Serving Officers (The White List). Issued annually, showing the principle appointments within the Corps of both serving and retired Senior Officers. It contains the details of all regular and volunteer Serving Officers and Warrant Officers Class I of the Corps.

The Editor will be assisted by a full time Civil Servant Administrative Officer.

Ideally, applicants should be former Royal Signals Officers with at least sq or signal staff experience and a good knowledge of Corps affairs. They should have the ability to correct texts and diagrams, and write sound English. Although IT experience is not essential an interest in acquiring Word Processing, Desk Top Publishing and Database systems skills would be useful. The post is available from 1 September 1995 and will be located in Regimental Headquarters, Royal Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset.

Enquiries should be made in writing or by telephone to

Colonel A. N. de Bretton-Gordon
The Regimental Secretary
RHQ Royal Signals
56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD
Telephone 0171 414 8421.

ROYAL SIGNALS 75TH ANNIVERSARY RED WINE

11 Sig Regt has commissioned a Red Wine in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Royal Signals. The label is painted on to the bottle. It is similar to the Corps painting which forms this issue's front cover picture. The wine, which can only be purchased via the PRI 11 Sig Regt at a cost of £7.50 per Btl (750ml), or £84.50 per case, is either good to drink now or to lay down until the 100th anniversary or even to keep as a memento. It is sure to attract collector status just as the 50th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings bottle has done.

For further details and order forms contact either: The PRI on Blandford Mil 2236, Civil 01258 48 2236 or the RSM on Blandford Mil 2240 Civil 01258 48 2240.

75th ANNIVERSARY YEAR PRINCIPAL CORPS EVENTS

June		
10	30 Sig Regt Officers' Mess 75th Theme Ball (VE Day)	Bramcote
10	2 Sig Regt Officers' Mess 75th Ball	York
11-25	Indian and Pakistan Association Veterans Visit	Somerset, York, London
14	Ladies Nights (Officers, WOs/Sgts)	Rheindahlen
14	Indian and Pakistan Veterans to The Royal School of Signals	Blandford
16	HQ Mess 75th Jubilee Ball	Blandford
16	243 Sig Sqn, Families Potted Sports and Barbecue	Bulford
20	NATO/SHAPE, Families Day	SHAPE
21	Official Reception	Saudi Arabia
24-6 Aug	Public Duties	Buckingham & St James' Palaces, Tower of London
25	Saudi Arabia National Guard Signal Corps Officers' Lunch	Saudi Arabia
28	Queens Gurkha Signals, Princess Royal Day Celebration Breakfast, Sports Day and Barbecue	Hong Kong
28	Corps Day The Corps Band play in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace	London
28	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt, Cocktail Party	Bulford
28	30 Sig Regt, Cocktail Party and Playing Retreat	Bramcote
29	Black Tie Dinner and Disco	Saudi Arabia
30	9 Sig Regt (R), Ladies Dinners, Officers, WOs and SNCOs	
July		
1	Dhekelia, Junior Ranks Party	Cyprus
1	CURIUM-WSBA, Cocktail Party, Band Concert, Pageant	Cyprus
1	237 Sig Sqn, Families Fun Day	TBD
2	ESBA, Families Day, Drum Head Service, Lunch, Cricket Match	Cyprus (Happy Valley)
2	15 Sig Regt, Families Day	Lisburn, NI
2	40 Sig Regt (V), Families Day	Belfast
3	Heads of Affiliated Corps arrive	London
4	75th Anniversary Corps Dinner, Hilton Hotel	London
4	Affiliated Corps, Ladies Dinner Night	Tower of London
5-7	Heads of Affiliated Corps, Special Programme	London & Blandford
7	Colonel Commandants Dinner with Heads of Affiliated Corps	Blandford
8	Corps Lunch	Blandford
9	Royal Signals Association Reunion	Blandford
9	Commissioning of New Museum Building	Blandford
13-15	31 Sig Regt (V) Ball, Families Day and Military Skills Competition	Hawley Lakes
15	30 Sig Regt, Open Day	Bramcote
20	249 Sig Sqn AFM (L), Kiwi Trophy and All Ranks Barbecue	TBD
22	21 Sig Regt (AS), Air Formation Open Day	Colerne
22	38 Sig Regt (V), Peak District Walk, Families Barbecue and Evening Entertainment	Peak District
22	37 Sig Regt (V), Cocktail Party	Bristol
23	216 Sig Sqn, Families Day	Aldershot
30	37 Sig Regt (V), Regt Barbecue	Sennybridge Trg Area
August		
25	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt Officers' Mess 75th Anniversary Ball	Bulford
September		
2	Corps Lunch–Northern	Catterick
16	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt, Regimental Open Day	Bulford
October		
14/15	56 Sig Sqn (V)–Ladies Annual Dinner	Eastbourne
November		
14	Sapper/Signals Dinner Night	Chatham

ROYAL SIGNALS RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY EVENTS 1995

June		
3-6	Rhine Army Show–Germany	White Helmets
10	Slough Show	White Helmets
11	Bristol Car Show	White Helmets
12-16	German Tour 1	White Helmets
24	HMS *Collingwood*	White Helmets
24-6 Aug	Public Duties, London	R Signals Band
July		
1-2	Shepton Mallet Steam Fair	White Helmets
4-6	Army Exhibition for Schools–Bassingbourn	White Helmets
8-9	Corps Weekend Blandford	R Signals Band
9	Royal Signals 75th Anniversary Show–Blandford	White Helmets
15	30 Sig Regt, Bramcote	White Helmets
16	Ashbourne Highland Gathering	White Helmets
18-20	East of England Show–Peterborough	White Helmets
22	Mid-Devon Show	White Helmets
22-23	Fairford International Air Show	White Helmets
28-30	Pickering Traction Engine Rally	White Helmets
August		
2	Burwarton Show	White Helmets
5-6	Gatcombe Park Horse Trials	White Helmets
11-12	Shrewsbury Flower Show	White Helmets
13	Rochdale VJ Day	White Helmets
17	Denbigh and Flint Show	White Helmets
19	Derby County Show	White Helmets
20	Sunderland Steam Show	White Helmets
23	Gillingham Show	White Helmets
27-28	Eye Show	White Helmets
September		
2-8	German Tour 2	White Helmets
9-10	Braintree	White Helmets
23	Calor Gas, Slough	White Helmets
October		
14	56 Sig Sqn Eastbourne Reunion	R Signals Band
November		
12	Remembrance Day Blandford	R Signals Band

The calendar is accurate at the time of going to press, but you are advised to contact the Units concerned to ensure that there have been no changes before embarking on long journeys. Confirmation and information can be obtained on the following numbers:

White Helmets (01258) 48 2365 R Signals Band (01258) 48 2778

REPORT FROM ULSTER



HQNI and 15 Sig Regt BFPO 801

CO **Lt Col Andrew Johnstone**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) D. Deegan**

Firstly congratulations to the CO and **Mrs Catherine Johnstone** on the birth of their second child, **Isobel**.

HQ SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Paul Connors**
SSM **WO2 (RSM) McCutcheon**

MT TROOP

The MTO, **Maj Fred Bancroft** and **SSgt Steve Beattie, Sgt Mark Sala** and all members of the Troop bid farewell to **LCpl Barrie, LCpl Rudman** and **Sig Organ** (to the White Helmets no less—and lots of scope for more jokes as well). Incoming have been **Cpl Andy Paling, LCpl Ecket** and **Sig Bob Hoskins**.

COMMS OPS

At last a chance to get out of Comms Ops without having to put in a leave pass! The morning of 28 March started bright and by 0845hrs the team was on the first leg as it set off up Hares Gap towards Slieve Donard. Pausing briefly before The Castles the wind was noticeably stronger but we pressed on pausing only for photocalls along the way (suggested by **Cpl** 'Slim' **Ryan** to prove his existence and weight loss). There was no easy way to the peak apart from a bit of wind-assistance but having put our heads down we eventually passed a few false-horizons to reach the summit and the small stone hut on top. A quick brew, the drop in temperature and a severe wind soon made us decide that a rapid descent was in order, so away we went in quest of a more agreeable spot for lunch. A few nosebags later, including nine pieces of fruitcake for Wills the incredible eating dog, all we felt fit for was a good kip, or at least that would have been the plan had **Sgt Will Jones** had his way. But RHQ and Comms Ops are made of sterner stuff and so we set off back instead. All in all a jolly good adventure along with lashings of ginger beer and sandwiches. Many thanks to **Sgt Andy Chubb** for the organisation of a challenging and enjoyable walk and all now look forward to the next away-day.

225 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj T. C. Wadey**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) B. D. Payne**

The Squadron has bade farewell to **Maj S. R. Sharman**—his guardsmanlike appearance and barking dog will be sadly missed! Now at the helm is **Maj Tim Wadey**.

In February we won the CO's Cup for Orienteering and in March we beat all-comers in the Mercury Cup Potted Sports. Bored of beating others we looked to our laurels for a real challenge and in April **SSgt Ewan Hall** brought together Ex Mourne Commedagh which saw 20 disappear into the nearby mountains for two days of hillwalking and rock-climbing. On a Troop perspective . . .

ADMIN TROOP

Events include promotion from WO2 to WO1 for **Norman Yarwood** and a crown to their three tapes for **SSgts Deck Painter** and **Dave Turner**. Farewells go to **SSgt Painter** to London and to **LCpl Kate Bayliss** who is away to civvy street. Best wishes to both and their families.

DELTA TROOP

The last few months have seen a number of changes. So, in short, farewell to: **WO1** 'Widdie' **Widdicombe, WO2s Chris Lamb** and **Mick Jones, SSgt Rita Maddock, Sgt Bill Riley, Cpls Steve Bottomley, Jimmy Byrne, Pete Morman, Chris Hale, John Booth, Simon Draper**, 'Icy' **Clarke, Paul Petrie, Guy Farmer** and **Al Potts**, also **LCpls** 'Dudge' **Dudgeon, Baz Webb** and **Andy Slater**. To make up for this apparent decimation RSMRO have sent us the following new team members: **WO2 Mick Hill, Cpls Paul Rowlands, Simon Parr** and **Jason Page** and **LCpls Keith Wade, Greg Mulley** and **Aden Patrick**.

ECHO TROOP

This has been a time of transformation for the Troop. **Cpl McBain** got off to a smashing start when the Sqn Comd's car 'jumped out' in front of him. Meanwhile **LCpl Morgen** took out a loan to pay off the £350 his 'cheap' mobile phone call cost him. Not much can be said on the sporting front, apart from the scramble to host the Squadron 2IC when she is visiting. And to end, congrats to **LCpl Jane Williams** on her recent engagement.

GOLF TROOP

Things have certainly been busy. The workshop bade farewell to **SSgt (FofS)** (now WO2) **Chris Gill** who has left us for the sun and surf of the South Atlantic. Departures to the land of bierwurst have gone **Sgts** 'Oil' **Campbell** and **Clive Garratt**. To replace these and others we welcome **SSgt (FofS) Pete Hodson, Sgts Ivor Moore** and **Carl McNulty** and **Cpl Tam Ewart**. Congrats go to **WO2 (FofS) Karl Shead** on his recent selection for promotion to WO1, to **Sgt Liz Mangan** who is now **Sgt Liz Watts** and last but not least to **Clive** and **Paula Garratt** on the birth of their first baby.

233 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Malcolm Llewellyn**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Gray**

TM TROOP

The Troop welcomes **Sgt Mac McGregor, LCpl Walker** and **Sigs Fraser, Grant** and **Weldon**. Regrettably we said goodbye to **Sgts** 'Moose' **Keeble** (to 16 Sig Regt), 'Taff' **Rogers** (to CPD) and **Nick Fletcher** (to 604 Sig Tp). Congratulations to **Sgt** and **Marie Alexander-High, Sgt** and **Elsie Sutton** and **Sgt** and **Carol Large** on new arrivals in the family. Interflora have had enough business from us of late and no mistake. To close, we congratulate all who helped achieve first position in the inter-Troop orienteering competition, particularly **LCpl** 'Zig' **Dempsey**.

INDIA TROOP

Welcome to **LCpls Vinny Sanders** and **Wayne Coates**, and goodbye to **WO2 Chris Mountain** and **Cpl Paul Bernard** away to CDCN.

The McKelvie Trophy

This inter-Troop sports competition recently saw us all placed second in the rugby with some outstanding performances from players—most notably **Sig Graham Hennessy** who used his dislocated-shoulder tackle, very original! Meanwhile, on the football front the Troop continues its local associations. 225 Sig Sqn were seen off by a crushing 5—3 defeat. Sadly the following week our minor-league status was regained when the Regiment team trounced us 6—0. Only decency makes us also mention our loss to Defence Platoon, 6—2. Ah well, not a bad effort.

COMMCEN TROOP

Arrivals recently have included **Sgt Al Chester, Cpls Jim Clancy** and **Brit Dahle** and **Sigs Mick Jolley** and **John McGee**. They have replaced **Cpl Tony Lynch** and **Sigs Kerry Ewing, Jim Cowley, Pete Vernon** and **Pete Mayhead**. The latter are doubtless grateful to have missed the devastation of the rebuild of the Commcen which looks like a building site.

ROMEO TROOP
EXERCISE HARP FRENCH 1

Friday 24 February saw the Troop load up and head off into the rain-clouds near Ballykinler.

The range practices were enlightening to say the least. Pistol scores soared into single figures with most people adopting the **Capt David Gaul** method of patch and paste conservation. However, with a bit of coaching and a lot of practice the scores improved considerably.

Saturday dawned bright and sunny. Showing some courage the safety supervisors, **Sgts Ian Wheeler, Paul Gardner** and **Norrie McGregor** decided to allow the support weapons to be fired and happily the rest of the day passed without incident. So the following and final day was devoted to getting **Sgt Willy Loch** to the top of Slieve Donard in the Mourne Mountains.

The exercise ended with 23 seriously tired but contented and, one hopes, challenged soldiers who eagerly await another similar weekend.

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (203)
BFPO 809

Sqn Comd **Maj G. J. T. Rafferty**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) D. E. Hall**

OPERATIONS

The ceasefire continues, but the rebuilds in Newry and Warrenpoint kept the Squadron busy. However, with the changeover of units, the trials team has been busy. The usual repair and maintenance tasks still occur—so a busy life goes on.

VISIT OF THE SOinC

The SOinC, **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle** visited the Squadron on 1 March. Due to the usual Northern Ireland weather the General was unable to fly on to Londonderry, so we were fortunate enough to have the SOinC for a complete afternoon. As a result, he was able to meet many members of the Squadron both at Portadown and Armagh.

The culmination of the visit was the presentation of the LS & GC medal to **SSgt Paul Brocki** RLC. This caused a great deal of hilarity among those who attended, on two accounts, **SSgt Brocki** being the arch proponent of the RLC, receiving his medal from the SOinC and the fact that he had actually got the medal in the first place!



The SOinC, Maj Gen A. H. Boyle with SSgt Brocki and the Sqn Comd after the LS & GC presentation

QM'S DEPARTMENT

It has been all change at the top. We said farewell, and best wishes to **Capt John Mullender** on his posting to Wilton. In his stead we welcome **Capt Bill Heelan BEM** from the TA; rumour has it, that he has been here before!

We also say welcome to **LCpl** 'Persil' **Pettit** RLC and his wife **Ayshea**. We hope you all have an enjoyable tour.

Congratulations go out to **Sgt Casey** REME and **Karen** on the birth of their daughter, **Melissa Louise**, born on 23 March.

The Department has started to become literate (in computers that is) at the Interactive Learning Centre. We are all getting there, in preparation for UNICOM.

SHQ

We have a new arrival in SHQ, **Pte** 'Tommy' **Harper**; welcome.

LCpl 'Windy' **Miller** is returning to the Depot on his Unicom Systems Administrator's Course, which, being held at Worthy Down gives him a Specialist Qualification, a headache and an overdraft. (He's been told that the RAOWO, **SSgt Paul Bartlett**, wants his notes so he can pass quite easily and still look good when he attends the course later). They are both quite confident as the Admin Officer, **Maj Eddie Wright** attended and passed—so it can't be too bad . . . can it?

TM TROOP

We said farewell to **Cpl Ryan Halsall**, who after a mighty three years with the Troop, went to 30 Sig Regt and has already departed for the Falklands.

Also off are **Mr** 'Tommo' **Thomson**, who has left the Army to become a nomad travelling the world, and **LCpl** 'Killer' **Wilson** and his wife **Tracey**.

A warm welcome to six new personalities, **SSgt Graham Owen** our new BTLO, **Sgt Brett Palmer, Cpls** (with original nicknames) 'Dinger' **Bell**, 'Woody' **Wood, LCpl** 'Kipper' **Fisher** and finally our new Telemech/Rigger **Sig Stu Street**.

The Troop has developed a new competition. The rules are simple, when going on a Rigging or Safe To Climb Course get to RAF Digby by the most varied route. **LCpl** 'Harry' **Harris** and **Sig** 'Ket' **Mollon** are in pole position managing a flight to Newcastle and a large taxi fare. With **LCpl** 'Lullabell' **Jackson** in second place with a more respectable taxi fare. 'Jacko' would also like to thank Comms Ops for sending him on his course two days early.

Cpl Bell is attempting to get into the Guinness Book of Records for the most haircuts in a week. He is currently at three in three days. Who knows, the RSM may approve of one someday.

Cpl Mick 'Kimmo' **King** has come up with a novel initiation for new members of the Troop. It involves a mystery tour followed by a marathon 48 hours on site.

COMMS TROOP
SYSCON

Syscon continues to maintain Brigade Comms to the excellent standard that its sub-units have come to expect, with the 'old hands' being kept extra busy training and passing on their vast knowledge and experience to all the newcomers.

COMMCEN

The Commcen shifts are still very busy. **Sig Clare Allsop** spent two weeks with 42 Cdo Royal Marines in Bessbrook and returned to the Commcen as a 'lean-mean-green-fighting-machine'!

COMMS TRIALS

Comms Trials have kept busy recently with **Lt Steve Goodwin** and **Cpl Andy Corder** deploying to South Armagh. **Sgt** 'Nick' **Oldcroft** even managed to get out between duties to break in his new boots. **Lt Goodwin** and **Cpl Corder** attempted their first Commando assault test by having to do a river crossing, a scene straight out of 'A Bridge Too Far' with the only sound being **Cpl Corder** saying 'I thought you only did this kind of stuff in films'. Oh well, the mentality of some is hard to understand, especially when there was a bridge less than 100m away. The job was finally completed after much hard work by the team, although we're sure the only reason we had to do several patrols was because the TM Troop team at the base location had arranged the faults especially. Special thanks go to **Sgt Eric O'Halloran** and **LCpl Eves Galloway** of TM Troop who finally got it all working on the day.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

The Troop welcomes **Cpl Ed Massey** and **LCpl** 'Ollie' **Oliver** to Syscon.

Among our many farewells we say goodbye and good luck to **LCpl** (now Mr) **Si Nicholson** and his wife **Debbie**. **Si** was the longest serving member of the Squadron whose expertise will be sorely missed. We also say goodbye to **LCpls** 'Robbo' **Roberts**, 'Butch' **Tweddell** and **Karen Clifton** who all received their first stripes on posting. A special mention must go to **LCpl Karen Clifton** who only joined the Troop in January and managed what must be one of the shortest tours ever. 'Don't worry, we'll post your medal to you'.

BOXING

Sig 'Kirky' **Kirkbride** continues to represent the Army boxing team achieving a great deal of success, winning five of his eight fights, all wins coming from KOs. We wish him the best of luck in the forthcoming individual's competition.

SQUADRON FUNCTION

In preparation for the forthcoming sunny summer here in NI, we hope, **LCpl Wendy Moore** and **LCpl** 'Butch' **Tweddell** organised a winter beach party which was held in the Whynge Inn. A good time was had by all in a freezing cold bar dressed only in T-shirts and shorts (but by the end no-one seemed to notice the weather).

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218)
BFPO 807

Sqn Comd **Maj S. D. Hodges**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) D. S. Toon**

SHQ TROOP
Tp Comd **SSgt P. Kerr**

The whole Squadron must bid a fond farewell this month to the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Dougie Wright**, who leaves the Squadron after an excellent two year tour. He left on a high and it must be quite unusual for any RSM, especially a hard task master like **Dougie Wright**, to leave with such heart felt send offs as he received in both the WO and SNCOs' club 'The Foyle View' and from the Juniors' Club 'The Waterside'. The RSM leaves with the expressed desire that the *Wire* Officer, **Capt James Anderson**, should not publish a couple of his more notorious slip-ups . . . unlucky!

Firstly, the RSM recently sailed home ahead of the rest of the Squadron on a BFT run, which for those who have never served in Londonderry before, the last mile and a half is three and three-quarter times around the parade square (times are guaranteed to improve if there is a sniper threat). **Dougie Wright** couldn't understand when he finished how people had arrived in ahead of him until he was told he had done an extra lap, embarrassing for the fatties amongst us as he was still below 10 minutes on a very difficult course. Secondly, who are we to remind the RSM of that fateful day in the summer during the Officers v WOs and SNCOs cricket match when he was bowled out . . . for a duck . . . by a woman . . . bowling underarm. And lastly the photograph he tried to ban! Caught relaxing in his every day attire, and not uniform, at a barbecue in the summer; he now seems quite embarrassed by his casual dress. The freedom to relax in the dress style of your own choosing is a fundamental right of everyone here in Northern Ireland and if the RSM feels concerned about hair loss and is proud of his Scottish heritage who should deny him the right to wear a tartan cap and an orange wig.



WO1 (RSM) Dougie Wright in casual attire

The new RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Dave Toon** arrived and began the social whirl of NIRTT course, arrival drinks and Troop presentations. He is already at loggerheads with the other new arrival **WO2 (YofS) Terry McHugh** who arrived to replace **WO2 (YofS) Norman Bain**, recently departed for quieter times in the Royal School of Signals. It would seem that both the Yeoman and the RSM have served together before and the jovial banter about whose Squadron was better than whose has already begun. For us on the peripheries it is our humble duty to merely 'pull up a sand bag' and gaze respectfully upon such experienced men, hanging on to their every word.

COMMS TROOP
Tp Comd **SSgt J. Crabb**

Only a few hellos and goodbyes from the Troop this time. **LCpl Sam Bremner** leaves for the delights of 16 Sig Regt, **Sig Kareena Knibbs** to civvy street and the police force, **Cpl Judy McGuire** to Cyprus and **Cpl** 'Mal' **Mallison** to the best course in the Army, the resettlement course. A hearty welcome to **Cpls** 'Cav' **Baber, Carl Budding**, 'ET' **Tait**, 'Mac' **Macdonald, Sheena Motson** and **Sig Paula Clansey** You will all enjoy Londonderry even if you can't quite believe it at the moment.

MT TROOP
Tp Comd **WO2 (MTWO) P. Peart**

It seems that the winter is finally over here in the Province and over the last couple of months the Troop has been busy both with its operational role and in running Ex Highland Drive 1. The exercise was put together by **WO2 Paul Peart** and the instructors **Cpl Paul Stokes** and **Steve Page** and **LCpls Billy Pollock** and **Rob Harris** ran the whole affair in an effort to get the non-drivers of the Squadron in touch with the real world.

We would like to welcome **LCpl** 'Shep' **Shepherd** back to the Troop after finally completing his motorcycle instructor's course at the second attempt. It seems quite ironic that both times he has attempted the course he has managed to break his leg, maybe motorcycling is not for you?

Congratulations go to **Sgt Craig Blake** on his selection for promotion to Staff Sergeant and to **Kim Barlow** for promotion to Lance Corporal seemingly only for her APTIs course but made substantive when she came off the board only a week later. And finally a few goodbyes and hellos to the Troop. The Troop extends a sad farewell to **Cpl Louise Wilding, LCpls** 'Col' **Painter**, 'Daz' **Humphrey** and **Dave Harman**, may you all prosper in your new homes and remember you'll always have a welcome here in Londonderry. And a raucous hello goes out to **Cpl Steve Page** and **Pte Ellenor Southwell** just arrived for two years of fun and frolics.

QM TROOP
Tp Comd **WO2 (RQMS) J. Black**

This month the Troop said farewell to the 'Jack of All Trades' **Cpl Dave Fitton** who is off to the sunnier climate of Blandford to the School of Signals to be a Military Training Instructor. The powers that be realised that no one could fill your shoes so they aren't going to bother to send a replacement, either that or they don't think you do any work anyway. The other farewell is to **Sig Steve Hughes** who has left the Troop to join TM Tp because it has been decided that he is better at climbing masts than the walls of the armoury. And lastly welcome back to **LCpl Joe McCormack** who is living proof that miraculous medical cures do exist when he returned from Woolwich Hospital recently.

The Troop has seen a number of successes recently; **Sgt Danny McDermid** RLC came off the promotion board for promotion to Staff Sergeant and even put his hand in his pocket to buy everyone drinks—Congratulations. **Cpl Dougie Coid** and **LCpl Ken Harris** both passed their HGV 1 tests for which the rest of the world will now live in fear as they drive around one hand on the steering wheel of some HGV and the other clutching their 'Yorkies'.

Finally the Troop would like to point out to **Sgt Steve Lynch** that the BFT Course is only three and three-quarter laps around the parade square and not the four and three-quarters you did recently. 'I was only following the RSM' is not a good enough excuse for not being able to count, the RSM is never wrong so it must have been all your fault.

TM TROOP
Tp Comd **SSgt K. Simmons**

The longest serving member of the Troop, **Cpl Jim Wainwright**, has recently departed screaming and kicking to Cyprus where he will undoubtably do well but will be sorely missed in the Troop. His farewell from the Waterside was well attended and no one left without a sore head, and it was therefore fortunate that there was no Troop PT the following morning. Also leaving, after only a detachment to the Troop from 39 Bde Sig Sqn (213), **Cpl** 'Dee Dee' **Watts**. Of course everyone here can appreciate why he would want to go back to 'Slipper City' (Lisburn) to take it easy, enjoy the good life with the rest of them down there. The only consolation of his leaving is for those in the barracks who have been bitten by 'Nebbie' the Troop dog which is soon off to join him and terrorise those in Lisburn.

The Handover/Takeover of the new RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Dave Toon** gave the Troop an opportunity to meet the man on site and away from the rest of the Squadron. It soon transpired that he was once a Telemech by trade and a rigger, so sympathy looks promising.

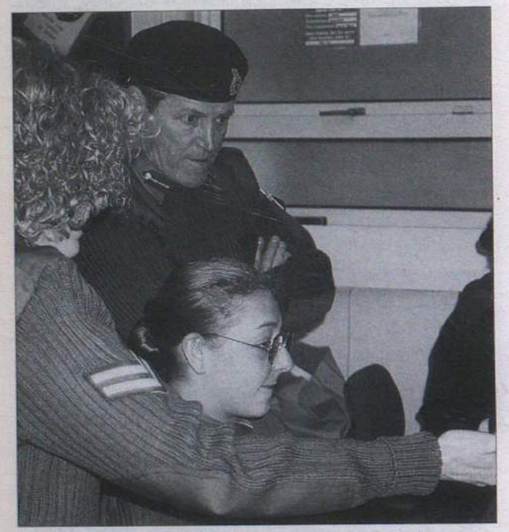
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Copy must be received six weeks before the publication date

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (213)
BFPO 801

Sqn Comd — **Maj R. A. Sharp**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) McElwee**

THE VISIT OF THE SOinC

The visit of the SOinC, **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle**, took place on Wednesday 1 March. A briefing by the Sqn Comd **Maj Bob Sharp** was followed by the YofS **WO2 Bob Jonas** who gave an in-depth comms brief whilst the FofS **WO2 Bob Pullan** kept up with his pointer. Time was at a premium and a whirlwind visit around the Squadron followed. The SOinC visited Syscon, the Commcen (where he was shown around by **Cpls** 'Taff' **Bowen** and **Fiona Whitty**). TM Tp presented the ever elusive BTLO **SSgt Phil Newman** and Rover Group paraded men, weapons and vehicles at the rear of the SHQ under its newly appointed SNCO IC **Sgt** 'Gaz' **Steel**. Like all good visits it finished in the bar with an early lunch. Time was set aside for a chat to the soldiers but after a conversation on the trials and tribulations of the telemechs with **Cpl** 'Kev' **Ingley**, few others got a word in. The SOinC bade farewell at 1245 hrs.



The SOinC is given information about the ACP 127 from Cpl Fiona Whitty (standing) and Sig Fergy Ferguson (sitting)

OPS TEAM

It has been a particularly busy time for the Squadron, with troops shunted around the TAOR, it gets even busier! One major movement is the relocation of the Ops team from its 'rabbit hutch' to an office worthy of such a high powered group of individuals, the rest of SHQ now look on in envy! The Ops Officer **Capt Geoff Pullen** has had to work particularly hard recently as **WO2 (FofS) Bob Pullan** gets down to some serious golfing. This has been made worse with **WO2 (YofS) Bob Jonas** taking the whole ops cell allocation of leave.

COMMS TROOP

Congratulations are in order for the Tp Comd **Capt Jon Dakin** on his recent promotion to Captain and the Troop welcome in to the fold **Melissa**, a new baby girl to **Cpl Carl** and **Marion Richardson**.

Newly arrived into the Troop is **Sgt Steel** who arrived on a Thursday, went on Brigade Adventure Training on the Friday, came back to the Province some two weeks later with his boxes unpacked to take over Training Wing. Three days later he moved into Rover Group as SNCO IC. It's nice to see that we still have that ability to be so flexible. Finally we say goodbye to **LCpl** 'Daz' **Mark** who fitted in a new addition to the family, promotion, ran the Squadron Club and a move all in his last three weeks.We wish him and his wife **Linda** all the best in 16 Sig Regt.

SUPPORT TROOP
RQMS Dept

RQMS — **WO2 Chris Skelton**

Any stores accountants looking for a posting with variety and stress, '39' is the place. Applications through RSMRO.

MT

As one chapter ends in a soldier's career another begins in 39 MT.

Pte Holt broadens her horizons and suntan in UNFICYP. We extend a warm welcome to **LCpls Brown** and **Vincent** and **Ptes Bradford** and **Reilly**.

The MT are concentrating on driver training within the Squadron, with to date, a high success rate.

TM TROOP

Firstly, congratulations go to the **Hodgson** clan on the arrival of **Kieran**. The Brigade Foreman of Signals has been given an office to suit his stature (bigger office for a bigger man!)

ARRIVALS

A warm welcome to **Sgt Andy Roberts**, **Sgt** 'Tiny' **Tindale**, **Cpl** 'Dee-Dee' **Watts** and **Cpl Chris Kelly**.

DEPARTURES

A sad farewell goes to **Sgt** 'Shuggy' **Hughes** who is off to 20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200) (via RSSC), **Cpl P. C. Colborn** and family off to 210 Sig Sqn (where's the demand book, **Paul**), **Sgt Dave Evans** and family off to sunny Cyprus.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

NICOD The Northern Ireland Counsel for Orthopaedic Development approached the Bde HQ and Sig Sqn for help in purchasing a much needed reclining bath for one of the homes in Lisburn. It did not take much persuasion that here was a worthy cause as one young man at the home had serious disabilities caused by a rugby injury. With that in mind, the Sqn Comd and the RSM along with **Cpls Matt Booth** and **Debbie Watts**, presented NICOD with a cheque for £590 raised by the Squadron towards the bath.

RUGBY

The Squadron had a fair to middling season with the team moulding and coming together at the latter stages, achieving 3rd place in the league and minor units runners-up. The season was finished off in style with the annual dinner where awards were presented to **Pte Ridsdel (RLC)** who was nominated the players 'Player for the Season', the Chairman's player of the year went to **Sgt Dave Laverie**.



The Squadron Rugby Team
Back row (*L to R*): LCpl Scott, Sgt Needham, Sgt Evans, SSgt Cousins, Sgt Chapman, LCpl Little, Cpl Colborn, SSgt Dennis, Sgt Heath, Cpl Lyford, Sig Thompson
Front row (*L to R*): Maj Sharp, Capt Rose, Cpl Turnbull, Cpl Smith, Sgt Laverie, LCpl Smith, SSgt Hodgson

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NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

The Royal School of Signals
Blandford Camp

CIS TRAINING WING

Troop Commanders Course No 31 (25 October 1994-22 February 1995) said their farewells to the Royal School prior to embarking on their first tours of duty as newly qualified officers. For some it marked the end of three years of professional military training and they were quite naturally keen to get on with their intended careers. This course is particularly noted for the award of two A Grades, and congratulations go to **2Lts Matt Graham** and **Ronnie Launders**. In addition this was the first Troop Commanders Course that heralded the presentation of the Evis Memorial Sword to the top student. **Mrs Dorothy Taylor**, wife of the late **Capt (QM) Cyril Evis**, accompanied by the Commander presented the sword to **2Lt Matt Graham**.



Mrs Dorothy Taylor presents the Evis Memorial Sword to 2Lt Matt Graham

Cyril Evis was a well known Quartermaster of his time but, sadly, suddenly and unexpectedly died of cancer in February 1976 whilst serving with 14 Sig Regt which was then based in Worcester. The family generously donated **Cyril**'s sword to the Corps last year which marked the 50th anniverary of his enlistment into Royal Signals as a boy soldier. **Mrs Dorothy Taylor** and her husband, **Maj (Retd) Les Taylor**, also Royal Signals, maintain very close ties with the Corps, being Friends of the Museum.

Troop Commanders Course No 32 have now taken up residence and havoc has already made its mark on life in the Headquarters Mess, its furniture and, most notably, the head of **Brig John Stokoe** (Mess rugby takes its toll!) The Corps Dinner Night in March was the occasion of their Dining-In to the Corps and, determined to set the standard, **2Lt Dave Worden**, who has already won the Agar Memorial Prize for the best student passing out from Sandhurst, stole the SOinC(A)s spurs–the Champagne was most welcome! The same officer is still trying to explain a photograph of him dressed in a female uniform whilst on attachment.

He cannot, however, be blamed for the geographical embarrassment of the Course whilst Beagling. **2Lt Andy Coulston** took some convincing that it was in fact a real hare that was being chased in circles. After several hours running uphill and down dale it was soon appreciated that a hare is brighter than both dogs and Troop commanders.

TC32 go Beagling



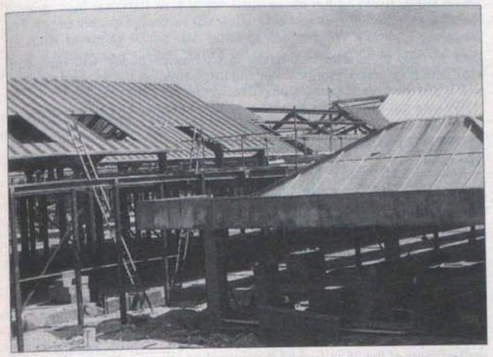
Do you think they drink Carling Black Label?

Staying with animal matters, the Course has just completed their equitation lessons which culminated in a dramatic jump-off at the Gymkhana (30cm jumps are more intimidating than you think!). **2Lt Dave Edwards** at last managed to stay on his horse, and the old navigation problem emerged when **2Lt John Harrington**'s horse ignored his frantic attempts at steering from 'Fish' to 'Mickey'. The winner of the riding trophy was **2Lt Lynn Burrell** whose previous experience showed through on the night. A special guest star appearance was made by **Capt Jonathan Gillespie** who proved that horse riding is nothing like riding a bike: lessons taken 17 courses earlier can be forgotten!

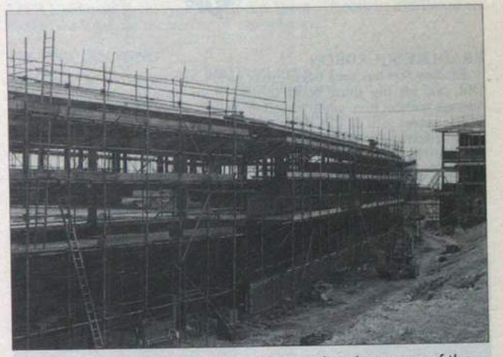
BLANDFORD CAMP REBUILD

For many months the Blandford Project for the formation of the Single Centre at Blandford Camp has been talked about and many will have seen the artists impressions or diagrams of the intended new buildings. As reported in the last edition of *The Wire* the chalk hillside is now badly scarred and the landscape will never be the same due to the prime contractor, AMEC, who with heavy plant, cranes and other sundry machinery is creating the new facilities for the Single Centre.

On the premise that a picture tells a thousand words the following are just a selection of the various building sites that currently abound in Blandford Camp and give an initial idea of what the future facilities will look like:



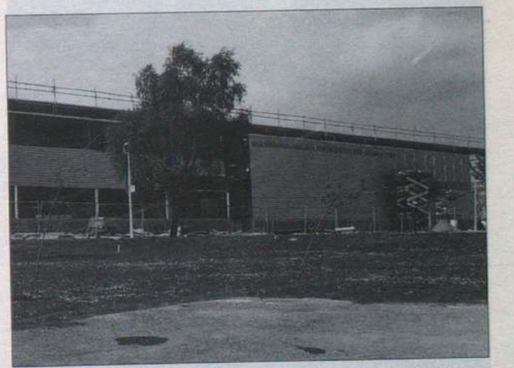
The entrance to the new NAAFI Club, showing the old roof to the Junior Ranks cookhouse and its incorporation into the new building



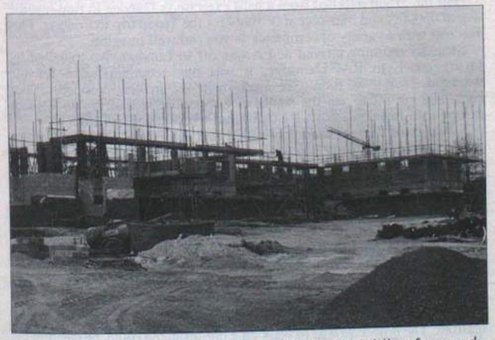
Part of the new Trade Training Centre, showing some of the General Purpose classrooms on the left, and the Systems Training building on the right



The NAAFI Club. This will have separate areas for Corporals, Single Entry Soldiers and Apprentices



The Line Training facility, incorporating a trunk cable training area and classrooms



The Junior Ranks accommodation blocks, providing four and six man flatlets, each flatlet having shower and toilet areas, a utility area with snack facilities and correctly scaled individual bedrooms



The Physical and Recreational Training Centre; to the right will be a climbing structure for teaching rock climbing skills

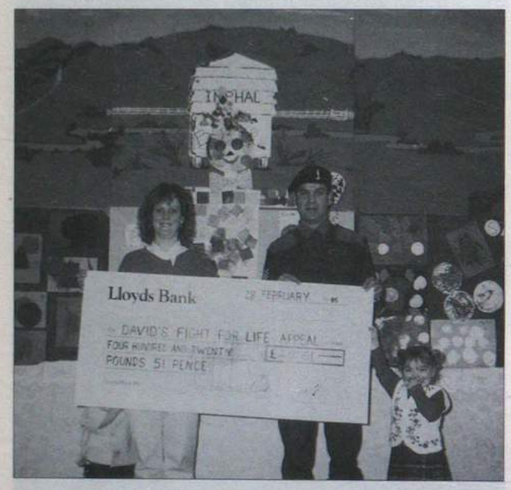
Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

BRADLEY SQUADRON

Bradley Sqn has been ticking over nicely with the arrival of **SSgt Dave Old**, and his big shiny boots and green kit. How did the Field Army manage without him, while he was at 17 Port Maritime.

The recent visit of The White Helmets encouraged **SSgt Old** to go for his bike test and we must congratulate the roundabout for just popping up like that . . . result—fail.

The Squadron has been busy raising funds for charity which saw **SSgts Melanie Crowther, Martyn Henley** and **Cpl Sparrow**, presenting cheques and toys to Harrogate Toy Library and 'David's Fight for Life Appeal.'





Now we look forward to a working weekend after a two week introduction provided by **CSM Timperley** Scots Guards. The main feature of the weekend was a football match where the P.S. Superstars took on a Squadron Select, with a guest appearance by **Maj** 'Billy Bremner' **Smith**.

Sadly we say farewell to those members of the Squadron who are leaving for pastures new. **WO2 Campbell** after 22 years service; **SSgt Henley** to 214 Sig Sqn in York; and **Cpls Basford** and **Oldfield** posted back to field units after instructing in Commex Tp. We will miss **Cpl Oldfield**, play maker, engine room and inspiration on the football pitch or was it just the tea and oranges he provided that we loved him for?

We take this opportunity to wish you all every success for the future.

PHILLIPS TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Kerry Levins**

Rawson and Penney Sqns have amalgamated to form Penney Sqn. Phillips Tp which is the 94C intake were formed from old Scott 94C and old Rawson 94C. January saw the end of BRT and the start of Trade Training, which at first the AT's found hard and confusing, as to where the classrooms etc were, but after a few weeks the College became smaller and places were easier to find. The Troop is formed into 4 Tech classes, 6 Operator classes and 1 Linguist class.

EXERCISE SCARBOROUGH ROCK

The first outing was at the end of January when the Troop attended Leadership 1, a 26 mile walk around Scarborough. The first day the Troop walked most of the 26 miles and then ended up at a campsite for the night. The staff would have finished earlier and had their heads down if it wasn't for **AT Fortner**, who said he knew a short cut. The next day the Troop completed the rest of the walk along the 2,000ft cliffs at Scarborough which finished at one of the local cafes.

MT 1

The end of February saw the Troop on the way to Whitburn Ranges for MT1. This involves shooting LF7 and APWT. The freezing wind, monsoon rain and blizzard snowstorms (all in one day) made the week most enjoyable. The best part, which most of the AT's enjoyed, was the two sentry posts on the cliff tops, especially if they were on with **AT** 'There's a ship coming Sgt' **Jones**.

The shooting part of the week was good and the ATs really enjoyed themselves, and **AT Ainge** provided the range staff with hours of endless fun.

The year, so far, has been a good one, even with a few departures for DSP and Trade Reallocation, the Troop is still 105 strong and looking forward to the Summer Term.

SCOTT TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt A. M. Churchill**

EXERCISE SOUTHERN VENTURE
by AT Cpl Hadley

The so-called Troop Weekend had been arranged and cancelled three times so when deployed on exercise the week leading up to the weekend, nobody actually believed they would come back and travel to London; how wrong could we have been.

Half the Troop returned from a hard exercise in Dundee to find reveille was at 0500hrs and transport at 0630hrs for the Troop trip to London. This was met with a variety of comments as you can well imagine.

Saturday morning arrived and it was off to London. We travelled by luxury coach to RAF Uxbridge, it was our accommodation for the weekend, even if we didn't see much of it. We arrived, dropped off our bags, and set off to see the sights of London or at least try to without getting lost. Just don't ask **AT LCpl Bond** where the shops are!

Sunday morning got underway with a visit to the Imperial War Museum to see some of the Army's history and exhibitions from the second world war, after that we headed off home after a very enjoyable weekend. The Troop members would like to say thanks to **Sgt** 'Mick' **Licence** and **Sgt** 'Chippie' **Carpenter** for making it all possible and for a fantastic weekend.

EXERCISE SCARBOROUGH ROCK
by Finn

On 15/16 March we took part in a walking exercise around Scarborough and the local area, including the seafront. It began on Thursday morning when we drove to Scarborough and parked near to the seafront. The objective was to walk on a pre-arranged route, navigating by clues given to us by **Mr Miles**. We were divided into seven groups of about four or five AT's. The first group to depart wanted to tab round the whole route; the team consisted of **AT SSM Mears, AT SSgt Finn, AT Sgt Sanders, AT LCpl Parker** 142 and **AT Childs**.

Arriving at the first check point we collected our lunch as we would probably be travelling too fast to pick it up at the second check point. After reaching the second check point we increased the pace as we could see a second group catching us in the distance. At this point we started to move across country, it was far better than moving along the roads. On the first day there were seven check points.

We reached the barn at about 1700hrs where we spent the night.

Next morning we were up early, and after taking a shower under a freezing cold waterfall next to the seafront we put on our walking boots and started the final phase of the walk. This was an eight mile walk along the cliffs returning to the start point of day one. We met the Permanent Staff at the corner cafe and waited for the other groups to arrive. The two days walking was a very welcome break from camp as it gave us a chance to breathe fresh air and take a break from all the exercises. A fun two days.

RAWSON TROOP TRIP TO LONDON
by ATCpl Colman

Bright and early on 18 March 1995, 93B set off on a weekend to London. Our Troop was to play at the Duke of York's Barracks, Chelsea.

When we arrived, we were given a briefing and split into teams of three. We then had the competition explained to us. We had a number of questions to answer about places around London, which made us visit the main attractions. The second part of the exercise required a bit of initiative. We had to complete a number of different challenges, having until 1800hrs to get as many points as we could. Some people auditioned for 'Oliver', others were employed as waiters at top West End Restaurants and Hotels, whilst somebody obtained **Tony Benn**'s autograph on House of Commons paper, and a lucky few appeared on TV and the radio. We had to obtain written or photographic proof for each challenge, which drew some strange looks.

Returning to Barracks at 1800hrs for a debrief, we agreed to meet as a Troop at Piccadilly Circus at 2000hrs. We had to be back at the Barracks at 0200hrs but we had an excellent night.

On Sunday morning, part of the Troop went sight-seeing while others continued with their tasks.

It was an excellent weekend and on behalf of the Troop I would like to thank the Rawson PS, **Lt Waudby, Sgt Hurren** and **Cpl Carter**. The Troop cannot wait for the next Troop weekend.

MT3
by AT Smith

The week started off with us all sitting on our newly issued bergans, waiting for the exercise to begin. It was 0930hrs on a Sunday morning, not a particularly good time for anybody who had enjoyed the night before.

Eventually, everybody arrived and we began to load our kit onto a 4-tonner and two buses ready for the long trip ahead. The ranges we were heading towards were called 'Barry Buddon', one of the best ranges in the UK.

On arrival we were all split into our Sections and then given our Section Commanders for the week. Within a couple of hours all this had changed due to absentees and sickies. So much for organisation!

The first day we were taught the basics of the Light Support Weapon, learning all the different handling characteristics and firing positions which we would need for the week.

The second day was spent extending our knowledge of the LSW, and SA-80 from different firing positions; quite a number of rounds were fired during the day to allow us to get the hang of it all!

The climax of the week was the night 'Section-Defence' shoot on Thursday. Everybody enjoyed it, especially the PS, with shouts such as 'Watch my Tracer!' and 'Enemy Front-Burst Fire' from all directions.

The PS were quite nice to us and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves.

OPERATOR WING

The Group Office has been transformed into the Royal Signals Orienteering Championship (RSOC) Admin Centre and woe betide the man that mentions trade training when there is 'O' business to do.

Sgt Paul Crawley is to be congratulated upon passing the Army Hockey Umpires' Course. Of course, the old adage 'you don't get 'owt for nowt' rings true, as he has now taken over as 2IC of the Hockey Sport and looks set for further developments in his Hockey profile.

Congratulations too, to **WO2 (Supvr R) Dave Ruddock** and **Sgt Andy Munro** on recently being awarded substansive rank.

On the sporting front (apart from the Orienteering of course) the Apprentices seem to be stealing the limelight with a special mention going to **AT Cpls Burden** and **Waldron** for being selected for the recently formed Army Ladies Football Team.

Commex Tp has continued to train Single Entry soldiers and Apprentice Tradesmen throughout the Spring Term. Summer Term, however, will bring the following changes: the Corporals that are on detachment from Schemes/Radex Tp are all taking up new posts. In particular, **Cpls Basford** and **Oldfield** to 30 Sig Regt and 14 Sig Regt (EW) respectively and **Cpl Jackson** to AA Coll Harrogate (disembarkation leave was refused). **Cpl Kirkland** (the longest serving member of the Troop) is moving to QM(T) and **Sgt Pearson**, the most travelled man in the College, moves back to the Wing. **Sgt Angove** will replace **Sgt Pearson, Cpl Cox** has arrived from RSS, straight on to exercise and, **LCpl Moore** has slid in from the warmth of the gym to the bleakness of Ripon Park's Training Area.

Should any readers from MT departments require additional material for route planning **Sgt Fleet** of Commex Tp has published two new pamphlets, one is named '101 interesting places to break down in Britain' and the other is an interesting catalogue of faults that can arise on a Series 3 FFR Landrover, should you be unlucky. These will both be distributed as soon as the RAC can release one of our vehicles.

TECHNICIAN WING

OC	**Maj Peter Shawyer**
HIO Programmer	**Mr Peter Shepherd**
HIO Training Supervisor	**Mr Bob Huxtable**
Wing SSgt	**SSgt Dick Woodfine**

Technician Wing is presently training the Apprentice technicians from the 93B and 94C terms with the former graduating at the end of the Summer Term. With the departure of the Single Entry (SE) technicians from the Wing, the occasional Stores Accountants course is the only SE commitment in the Wing.

Several of the Wing staff have departed or will depart in the near future. Firstly, congratulations go to **Mr Colin Smith** on his promotion to SIO and his move to RSS Blandford. **Colin** has been with the Wing for over 18 years and he will be sadly missed. **Mr Peter Shepherd** takes over the duties of HIO Programmer on temporary promotion.

Of the military instructors, **Sgt Zdena Best** leaves on posting to 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, via a short rest cure called the 'Sergeants Course' and, we have assured her that **Capt Mick Poland** is nice ... really! Also leaving at this time is **Sgt Alan Dixon** to 34 Sig Regt (V) for the last few months of his 22 years service. Good luck for the future, **Alan**!

Of those remaining, **Sgt Carl Hindson** continues to have a disagreement with his barber but has been shortlisted for a part in the 'King and I'. **SSgt Dick Woodfine** reminds us that he starts his resettlement course after the Easter break as does **Sgt** 'the Jovial' **Dave Glay**. Finally we await the arrival of **Maj Peter Shawyer** shortly to take over from **Maj Bryan Maltby** as OC Tech Wing, leaving **Bryan** to 'study the flora and fauna' on the banks of the river Nidd leading up to his retirement in October.

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NEWS FROM THE REGIMENTS

1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

HANDOVER OF RSM

The month of April saw the changeover of RSMs: **WO1 (RSM) Spiers** who departs for 7 Sig Regt on commissioning, to **WO1 (RSM) Keates** who arrives from 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt on promotion.



WO1 (RSM) Spiers *(left)* hands over the RD computer to WO1 (RSM) Keates

HONORARY MBE FOR HERR HEINRICH

The Officers' Mess Ladies Dinner Night in February was a particularly special evening of celebration for one of the principal guests, **Herr Heinrich**. Both **Herr** and **Frau Heinrich** have been long-standing friends of the British Forces in Herford, especially the Royal Corps of Signals. Since the departure of 7 Sig Regt, **Herr Heinrich** has been closely involved with our Regiment. As a well known artist, he has enriched the mess over the years with the gift and loan of numerous paintings.

In recognition of his remarkable contribution to Anglo-German relations, **Herr Heinrich** was awarded with an Honorary MBE and to mark the occasion was presented with the dress miniature by the CO, **Lt Col D. M. Mills**. In his acceptance speech, **Herr Heinrich** responded by commenting on his close ties with the Regiment and thanking the British people for his unexpected award.



A proud moment, Lt Col Mills presents Herr Heinrich with a miniature of his Honorary MBE

LS & GC MEDAL PRESENTATION

On 7 February the new Chief of Staff at HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div, **Col McColl OBE**, presented LS & GC medals to **SSgts O'Brien, James** and **Quinn, CSgt Buckley**, and **Cpls Meir** and **Ovenden** at a medal presentation ceremony in the Sergeants' Mess which was followed with a celebratory lunch.



(Rear L to R): Lt Col Mills, Cpl Meir, SSgt Quinn, Cpl Ovenden, CSgt Buckley, SSgt James, SSgt O'Brien and WO1 (RSM) Spiers
(Front): Families of medal recipients and Col McColl *(Centre)*

EXERCISE RHINO SWORD 211 Roving Reporter Lt Glover

Following hard on the heels of Ex Premier Link, a Comd Comms 1 (UK) Armd Div exercise, the Regiment deployed on Ex Rhino Sword, in March, the first Divisional exercise of the year. Aimed at testing the Brigade staffs, the Regiment's task was to provide the headquarters and communications assets needed to create a realistic scenario to test staff to the limit of their capacity. While the trunk squadrons deployed to the snow-capped hills around Detmold, the access moved en-masse into Hobart Barracks. The Regiment successfully provided both the administration and communication requirements for over 900 people. The GOC stated that the Regiment sets the standard for the rest of the Division—a credit to all those involved.



The real man in charge on Ex Rhino Sword, Cpl Bibby from 212 Sig Sqn, ably assisted by the Ops Offr, Capt Pickersgill, at the helm of Comms Plans

Another new aspect of Ex Rhino Sword was the participation, for the first time, of a Danish Brigade, who on ARRC operations would be OPCON 1 Division. This presented the Regiment with a number of fresh challenges. These were swiftly overcome and communications were established, including interfacing with the Danish DIOS system and a number of inter-operability trials involving CNR. The task of providing the communications interface and liaison with the Danish Brigade was given to **2Lt Sophie Davies**, ably assisted by **LCpls Camp** and **MacDonald**, all from A2 Troop. Special thanks must also go to 7 Sig Regt for providing the TII and crew which allowed us to have a useful exercise.

The Danish Chief of Defence, **Gen Lyng**, was one of the many visitors to the exercise who expressed his admiration for the Regiment's efforts. Ex Rhino Sword brought new challenges which were met with the usual mixture of professionalism and enthusiasm for the job in hand.

EXERCISE RHINO HUNTER OIC Hunter Force 2Lt Crawford

On the morning of 23 March, 40 members of the Regiment departed for Weingarten in Bavaria. We were to provide a Hunter Force for students on the final exercise of their Survival and Resistance to Interrogation course at the International Long Range Recce Patrol School. The Regimental force was bolstered by a small contingent of 14 soldiers from the QRH led by **Lt Howard**. Our task was to provide an enemy, hunter and guard force for a three phase exercise. We were to hunt down the students, capture them and question them on their movements. In the final phase we guarded them whilst the experts 'questioned' them in a PoW environment.

The course is open to all Arms and nations belonging to NATO, there was even Royal Signals representation in the form of **Cpl Dick** from 30 Sig Regt, **Sig 'Trigger' Smith** and **LCpl Lynn** had the great satisfaction of giving this particular exercise colleague a more testing time. As a hunter force we were in a totally different environment to our usual vehicle bound, communications role. Together with **Sgt Eden**, I delved into my recent memories of Sandhurst tactical and infantry training to produce a varied plan comprising standing and fighting patrols, OPs, ambushes and general domination of the ground. In support we had the use of a Lynx from 3 AAC and two war dogs plus handlers from Sennelager. The exercise was a success and a welcome break from RSIT preparation. The 201 Sig Sqn contingent, also known as the 'Hammersmith Hardmen', should have been at home in the infantry environment following their training for and deployment to NI on a Prison Guard Force tour: they did produce some effective patrolling, but they were the only team not to capture an escapee!

The final phase of the exercise was held in a mock PoW camp. It opened the eyes of all of us as to the way we might be treated if we ever had the misfortune to be captured by an enemy. It also brought home the fact that the students had been living rough for a week in blizzard conditions, with very little to eat, in badly fitting old German uniforms, and only the shelter they could construct themselves. It is an extremely arduous course, but one with excellent training value for both the students and Hunter Force alike.

THE PHIL COOL CSE SHOW

To entertain the troops following their deployment on Ex Rhino Sword, and prior to the busy RSIT period, a Combined Services Entertainment show was staged in the Globe Cinema on Friday 24 March. At the top of the bill was the multi-talented comedian **Phil Cool** who proved himself to be a worthy star with a blistering performance which kept everyone laughing in the aisles.



A personal command performance
(L to R): Sgt Gleedow, SSgt and Mrs Dawson, Phil Cool, and SSgt and Mrs Breheney

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2 Sig Regt
York

CO	**Lt Col J. L. Fletcher**
Adjt	**Capt C. J. McIntosh**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Whiting**

HQ SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj L. Wood MBE**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) R. Ibbotson**

DEPARTURES

The Squadron has seen several of its members depart during the last few months. We say a fond farewell to the following:

Cpl Steve Marlow who leaves us on discharge from the Army after 22 years service; **Cpl Dave Coleman** and **LCpl** 'Taff' **Evans** who are also leaving the Army; **Sgt Les Bostock** who departs to 40 Sig Regt for his last six months; **Cpl Steve Dade** on posting to 1 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt and **LCpl Lenny Lyons** on posting to 4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204).

ARRIVALS

The Squadron extends a warm welcome to **Sgt Mark Pryke**, **LCpl Alan Leslie**, **Sigs** 'George' **Benson**, **Paul Haywood** and **Gareth Wiseman.**

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **SSgt Jeff Martin** on his well deserved selection for promotion to WO2.

SPORT

The Squadron has excelled itself in leading many of the Regiment's sports teams to notable results within the EDIST Leagues, some of the sports are:

ORIENTEERING

Team Captain: **Capt Ray Cory**

The EDIST Orienteering League drew to a close in March with 2 Sig Regt winning by an outstanding margin of 2,675.5 points with RAF Leeming second with 2,005 points. Some notable performances from **SSgt (SQMS) Mary Cobban** individual second in the Women's Competition; **WO2 (SSM) John Williams** first M21, **Maj Pete Stephenson** third M21, **Capt Ray Cory** first M40 and **Maj Les Wood** second M45. It was good to see plenty of new talent coming forward from the younger members of the Regiment with **Cpl Welch** and **Sig McNally** securing a place in the team for the forthcoming District and Corps championships.

BADMINTON

Team Captain **WO1 (FofS) Terry Inman**

The EDIST Badminton Championships were held at ASMT Leconfield from 23 January to 28 January. The Regiment entered 12 men and six women as teams and individuals. Both the men's and women's teams won, with the teams qualifying for the Army Championships. Individually the Regiment made a clean sweep with **LCpl Steve Pengelly** winning the Men's Singles; **LCpl Nicky Sweeney** winning the Women's Singles; **WO1 (FofS) Terry Inman** and **LCpl Steve Pengelly** winning the Men's Doubles and **Sgt Heather McNair** and **LCpl Nicky Sweeney** winning the Women's Doubles.

CROSS COUNTRY

Team Captain: **Maj Less Wood MBE**

The Regiment finished runner-up in the Army Major Units Cross Country Championships and continues to produce a burgeoning crop of young runners, despite losing talent over the last season. Good performances by **Sig Kev Conlan**, **Cpl Less Boston** and **SSgt Jeff Martin** in the Inter Services Half Marathon at Fleet recently prove that we have the versatility and strength to ensure success at middle distance events over the forthcoming athletics season.

214 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj Pete Stephenson**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Dave Richards**

EXERCISE SLIM ENDEAVOUR

A small group from 214 Sig Sqn descended on Ambleside in the Lake District. The aim of the exercise was to teach and practise navigational skills, in preparation for the forthcoming Battle Camp. The group was led by **Maj Pete Stephenson**, **WO2 (SSM) Dave Richards**, **Sgts Dean Nichols** and **Paul Langley**.

Arriving on Sunday afternoon the students found themselves on a night 'nav' that same evening. The 'nav' was held on a fixed orienteering course in Grisedale Forest.

The students set off with the instructors wondering if they would ever see them again. After about 15 minutes the forest was aglow with light coming from head torches. Some very good times were set with **Cpl Mich Lee** winning the event, closely followed by **Cpl Arthur Fowler**. The other amazing feat was performed by **Cpl** 'Daz' **Welch** who somehow managed to end up the wrong side of the hill and three miles away from the start point. After search parties were beginning to give up hope he turned up!

Monday saw us off into the hills with the students leading the legs. During mid-morning the weather began to close in and the wind picked up, but the group pressed on. By midday when the wind had reached 50 mph and the visibility was 10 metres, we bumped into two civilians with 'all the gear but no idea' who tagged on to the group hoping to find a way off the mountain. Due to deteriorating weather, it was decided to take a quick route down. Much to the dismay of the students and instructors the route came out 200 metres from a Pub! So, whilst waiting for transport back to Ambleside, the group sampled some of the local liquid refreshment!

On Tuesday we were joined by the CO and his driver. The morning was spent confirming navigation skills around a local area. In the afternoon we went back into Grisedale Forest. Much to the horror of **LCpl Ian Davidson**, the CO's driver, the CO, **Lt Col Jo Fletcher**, decided that they would run the course together. **Cpl Fowler** won the event with the CO and **LCpl Davidson** in second place. **LCpl Davidson** was unavailable for comment as he was having difficulty in breathing!

The week was rounded off with a 10 mile navigation trek. Overnight there had been a good fall of snow making walking quite a problem as **Sgt** 'Scottie' **Scott** found when he spent most of the time on his backside or trying to bury his head in the snow.

The final evening in Ambleside was spent with **Cpls Pete Blagg**, 'Daz' **Welch**, **Mich Lee** and **Kev Allen** with the locals before setting off back to York the following morning.



Cpl Arthur Fowler, LCpl Mick Lee and Cpl Pete Blagg wonder if they will ever see civilisation again!

ROMAN TROOP

Tp Comd	**2Lt John Torrell**
Tp Sgt	**SSgt Andy Terry**

What better way to welcome spring than with a little shake out exercise before the Squadron shake out exercise, before the Regimental shake out exercise? Two o'clock one morning and the Troop was called in, totally unexpectedly. Three months of exercise cobwebs blown away the Troop really got into the swing of rapid moves with one particularly fast move being helped along by the River Ouse bursting its banks and threatening to make the first submergeable Trunk Node. But why complain about being wet and cold if you have been all snuggled up in NBC State 2 for two days?

The Troop came to the fore with its deployment on Battle Camp, Sennybridge.

It is interesting to see how people cope when on exercise without 240 volts, a television and kettle. Fortunately, someone had booked beautiful weather at SENTA and the three days on ranges and the two day exercise went tremendously well with enthusiasm evident at all times. Ambushes being the Troop's favourite for occurrences, there were fears on the live night ambush that **Cpl Pete Blagg** had been shot when screams of 'medic' came from the direction of the left cut-off group. He actually fell down a hole and twisted his knee, the irony is that he is the Troop medic.

HELLO AND GOODBYES

To round up some 'goodbyes' and a 'hello'. Outgoing is **Sig Ian** 'Scouse' **Hulmston**. Even though he believes that a 4 tonner weighs just that, regardless of the Ptarmigan equipment on it, he should do well in civilian life and we wish him all the best. **LCpl Jason Curley** leaves us for another Troop within the Squadron so he has not really left at all, or so you would think from the time he spends in our garages! Just can't let go eh! Finally to **LCpl John Bolton**, welcome to the Troop.

SAXON TROOP

Busy and hectic would be used to describe Saxon Tp's last few months. Crisis management has now been honed to a fine point and become a way of life.

The majority of our schedule was geared towards the Regimental and Brigade exercise Ex Spring Eagle. The first phase went well, if somewhat slowly with our node home being located in an old aircraft hangar that is large enough and barren enough to hold next year's Christmas party! It gave several members of the Troop their first opportunity to weld themselves to a sleeping bag for the first time in 48 hours. **Sigs Francis**, **Shane Hepworth**, **Russell Rowley** to name but a few.

The second phase started badly and deteriorated rather rapidly from thereon. It took ages for the finest Troop in 217 'Banjo' Sqn to carry out a relief in place at our location, many moons passed but eventually we got moving. On arrival in the hide for the next location everything was going well, a bit of a tight squeeze but OK. Then we moved off to the Node Home location and the relays went to theirs. We drove into location behind what was supposedly the ESV but turned out to be the Switch as the ESV, driven by **Cpl Wallace** was now resting rather gracefully on its side in the ditch by the side of the road blocking the access completely. No problem, we thought, Node Command can go and tow him out . . . wrong, Node Command on its way to assist the stranded vehicle got bogged down by **Sig** '2 wheels' **Rowley**. Thank goodness the Switch got through and we were able to maintain the whole framework network with the one vehicle. This again gave the opportunity for more sleeping bag familiarisation training for **LCpls Curley, Simpkins**, the attached SCC and PV crew, **Sig Musson** and countless others who slaved.

Trouble was still not far away **LCpl Curley**, then bogged in the Admin Bedford on the way home. Well, they say it comes in threes; thankfully that will be it for the time being and thank heaven for farmers with big tractors!

VIKING TROOP

Tp Comd	**Lt Ian Heath**

First of all the 'hellos' and 'goodbyes'. Cheerio to **Sig Ricky Rickard** posted to 280 Sig Sqn. Also so long to **Sgt** 'Banjo' **Wilkinson** who is cross squadroned to 217, may your strings never snap. A big 'Hagar' hello goes to **Cpl** 'Sully' **O'Sullivan** from 30 Sig Regt and the British Ski Bobbing championships.

219 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj Bruce Avison**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Mick Williams**

It has a been a joyous period for SHQ 219 with both **SSgt (FofS) Pete Lowe** and **SSgt Steve Pellant** coming off the promotions board. **SSgt Pellant** is off to 7 Sig Regt and **SSgt (FofS) Lowe** to 280 (UK) Sig Sqn. They will be missed and we wish them the best in Krefeld. **Capt John Merritt** has been loaned to DWRR on a uniform recognition course. **Lt Robbie King** has officially taken over as Sqn 2IC and is trying his hardest not to favour Phoenix Tp.

The Sqn Comd, **Maj Bruce Avison**, made a valiant attempt to stop smoking. There was a round of musical chairs with the Squadron Clerks as **Sig Ally Rickard** followed her husband to Krefeld. **Sig Miller** is now the keeper of the Brew Fund and is looked after by **Cpl Jackie Simpson**.

EAGLE TROOP

Tp Comd	**2Lt Stu Boyne**

Congratulations must go to **Cpl David Gallagher** who retained his title as District Squash Champion.

Finally two farewells, firstly to **Cpl Pat Barnes** who is off to university in the autumn. Thank you for all the effort you have put in during your time here. Secondly, to **Sig Simpson**, off to work for his father. Nothing like keeping it in the family; good luck to you both.

PHOENIX TROOP

Tp Comd	**2Lt Julius Caesar**

EXERCISE SPRING EAGLE

The exercise lasted for five days and had both SANs in the Troop moving frequently. Determined to see that the new Tp Comd arrived with a bang, **Sgt Alex Hurst** decided to demonstrate the lighting of the Puffing Billy which duly engulfed the area in flames. **LCpl Walsh** believing this to be the correct method followed **Sgt Hurst**'s procedure exactly. The Troop has now put in for two pairs of eyebrows as exercise losses.

With second line inspections now upon us the Troop is setting to work in the garages. We believe there should not be any problems with the subsets; **Sig Sam Avis** informed the staff that if the vehicles get wet again, she will be a little put out . . . or words to that effect!

EXERCISE RAMRO KAM

Ex Ramro Kam started on a normal Monday morning; all the Troop Comds and SSgts were called in by the Sqn Comd, **Maj Bruce Avison** and issued with a Warning Order to prepare for the operations in Nepal. The vehicles would have to be ready to load on to ferries on Friday and the personnel were to be ready to move in 14 days. After the jaws had stopped dropping the Sqn Comd then explained that this was only an exercise, however the timings still stood.

The next five days were a maelstrom, with vehicles being loaded, equipment being checked and repacked under the watchful eyes of the Sqn SSM, **WO2 Mick Williams** and the SQMS, **SSgt Terry Parle**. On Friday morning the Regiment's vehicles rolled out of the camp gates and deployed to the local airfield, simulating a ferry loading.

For the next week all were involved in an individual training phase which covered trade and soldier training, document checks and all manner of other tasks. On Wednesday the Squadron took part in a HF radio exercise. The sections had a variety of tasks to perform, one was communicating on a golf club, another fending off the Ops Offr, **Capt Stu McConnell** who was acting as a media megamouth.

The final phase of Ex Ramro Kam was a Regimental Recall and the deployment to our initial field locations. After the speed of the previous two weeks it was almost a rest to go on exercise!

REGIMENTAL BOXING NIGHT

22 February saw the return of the Regimental boxing. With Squadron pride at stake and with each Squadron vying for the title, 219 Sig Sqn put out its strongest possible team. **Cpl Aiden Whitty**, **LCpl Brodie** and **Sigs Brand-Cotti**, **Ellis** and **Watson** all fought in the prelims.

The main event took place two days later in front of a packed gym. 219 Sig Sqn got off to a magnificent start, with **Sig Ellis** winning the first bout by a stoppage. It was a fight that could have gone either way, however **Sig Ellis**'s superior fitness and technique shone through in the third round. After a couple of bouts 219 were again being represented, this time by **Sig Stenton**. Although totally out-classed by **Sig Castro** this proved to be one of the best fights of the night. No one in the audience gave **Stenton** a chance of lasting three rounds. However, through a lot of guts and determination he managed to survive but lost on a point's decision. **Stenton**'s courage did not go unnoticed and he was awarded the best loser trophy. **Sig Brodie** provided a fitting finalé for 219 with an excellent win in the second to last bout. Again, as in the prelims, he out-classed his opponent using his superior reach to good effect.

Although 219 did not win the Inter-Squadron competition, they can be proud of the effort they put in, not only by those who won but also by all who took part and represented the Squadron. Well done the Boxers!



LCpl Brodie and Sig Gav Makewell fight it out

7 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

CHANGE OF SQUADRON COMMANDER

In the first week of March the Squadron said farewell to **Maj Brian Dearman**, HQ Sqn Comd for the past two and a half years. He achieved so much for the Squadron in that time, overseeing the move of a large complex and multi skilled departments from Herford in 1994.

Not to be forgotten, his wife **Margaret** also beavered away with both Regimental and Squadron Wives Clubs and helping out in the Hive. Farewells were said by the Squadron Officers and SNCOs at a lunch in the Sergeants' Mess and the Junior Ranks with a 'Happy Hour' in the Rugby Club. Everyone in the Squadron wishes them both well in the future, thanking them for what they have done; have a relaxing holiday prior to taking on the intrigues of the G4 world in Portadown.

Maj M. D. Fogg MBE has moved in as the new Sqn Comd from first right down the corridor in the QM(A) Department; he was recently presented with his MBE at Buckingham Palace. (This may have been due to him returning a small part of Germany to its owners.) Well done Sir! Both **Maj Fogg MBE** and his wife **Joan**, are well known in the Squadron, having been in the Regiment since the Herford days. A warm welcome to the hot seat is extended from the Squadron.

CORPS MUSEUM DONATION

The Regiment has continued to amass cash for the Corps Museum Fund over the last year. Rising to the challenge of fund raising by making an immediate donation of £6,000 and then, despite the Regimental move, the coffers were bolstered still further by the individual efforts of Squadrons. These included sponsoring and organising events such as a highly successful Regimental Bash, running a marathon and cycling from Herford to Krefeld (driving it is bad enough!).

The Herculean efforts of all involved plus the addition of individual contributions took the total raised to a staggering £22,500, all achieved, it must be said, during the most turbulent period for the Regiment since Op Granby. The photograph shows the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col D. McDowall MBE** presenting the final instalment to SOinC, **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle** on behalf of all ranks of the Regiment.



231 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Charlie Miller**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Grant Pocock**

The Squadron has been involved in a deployment to the Ramstein area for STX AFSouth and the upheaval of an internal re-organisation of the Squadron. As part of long-term planning, it has now taken a second MAN but lost its radio assets to 232 Sig Sqn. A sad farewell to Radio Tp and its personalities and especially missed will be the extra manpower it always managed to find.

Welcome to **2Lt Kyle Barker** who now commands MAN097. We hope that he will be with us long enough to get his feet under the table.

A welcome also to **Lt Lee O'Rourke** and MAN098, newly transferred from 232 Sig Sqn.

EXERCISE DRAGONS LAIR

Today the area of the Somme, the scene of much loss of life during the first world war, is peaceful, rolling French countryside. Once littered with shell holes and trenches, it is now filled with military cemeteries and monuments to those who died there. At Mametz Wood stands the monument to the 38th (Welsh) Division. Sadly, in recent years the monument and its approaches have become so badly overgrown that visitors have been deterred from stopping. The Regiment with its very strong Welsh affiliation decided to send a party to improve access to, and generally clean up the monument.

The group under the guidance of **SSgt Ian Davies**, consisted of **Cpl Denton, LCpls Moss, Purdon, McGuinness** (who is living proof that there is life after rugby) and **Sigs Tyrrell** and **Allen**. So on Saturday 11 February with a minibus loaded to the gunnels, with picks, shovels, chainsaws and foul weather gear, we set off.

The soldiers had to pay for their accommodation, food and other costs, so despite a generous handout from the PRI, this was a labour of love. We stayed at a guest house, which was used as an advanced dressing station in 1916 when it was only some 500yds from the front line.



Back row: Sigs 'Tiz' Tyrrell, Bry Allen, SSgt Ian Davies
Front row: Cpl 'Denny' Denton, LCpls Stevie Moss, Craig Purdon and Bud McGuiness

The work involved was mainly heavy labour so many fond memories of RSSSC and RSDCC came flooding back to those lucky enough to have experienced such courses. The thick, heavy, clinging mud was also a constant reminder of the conditions that were a daily part of life almost 80 years ago. Some other reminders were the ever present souvenirs of war, ranging from horseshoes and .303 rounds to hand grenades and a very large 9.2in shell still with its fuse assembly and charge in near perfect working order. One or two items did find their way home but I'm happy to say that the 9.2in shell didn't.

The local people however have a much more down to earth approach to old munitions. If you want it, then take it home, get the Black and Decker on it, and if you can, empty the charge out of it, then all the better, if not then don't worry too much. Wipe it over with some oil, a touch of Brasso and Hey Presto the perfect souvenir. Mind you this very dangerous approach is not to be recommended!

Sunday brought a simple, but moving reading and wreath laying ceremony at Thiepval Memorial. Here, inscribed on a huge stone and brick structure, atop the highest point of the battlefield, are the names of over 70,000 officers and men who died on the Somme and have no known grave. Even the most hard faced young soldier comes away feeling that little bit humbler.

Over a period of several days the huge mound of earth, that was our prime objective diminished, it shrank in direct proportion to the size, quantity and quality of blisters we amassed on our hands. Most of us learnt the hard way about the tricks of the trade when it comes to barrowing earth, some still bear the scars today. **LCpl Steve Moss**, took to the chainsaw like a duck to water and suitably kitted up, commenced to wreak havoc upon the scrub and trees around the monument.

The last day was given over to two battlefield tours. Deville Wood, which 3,253 men of the South African Brigade stoutly defended, and only 152 emerged unscathed. Then to Beaumont, where the Newfoundland Regiment attacked and suffered 91% casualties in less than 40 minutes.

In all, not only a constructive week's work, but for many of us a real eye-opener to the circumstances and conditions in which the first world war was fought. Finally, at the end of four days' hard graft, the monument once again stood proud and clear above the surrounding French countryside, overlooking the woods and fields which had been so bravely fought over. Already plans are under way to go back and assist the Imperial War Museum with another project on the battlefield.



LCpl Stevie Moss at work

232 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj J. M. S. Turner** RA Signals
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Simcox**

The Squadron has just been through a transitional period finally re-organising in March 1995. We now hold all Regimental radio assets, providing communications to ARRC TAC HQ and trunk access to 4 FSG HQs.

Congratulations go to **WO2 (YofS) Parker** on his recent promotion to WO1.

Good luck to all those posted to 231 Sqn and a warm welcome to those arriving. SHQ says goodbye in particular to **Capt Scott Youngson** and hello to **Capt Martin Phillips**, the new 2IC.

SCRA(T) TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Parfitt**

March was a month of major upheaval, with Radio Tp 231 Sqn moving across to 232 Sqn and then splitting into Ratt Tp and SCRA(T) Tp.

The singlies moved wholesale from one accommodation block to another. The handover went smoothly. (The brew kit is sorted so we can function at some level of competence.)

Congratulations go to **Sig Tom Longbottom** and **Louise** on their marriage.

RATT TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt R. Byfield**

A new Squadron, Troop name and commander have made for an upheaval. Farewell to half of the old Radio Tp who now assume the attractive name of SCRA(T) Tp. Farewells also go to **LCpl Gareth Jones** to 14 Sig Regt (EW) and **Sig** 'Sammy' **Sampson** to 1 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt. A big welcome to **Sig Sonja Macmillan**.

Congratulations also go to **SSgt Dave** and **Lorna Sloane** on the birth of **Robyn**.

SAN TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Fred Hargreaves**

Over the past couple of months the Troop has undergone a number of radical changes, most notable of which is the amalgamation of ARRC Forward/Tac HQ Tp and FSG Tp to give it the new name of SAN Tp but still with the separate roles of its forming elements.

During the process we have lost **Lt Lee O'Rourke** to 231 Sig Sqn and **Sig Colledge** to Civvy Street. The techs, **Cpl Marti** 'Brewkit' **Buchs**, to Support Tp and we will soon lose **Cpl John McBride, Sigs Paul Mason, Scotty** and **Fergie**, along with their Dets to 231 Sig Sqn. Arrivals have been a Tp Comd, a Tp SSgt and the inevitable uncertainty of a new situation.

Recent exercises have been Woodland Flight 1/95 where a number of vehicles were snowed in, people found out about life (and guard stags) in the Arctic and 229 Sig Sqn achieved a first in bringing home the same number of vehicles as they deployed with. Ex Rhino Sword saw the FSG element away with 1 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt supporting the Danes whilst the TAC HQ faction deployed on Ex Woodland Flight.

Away from work, SAN Tp under the watchful eye of **Sgt Brian Clark** won the inter Troop tug-of-war. **SSgt Dave James** is away on his Alpine Ski Instructors Course.

RADIO TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Mike Grierson**

Another round of Regimental changes has meant the loss of five soldiers and greetings to one. Farewells go to **LCpls Mick Nisbet, Paul Edisbury** and **Sigs Stu Hunt, Bob Rankin**, 'Lav' **Lavender** and 'Mrs' **McMillan**. All the best in the new Troop (next door) and next time your passing—keep passing! Greetings to **LCpl** 'Terry' **Waite** all the way from the other side of camp.

Various elements of the Troop deployed on Ex Woodland Flight and spent their time defending themselves from refugees and pressmen.

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RHQ

Friday 10 February 1995 was the day when the Regiment turned out to say farewell to our CO **Lt Col V. G. Strivens**. It ended with him signing over the Regiment on a 1033, followed by a fitting tribute from the White Helmets. The pictures tell the tale! He was driven to the Officers' Mess in the bucket of the JCB where the unit subaltern, **Lt Phil Abbott** managed to persuade him to take a swim in the mess pool! We wish **Lt Col Strivens** all the very best for the future in his new post in York.

We welcome **Lt Col L. A. Relph** as our new CO and look forward to serving the first female Commanding Officer of a Regular Royal Signals Regiment.



Lt Col Relph signs for the Regiment



A worried looking Lt Col Shrivens as the White Helmet 'easily clears him'

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj T. J. Friend MBE**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) C. L. J. Gopsill**

SHQ

Greetings from the Blandford Building Site, you can almost hear our seniors saying 'I remember when all this was field'. We've more building tradesmen than squaddies and more cranes than landrovers so you can imagine rush hour calls for omni-directional vision—shock, an RD using trade phraseology—for generators hung from cranes, navvies in JCBs, marching troops and the RSM.

Silicon-chip technology is gradually seeping up the corridor of power from the Main School Building, and for those of you who thought you'd never witness it, **Maj Tom Friend** has now been computerised and faxed and dragged into the 20th century.

Heaven help us if he discovers you can get golf games for his PC!

The SSM, **WO2 Chris Gopsill**, has slipped back into his car park attendant role and is now distributing letters for the Garrison Car Park Controller—**WO1 (GSM) Guy Richards**—advertising a new colour coded car pass depending on how far from work you live, how many doors your car has, the year of manufacture, whether or not you have a dog and whether or not you can beat him on a Sergeants' Mess Run.

All departments within the Squadron are now working to full capacity with the influx of trainees into the 1 (SE) Sqn undergoing the Interim Training Package. The gym staff are complaining there aren't enough days in the week and the QM staff are scouring the fiche to find the Nato Stock Number for extra ones. On top of all this, the RQMS (Gen)—**WO2 Sarah Stonier**—needs more boxes of soldiers for her fatigues parties.

The new TWO, **WO2 Ken Kennedy**, found himself in the thick of it when he arrived to find he had the mantle of Training Warrant Officer for HQ Sqn and the end of year returns to compile for Garrison Military Training—what Military Training?

The out-going TWO, **WO2 Carl Strefford**, departed at a rapid rate on resettlement and a six week swan in Belize teaching sub-aqua on St George's Caye.

1 SQUADRON

On 10 February 1995, the Squadron said farewell to **Maj Guy Townend**, the Canadian exchange officer and at the same time welcomed his replacement **Maj Paul Rutherford**. **Maj Townend** had the dubious task of closing his Squadron at Catterick and re-establishing it at Blandford. He accomplished much during his two and a half year tour and was well respected by those who worked with him. He will certainly be missed but not forgotten. He went home with a 'pile' of departure gifts (Royal Signals place mats included), along with the Master of Signals award. The SOinC remarked that this was no doubt a 'first' by a Canadian Signal Exchange Officer. Well done **Guy** on a very successful tour and good luck at Staff College.

Maj Rutherford arrives from Canada's one and only Signal Regiment at Kingston. It is the perfect time for a rotation of exchange officers with the move, the new build. **Maj Rutherford** will remain with the Regiment for two years.

INTER CORPS CROSS COUNTRY

This year's Inter Corps Cross Country was held on Friday 24 February at Warminster. Representing Blandford was **Cpl** 'Ginge' **Davey, Sig Morris** and **Cpl Mick Stanyer**. **Sig Murphy** ran as a guest. The course consisted of two laps of mud with a very steep hill that defeated most. With encouragement given by **WO2 (SSM) John Smith** the final positions were **Cpl** 'Ginge' **Davey** 42nd, **Cpl Mick Stanyer** 102nd, **Sig Murphy** 123rd and **Sig Morris** 11th in the ladies race.

TECH UPGRADERS CHARITY ABSEIL

On Saturday 11 March, seven members of Alpha Tp took part in a charity abseil off the Humber Bridge near Hull. We were to drop 100ft off the main carriageway from the bridge on to the foreshore below.

After a short walk on to the bridge (during which everybody was trying to walk behind someone else so they didn't have to go first!) we reached the point of no return, and we were very relieved to see an ambulance waiting at the bottom!

Highlights of the jump itself were watching **Cpl Stu** 'Pid' **Ness** rehearsing for a place in Pans People or was it just a touch of disco leg? Followed by **Cpl Steve McRostie**, eventually; was he receiving some sort of counselling before going over?

We raised £600 for Scope, for the Spastic Society. Now all that was left was a celebratory night on the town to tell all the young ladies how brave we had been!



Tech Upgraders Charity Abseil
(L to R): Cpls Steve McRostie, Paul Bond, Stu Ness, Scotty Carmichael, Monty Farrow, Rick Davey and Deano Cartledge

TRAINING SUPPORT SQUADRON

Recent arrivals and departures include **Capt Tim Jones** from 259 Sig Sqn replacing **Maj Tom Pengelley** as Sqn Comd. **Maj Pengelley** moves on to become the Regimental 2IC.

Arrivals are **Sgt Mal Maloney, Cpls Rab Burn, Paul Henderson, Craig Walker, Pete Howlett, LCpl** 'Jono' **Johnson, Sigs** 'Cat' **Catney** and 'Taff' **Richards**, welcome all.

Departures are **Cpl Mark Gray** to 7 Sig Regt, **Cpl** 'Jules' **Williams** to 264 Sig Sqn, **Sig Jo Ruth** to 3 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt and **Sig Lee Lello** to 7 Sig Regt. Goodbye and good luck.

EXERCISE PENDULUM NORTH
by Sig Damian McDonnell

Not very often does the opportunity arise to exercise in the extreme climes of Norway, furthermore, as an attached member to a Commando Unit, therefore as the newcomer to 11 Sig Regt the chance was too great to pass up.

I was attached to 29 Cdo Regt Royal Artillery. My job was to assist **Sgt Rob Enderby**, who is currently serving with 29 Cdo RA, in the installation and manning of the Exercise Rebro Station, along with the distribution and control of the vast quantities of cryptographic material needed to allow the Dutch, Norwegian and American Troops to join in the exercise. On arrival in theatre, the immediate priority was to train to the high standard which would allow us to exercise in the all too often dangerous conditions of Norway. To this end, previously untrained members of the Regiment had to complete a three day Basic Ski Course to attain a level of competence which would enable us to complete the gruelling three weeks Arctic Warfare Course. The intense course was made even harder with Commando pride at stake and covered everything the Troops of 3 Cdo Bde would need to know to be combat effective in the Arctic.

The exercise culminated in a final push up the North coast of Norway involving the Royal Navy, without which the operation would have collapsed, as the ships played a vital role in transporting the NATO Troops to the Combat Zones.

The deployment gave me an insight into the very organised and proficient world of the Marine and Commando Sub Units yearly deployments in Norway and the advice I would give, would be to seize any opportunity to exercise in the so very different world of the Arctic.

ROYAL SIGNALS TRIALS AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT (STDU)

Sqn Comd — **Maj C. R. Urquhart**

On Monday 12 December 1994 the SOinC **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle** officially opened the new STDU building accompanied by the Garrison Commander **Brig J. H. Griffin** and Comd CIS Eng Wing **Col P. J. Pritchard**. The SOinC addressed the Squadron and acknowledged the efforts of the project team, in particular our own head of trials, **Mr Paul Mullender** and the TOT, **Capt Tony Sarginson**.



The Opening Ceremony Photo Call
(L to R Standing): Capt Sarginson, SOinC Maj Gen A. H. Boyle, Maj Urquhart, Mr Paul Mullender, Capt Clover, WO2 (FofS) Allen and WO2 Barrett
(Kneeling): Capt Baines and WO2 (SSM) Gaston



WO2 (SSM) Gaston receiving the Commander's Challenge Trophy from the Commander, Brig J. H. Griffin

The Squadron has relocated within the camp to a new purpose-built building in the area vacated by DADPTC. Months of planning preceded building work, during which plans were drawn and redrawn until each department was happy with its own piece of real estate. Once building started it was not long before the Squadron was ready to begin moving in. Under the guidance of **Capt Tony Sarginson** and **WO2 (YofS) Paul Barrett** it was completed within two weeks prior to the official opening.

On Wednesday 18 January the Squadron entered the Commander's Challenge Trophy as part of the CIS Eng Wing team. Previous efforts have been somewhat unsuccessful; however, due to some astute tactics by **WO2 (SSM) Tony Gaston**, to the surprise of the whole team we lifted the trophy.

MOVEMENTS

There have been some arrivals and departures. On Wednesday 1 February the Officers and SNCOs of the Squadron gathered to say farewell to **Capt Tony Sarginson** who left for 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt. S Troop Comd, **Capt Mark Baines** is returning to School at Shrivenham and **Sgt Tony Scoins** leaves on redundancy. We also say goodbye to **Cpl Fred Walker** on promotion to 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt and **Cpl Craig Walker** across the camp divide to Trg Sp Sqn, again on promotion. We wish you all the best in your new posts.

We say hello to the new Sqn Comd, **Maj Chris Urquhart, Maj Pete Smurthwaite** and **Capt** 'Marky' **Mark Adams** who takes charge of the reins in S Tp. Welcome to you and your families.

The White Helmets

By **Cpl Balkham** and **Sig Woodward**

Team Capt	**Capt S. E. J. Parry**
Team Sgt	**Sgt D. R. Brebner**
Team Cpl	**Cpl P. A. Elson**

CHANGE OF COMMAND

The handover/takeover of the Royal Signals Motorcycle Display Team – The White Helmets – took place on 29 November 1994.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

We welcome our new Boss, **Capt Simon Parry** and many new faces for the 1995 season, from the November selection course the walking (just) wounded were: **Cpl Balkham, Sig Teague** and **Sig Woodward**. From the January course: **Cpl Lance Malin, LCpls Rob Downton** and **Mavis Cann, Sigs Organ** and **Jim Cowley**.

The team also bid fond farewells to: **LCpls** 'Fordy' **Ford, Dave Hill** and **Sig** 'Dolly' **Garton**; all three gain the title of Mister, whilst **Sig Lee Taylor** moves to 11 Sig Regt and **Sig Steve Davies** looks forward to spring in Herford with 1 (UK) ADSR.

TEAM ACTIVITY UPDATE

The end of the show season, unfortunately, does not mean time to relax, rather sickly motorcycles have to be stripped of gleaming show trim, redressed in training rig and given a large cuddle in the shape of a good service.

The forever faithful surviving CANAM Bombardiers are dusted off and prepared for the coming selection course where their number will dwindle at the suicidal hands of potential new team members. A few curses have been heard from **Cpl** 'Elly' **Elson** and team stalwart **LCpl** 'Tonka' **Richardson** whilst creating their 'meching' miracles.

Selection course directing staff, namely **LCpl** 'Gypo' **Hooper** and **LCpl** 'Stu' **McDermott** have permanent grins on their faces after the week long moors recce, finding that the tank training area at Bovington has turned out to be more than a suitable replacement for Gandale. In other words there are some rather large hills and even larger deeper puddles awaiting the candidates.

January saw the beginning of show training or, as its otherwise known, as indicated by the recent single, 'Crash, Boom, Bang!' Due to the ever present British weather, most training has been completed on Blandford airfield where the concrete has an amazing effect on the riders, making them reluctant to become separated from their bikes. Meanwhile we hope to talk **Sig** 'Fozzie' **Forster** down the reverse ladder for at least some sustenance; he seems to be most comfortable 10 feet up, travelling backwards at about 30 mph.

Training continued into February with new team members becoming adept at staying with their machines whilst contorting with the more experienced trick riders. The show routine began to take shape and new members find it hard to believe they've come this far since those first nightmare days of selection.

March opened with a weekend visit by members of Oxford UOTC, most of whom had not ridden before, but with expert tuition soon attempted some of the more basic tricks. By the end of the weekend they were not only fairly competent riders, but also experts on the local night life!

Towards the end of March the team embarked upon the final stages of show preparation training, a two week's intensive training period in Harrogate to brush up ride dressings and perfect the drill to professional standards demanded of the White Helmets – see you on the road!

CONGRATULATIONS

The team would like to pass on best wishes and a hearty hurrah! to **Pete** and **Marie Maddock** on the birth of **Anthony**, 'Taff' and **Sharon Jenkins** on the birth of **Liam** and lastly but by no means least to **Mick** and **Marie Cox** on their marriage in October 1994.

THE WHITE HELMETS DESTRUCTION COURSE
FIVE IN, ONE OUT (JUST) by a New Recruit

What sort of people are up at 0503 hrs? The sort of people who you find in dark alleys, biting the heads off live rats, the local burglar, or, if you're an aspiring young crash test dummy, you, the psychopath staff and 'the Boss'.

Five of us, doing PT in the rain, great fun, especially when you only got to bed at 0100 hrs. The first week was pure unadulterated mud, that's about all you can say about it. Then we find out just why there are only five of us. No 12, **Sig Cahill** found out, on the third day, that knees shouldn't really bend that way. Day 5, **Cpl Balkham**, No 13, decided that it was speed bump time, **LCpl Hooper** is going far too fast and if **Balkham** can't stop him nothing will. His attempt failed, **Hooper** rode over him and **Balkham** went to hospital.

It's show training time. The first few days are OK, then the curse strikes, first to go is **Sig** 'Si' **Quinn**, a large hole in one leg, he's a White Helmet already, we are hopeful, I hate hospitals, but the likeliness of a visit is around 99%.

Then the three-bike fan turns into the three-bike bounce. I bounced once again, No 8, is what is finally described as unhurtable (for now). Unfortunately, I bounced on Nos 9 and 10, **LCpl** 'Daz' **King** and **Sig** 'Toggs' **Teague**, they visit the hospital. I am left all alone. At the end of the course, 8, 10 and 13 passed, great news! But will we live for much longer?



Capt Richard (I haven't piled in on this bike yet!!) Deans hands over command to Capt Simon (it's not a matter of if, it's when and how badly...) Parry

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 36

226 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Don Macaulay**

SHQ TROOP

Tp Comd **SSgt (FofS) Andy Forbes**

Welcome to **Cpl** 'M' **Meredith** from 16 Sig Regt, and welcome back to **Capt John** 'JJ' **Smith** from his Falklands tour, our new Ops Officer/2IC, and **Cpl Collins** from Op Hamden. **Sig** 'Oh My Leg' **Barnett** had the misfortune to rip his calf on the end of a trailer; seems a little excessive to get off PT! The FofS ('FFF' to his friends) kept him company after a bit of knee surgery. Congratulations to **Sig Starr** on passing his B2 with flying colours.

DEF EW TEAM (G)

Tp Comd **Lt 'Mac' McCrindle**

The Team are now deep in exercises which threaten to last for most of the year. The welcome gaps are quickly filled by the SSM with those essentials in life, such as BFTs, CFTs and APWTs etc. **LCpl Aus Gambles** and **Sig Kev Rutherford** are in the Falkland Islands. During a two day 'forced' stop-over on Ascension Island, **Sig Kev Rutherford** managed to break his leg, so missed the Snow Queen extravaganza. **LCpl Kath Hinsley, Sigs Andy Jones** and 'Colin' **Rodmell** all managed to make it to the snow, for two weeks' skiing without drama. Finally, congratulations to **Sig Bob** and **Ceri Lovell** on the birth of their daughter **Ashley Page**.

C (COMMS) TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt John Collyer**

The Troop said goodbye to **Sig** 'Tyson' **Walsh** who has gone to tackle Civ Div and to **LCpl Markie Rhodes** off to Tidworth. We welcome the arrival of **Sigs Del Spry** and **Ginge Thompson**—fresh from the factory and straight on guard.

As a refresher after a particularly silly 'Silly' Season, the Troop has deployed weekly to random locations for field training. As a result, the 'Cam Net King' prize goes to **LCpl Pete Allan** and the amphibious trophy goes undisputedly to **Cpl Willie Wilson** for successfully getting the whole Troop bogged in. Thanks go to **LCpl Preen** for recovering us in a borrowed Panzer.

This phase of training was concluded by a Troop Ladies Dinner night. Many thanks go to **Cpls Willie Wilson** and **Chubby Smart** for organising a highly successful evening.

R (ROMEO) TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Jayne Appleby**

The Troop recently spent a superb 10 days skiing in Bavaria, where our 'skiing ace', **Lt Jayne Appleby**, just avoided breaking her knee!

Congratulations to **Sgt Al** and **Helen Sutherland** on the birth of their daughter **Phoebe**. Well done to **Sgts Al** 'I was up at three this morning' **Sutherland** and **Ian Shrubb** on being selected for Supervisor Radio and to **Cpl Kev Taylor** on his recent promotion to Sergeant and decision to stay in the Squadron.

A big hello to the boys in Bosnia: **Sgt Tim Stevens, Cpl** 'Geordie' **West** and **LCpl** 'Taff' **Evans**—we hear that you are making it a real home from home! Farewells to **Sgt John Winn** who finally picked up his delayed posting to sunnier climes, and to **Cpls** 'Tel' **Parr** and **Garner** to NI. Finally welcome back to **WO2 (Supvr R) Eric Clee** from his Bosnia stint; he may just manage a couple of days in 'greens' before his handover.

H (HF) TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Ros Artley**

Detachment maintenance has kept everyone here very busy over the past few months, so a night out organised by **LCpl Chris Jones** came as a welcome break. It was a chance for us all to get together, and for the seniors to show off their dance routines . . . take a bow **SSgt** 'Buz' **Burrows**.

Welcome **LCpl Paul Hynard, LCpl** 'Scotty' **Scott** and their families. A sad farewell to **LCpl Andy Nurding** and family who depart for the UK to join the VIXEN Introductory Unit.

We welcome back **Cpl** (ex local Sgt) **Chris Cole** who returns from a six month detachment in Northern Ireland, and bid 'adios' to **Cpl Chris Dunn** (Northern Ireland), **Cpl John Brooke** (Falklands) and **LCpls Chris Gunn** and **Sara Whitney** (Bosnia).

We also send warmest congratulations to **Sig Paul Howe** and **Jo** who were married on 18 March 1995. Last, but not least, congratulations to newly promoted **SSgt** 'Buz' **Burrows**.

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EXERCISES

Members of the Squadron have been busy supporting Division and Brigade exercises this month. **Lt Jayne Appleby** returned from Basic Winter Training only to vanish again on Ex Rhino Sword with 7 Armd Bde as EW Liaison Officer. **2Lt John Collyer** joined her as EWLO in support of 4 Armd Bde. Both individuals helped to raise the profile of EW at the sharp end! **SSgt** 'Chunky' **Watson**, hot foot from 'rent a Supvr R' with LSOR8, also volunteered to join Ex Rhino Sword and then moved to Ex Marne Battle.

Meanwhile **Maj** 'DD' **Macaulay** and **Lt Ros Artley** deployed on Ex Rat Byte. This was a Brigade level exercise to ratify the Higher Formation Trainer (HFT) or ABACUS. After slavishly entering all the different EW assets into the computer in the correct form, with the correct capabilities, manning, fuel, weapons, etc, the BATTLE began . . . and the fun started.

Due to greater losses than expected in the first phase, 'Timeout' was called and all forces were 'magiced' back to full strength. Sadly round two also saw the demise of many of our forces at the hands of a weak enemy (another minor software problem?). There were a few other hiccups, our direction finding capability found locations well off the map and **Maj Don Macaulay** managed to 'lose' the whole of 245 Sig Sqn from the screen. He hadn't touched anything, but after two hours all the HFT technicians were baffled ... and then three quarters of the Regiment re-appeared! Roll on the acceptance trial.

CANOEING

While most sane people were skiing, the Canoe team have continued training and competing throughout the winter. Their efforts resulted in second place in the Army White Water Championships and third in the BFG Downriver League. **SSgt (YofS) Andy Dobson, SSgt Shane Wright** (LAD) and **Sig Mat Shaw** moved on to represent the Army at the recent Inter-Service Championships, where sadly the 'Crabs' won again.



Sig Shaw racing for the Army in Scotland

BASIC WINTER TRAINING 95 (AKA SNOW QUEEN)

Despite rumours that Basic Winter Training has turned into a 'beasting session', it still remains as popular as ever. The Squadron has managed to send about 30 soldiers away throughout the season and most have returned relatively unscathed after 10 thoroughly enjoyable days. In fact we can't keep some people away; **Sig Liz Billany** managed to get herself on two consecutive courses—she promises this time she is going to get her Silver!

After a gruelling eight hour bus journey, the rather exhausted, bedraggled soldiers were subjected to an hour long brief on the 'do's and don'ts' of the hut. Once the groups are sorted out, according to individual's capabilities, and the initial kit issues are completed, everyone is packed off to bed with a hot cup of soup.

The day begins at about 0600hrs with a hearty compo breakfast and a large packed lunch, which normally gets consumed en route to the slopes. The competent skiers start off with ski touring whilst the remainder struggle on the nursery slopes trying to master the snow plough. Half way through the course the groups swap round and the 'ski bums' (**SSgt Paul Gardner** included) get a chance to show off their parallel turns on the black slopes.

A few rising stars have emerged, not least **Cpl** 'Fi' **Fielder** who was one of the few females to be recommended for an instructor's course. Although not everyone reached her standard, even complete beginners became reasonably competent by the end of the course. Congratulations to those of you who managed to get your Silver or Bronze awards!

SWIMMING

SSgt Danny Thornton, Cpl Jase Meek and **Sig Bob Lovell** were all selected to represent the Corps (BFG) team in the recent Corps swimming and water polo championships between Corps (BFG), Corps (UK) and a Royal Signals Instructors team held in Colerne on 3 March 1995. **Cpl Jase Meek** had an outstanding performance in the 50m butterfly finishing in first place against some stiff opposition. All three swimmers were selected for the water polo squad with **SSgt Danny Thornton** scoring several goals in a very closely contested game (see *Wire*, April, p130) against the UK side. The UK side eventually won by 10—5 but the experience gained by the Squadron swimmers was invaluable.

REGIMENTAL SQUASH

The Regimental Squash team have had an outstanding season. In just one year the interest in the sport has more than doubled and we now boast one of the strongest teams in Germany. It was boosted mid-season by the arrival of **Sgt** 'Ginge' **Whiteman** (AGC) who recently won the UKSCG Individual Open.

The dedicated members of the team have all joined a local German Squash club and training is carried out twice a week under the expert tuition of **SSgt John Ashley**.

A Regimental Squash Competition was held in February to encourage new players to take up the sport. There were over 40 entries and a team of workers under the guidance of **WO Ian Wilson** (RAF) worked hard to produce a very successful day. The winners were: Men's Open **Cpl Steve Crabb**; Women's Open **Sgt Karen Stevens**; Men's Plate **SSgt** 'Si' **Plaice**.

The Regimental men's team had a very successful season making it to the finals in the Garrison Inter-Unit and the UKSC(G) Inter-Garrison Competitions. In addition, **Sgt** 'Ginge' **Whiteman** (AGC) performed brilliantly in the UKSCG Men's Individual Open winning 3—0 in the final. The women's team have also achieved considerable success winning the Garrison Inter-Unit and the UKSC(G) Inter-Unit Competition. **Lt Jayne Appleby** completed the season by winning the UKSCG Women's Individual Open in February.

The individual standards have also resulted in **Sgt** 'Ginge' **Whiteman** (AGC), **Sgt Phil Ashman** (AGC) and **Lt Jayne Appleby** being selected to represent the British Army Germany (BAG).

The Regimental team are busy preparing for a Hong Kong tour at the beginning of the next Squash season. In the meantime we wish the best of luck to the BAG Team in the forthcoming tour to Denmark, and **Sgts Phil Ashman** and 'Ginge' **Whiteman** best of luck in the Swiss Open.

16 Sig Regt
BFPO 40

LS & GC MEDAL PRESENTATION

Thursday 16 March 1995 saw five members of the Regiment receive LS & GC Medals. **Lt Gen Sir Jeremy McKenzie** (COMMARRC) presented **SSgt (SQMS) Les North, SSgt** 'Enoch' **Powell, Sgt Dave Hughes, Sgt Paul Rowland** and **Cpl Kev Phillips** their medals in the Sp Bn, HQ ARRC Sergeants' Mess.



(Back Row L to R): SSgt North, Sgt Rowland, WO1 (RSM) Toms, Sgt Hughes, SSgt Powell, Cpl Phillips
(Front Row L to R): Mrs North, Mrs Rowland, CO, Mrs Powell, Mrs Phillips, Master Powell, Master Powell

SPORTS

We have recently enjoyed a fair degree of sporting success on all fronts. **Sgt Bruce Ibbotson** recently led the HQ UKSC(G) Royal Signals team to a successful victory in the Royal Signals swimming championships and also achieved a creditable second place in the water polo. Other members of the Squadron participating were **Sig Si Olver** and **Sig Damian Davies. Sgt Ibbotson** and **Sig Olver** were subsequently selected to represent the Corps in the Inter-Corps competition which is scheduled to take place in October this year. See *Wire*, April p130.

LCpl Mat Loosemore has been instrumental in getting a Squadron Rugby team together and it is enjoying reasonable success at minor unit level. This is despite the fact that an attempt to play a Danish touring side ended with a hefty defeat, with points against reminiscent of a cricket score! Squadron pride however, was restored during the Regimental Seven-a-side Rugby where the team coasted through to win the day convincingly.

LEICESTER TROPHY CROSS COUNTRY

This year's Leicester Trophy Cross Country on 1 April, was held around the area of Rheindahlen Military Complex. The course and event was organised by the Gym staff **WO2 (QMSI)** 'Tug' **Wilson** and **Cpls Liz** and **Ricky Allen**.

The day started off fairly bright and looked promising. Runners started to turn up at the RAF Grandstand for the pre-race briefing at 1330hrs with the race due to start at 1400hrs.

At 1345hrs all runners were seated and eagerly awaiting the course briefing. However, just as the briefing started, so did the rain.

A total of 108 runners started the race with teams being made up from all Squadrons. Right from the start the fast front runners showed their pace and speed, making a small leading group. This consisted of **Sgt Paul Buckley** leading with **Sgt Mel Pavier** hot on his trail then **Sig** 'Babs' **Williams, Sgt Dave Purnell** and **Maj Peter Smith** following.

The course was approximately three and a half miles long and consisted of metalled roads and forest tracks with the occasional stream to cross halfway round. None of the muddy areas was forgotten!

No sooner had the race started, than 20 minutes later, the front runners were heading for the finish tunnel, having maintained their individual placings all the way round. The first runner over the finish line was **Sgt Paul Buckley** in a time of 20.31 with the runner up being **Sgt Mel Pavier** and in third place, **Sig** 'Babs' **Williams**. Well done.

SPORTING PERSONALITY

The Squadron's sporting personality is currently **LCpl Nicky George** who is having outstanding success with Nordic Skiing. Her achievements this season include:

- Winner of the Royal Signals championships in: 15km classic, the 10km classic and the 7.5km biathlon.
- Army Gold in the following events in the Army and British Championships: 15km classic, the 10km freestyle and the pursuit.
- British National Silver in the 15km classic, the 10km freestyle and pursuit.
- Army Silver in the 15km biathlon and third in the British National 15km biathlon.

Now a force to be reckoned with, **LCpl George** recently successfully completed a Nordic Ski instructors course and has been selected to train in the Army ladies team for the 1995/96 ski season.



LCpl Nicky George in action

SKIBOB WORLD CUP
NEVIS RANGE, SCOTLAND

More than 60 top Skibob racers from all over Europe including Austria, The Czech Republic, Germany, Great Britain, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Poland and Switzerland converged on Anoch Mor, Scotland on 8 March to take part in the first Skibob World Cup competition to be held in Great Britain. The event was organised by The British Skibob Racing Club and sponsored by Beefeater Gin, Bells Whisky and The Superbike Centre of Bielefeld.

The event, which came towards the end of the most successful British Skibob season to date, provided a tremendous opportunity for the British Skibobbers to compete against the best in the world. The British squad comprised of four females and 15 males, several of whom were competing at international level for the first time. Despite changeable weather the snow conditions were good and the Nevis Range proved to be ideally suited to the hosting of this prestigious event.

This unique occasion attracted widespread media attention and the organisers and competitors had to spend much of their time accommodating press and television demands for interviews and photographs. In return they were rewarded by nationwide coverage of their activities. The main competition involved two races over a challenging slalom course set by an official from The International Skibob Federation. As most of the British competitors are relatively new to the sport, it was inevitable that they would be outclassed by some of the foreign opposition, many of whom have had up to 15 years international racing experience. In the ladies' competition, the current Army Champion, **Cpl Michelle Turner** of Trg Regt and Depot RLC, proved to be the most successful British competitor finishing in an excellent seventh position. **Sgt Jayne Robinson** of 10 Tpt Regt RLC and **SACW Pam Grainger**

RAF Henlow both successfully finished the races in very respectable times. The current British Ladies Champion, **Cpl Vicky Hardisty** of 16 Sig Regt, was unlucky to be disqualified for going over, rather than through, one of the gates.

In the men's competition, a close battle was fought for the top three British places between the British Champion, **Mr Graeme Spence**, against **Cpl Neil Pollitt** 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207) and **Cfn Dave Lewandowski** 26 Regt RA. In what were probably their best races to date, **Cpl Pollitt** and **Cfn Lewandowski** finished in 22nd and 23rd places respectively, thereby beating **Mr Spence**, who was 24th overall. The remainder of the British team finished in the following order: **Cpl Wayne Ballard** 16 Sig Regt, **Mr Kevin Rochfort, Cpl Stuart Irving** 32 Engr Regt, **SAC Bob Hunt** RAF Rheindahlen Support Unit, **SSgt Maurice Lidster** MCTG, **Cpl Peter O'Sullivan** 2 Sig Regt, **WO2 Willy Rushton** 7 Bn REME, **WO2 Ian Drysdale** Hameln Station and **Sgt Ronnie Biggins** ASMT Leconfield. **Spr** 'H' **Hardy** Sp Bn HQ ARRC was disqualified for missing a gate.

AIGEN, AUSTRIA

The final World Cup competition of the season took place at Aigen, near the Czech border in Austria. The event took place in a scenic Alpine setting and with more than 150 competitors from some 14 countries taking part, the town was brought to a halt to do justice to the biggest event in the Skibob racing calendar. Flags and banners abounded and the competition was heralded by a grand parade. Great Britain was represented by an all military team of the British Team Manager and Trainer **Cpl Paddy Maybin** with **Cpls Ballard, Hardisty, Pollitt** and **Cfn Lewandowski**.

Three races took place. In the ladies' competition, over a very long and fast Super Giant Slalom course, **Cpl Hardisty** did extremely well to beat a number of foreign competitors and finished in 16th position. In the men's competition, **Cpl Maybin** headed the home country competitors in 28th place with **Cpl Pollitt** close behind in 30th. **Cfn Lewandowski** came 32nd and **Cpl Ballard** 33rd. All finished well in front of a number of foreign competitors.

On the second day the competition was based on the combined times of two giant slalom races. In the 'B' Nations competition for Non Alpine and Novice Alpine countries, competitors from Austria, Brazil, The Czech Republic, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Iran, Luxembourg, Poland, and Tanzania took part. **Cpl Hardisty** finished in a very good fourth place. In the men's Elite competition (up to 30 years of age), **Cpl Pollitt** achieved another remarkable performance by finishing second. **Cfn Lewandowski**, in his first season, was fourth and **Cpl Ballard** seventh. In the men's Senior (over 30 years of age) category, **Cpl Maybin** retained the title he had won in 1994 but only by the narrowest of margins. In one of the races where competitors were set off at one minute intervals, he had the added handicap of finding himself overtaking not one but two slower racers on the long course, much to the amusement of the spectators.

The whole event was drawn to a spectacular conclusion with a grand prize-giving and dinner night where British competitors were rewarded for their performances by receiving some very impressive trophies.**16 SIG REGT v 7 SIG REGT BOXING COMPETITION**

The Regimental boxing squad began training in January. The squad was eager with everyone wanting the chance to box against 7 Sig Regt. This eagerness soon receded as the coaches began getting the team ready for the challenge ahead. With **WO2 (QMSI)** 'Tug' **Wilson, Sgt Willie Scoots** and **LCpl Dave Berry** providing the training, the team was in for an arduous six weeks.

On the night, the atmosphere in the 7 Sig Regt gym was tremendous. The first boxer out was **Sig** 'Daz' **Morley**. He started the first round slowly and moved up a gear in the second round managing to floor his opponent twice. The referee then decided to stop the fight. Next out was **Sig** 'Punisher' **Pelling**, this was the first time he had fought in a ring at any level. He proved to be a durable fighter with a big heart; unfortunately the bout was stopped in the final round.

Now came the turn of our prodigy, **Sig** 'Babs' **Williams**. This fight was hard fought, with **Williams** coming out on top. Next, the light welter-weight bout, with **Sig** 'Geordie' **Watson**, a solid and well motivated boxer. After some good attacks in the first round, the fight was stopped in the second when **Watson** delivered a knock out punch which afforded him victory.

LCpl 'Lance' **Swarbrick** was next, proving to be a very clever and talented boxer. The bout started slowly until **Swarbrick** landed a solid right, forcing a standing count on his opponent. During the second round, the 7 Sig Regt boxer took a further standing count. This time the referee stopped the fight resulting in the score at half time being 4—1 to 16 Sig Regt.

After half-time, the competition stopped while a demonstration bout took place. **Sig Finney** came out with all guns blazing but unfortunately met an opponent with a longer reach. Then back to the competition, with **Cpl** 'Barney' **Balmforth** coming out with expectations of finishing the competition there and then. Unfortunately, after three hard gruelling rounds the bout was awarded to the 7 Sig Regt boxer which initiated their comeback. **Sig Sean Watson** fought next, proving to everyone that he deserved to be there. After winning the first round through aggression, the opponent stepped back and used his reach to provide another win for 7 Sig Regt.

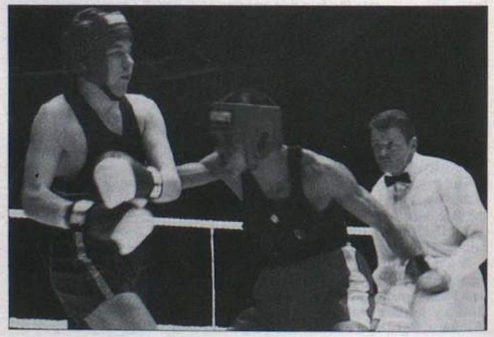
The best fight of the night was the heavyweight contest between **Cpl** 'Scouse' **Reeves** and **Sig Orr**. This was a battle of the giants. The punches that were delivered between the two boxers could have felled trees! However, the fight went the distance with both boxers still standing at the end. The judges gave this close bout to 7 Sig Regt bringing the score to 4—4.

Finally came the welter bout with everything hanging on this fight. Both boxers knew what was required; they had to win not only for themselves but for their Regiment. **Cpl** 'Dancing' **Billy Stevens** came out of his corner intent on fighting off his back foot. Unfortunately so did the opponent and this produced a slow bout, which ended in a majority decision to 7 Sig Regt.

With a final score of 4—5, it was an excellent evening of boxing and both teams produced novice boxers of a high standard. A big well done to all the boxers and a message to 7 Sig Regt: 'See you next year!'.



Smiles all round
(From L to R): Cpls Ballard, Hardisty, Cfn Lewandowski, Cpls Maybin and Pollitt



Sig 'Babs' Williams showing his normal style

21 Sig Regt (AS) Colerne



CO	**Lt Col D. A. Lynam MBE**
2IC	**Maj R. J. Williamson**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) G. J. Baldrey**

HQ SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd **Maj C. R. Treeby**

For those of you that do not know, 21 Sig Regt (AS) has only half a Regular HQ Sqn. The other half is Territorial Army and consists of HQ Tp (V), FAC Tp (V) and LAD Tp (V). Until 1 April HQ Sqn (V) was based at the TA Centre Horfield in Bristol, but is now to reform at Trowbridge. The Commanding Officer would like to bid a fond farewell to those people at Horfield who have supported the Regiment, since its arrival in the UK, and wish them the best of luck as they return to a national defence role as part of 39 Sig Regt (V).

SHQ

Sqn Comd	**Maj N. W. Gill**
SSM	**WO2 W. Cox**

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt M Hanby**

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations go to **Sigs Chris Clayton, Andy Chick** and **John Brennen** on their recent promotions to LCpl.

MOVEMENTS IN AND OUT

The Troop nominal roll has been updated several times since the last issue of *The Wire*. We have said goodbye to **Sigs** 'Jas' **Kent**, 'Ginge' **Mason** and **Norm Addison** on their transfer to fellow Juliet Troop.

We said a sad farewell to **LCpl** 'Scotty' **Scott** on his posting to 602 Tac P and congratulations on coming off of the recent Cpls board.

Also cheerio to **LCpls** 'Sonny (anyone want a mobile phone)' **Lambert** and 'Geordie' **Longstaff** on their departures to 1 Civ Div HQ & Dole Regt, we wish them every success for the future.

We say welcome back to **Sigs** 'Scittish Twot' **Maxwell** and 'Shep' **Shepherd** on their return from South Georgia and BATUS respectively (just in time for Norway). **LCpl Rob Peake** joined us from JCUNI and we thank the factory for sending us **Sigs Garrett**, 'Glassy' **Glasspool** and 'Lindsey' **Lindley**.

CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to **Cpl** 'Scotty' **Scott** and his wife **Susan** on the birth of their daughter **Laura**.

NORWAY 1995
by Cpl G. Scott

On a cold winter's night in January, the Troop and a few selected attachments deployed to the snowy surroundings of Norway on Ex Hardfall. On arrival we collected our vehicles from the port and split into two groups. The old and belted disappeared to Hagatun and Bomoen to do continuation training under the guidance of **SSgt Steve Davison** and **Sgt Stu Seddon**.

Us novices went off to Stalheim Hotel to get some snow under our boots. Under the control of our AWI's **Cpls** 'Ivor' **Hawkins**, 'Taff' **Thomas** and 'Clint' **Barker** and with our MSI's **LCpl** 'Jasper' **Marritt**, **Sigs Norm Addison, Danny Adams**, 'Mel' **Jones** and **Dave Horten** to guide and steer us, we embarked. On learning how to stay upright on army planks with some memorable moments particularly from **Cpl Penrose** and **Sig Bargna**. **Sig Dave McKay** was presented with the winter warrior for winning both the 10km and 20(?)km ski races. NSSC proved to be a laugh, well it was if you managed to stop falling over, as you attempted to haul a 50lb+ bergen up and down hills on two planks. This included staying out for four nights living in various snow shelters which you had spent several hours building and few minutes destroying. This concluded with the notorious 'ice breaking drills' or throwing yourself into an ice cold lake just so that you know what it feels like. Thinking along those lines **Cpl John Penrose** decided to shoot himself in the leg on the next range day. Our training finished with us deploying as a platoon, digging for England and defending against 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)).

INDIA TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Fiona Tomkins**

FAREWELLS

Goodbye from the Troop members to **SSgt Phil Fluck** now the SQMS HQ Sqn and goodbye to **Cpl John Douglas** to the ever busy crypto wing.

HELLOS

The Troop welcomes the new SNCO **Sgt Payne** who has the unenviable task of keeping I Tp to its usual high standards.

Hello to **Cpl** 'Stan the Man' **Winstanley** from his long reign at 602 Sig and **Cpl Toes** again ops or I Tp, nobody knows?

EXERCISE RED BEAUFIGHTER

The Troop deployed with the Squadron on another original location 'No need for a route card Bramley Trg area'. Apart from the usual high standard of comms produced by all the Troop members deployed, a couple of exercise chunders were made:

Sig 'Flapper' **O'Neill** 'So is the Tech Adjt an officer or a Tech?'

Sig 'Flapper' **O'Neill** 'Which way do you want the vertical wire to point?'

Thanks must go out to the detachments at RAF Odiham for all the hard work produced and RAF food eaten!

The Troop would like to wish the rest of the Squadron a good exercise whilst they enjoy the expedition in Colorado.

JULIET TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt D. Parkinson**

On 12 April the Troop took part in the Regimental Athletics competition. Overall the Troop's performance was outstanding, resulting in some fine individual efforts by namely;

Cpl 'Del' **Paz**	Pole Vault
Cpl 'Ed' **Moses**	400m Hurdles
	110m Hurdles
	4x400m
LCpl Kev **Heaton**	High Jump
Sig Kent	110m Hurdles
	100m
	200m
	4x400m
Sig 'Gaz' **Lane**	4x400m
Sig John White	4x400m

After all the results were totalled J Tp was awarded second place in the competition, and is now looking forward to the next event going one better than last year to 'lift' this year's trophy!

Once again the call to Bosnia arrived in the Squadron's lap. Amid the chaos of a major re-fit, Dets and crews were found and hastily licked into shape by **Sgt** 'Oz' **Hewson**.

Most of the Landrovers were converted into soft tops then we were told that wasn't a good idea but in true army fashion left it as it was.

Morale was high when we headed for Knook Camp to start our condensed Op Grapple package, courtesy of the RRF. A lot of valuable information was absorbed by all of the people attending. Many interesting subjects were covered including sandbagging. Many thanks go to **Lt Parkinson** who volunteered to wade into the mud to recover a bogged-in Landrover. The package was finished with an APWT and a couple of different shoots.

31 Sig Regt (V)
Southfields

CO — **Col Keith Bruce-Smith TD**
2IC — **Maj Andrew Cornish TD**

14 MEDALS/CLASPS PRESENTED BY HONORARY COLONEL

Maj Gen I. O. J. Sprackling OBE presented Efficiency Medals and clasps to members of the Regiment on Wednesday 1 March at Coulsdon TAC.

The evening started with the Honorary Colonel being taken on a demonstration of the recruit reception, induction and training procedure. It was followed, by the presentation, in the newly refurbished drill hall, with relatives and friends in attendance. **Capt Mike Lansdown** read out the citations.

Mrs Gwen Kirkwood was awarded the Imperial Service Medal, after serving the Squadron, Regiment and TA for 27 years. **Lt Col Keith Bruce-Smith** a clasp to his TD, he has served for 23 years. TA Efficiency Medals were presented to **Sgt Clarke**, **WO2 (FofS) Taylor**, **SSgts Cynthia Jackson**, **Andy Raynsford**, **R. Peters**, **Robert Watson**, **Andre Scrivener**, **Sgt Gary Windham**, **LCpls David Brown** and **Gary Baker**.

Clasps were presented to: **WO2 (SSM) Chris Gillespie**, **Cpl Martin Oliver**. People unable to attend to receive medals were **SSgt Frank Spiers**, **Cpl Sharon Driver**, **LCpl Anthony Summers**.

The evening was completed with a wonderful buffet in the bar.



Maj Gen I. O. J. Sprackling presenting Efficiency Medals
Mrs Gwen Kirkwood receiving The Imperial Service Medal



Maj Gen I. O. J. Sprackling congratulates medal recipients

CONGRATULATIONS

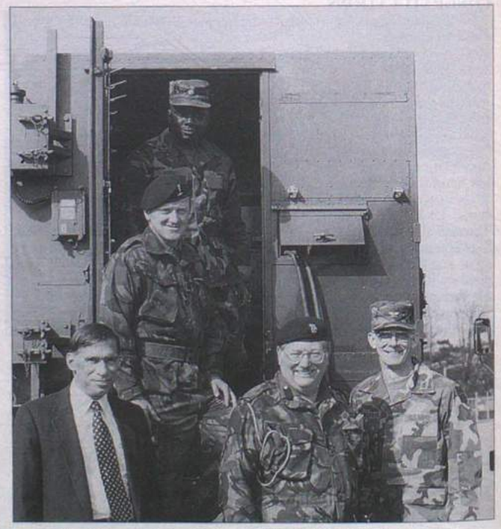
SSgt Peter Lovett, 41 Sig Sqn (V) received The Lord Lieutenant's Certificate of Meritorious Service at a ceremony held at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea on Wednesday 15 March, attended by **Mrs Lovett** and their daughter. **SSgt Lovett** received the certificate from **Maj Gen I. C. MacKay-Dick MBE**, GOC HQ London District and Major General Commanding The Household Division. It is a great honour to receive such an award, and only ten have been awarded from all the units in the London District area this year, so far.



SSgt Peter Lovett receives The Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for Meritorous Service

EXERCISE LONG HAUL VISITORS

The Regiment welcomed visitors from the 1108 Sig Bde of the US Army based in Fort Ritchie in Maryland, USA recently. They are involved in organising the HF communications exercises which are held regularly between our Regiment and the Americans. The visitors were **Col J. M. Weilbrenner**, **Mr K. Moody**, **Lt Col N. Wright** from the USA, **Col Paul Acda**, D Comd 2 (NC) Sig Bde hosted by the CO, **Maj John Irvine** and various other members of the Regiment. They visited an exercise in the field to see the Regiment at work on a RTW, this included radio training and the recruits training course.



The US guests being hosted by WO2 Phil McGiveron

LONDIST TA CHAMPIONSHIPS–ORIENTEERING

Congratulations to the ladies team who were runners-up in the competition on 9 April, beaten by just three minutes. The team consisted of **Lt Harris**, **Sgts Garven**, **Doughty** and **Cpl Nicholas**.

SCHEMES TROOP EXERCISE BOLD SCHEME

Schemes Tp is a newly formed training tool to provide a means for continuation training to traded soldiers within the unit. The concept of the exercise was to practise the Junior Officers in the planning, prep and execution of a Comms Ex using Schemes Tp assets.

After the JOs initial plans were scrutinised by 2IC, two options were selected, combined and used, these were supplied by **Capts Mike Lansdown** and **Michael Jackson**.

The exercise was executed in Cinque Ports Training Area and despite the diabolical weather it was a great success.

Sgt Dave 'GDM' **Alleyne** and **LCpl Tanya** 'T' **Campbell** must have decided the Troop PSI, who was resupplying fresh rations, required some exercise. They located themselves somewhat short of the recce'd site and if it hadn't been for **Lt John Russells** UFO type luminous tent, they may have gone very hungry that day! It was a very good exercise from all points of view, with much experience gained by all.

HQ SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–SOUTHFIELDS

Sadly, **SSgt Frank Spiers** retired from the Regiment on the 31 March. He gave 44 years continuous service. He joined in 1951 and qualified as a REME VM and driver and also a Gun Fitter Class 1. He transferred to RAPC in 1978. He was promoted to SSgt in Feb 1984. It is a measure of his worth to the Regiment that he has been retained for more than nine years past the normal retiral date.

He was awarded The TA Efficiency Medal in 1963, The Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for Meritorious Service in June 1984, The British Empire Medal in 1992. This March he was awarded a 4th Clasp to the Efficiency Medal (TA) for exemplary service. He will be sadly missed by all in the Regiment.



SSgt Frank Spiers was dined out by the WO and Field Officers

SERGEANTS' MESS FINAL DINNER

On 3 March the Sergeants' Mess held its final dinner at the Southfields TAC.

41 (PRINCESS LOUISE'S OF KENSINGTON) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–COULSDON
BAIA MARE ROMANIA APPEAL FUND SPONSORED WALK–NIJMEGEN MARCH PREP

On Saturday 1 April, the team took part in a 25-mile march through outstandingly beautiful North Downs Countryside, in aid of the Baia Mare Romania Appeal Fund for development work in orphanages, hospitals and schools. It started in Shalford, south of Guildford and finished in Lower Kingswood. The marching group consisted of **Capt Mike Lansdown**, **Lt John Russell**, **WO2 (FofS) Henry Taylor**, **LCpls Kerry Cosgrove** and **Jane Riddlesdale** and **Sigs Jo Ogle**, **Roy Pemberton** and **Andy Wallace**. They not only marched, but in places slogged their way from start to finish. They were shadowed by a vehicle borne support team of **Cpl Nick Tuck** and **Sig Julia Denton** who provided food and drink wherever the route met a road, for the increasingly weary walkers.

The hills and gruelling climbs might have been beautiful sights for spectators, but weren't as delightful for the walkers. Despite this the group remained in high spirits throughout.

This was all good training for the Nijmegen March in July, which the Squadron hopes to participate. The marches will comprise of four successive days of squadded marching along Dutch roads and byways, with teams completing 25 miles each da

83 (LONDON) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–HAMMERSMITH

Congratulations to **Sgt Alleyne** on obtaining an 'A' Grade on his Range Management Qualification Course held at Longmoor.

Congratulations also to **Sig Thomas** on achieving Best Student on the Recent Regimental Recruit Training Course.

COURAGE TROPHY

A Regimental team entered, made up mostly of 83 Sig Sqn (V) and the Signals Stand for the competition was run by members of the Regiment. The team consisted of Team Captain **2Lt Geoff Mitchell**, **OCdt Liz Fitzpatrick**, **Sigs Sharp**, **Shaw**, **Hill**, **McCoy**, **Tipo** and **Keegan**. Overall they were placed 17th, out of 27, a good score considering injury penalty points were gained for both the night navigation and the assault course, and the fact it was a scratch team. The first event was the cross country march, completed faster this year than last with an all male team! This



The Courage Trophy team

result gave them high spirits that were carried with them throughout the weekend.

The other events were NBC, Signals, REME recovery & cross country driving, first aid, night navigation and a 'dry' river crossing. It was quite a full and exhausting weekend. The NBC was a patrol down a road to check an OP, when a BANG occurred and everyone fumbled for their mask, did the NBC routine and decontaminated–the usual scenario, which was completed fairly well.

2Lt Geoff Mitchell showed great leadership skills in the first aid, which was important to the evacuation of the casualties when the house filled with smoke.

The faults were found on the REME stand and the recovery was executed in about half the time allocated. **Sig Shaw** did very well in the cross country driving. The Engineers' river crossing was completed in the third quickest time. The shooting was tragic, next year sighted weapons and SUSATs are needed.

The night navigation was going well until the last checkpoint, when half the team got lost–coming in an hour late! Overall it was a great result considering the lack of training and injuries.

BAMA RALLIES

Two competitions have been entered. The most recent one was in Thetford, Norfolk, with the team of PSI **Sgt Shean Dewar** and **LCpl Rebecca Strickland** receiving third place. Another crew consisting of **Cpl Matt Cahill** and **LCpl Liz Fitzpatrick** were awarded a prize for best mixed team. They won this despite suffering two punctures, two broken wheel braces, contaminated fuel and a severe mauling from the RMP RSM for speeding!

EXERCISE COCKNEY CRYSTAL

A Comms Ex with a skiing exercise running concurrently! The advance party **Cpl Baker**, a CC veteran, knowing it was a long haul by minibus up to Ballater, put his comms expertise into practise and set up CB radios between the two minibuses. It certainly gave a new meaning to VP!

Lecht was a good place to get the ski legs back, with assistance of the resident ski instructor **Sgt Browning**. The main party arrived the following day mainly of 83 Sig Sqn (V) and a large contingency of 39 Sig Regt (V).

A Tp was out on the black runs and moguls on the second day!

The snow and sun on the slopes of Glenshee made skiing conditions perfect for the trip. The Rear Party stayed at Ballatar making the most of the snow for a couple of extra days joined by the 2IC and **Cpl Rebecca Strickland**.

The exercise was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Sadly it was **Maj Fred Southey**'s last ski exercise, but he may get an invite next year!

32 Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

69 (NORTH IRISH HORSE) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
LEAVE THE REGIMENT

Under restructuring plans for the TA, 69 Sig Sqn (V) has been transferred from under command 32 Sig Regt (V) to 40 Sig Regt (V). Both Regiments held a joint parade to mark this historic occasion at West Freugh, in south west Scotland, where the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE DL**, inspected the Squadron and took the salute during the march past.

69 (North Irish Horse) Sig Sqn was retitled in 1969 from B Sqn, The North Irish Regiment after the Regiment was reduced to one Squadron in 1967. The Squadron is one of the most historic within the Territorial Army and its former members served with great distinction during the North Africa and Italy campaigns of the second world war.

The Regiment is very sad to lose 'The Horse', as many friendships have been built up over the years. We wish them every success with 40 Sig Regt (V).



69th North Irish Horse Signal Squadron (V) advancing in review order with the staff band of the Royal Irish Regiment playing to the rear

51 (HIGHLAND) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)—ABERDEEN

Sqn Comd	**Maj W. Barron**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Walker**

BIRTHS

Another wean to the SSM.

DEATHS

The 'gramophone player' in the Officers' Mess.

MARRIAGES

Sgt Ogg (now **Sgt Stewart**) who had a wonderful honeymoon in Cyprus; **Cpl Millar** to **Sig Urwin**—married on 21 April. Let's see how long they last before **Mr** and **Mrs Urwin** head 'down under' to raise sheep.

RECRUITS

Sgt Lindsay and **Cpl Bertram** are busy knocking the new recruits into shape. They have been helped by a Squadron Open Day held on 19 March. **LCpl Milne** and **Sig Bremner** were photographed in the local press, fully cammed and looking dead warry.

AWARDS

During the Open Day, the Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeen, **Lord Provost Wyness**, visited. He was accompanied by **Mrs Wyness** and by **Lt Col** and **Mrs Mann**. **Lt Col Mann** had the inspiration of calling the Barracks 'Prince Charles Barracks' when it was revamped in 1978 and secured not only **HRH The Prince of Wales'** permission, but also his presence, when he formally opened the Barracks. According to legend, when asked if he would consent to the Scottish Barracks being called 'Prince Charles Barracks', his reply was 'Which particular Charles do you mean?'.

The Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeen presented the TA Efficiency Medal to **Sgt Wills, Sgt Lindsay** and **Cpl Burr**. He presented the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate to **Cpl Grant** and presented the Allied Dunbar Trophies for most improved soldiers to **Sig Urwin** and **Sig Dinnie**.

ON THE BUSES

The Squadron has paid for a series of adverts on the back of local buses. Potential recruits have been seen running after buses, instead of sitting in them, trying to read the contact number to 'phone. The scheme has dragged in a few willing converts and the Sqn Comd is pleased with the results.

52 (LOWLAND) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd	**Maj Fiona Farquharson**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Keith Anderson**

A NECESSARY COGENT REGIMENTAL SQUADRON

Situated in the wooden hut, between the main building and RHQ, the Squadron plays an active and vital role within the Regiment. When not manipulating broken bodies in Glasgow's Western General Hospital, the Squadron's proceedings are overseen by **Maj Fiona Farquharson**. She is ably assisted by our 2IC **Capt Roddy Sutherland** (that is, when he is not mending the council's broken telephones). The Squadron is, at present, exemplifying its important role with its participation in the NCRS Trials. We have a detachment at Cultybraggan, who is working tirelessly to clock up the 10,080hrs on the equipment necessary for the successful completion of the trials. To ensure that all goes smoothly at Cultybraggan (PSI) **SSgt Steve Harrison** (the man who always looks flustered but really has it all under control) is leading the site assessment team ready to solve any problems that may arise. After the trials, the Squadron can look forward to a busy summer of training all leading to this year's camp at Ripon.

It's not all work in '52', we've been just as busy in the less official side of life. Two teams were entered for this year's RSAAM in March and **Sgt Rab Nimmo**'s A Team came third. SSM **WO2 Keith Anderson**, along with the Regimental 2IC, welcomed 2 Sig Sqn to our Regiment at a ceremony in Proteus, Nottinghamshire. The Sergeant Major enjoyed the parade and the evening function, however we are reliably informed that he turned down all offers to dance to 'Careless Whisper'. The Squadron had three representatives in the Regimental Skiing Team that took part in the British Army Skiing Competition at Aviemore, in March. **Sgt Dave Pollard** (a recent arrival from the Regulars) performed well and **Sigs Craig Barry** and **Allan MacDonald** put in good efforts as novices.

In February, 2IC TAOR Tp, **2Lt Phil Donegan** did a bit of moonlighting at a District Court Martial in Fort George, Inverness. He is now the Squadron's unofficial legal rep (it's never too late to call your solicitor, you know). Five hardy souls from the Squadron led by **Cpl** 'Pugwash' **McDonald**, recently proved their seaworthiness with a trip along Loch Long. All survived and by all accounts, a steady course was steered. Congratulations to Mould Tp Comd **Lt Donnie Gordon** who recently passed his Lieutenant-Captain Course at Blandford. He now intends to hold an 'underwater knife-fighting course' in a bucket of water in the Officers' Mess—all applicants welcome.



(*L to R:*) Redi, Cpl McDonald, Sigs Crawford and Baird

THE ARMY WINTER SPORTS ASSOCIATION ALPINE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Regimental Skiing Team entered the 1995 Army Winter Sports Association Alpine Championships held at Aviemore during the period 6-11 March 1995.

Of course the skiing prowess of the team was also helped by the excellent admin of **Sgt Ray McMillan** and **LCpl Debbie Carruthers**, both of HQ Sqn, who fed and watered the team throughout the week.



Capt Colin Hinsley
1995 Royal Signals Scottish Alpine Ski Champion



The Army Winter Sports Association Alpine Championships
The Regimental Skiing Team entered the 1995 Army Winter Sports Association Alpine Championships held at Aviemore during the period 6-11 March 1995
The Regimental Ski Team
(Back Row L to R): Sig Allan McDonald, Sig Craig Barry, SSgt Helen Jeffcote, Capt 'Camey' Payne, Lt Joe Meade
(Front Row L to R): WO2 (YofS) 'Jeff' Jeffcote, Sgt Dave Pollard, Sgt Frank McGoldrick, Capt Colin Hinsley
(Not in Photo): Lt Col Ian Robertson

REGIMENTAL SKILL AT ARMS MEETING

The Regimental Skill at Arms Meeting (SAAM) was held on a bitterly cold day at Castlelaw Ranges on 4 March 1995.

The competition was organised by **Capt Morna Strachan (V)** and **Sgt Ian Richardson** from 51 (Highland) Sig Sqn (Aberdeen). All Squadrons from the Regiment entered at least one team and although most teams had very little practice beforehand, the competition successfully identified a number of good shots for the Corps SAAM in April and the Army in Scotland SAAM in May.

Once the sheep had been cleared off the range, shooting began at 0900hrs and continued throughout the day until the weather closed in towards the end resulting in the cancellation of the LSW Match. When we say 'weather closed in', we actually mean driving snow that obscured the targets!

Results were:

Association Cup	1st	**LCpl Blackmore**	HQ Sqn
	2nd	**LCpl McCartney**	LAD HQ Sqn
Henry Whitehead	1st	**Capt Robertson**	HQ Sqn
	2nd	**Cpl McCartney**	LAD HQ Sqn
Pistol	1st	**Sgt Richardson**	51 Sqn
2nd		**Capt Houston**	69 Sqn
Best Class 'B' Shot		**Sig Urwin**	51 Sqn
Champion at Arms		**Cpl McCartney**	LAD HQ Sqn
Team Results	1st	HQ Sqn	
	2nd	51 Sqn	
	3rd	52 Sqn (A)	



(Back Row L to R): Capt Dan Robertson, Sig Dale Urwin, Sgt Ian Richardson, Cpl Jackie Sliman, LCpl Allan Moffatt, LCpl Billy Blackmore
(Front Row L to R): Sig Christine McMinnigal, Cpl Tam McCartney, Lt Bill Patterson, Capt Brian Houston

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33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

The main effort in the Regiment has been Ex Unity Challenge. A mixed team of TA and Regular soldiers from the Regiment are making a 6,000km round trip to Odessa in a unique friendship gesture towards the city of Liverpool Ukrainian 'twin'. Twelve members of the Regiment will be taking a consignment of much needed medical equipment for sick children following efforts by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool.

The relationship that underlies this extraordinary journey started in the 1950s when the two cities were officially twinned. The arrangement lapsed during the Cold War 70's but was revived in 1993 following a visit by **SSgt Ron Russell**, currently the Chief Clerk, when he was serving with the Defence Staff in Kiev.



SSgt Russell coping with the pressure of Ex Unity Challenge

The idea of the Regiment mounting the expedition was initially hatched by the CO, **Lt Col Peter Parfitt** following a concert by the Odessa Philharmonic Orchestra in Liverpool in November 1994. After the concert, during a supper with the then British Ambassador to the Ukraine **Mr Simon Hemans**, **Lt Col Parfitt** came up with the idea of sending his soldiers to Odessa to challenge their initiative and resolve. When the idea was put to the Lord Mayor he suggested combining the expedition with the delivery of aid and so the foundations of the visit were laid.

The expedition to the Black Sea port had three aims; to deliver equipment that will make a real difference to paediatric care in the Ukraine, to further cement the relationship between the two cities and to enable some of Liverpool's part-time soldiers to test their initiative and resolve in a humanitarian venture that will be of value in their military and civilian lives.

The exercise took place from 25 April to 8 May

42 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

The highlight of the training period was the battle camp style weekend held at Swynerton on 17/18 February, Ex March Hare. A group of fairly willing volunteers deployed ready to compete in an assortment of demanding stands including:

Patrol competition with assault course;
Vehicle recovery from a deep water location;
SHF comms test; and
Night navigation.

Everyone put in a tremendous effort but the winning team was led by **SSgt Ward** of Trunk Node Tp. **Cpl O'Keefe** in the photo has since been awarded the 'Golden Blanket' badge.



Sunday morning saw a variety of 'teach in' stands and the predictable officers versus senior ranks assault course competition. The reader will guess who won!

Our only farewell this time is to **Sgt Paul Wickham** who has left the Squadron at the end of his Regular service, to run a pub in the Manchester area. We would like to say a 'big thank you and best wishes to you and your family in your new life'.

59 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

The CO, **Lt Col P. Parfitt**, visited the Squadron on 4 March to witness a Squadron exercise. The CO promoted **Cpl Colin Jones** to **Sgt** which was good and bad news for him. The promotion was good news but the bad news was the good attendance in the bar afterwards which was costly for him. The CO also presented **The Best Detachment Commander Trophy** to **Cpl Chris Murphy**. This trophy is a new annual award for the best all round det commander within the Squadron.

On the following weekend TN 032, on Ex Spring Eagle, had an 'interesting' location; it had been spread with manure prior to arrival. Nose pegs were issued on their arrival back at Deysbrook Barracks to comments such as 'Been in it again, have we?'

On 25/26 March, a SNCO training weekend was held at Saighton Camp, Chester with the emphasis on military training. An excellent dinner was held to dine out **SSgt Diane Winrow** who is moving to HQ Sqn after many years efficient service as our finance clerk. We will also be saying goodbye soon to **SSgt Eileen Halliday** who is leaving us to serve with Liverpool UOTC and a local ACF. Eileen has been in the Squadron for 29 years and has spent the past eight years as recruiting NCO. Both have made a great contribution to the Squadron and we wish them well in the future.

34 Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

CO — **Lt Col M. K. Stretch**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) M. A. Ara**

LORD LIEUTENANT'S CERTIFICATE PRESENTATIONS

HM Lord Lieutenant for Cleveland, **The Lord Gisborough**, presented a Lord Lieutenant Certificate to **Sgt Richard North** in Middlesbrough in February. **Sgt North** has served in the TA for 10 years and was presented with the award for his outstanding service during the past seven years. The award ceremony was hosted by 4/5 Bn The Green Howards. Not to be outdone, 50 Sig Sqn (V) hosted the Lord Lieutenant for Durham in the annual presentation of his certificates. The Lord Lieutenant, **D. J. Grant Esq** was greeted by a well turned out quarter guard on arrival at the Bradford Armoury, Darlington.



The Lord Lieutenant for Durham inspects a quarter guard formed from 50 Sig Sqn (V). Members of the Guard *(from L to R)* are Sig Erica Dodds, Sig John Berryman and Cpl 'Mac' MacDonald

OFFICER CADET TRAINING

In the teeth-chattering frost of Spring 1995 the Regiment ran Officer Cadet training on Catterick Training Area.



Cold nosed warriors prove their worth on Catterick Training Area
Lt Simon 'Get Some' Smith's assault troopers
Rear row L to R: Sig Warren, OCdt Bowes, Sig Ball, Sig Bowron, OCdt Medway, Lt Smith
Front row L to R: OCdt Holbrook, LCpl Pountain, Sgt Smith and Sig Ross

The weekend began with a series of classroom lessons covering section battle drills and other infantry tactics. This was revision for the Officer Cadets and Junior NCOs taking part, but was completely new to some of the latest recruits still waiting to attend their recruits course.

A move to Catterick found four inches of snow on the ground and a blizzard brewing. After a safety brief by **Capt Chris Jones**, we began a series of section attacks against the enemy, **Cpl Kevin Pountain**. As the snow fell thicker, the enthusiasm grew, with everyone moving as fast as possible to keep warm! Attacks improved as everyone gained in confidence, and as daylight faded we returned to Darlington to a hot shower, cold beer and heroic war stories.

Sunday morning dawned and the group, led by **2Lt Simon Smith**, returned to Catterick to find the snow gone and the sun shining brightly. Another round of attacks continued with Saturday's enthusiasm with the best attacks of the weekend, leading up to the final wood clearance.

The weekend was a great success. Everyone got at least one crack at leading a section in the assault and some of the Signallers displayed gritty determination to follow home their attack with gutsy aggression.

OPENING OF THE PTARMIGAN TRAINING CENTRE

The opening of the new £500,000 Ptarmigan Training Centre in Darlington took place on 29 April. GOC EDIST **Maj Gen P. A. J. Cordingley DSO** cut the ribbon to open a facility that will be of immense help in training TA signallers of tomorrow.

A TA POSTING TO CANADA
by Cpl Beverley Shrimpling

'That's the place guys' drawled the large Canadian coach driver, complete with cowboy hat. 'Your new home'. Mmmmmm, why is he sniggering? I thought straining for my first glimpse of CFB (Canadian Forces Base) Suffield, the home of BATUS (British Army Training Unit Suffield). Although I was strangling myself with the cord of my trusty walkman, the sight of even a few trees and buildings was worth observing after the dry, flat, yellow grass land with which I had been hypnotised for the past four hours. It was July 1994 and I was one of the few fortunate TA soldiers to have been selected for a tour in Canada. For those unfamiliar with BATUS, it is located in South East Alberta, approximately 260km SE along the Trans Canada Highway from Calgary. The area consists mainly of agricultural land with small villages and towns scattered along the route. The nearest, and dearest, city to BATUS is Medicine Hat, known throughout Canada as The Gas City due to its industrial history, not, I hasten to add, as a result of the number of beer laden squaddies who grace it with their presence each year. Situated on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River (a word extremely difficult to master even after downing several Canadian Ice), it is host to the world's tallest Teepee standing an amazing 20 storeys high. Impressed? Yeah, I knew you would be.

BATUS training area referred to locally as 'the prairie' is renowned not only for its impressive 3500km mass, but also its total lack of prominent natural land features, namely a few insignificant hills and a lone tree. The outcome is its unique method of navigation using signposts on all major tracks and roads and various high towers dotted around the area, with excellent names such as 'Pol Roger Tower' and 'Beaver Road' for reference points. There are six Battle Groups which pass through BATUS per year, each put through a series of exercises. The majority of which include live firing over a 28 day period, known as a Medicine Man. The majority of temporary signal staff postings are within BATUS Operations Room. I spent the majority of my time on duty as a Shift Supervisor under the watchful eye of **Yeoman Craig**, who was an undeniable aid to me, as were many others throughout my tour, helping with the transition into both regular army lifestyle and the supervisory position I had unexpectedly found myself in.

The main role of the BATUS Ops Room is to account for and control the movement of all safety staff (Redtops) and Battlegroup vehicles on and around the Prairie, to oversee any casualty evacuations and act as a liaison for Battlegroup Ops, Canadian Range Control and Safety Staff. The safety net comms were via Commercial Motorola, with an interface to enable Clansman operators, usually Battlegroup, to clear safe routes. To say the ops room was on occasion a stressful environment, could be described as a mammoth understatement by any of those who have had the pleasure of treading the ops room boards. However, the job did have its advantages. Working within the walls of Canadian Range Control meant a controlled environment which led to much abuse by the daily visitors from the Range

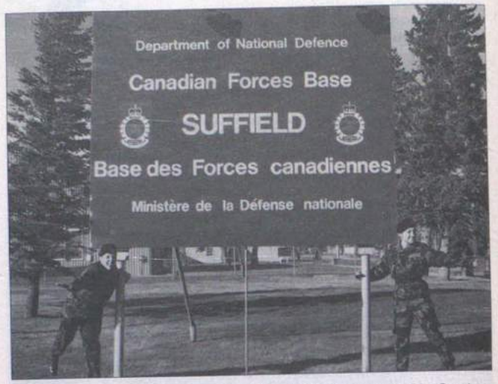
Safety staff who lost many pounds sweating, only to have it replaced by tons of prairie dust during the uncomfortable Alberta summer, followed shortly by frostbite and shivers in the very chilly –10 degrees and below winter. A well constructed three shift system led to many more days free than I had either expected or experienced in any of my civilian jobs.

Working side by side with the Canadian Forces on a daily basis was a rare treat for the British temporary staff. The atmosphere was always one of mutual respect, with the range control staff and fire fighters co-operating closely with the British military. Unfortunately, few Canadians have grasped the Great British form of sarcasm. Many a tedious nightshift was spent explaining the real meaning of seemingly innocent phrases that had been passed by a fellow Brit, luckily always taken in good humour leaving the relationship with Canucks intact.

Socially BATUS is what you make it. The vastness of the country seemed to ensure it was a 'fulfilling' experience. The half hour's taxi drive into 'Med' Hat never deterred the crowds from gathering at familiar haunts as the Gas Lamp for a swoon on the Karaoke, or Ezzies for Tequila Night. In summer there was the Water Park for a touch of volley ball and a chance to even out that squaddie tan. Viewing the BATUS entries in the Local Ralston Rodeo, the unco-ordinated line dancing and an opportunity to taste the local farmer's country sausage, was a most enlightening experience. With the snow came the chance to support your BATUS team or the 'Med' Hat Tigers during ice hockey mania. One local tour guide describes 'Med' Hat as offering enthusiasts music, dance and a large variety of exhibits. I'm sure anyone who attended the affectionately named Sin Bin nite spot would not disagree with that.

To travel so far and not to take the opportunity to explore further afield would be foolish. Popular destinations were Calgary with its Electric Avenue and Edmonton with the unbelievable West Edmonton Hall containing everything from an ice rink to a dolphin show and the largest waterpark I have ever seen. The inevitable parade of short haired species adorned in union-flag boxer shorts were there, fighting for a turn on the bungee jump. Banff, popular for a spot of skiing, Las Vegas, Vancouver and Niagara Falls. For me a trip through the Glacier National Park and Montana, USA was most memorable. Here I achieved a long awaited ambition by white water rafting through rapids.

Overall undeniably testing, but with any negative response to my TA background surprisingly in the minority, being more than fortunate with friendships established. (I'm sure all will recall the BATUS Trout's), not only my signalling skills improved but my all round ability. To sum up, as an opportunity for a TA soldier … Unbeatable!



LCpl Beverley Shrimpling *(right)* and Sig Kemp (212 Sig Sqn) at the entrance to CFB Suffield, near Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada. Beverley was the first TA Shift Supervisor of a regular shift in the Ops Room at BATUS. A good example of Mr Rifkind's drive to employ the TA more widely throughout the Army

XXXV

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

VISITS TO THE REGIMENT

On Friday 17 March the GOC Wales & Western District (now HQ 5 Div) **Maj Gen I. K. Freer CB, CBE**, visited the Regimental Headquarters and Training Wing at Sutton Coldfield. Preparations for this visit during the morning were quite intense until a call was received from the GOC's staff informing us that because of the atrocious weather conditions he would be arriving by road an hour later than expected rather than by helicopter. Everyone relaxed, a leisurely lunch was now on the menu and the RSM, **WO1 Phil Clifford**, breathed a sigh of relief that he did not have to rush back to carry out his dubious helicopter handling techniques. Unexpectedly, and unfortunately, in the middle of the heaviest rain storm seen in Sutton Coldfield in the last decade, the GOCs helicopter arrived at 1400 hours prompt. The CO, **Lt Col John Ewbank**, fortunately heard its arrival from his office and managed to reach the HLS, with the Adjt **Capt Jeremy Tod** in hot pursuit, just in time. Close behind them was the RSM who sprinted from his married quarter–and in the commotion forgot his waterproofs. He rejoined the visitor's party sometime later looking somewhat weather beaten and soaked to the skin. An exciting start to what became a successful visit. On arrival the GOC was given a brief on the Regiment by the CO and this was followed by an Ops brief given by our new Tech Adjt, **Capt David Bizley**.



GOC Wales & Western District speaking to Sgts Campbell and Mayer

Following these briefings the GOC made a grand tour of RHQ and HQ Sqn, here he met most Cateswell House staff including the QM, **Maj Barry Williams**, HQ Sqn Comd **Maj David Munson**, the PSAO HQ Sqn, **Capt Dave Tarrant**, the Regimental FofS, **WO2 Ian Flippance** and finally the SPSI of HQ Sqn **Sgt** 'Ollie' **Campbell**. To conclude the visit the GOC was given a grand tour of our Training Wing by **SSgt Keith Stewart**. Here **SSgt Stewart** aided by the CO made the GOC aware of the complexities and difficulties in managing effective Trade, Recruit and Leadership training within an operational TA unit and of the problems often encountered. The GOC left the HLS in similar weather conditions as he arrived shortly after 1600 hours, except this time the gale force wind wasn't accompanied by the rain and the RSM was almost dry but happy all the same to be on terra-firma! Earlier in the week Comd 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde, **Brig M. P. S. Shaw** continued his series of visits to the Regiment when he visited 48 Sig Sqn (V) in Sparkbrook during its training evening on Tuesday 14 March. The Comd was met and escorted by the CO and took the opportunity of meeting most Squadron personalities and to round off the evening was treated to a beer and sandwich in the Squadron's Jimmy Club.



GOC Wales & Western District speaking to WO2 (FofS) Flippance



The RSM's story to the GOC on how he got soaked, sends the CO to sleep

OFFICERS' MESS

On Saturday 4 April the Officers' Mess held a Regimental Dinner at Cateswell House. Guest of Honour was the MP for Walsall South, **Mr Bruce George** who gave and interesting, humorous, thought provoking and provocative after-dinner speech. During the evening a warm welcome was extended to our recently arrived Adjts, **Capt Jeremy Tod** (the real one) and **Capt David Bizley** the Tech Adjt. We also wish them and their families, as appropriate, a happy and rewarding tour. The evening was a tremendous success and the organisers are to be warmly applauded for a splendid dinner, fine wine, stimulating conversation and a rather novel diversion–kindly provided by **Roger** our new Mess Treasurer!

SERGEANTS' MESS UPDATE

Some notable changes and events have taken place recently in the Sgts Mess effecting departures, arrivals and promotions. Singled out for special mention must be the depature of **WO2 (FofS) Tony Jacklin** who has served the Corps in a most exemplary manner for 29 years, 14 of which have been spent with 35 Sig Regt (V). During his tour with the Regiment he met and married **Jan** who was serving as a TA soldier. **Tony** became something of an authority on the organisation of the Regiment which is not surprising as he has come through three major re-equipment programmes unscathed; unfortunately, he became another victim of the restructuring that has taken place during the last few years.

His presence, experience and gentle manner will be sadly missed and we wish him the best of good fortune for the future. **Tony** was dined out in the traditional Sgts' Mess manner at a Regimental Dinner which took place at Sutton Coldfield on Friday 7 April. During this dinner the Mess also welcomed the new FofS, **WO2 (FofS) Ian Flippance** and his wife **Marianne** and three newly promoted members in the shapes of **Sgt Martin Thacker** of HQ Sqn, **Sgt Matthew Evans** of 48 Sig Sqn (V) and **Sgts Lorraine Ward** and **Maxine Williams** of 95 Sig Sqn (V). Finally, a warm welcome is extended to **SSgt (FofS) John Whitty** and family. **John** joins a much relieved 89 Sig Sqn (V), in Rugby who it has to be said have endured a six month gap in relative silence.

THE DASH TO RAISE CASH–PART 2

After our valiant efforts to raise a substantial sum of money for the Corps Museum and Great Ormond Street Hospital last year we thought we had been let off the hook by the CO as a reward–not a chance! The order was out we had to re-double our efforts in the coming year and combine the Museum appeal with fund-raising activities for the Birmingham Children's Hospital–a very worthy cause. Ideas flowed and the intrepid **SSgt** (soon to be WO2) **Chris Hymas** once again took overall control of the fund-raising efforts. The lottery was quickly discounted (that is the national and not the CO's) and the fund-raising was left to the ingenuity of Sqn Comds who looked to their PSAOs for inspiration. Ideas quickly became reality and Squadron fund-raising plans were put into action to raise at least £5,000. First off the block was 89 Sig Sqn (V) who quickly raised £100 through various activities in the bar. They were soon beaten by 48 Sig Sqn's imaginative 'bring and buy sale' or more commonly known as a re-cycling sale, which raised a magnificent £500.

This sale was the brainchild of the PSAO, **Capt George Cairns** and the SSM **WO2 Jan Kalinsky** and is being adopted by most other Squadrons. Needless to say we expect to achieve the target set despite some tight deadlines. Watch this space for further news! Finally, keeping to the theme of fund-raising activities, a special mention is reserved here for **SSgt Dave** 'Marathon Man' **Arnot** of 89 Sig Sqn (V). Through his superb efforts and splendid performance at the London Marathon, **Dave**, through sponsorship from most Squadron members, raised the grand sum of £450. This money, as agreed some time ago, was donated to the MacMillan Nurses Trust–a trust that cares so well for terminal cancer sufferers.

HATS OFF TO HARLESCOTT ACF

Another pleasant event that will be reflected in the Regiment's Historical Record will surely be the re-badging ceremony that took place at our Shrewsbury TA Centre on Tuesday 21 March. On parade were, perhaps, one of the smartest and proudest looking cadet contingents ever inspected by a reviewing officer.

On this special day the Harlescott Detachment of the Shropshire RMLY ACF was granted the honour of rebadging Royal Signals and becoming directly affiliated to 95 Sig Sqn (V).

Twenty-five cadets were on parade and a 50% mix of young men and women were represented, which must be unique for any cadet unit! They were commanded by **Lt Roy Tonge** and after some impeccable drill all anxiously awaited the arrival of the reviewing officer **Lt Col John Ewbank** who was accompanied by the Comdt of the Shropshire ACF, **Lt Col J. H. H. York MBE, LI**. **Lt Col Ewbank** inspected the contingent and spoke to each cadet during the inspection and presented them with their new beret complete with badge.

Following a surprisingly muted question and answer session **Lt Col Ewbank** welcomed all cadets into the Corps family and briefed the cadet contingent on the history and traditions of the Corps and the Regiment's current role. He then joined the cadet contingent for photographs and a final chat before returning to Cateswell House.



The rebadging ceremony

37 Sig Regt (V)
Redditch

CO — **Lt Col Stamford Cartwright (V)**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) John Riley**

COMINGS AND GOINGS

The winter period was fairly quiet once the Regiment had settled into the Trade Training Cycle but the Spring saw a few postings in and out. QM **Capt Dave Marsden** departed after an eventful tour for a more restful pre-retirement posting–to the Falklands. **Dave** has manfully kept on top of the multitude of loaned, borrowed, 'stolen' and traded equipment involved in proving potential new roles for the Regiment. We welcome **Maj Ian Dudding** as his successor. Chief Clerk **WO2 Dave Stotan** finally badgered his way into a posting nearer home, with 157 Transport Regiment in the north-west; he goes with our best wishes as we welcome **WO2 Alby Alberone** in his stead.

Congratulations go to **Sgts Matt Duff** and **Graham Lowe** on passing their Foreman's entrance exams.

With the new establishment now agreed, the future seems a little clearer. Just to keep the QM and MTWO, **WO1 Jim Smiley**, on their toes, the appeal from sister regiments for late-model Bedfords has resulted in a programme to swap all our Comms Utility Vehicles on to new Leyland DAF flat platforms. Meanwhile, the NCRS trials have meant a lot of work for Foreman **SSgt Paul Sweeney** and Yeoman **WO2 Monty Montgomery**, together with a good number of TA volunteers from all Squadrons. We hope shortly to be able to report that the system has been accepted and issued–six years after many of us first used it!

67 (QOWWY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Roy Naylor (V)**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Ray Campbell (V)**

EXERCISE SCREECHING MACAW

Another very important weekend for the Squadron. A chance for us to shake loose our fur and feathers for 143 Bde Staff, as the whole of the Brigade were to deploy to Sennybridge. With the support and help of various elements of RHQ and 53 Sig Sqn (V) we were to provide VHF Comms and Admin support for Ex Screeching Macaw.



(*L to R*): Maj Gen Freer (GOC W&W Dist) and Brig Weller (Comd 143 (WM) Bde) being briefed by Maj Roy Naylor (OC 67 Sig Sqn (V))

We have represented our Squadron in Cross Country and Orienteering on various occasions at Sennybridge prompting **Cpl Ian Sewell** to say 'It always rains when we go to Sennybridge'–Just to prove him right, it rained, sleeted, hailed, snowed, with high winds.

Our advance party of 14 strong left Stratford at 1000 hrs Thursday morning with all our LGV vehicles, 16/24s, Cooks Trailer, and anything else we could pull out of the stores and garages to make the weekend a success. Galloping across the training area, billowing clouds of dirty grey smoke, **SSgt Pete Lamont**, PSI, relatively new to the Squadron, remarked about scenes from 'Wagontrain', but nay! The fuel pipe on the 'Gin Palace' had split. Seven hours later we arrived at Farm 7, parked up, knocked off the dust from the trail and over a glass of red eye, plotted and planned the next phase of the exercise to begin at sunrise the next morning.

Dawn broke, and yes! it was very windy and snowy. Soldiers were soon set to task as reception, sleep, and messing areas were allocated. Blacking out windows, lighting, masts, comcens, power. CUV's and Comms were soon sited, installed and operational. Food and hot drinks were always available, spirits were high.

By midnight the Squadron was located and the Bde Staff had started to arrive in droves. Our main body were working the comms and admin at Farm 7 with a small detachment controlling Bivi Site 4 and Mob Sig Detachments chomping at the bit. We were all kept busy and on our toes.

The Squadron worked very hard that weekend and for those of us that were there the rewards were reaped with a little help from **Lt Kevin Barker** who arranged helicopter rides in a passing Wessex and a Gazelle.

S.A.T. DAY

The Small Arms Trainer (SAT) was introduced to the Squadron at 'Ex Hoar Frost' in December 1994 at Swynnerton Training Camp. All agreed that this facility was the 'best thing since sliced bread.'

When we discovered the RLC Unit at Bicester had a S.A.T. facility we jumped at the chance and with due planning and preparation we arrived at the Camp on Saturday 25 February.

The day was based solely on weapon training with very basic weapon handling, some specialist skills, together with the S.A.T. itself.

Approx 25 personnel attended (excluding instructors) who were split into three groups. The first group was under the wing of **Sgt John Downie** for a refresher course on stripping and assembling the 5.56 rifle.

The second group was sent away with **LCpls Harford** and **Clarke** who set up a bayonet practice course. All the screaming and thrusting involved was a great tension reliever; and everyone who took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves as it was something completely different.

The third group found themselves at the S.A.T. facility.

For those not too conversant as to what a Small Arms Trainer is, I shall briefly enlighten you. It is housed in a converted 30 metre range; and the 5.56 rifle weapons are on the firing point. The rifles are converted with a laser firing device and the weapon has an umbilical cord feeding back to a computer processor which can induce all manner of faults on the weapon. The firers aim at a screen and the picture depicted can be anything from a range scene where you do an APWT to a battle scene with advancing tanks, helicopters and infantry. When the target is fired at on the screen it shown as a red splat mark. Once the film is replayed it can tell you if you have hit the targets or not. This is just a fraction of the things that can be analysed. All standard weapon handling, stoppage drills and fire control orders are observed and carried out.

The groups were rotated before we bade farewell to the RLC at Bicester. Our special thanks go to **WO2 (SSM) Haddock RLC** of the training team who made available his classrooms and operated the Small Arms Trainer. It seems we can never get enough of this innovative facility. Some of the keener people among us have vowed that if we win the lottery we would donate a S.A.T. to the Squadron. Here's to the lucky numbers!

96 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–COVENTRY

Sqn Comd — **Maj Steve Holder (V)**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Mick Comber (V)**

The recent recruiting campaign has gone extremely well over the past couple of months. There have been 14 potential recruits through the gates, five have already signed up but with the next selection weekend still some time off it will be a while before we know the final figure.

NCRS trials have begun and this Squadron is assisting 93 Sqn (V) at Weeton Camp; after just one day the PSI had an enquiry about pay! All of the officers are involved in the trials in one way or another so the next few training nights should be nice and quiet; anyone know of a good french polisher?

The permanent staff have had to spend the last few weeks under dust sheets whilst the decorators have been painting the TAC, there must be money left in a budget somewhere! Monty, the PSAO's dog of unknown origin, failed to keep under cover and stood still too long with his head in a paint bucket.

The Officers and SNCO's held their first farewell dinner at the end of the month saying a belated farewell to **WO2 Dave Blackford** and an early bon voyage to **Lt Sally Forrest**. **Maj Stan Grimmitt** attended as an old boy and 21, including spouses, sat down to enjoy some excellent fare prepared by **Cpl Ian Ross**.

SSgt Chris Taylor, SPSI, now has his chuff chart well under way with only 13 months left before he joins the TA, he says he's looking forward to his first bounty!

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

LORD LIEUTENANT'S CERTIFICATE

SSgt Philip Horton of 64 Sig Sqn (V) was the proud recipient of the Lord Lieutenant for South Yorkshire's Certificate at a presentation ceremony held at Manor TA Centre on Tuesday 14 March.



SSgt Horton with Lt Col G. H. Neill, Lord Lieutenant for South Yorkshire, and the CO, Lt Col R. Davenport

46 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–DERBY

Tp Comd — **Lt Bob Ward**

THE SQUADRON INVADES BRAMCOTE

It was the last week in March when elements of the Squadron from Derby and the bulk of 875 (Commune) Tp from Leicester descended upon Gamecock Barracks in Bramcote for the long awaited NCRS trial. We took over the old control tower for the equipment and several football pitches for the 'compact' antenna arrays and then settled down to the routine of the trial. Those of us who hadn't been part of system trials before found the experience totally underwhelming but the rest knew what to expect and brought plenty of reading material. At certain times there was that much activity that the girls were reading all the motor bike magazines and the lads headed for the agony columns in the ladies' mags.

There were odd moments of excitement when people dared cross the mine tape around the antennae and **Sgt Graham Fleming**, our PSI Tech would appear from behind a tree and explain the error of their ways. We also had **LCpl Mick Burns** who decided to shut the mini-bus door before he removed his hand and then spent a period with a bandaged finger pleading that he couldn't do anything.

Having taken over half of the sports fields we tried to hide the rest under our cam nets using the opportunity to tidy them up and when **Sig Ken Stone** was asked why he was in the control tower and not scrimming the nets he glibly replied he was looking down from above deciding where to put the squares.

We were ably assisted during the trial by two of the Plessey trials team, **George Pask** who, having done Ptarmigan and HDRS trials previously, knew what to expect, and **Carrie Hathaway** who, having never worked with the Army before, has been suitably educated and will now go back down south and eat her scran in the cookhouse with her nosh rods.

64 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–SHEFFIELD

Sqn Comd — **Maj Stan Fitzgerald**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) P. Hodges**

EXERCISE MARTIAL MERLIN

We are very pleased to report that on 26 March, 64 Sig Sqn's 'Martial Merlin' team, ably led by **Lt Andy Smith** and **Sgt John Marsden**, successfully retained the Carr-Ellison trophy for best non-infantry team in the 15 (North East) Brigade Military Skills competition.

87 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–NOTTINGHAM

We say a sad farewell to our AO, **Capt David Shakespeare** on his retirement after 45 years with the Corps and 12 years with the Squadron. We wish him a long and happy retirement with many eagles and birdies!

As one door closes another opens, so we take this opportunity to say a warm welcome to our new AO, **Capt Ken Scott** hailing from 49 Brigade, may you have a long and happy time with the Squadron.

A further 'retirement' is that of our PSI Tech, **Cpl Dave Gordon** who leaves us to join the boys in blue in Northumbria Police, wishing you an arresting time in your new job!

Other new arrivals include **Cpl Paul** 'Titch' **Maidment**, who was with Radio Relay at 8 Sig Regt, he joins NMC Tp and **Sig John Oxley** ex RAF (well we can't all be perfect) who also joins NMC Tp–welcome to the Squadron.

Our congratulations go to **Sgt Vicky Hardy** who recently attended a Skill-At-Arms Course at Brecon. She is one of the first females to attend the course and the first to qualify as a Skill-At-Arms Instructor–congratulations.

The recent Ex Round Robin, organised by our gallant SPSI, **SSgt Mark** 'Panzer' **Richmond**, was designed to test the leadership qualities of our 'troopies' and proved that they are actually the best scroungers ever.

The night navigation took place in the north of the county where it actually resembled Norway in the snowy season. We must dispel all rumours that **LCpl Dan Milnor** has had specialist training in arctic driving despite his completing the course in the fastest time. During the journey between stands the teams were to collect 'items' for the construction of their 'abode' in which they were to sleep in on Saturday night (big mistake)!

The night watchman at the local rubbish dump will never be the same again after being descended upon by landrovers full of begging 'squaddies' asking for rubbish in the middle of the night!

Anyone interested in buying a 'slightly worn MFI wardrobe' should contact **Cpl Craig Toft**. To **Sig Jim** 'BP' **Paton**, we thought your flag on the top of your 'Dets' pile of plastic and wood (better known as a shelter), was sweet.

On the whole a great time was had by all (and they even learnt something), so well done SPSI on a great exercise.

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON (V)–SHEFFIELD

Sqn Comd — **Maj David Rigley**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Paul Haystead-Harvey**

Headquarter Sqn got back into shape with an intensive training weekend at RAF Digby. The primary aim of this weekend was to provide a full programme of training in the basic skills of soldiering.

LCpls Sally Burton and **Bob Barrington** oversaw training on the First Aid stand. Simulating a simple accident, they managed to show treatment for bleeding, breaks, burns, unconscious casualties and numerous other injuries, all this within a room 10ft by 8ft. Concurrent activities were taking place on the 25 metre range under the control of **Cpl Andy** 'Thumper' **Thwaites**. Some fine pistol shooting was demonstrated, along with excellent training with the SA 80 Rifle.

Several meetings were arranged by **LCpl Barry Baldwin** in a CS gas environment as part of our NBC training. After demonstrating the fine art of decontaminating, eating and drinking, he invited us all to do the same, but with a little extra CS for good measure. Comprehensive tuition on the NIAD followed.

Physical fitness was directed by **SSM Paul Haystead-Harvey**. Utilising the superb gymnasium facilities, members of the Squadron were taken through a little work out. Those who required the BFT to qualify for their bounty were the fortunate ones; they only had to run three miles!!

As much a part of TA life as the training is the social life. Saturday night was used to relax after the 'rigours' (no pun to the Sqn Comd intended) of the day's activities. We all enjoyed having a slow long drink and a long slow dance through to the early hours of the following day. That following day we were back in the gymnasium for team competitions, including basketball, football and obstacle course; the competitive spirit of HQ being amply illustrated.

A most beneficial and enjoyable weekend was had by all, so much so that we'll be returning to the hospitality of RAF Digby again.

39 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

CO	**Lt Col C. J. Laurence TD (V)**
2IC	**Maj M. Touchin TD (V)**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) R. Bray**

The Regiment has undergone a far reaching reorganisation in recent months, following its move from the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, to the TA Centre, Horfield Common, Bristol. This has also involved a change in the Regimental Orbat to allow for the re-roling of the Regiment from its old role as the Corps Special Communications Regiment, to its new role of National Communications.

As 39 (City of London) Sig Regt (Special Communications) (V) the Regiment had four Squadrons under Command which were located around the country as follows:

RHQ and HQ Squadron	– Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea
1 Sqn	– TA Centre, Bletchley
2 Sqn	– Newman House, Dundee
5 (QOOH) Sqn	–TA Centre, Banbury

As 39 (Skinners) Sig Regt (V), taking its name from the affiliation with the Livery Company, the Worshipful Company of Skinners, Cannon Street, London. The Regiment now finds itself in with the following Squadrons under Command:

RHQ and HQ Squadron	–TA Centre, Horfield Common, Bristol
5 (QOOH) Sig Sqn	– TA Centre, Banbury
47 (MY) Sig Sqn	–TA Centre, Harrow (soon to be Uxbridge)
57 (CandC) Sig Sqn	–TA Centre, Horfield Common, Bristol



The Master of Skinners Sir Richard Butler inspecting the Squadrons during the farewell parade, talking to Cpl Hack (one of the Regiment's Paras), The Honorary Colonel, Col E. St. J. Brice looks on.

As a result of the move and reorganisation, the Regiment has said a sad farewell to the following Squadrons:

1 Sqn, who has now become 1 Sig Sqn (SC) (V) and has amalgamated with 602 Sig Tp (SC). This is now independent and is the Corps only Special Communications Squadron.

2 Sqn has also become independent and remains 2 Sig Sqn at Newman House, Dundee.

HQ Sqn, in Chelsea, has amalgamated with 83 Sqn (V) under Command, 31 Sig Regt (V).

EXERCISE FARNE DEEP

Ex Farne Deep although planned some time ago as a communications exercise was kidnapped by the RSM for the Regiment's final weekend. On the 3/4 March the Squadrons made their climatic journey to Proteus Camp with the promise of an enjoyable wake and a bit of drill. The Officers' Mess arranged a Dinner Night in London, on the Friday and assured the RSM that they would be on time for the following days parade rehearsals!

On Saturday, **WO1 (RSM) R. C. Bray** put the Regiment through its paces on the parade square (and the officers joined in later). Considering the limited time available things were looking good . . .? reasonable. Before the wake began a march and shoot competition gave the Squadron teams a little challenge, enough to build up an appetite. However, that night the wake began with a superb dinner, presentations to the winning teams by **Brig N. F. Wood**, drinks before and after and live entertainment, which included truly humorous comedians.

In an attempt to liven everyone up there was a quick dose of CO mid morning PT. By late morning the Regiment was on parade to begin its final march off. The intention was for those Squadrons leaving the Regiment to ask the CO's permission to leave to join their new Regiment. Nobody was rejected and the parade went remarkably well. Following this success, the Inspecting Officer The Master of the Worshipful Company of Skinners, **Sir Richard Butler**, presented the annual Skinners' Award for the best Male and Female Soldiers to:

Best Male Soldier: **Cpl Paul Lambert** – HQ Sqn

Best Female Soldier: **Cpl Chris Minchella** – 5 Sqn (V)



Cpl Chris Minchella receiving the Skinners' Award from Sir Richard Butler



Cpl Paul Lambert receiving the Skinners' Award from Sir Richard Butler

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

VISIT OF THE SOinC

The SOinC **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle** paid his final official visit to the Regiment on 28 February at Clonaver TAC.

He arrived at 1425 hrs after lunching with the Officers of the Permanent Staff and was met by the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) I. J. W. Little**. After a tour of the TAC he had tea with the Regular and NRPS Permanent Staff and then took part in a shooting competition on the SAT range.

He returned at 1900 hrs in the evening and visited the various drill night training activities after which he was presented with an Irish Blackthorn in the JRC.

He then attended a Buffet Supper before departing.



The SOinC points the finger while SSgt Billy Morrow adjusts his moustache



The SOinC receives a presentation of an Irish Blackthorn from Maj Dave Doherty

VISIT OF COMD CIS LAND

The Comd CIS Land, **Brig A. J. Schuler** paid his first visit to the Regiment on Sunday 12 February at Clonaver TAC.

The Brigadier arrived at 0930 hrs and was met by the **2IC Maj Gerry Fleming** and the RSM **WO1 (RSM) I. J. W. Little**. He received a Regimental brief by the Trg Maj, **Maj Tony Lomax**. The morning programme continued with a tour of the TAC including RHQ, HQ Sqn, 66 Sqn (V), then a visit to the JRC and Sergeants' Mess before lunching with the Officers.

During the afternoon he visited the Training Wing Recruit Trade Displays and then drove to the Crawfordsburn Road TAC at Newtownards to visit 85 Sig Sqn (V).

He departed at 1930 hrs.

EXERCISE STALKING HORSE

Ex Stalking Horse was primarily a parade to mark the impending transfer of 69 (North Irish Horse) Sig Sqn (V) from 32 Sig Regt (V) to the 40 Sig Regt (V). The parade was held at West Freugh in Argylshire, Scotland and was reviewed by the Master of Signals.

Both Regiments arrived in West Freugh on Saturday 11 March and settled in during the afternoon. We are reluctant to mention this but during a football match between both units on Saturday afternoon, the score of 6–0 to the Ulstermen, was as a result of the brilliant footballing skills of our Yeoman of Signals, **SSgt (YofS) Mark Dennis**.

69 (NORTH IRISH HORSE0 SIGNAL SQUADRON

During the Amalgamation Parade on Sunday morning, 69 Sig Sqn (V) left the ranks of 32 Sig Regt (V) and advanced in review order to be inspected by the Master. After the inspection they marched across the parade ground to join the ranks of the 40th. Both Regiments then marched off, with the Master of Signals taking the Salute.



69 Sig Sqn (V) led by Maj George Wiley march past the Master



The Master inspects members of 69 Sig Sqn (V) during the amalgamation parade

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **WO2 Maurice Stanley** and **SSgt Mark Brotherston** on being awarded the Lord Lieutenants' Certificate and also to our Regimental Rally Team for gaining the TA Prize, Northern Ireland Prize and Formal Runners-up in the 1994/95 Bama Rally Finals.

NEWS FROM SQUADRONS

HQ BRITFOR Sig Sqn
Op Grapple
BFPO 544

Sqn Comd — **Maj Paul Towers**
2IC — **Capt Fred Whichelo**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) Pete Woodward**

The Squadron has said farewell to **Maj David Hargreaves** and welcomed its new Sqn Comd, **Maj Paul Towers**. **Capt Fred Whichelo** and **Lt Tarquin Shipley** have arrived from 30 Sig Regt as has **Capt Mike Dooley** the first of the 20 Brigade Officers. Farewells to **Capt Ashley Stocker** and **Lt Jim O'Brien** who return to 30 Sig Regt, and to our very own **Capt Tudor** 'Nevesinje' **Hill**, off to JDSC. Farewell to those of the Squadron who return to Catterick, and welcome to the lucky few from the 20 Brigade advance party who replace them.



L to R: SSgt Pollitt, Maj (now Lt Col) David Hargreaves, Sgt Jes Ratcliff, Sig Gilley Gilcrest, LCpl 'Barney' Barnes, Cpl 'Mo' Maviss

SUPPORT TROOP
Tp Comd — **Capt Chas Dale**
RQMS — **WO2 (RQMS) Steve Johnson**

After what can only be described as an interesting and extremely busy period in our lives we now know that Op Grapple 5 is drawing to a close as people make daily enquiries about the move back to Catterick.

Now that **Sig Chris Ardron** is on leave recovering from his latest escapade, only **LCpl** 'BQ' **Botwright** is left to take R&R (from which we all hope he returns without PMT). As we go to press **Sig Pete Richardson** is touring the country as one of **Jim Davidson**'s groupies while **LCpl Neil Binks** stands in for him in the R&I. For once, a stores person is popular. **Cpl Russ Shield** is everyone's favourite as he controls the ISO's that return all personal equipment to Catterick.

It only remains to congratulate and wish farewell to **LCpl Jo Morrison** who has recently been promoted. **Sig Dougie Icke** has a new son to see when he gets back, and lastly welcome to the 'part timers' **Cpl Kev Smith** and **Sig George Foreman**, who have recently joined the team.

SECTOR SOUTH WEST TROOP
Tp Comd — **Lt Andy Knott**
Tp Sgt — **Sgt Andy Alan**

Not even the recent blockade of the camp here at Gornji Vakuf can stop the *Wire* notes from getting out.

The Troop's most high profile contribution to the fragile peace comes in the form of the liaison officer detachments for which we provide an Immarsat link.

The Troop irony prize goes to **LCpl** 'Mac' **McMullen**, who has been posted to 20 (Armd) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200) on our return. Better save your bed space **Mac**! Similarly the subbies have another type of operation planned—Club 18-30, and it better be hot.

STRATCOM TROOP
Tp Comd — **Lt Tarquin Shipley**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt Kevin Belam**

As the Troop moves into its sixth Grapple (goodbye 19 Bde Hello 20 Bde) there have been some major personality changes(!) in Troop HQ. The Troop says goodbye to **Lt James** 'Sahib' **O'Brien** who is off to look smart outside the Tower of London and in comes **Lt Tarquin Shipley** to take over the 80 strong Troop. **SSgt Jim Pollit** is handing the 'Jim's day off' tradition to **SSgt Kevin Belam**. **WO2 (FofS) Martin Drake** hands over 80% of 30 Sig Regt's Comms Equipment to **WO1 (FofS) Ian Hugill** who is still getting used to the light having come from 30 Sig Regt's Ops room.

Fond farewells have been said to **Sgt** 'JC' **Collins, Sgt Maniraj, Cpl Ted Heath, Cpl** 'Manger' **Monger, LCpls Joyce, Amber, Keise, Sig Shanker** and eventually **Sig Alex Curless**. Welcomes go to **Sgt Neil Trengrove, Cpl Yam, Cpl** 'H' **Hardy, LCpl** Taff **George, Sig Kamal** and **Sig Jensen Gunning**.

SARAJEVO DETACHMENT VSC(501) NECTARINE
Det Comd — **Sgt John Blyth**
Det Tech — **Sgt Phil Arnold**
Det 2IC — **LCpl Matt Potter**
Det Ops — **Sigs Kath McDonald, Jo Braund Smith, Shaz Rogers**
Det DEs — **Cpl** 'Straff' **Strafford, LCpl Col Pirrie**

The detachment support **Lt Gen Rupert Smith** but have lately been employed in various important Signals matters (UN Equipment and Sky Tuning for the five nations rugby). Light relief from work is gained by either running, when possible, (the Sarajevo hash harriers fortnightly baffle locals with cries of 'On! On!') and reading mail.

BRITFOR TROOP
Tp Comd — **Lt Ian Ellis**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt Stu Conway**

Since the last scribblings there have been a number of personnel changes. Many thought that they were coming to enjoy the sunnier climes of Split, but recent weather has reminded us more of our very own 'Catterick triangle'.

Cpl 'Michael Angelo' **Swithenbank** has been working on a huge roll of honour in the radio section garages. The LAD have been very busy keeping the **LCpl Kev Reynold**'s 'Taxis R Us' service on the road. Somehow they've found time to keep their go-kart on the road as well.

Sig 'Smudge' **Smith** and **LCpl** 'BQ' **Botwright** organised a most successful quiz night. **Maj Hargreaves** would not be invited again—even if he were here—as he won! The Sergeants' Mess/Junior Ranks Mess games night organised by the Troop Staff Sergeant was another resounding success, at least for the senior ranks.

The most recent highlight has been the **Jim Davidson** CSE tour in which several of the Troop took part.

4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204)
BFPO 36

Sqn Comd — **Maj Jim McKee**
2IC Sqn — **Capt Howard Hughes**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) Wright-Jones**

THE SQUADRON CADRE COURSE

With a little help from the RLC, our training wing managed to hire a new location for this year's cadre course. The Base Ammunition Depot at Bracht kindly loaned its excellent facilities and several very 'nasty' instructors. The lucky participants, all Signallers or junior LCpls, were entertained by a fun-filled programme, specially written by **Sgt Ken Snell**.

After the mandatory 'honeymoon period', **Sig Bill Waters** got off to a flying start with a truly excellent intake result, while first blood went to 1 Section for winning what really was the ultimate in stretcher races. With our training directives at hand, the up and coming stars were put through command tasks, group discussions, oral orders, appreciations and planning exercises as well as drill, NBC and map reading.

When the intrepid warriors finally deployed to fight the self styled **Brig** 'Charlie' **Forthsyth** and his bunch of revolutionary terrorists the Venlovian Liberation Army (VLA), they were really spoiling for a fight.

A week of counter revolutionary warfare, the Black Rats proved that they were more than a match for the VLA. In a final assault, directed by **Sig Bradbury** and produced by platoon **Sgt** 'Gunny' **Ellis**, the 'Brigadier' finally met his match. Special effects and lighting courtesy of the Coldstream Guards. There were some excellent individual performances, **Sigs Dave Coker**, 'Mac' **MacLeod** and **Kev Liddle** to name but three. The Oscar for best individual performance went to **LCpl** 'Pezz' **Perry**, closely followed by **LCpl Rob Dawson**. Best field soldier was well earned by **LCpl Steve Morton** while the best endeavour for best supporting role went to **Sig Drummond**. Well done for making the distance!

EXERCISE DECI DAILY–SARDINIA

Sunday 26 March saw seven intrepid adventurers depart Osnabruck (and of course that rain!), for the sun filled blue skies of Sardinia. Travelling overland to the BEB in Southern Sardinia took a gruelling 28 hours, of which **LCpl Larry Lewis** was awake for about 30 minutes! Having finally arrived at the BEB, we set off for 10 years of rock climbing around the Island. Unfortunately, no sooner had we started, than we fell foul of thieves who broke into our minibus and stole everything! This meant that we had to beg and borrow clothes, and visit supermarkets in order to continue. Someone should have really checked through the size of underpants being bought as they were on the larger size of extra large! **Cpl** 'Cornelius' **Cullen**, revelled in his new tracksuit and then threatened to wear it in the new Squadron bar.

Well having recovered from this set-back, off we went to Arbatax where there was some excellent climbing and some very fine weather. **Cpl** 'Pedro' **Shearer** had a chance to rub some more baby oil into his already bronzed body! Several quality days climbing ensued and **LCpls** 'Molly' **Mollison** and 'Larry' **Lewis** even braved the icy water, with the promise of fish for supper. Luckily we did not rely on them. **2Lt Rob Anderton-Brown** tried his almost perfect Italian on the locals but quickly gave in after nearly ordering a litre of cold tea instead of seven beers!

Despite the initial setback, the exped was very successful. Our thanks to BEB for their outstanding assistance. We apologise to the editor for a lack of photographic action shots . . .!

A LOOK AHEAD

The Squadron remains very busy. Our deployment to Bosnia (again!) on Op Grapple 7 starts in November. In the meantime, we have been chosen to march for the freedom of Osnabruck. We held a very successful Commanders Football Competition and we will host a Staff College Demonstration. Want to join the best Squadron? Ring us now on 2279.

SQUADRON CADRE COURSE



Sigs Russell, Bradbury, Turner, Rhodes, Coker, Chapman, Waters, Reid, Drummond, Witts, McCleod, Doran, Nicol, Dodgson, Liddle, Carvin, LCpls Morton, Dawson, Sgt Snell, Capt Sutton, Sgt Roberts, Cpl Veale, LCpls Perry, Smith

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para) Aldershot

Sqn Comd **Maj Peter Gillespie**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Joe Fairbairn**

BIRTWISTLE RECRUITING PENNANT 1994

The following message has recently been received by the Squadron:

'The Master of Signals and the Signal Officer in Chief congratulate 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para) on winning the Birtwistle Recruiting Pennant for 1994 . . . The standard of entries was high and the achievements of the Squadron quite remarkable for a minor unit.'

The Squadron recruiting team has been fully involved in a large number of activities, and it was excellent to hear that the Pennant had been won. Congratulations are sent to **Capt Steve Vickery**, now out in Cyprus, for leading the efffort so well in 1994.

FAREWELL TO THE BALLOON

Many members of the Squadron, past and present, have fond memories of their first parachute descent from a balloon. Even more members probably have far less fond memories! Sadly the days of parachuting from balloons are over. On 31 March the RAF balloons ceased to be used for the training of military parachutists. They have been superceded by Skyvan aircraft, which can be used easily and more cost effectively. However, the use of the Hercules C130 remains our primary means of training whenever possible. (On average we will have one C130 descent and one Skyvan descent a month).

The Squadron managed to carry out some of the last ever balloon jumps in March. Having recently assumed command from **Maj John Whitby**, (good luck at MoD Sir), our new Sqn Comd was keen to demonstrate his parachuting enthusiasm, rekindled on his refresher course. Thus he succeeded in appearing on local television and in newspapers as the final man to jump. (But weren't **Capt** 'Lord' **Cubbin**, **SSgts Stu Archer** and **Stu Couszins** in the balloon cage too?)

The most recent basic parachute course did not involve balloon descents, so already the 'crows' are being told how tough it was in the old days. However, we all know that it wasn't too difficult from that balloon cage. In fact, it will probably be sadly missed.



Prior to take-off from the balloon cage

BATTLECAMP 1995

This year's battlecamp was held in Wales for two weeks in March. The majority of the Squadron entered Sennybridge Training Area by parachute onto DZ Alpha. Various delays meant it was a great relief to be out of the door, although **Cpl Nick Gray** had a few twists, and **SSgt Vince McNaught** got one of his talons caught in the door. Happily for him one breath from **Sgt 'JJ' Walker** was enough to set anyone free. On a serious note, best wishes and good luck for the future **Nick Gray** on the decision of your forthcoming marriage and get well soon **SSgt Vince McNaught** from all the blokes.

The 'back to basics' battlecamp consisted of one week's classroom work followed by a week in the field. The whole exercise was based on training for the JNCOs and Signallers, and tested them to the full in infantry operations, orders, and field firing.

All of the lads involved agreed that the weather was the star of the show, or is that snow? We would like to thank **SSgt Stu Archer** for booking such great weather, although the **2IC Capt Cole** we believe also helped. After all, if its not raining . . . it's either snowing or a pea soup fog!

Good performances were put in all round including some newly para trained 'Toms', even if they didn't have any kit.

Congratulations on the Training Wing for a well planned battlecamp and to the QM **Maj Aspinall** for providing a warming bonfire on endex. Roll on next year!



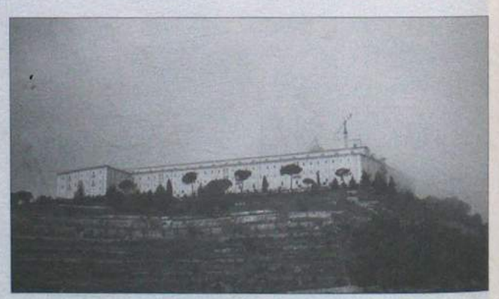
From left: LCpl Spints, Cpl Christie and LCpl Anderson waiting to give Patrol Reports to their platoon commander

EXERCISE BITA SCAG

Five members of the Squadron have recently visited Southern Italy on a Brigade Battle Field Tour. The exercise aim was to study the battles fought at Salerno and Monte Cassino in 1944 and 1945.

The first day was spent in Salerno covering the beach landings. We then moved inland to Monte Cassino and spent the next three days in the hills following the exact route of the 1944 advance. The weather was awful and it emphasised the difficulties faced during the war.

Before long it was time to move back to Bari having first managed to get a 'rest day' in Rome. Five hours later we were back at Lynham and it was all over. This was certainly an exercise to remember.



The new monastery built on the site of the old one

AIRBORNE SIGNALS OFFICERS' REUNION DINNER

This year's Airborne Signals Officers' Dinner will take place on 13 October 1995. The Admin Officer, **Capt Fred Payet**, will be writing to officers soon. However, it is very difficult to keep in touch with everyone, so if you do not hear from him please write.

7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207) BFPO 30

Sqn Comd **Maj J. P. Wilson**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Fitzpatrick**

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

In January the Squadron lost the steadying influence of **WO1 (RSM) Trevor Smith**. He has been sorely missed. However with the arrival in early March of **WO1 (RSM) Kev Fitzpatrick** a worthy successor was found. We hope you and your family enjoy your stay in Hohne.

Bravo Tp gained a new Comd when **Lt Jim Langley** left for an 'arduous' five weeks adventurous training expedition in the USA. To replace him **2Lt Matt Graham**, fresh from Blandford jumped in at the deep end.

EXERCISE RHINO SWORD

The Squadron deployed on Monday 6 March following a hectic week of preparation. The exercise was designed to test the brigades and it certainly succeeded in its aim. Both the staff and the Squadron were put under severe pressure. In ten days in the field we moved eight times and were rarely anywhere for more than 24 hours.

The Commander, **Lt Col Wall** CO of 32 Engineer Regt, decided that he wanted to see the headquarters deployed fully tactically. The recce officer, **Capt Jim Foulkes**, spent a hectic day trying to conjure up two new locations where we could dig in–we of couse wished him lots of luck, all bad! But to our surprise he managed to find them and so we dug! Luckily our attached Sappers seemed to enjoy digging so we let them get on with it.

The Commander also seemed very keen on his Tac Headquarters. But with the Artillery's vehicle broken down and the Engineer's vehicle off the road literally 20 metres down a bank, in fact, it fell to **Cpl Tom Murray** and his rebro to play the part of Arty Tac. He was of course his usual tactful self and handled the staff with delicacy and courtesy! Even when informing the arty CO that there was no room for his kit because this was a rebro not a tac vehicle.

Before the exercise the Yeoman spent many hours slaving over a brigade CEI and eventually the finished document was ready (even if it was only on the morning we deployed). But one major mistake was found by none other than the RSM! Where was his callsign? Yeoman if you're reading this a request has been put in for G10M.

The exercise proved that following its Bosnia tour the Squadron was now ready to be declared fully operational.

BASIC WINTER TRAINING
by **Sig** 'Charlie' **Farley**

Basic Winter Training or BWT as it is better known takes place at the Hohne garrison lodge in Bavaria. The course consists of five days ski touring and five days downhill.



Breaking Trail

The ski touring was introduced this year and is the military side of the course. It tackles routes over several mountains (going up and down) and also introduces arctic training. This includes digging a snowhole, avalanche survival and rescue work. Each day students take on different tasks from 'trail blazer'–who cuts a path for the rest to follow the team leader. After five days of hard work climbing mountains its time to relax a little with the downhill side of BWT and the chance to improve your skiing.

BWT replaced the old Snowqueen but has widened its scope. Its an excellent introduction to ski touring which gives a basic knowledge of the environment.

EXERCISE YANKEE DIAMOND

Ex Yankee Diamond was a cross country skiing expedition across the extremely remote Sierra Nevada in California. It proved as a great challenge as anyone had expected as the team of seven, divided into two tents of two and one of three, attempted to ski the John Muir Trail from Yosemite to Mt Whitney.

Shortly after starting two days were spent in the worst storm California has had this century during which a total of 8ft of snow fell. This forced the team to stay put in their tents, which required digging out of the snow every four hours to prevent them and their occupants from being completely buried. After the storm had passed trail breaking was particularly strenuous. With the snow waist deep a speed of only 700m an hour could be achieved, even when the lead man ditched his bergen and broke trail for ten minutes before handing over to the next man and returning down the trail for his bergen. Brilliant sunshine on the next day provided excellent conditions for crossing some large avalanches but resulted in some bad sunburn.

At this point **LCpl Rawlings** joined the skiers making, four tents of two. Conditions over the next few days varied from heavy sleet to glorious sunshine and perfect skiing. **LCpl Rawlings** binding came apart from his ski after four days but Chapman, Bodge-it and Leatherman kept it together till the last day, so avoiding a potentially serious situation.

What should have been the last day dawned with a change in fortune–another storm. With only 16km to go the team was again forced to ground because of the very poor weather conditions and some avalanche prone terrain. After two more days digging the tents out of the snow and making no progress a gap in the weather was seen and a 0400 hrs start made to take advantage of it. This proved excellent judgment with the team closing on the pass and the rising morning sun under blue skies at the same speed as the bad weather raced in from the west plunging the group back into murky whiteness of the continuing storm just as they reached the relative security of the pass and so final passage of the mountains two days later than planned.

This was true adventure training to be remembered for beautiful mountains, excellent skiing and occasional appalling weather.



Cpl 'Taff' Philips and Commander's TAC

24 Airmob Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210)
Colchester

Life in the Squadron has been as busy as ever with Squadron exercises, a Brigade exercise and preparations for Ex Gryphon's Claw at BBGT.

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Lindsay Cullen**

It seemed as if the Christmas decorations had only just been taken down as we deployed on our first exercise of the year, that is everyone but the Tp Comd who had somehow managed to get himself on the Winter Warfare 'LOA' Course in Norway. The exercise proved to be a good shake out and, as always, spirits rang high.

Under the careful eye of **2Lt David Warden**, the Troop visited the Warminster weapons effects demonstration (which justifies why you don't want to be an infanteer) and later on, to the helicopter dunker which proved a greater challenge than initially expected. All composure went out of the window when the machine went upside down and I am assured that there were some all-new exits made in the machine when the lights went off; quite an experience if you like that drowning sensation. The latest rumour for Troop training is DIY bungy jumping, please bring your own elastic bands.

Ex Gryphons Lift went exceptionally well for the Troop and there were lots of opportunities to practise our helicopter drills; in fact it seemed more of a novelty driving than flying. **LCpl** 'Good-year' **Shuttleworth** pioneered the latest method of trying to gain the RSM's attention and we are now all just waiting for those immortal words on his next parade: 'show tyre marks removed from head'.

A warm welcome back to the Troop to **Sigs Hodgson** and **Jupp** who have just returned from the Falklands. Farewells to **LCpl Nichols**, **Sigs Richards** and **Catney** who leave having had an excellent tour with the Squadron, and welcome to **LCpl Bremner**, **LCpl Pond** and **Sig Foster** who have recently joined Alpha Tp.

On a final note, congratulations to **SSgt Neil Coatsworth** on his promotion to WO2. On behalf of the Troop, thank you for all of your hard work and we wish you and your family happiness and success at 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

BRAVO TROOP

With the passing of time the faithful followers of the Troop, that is Bravo, have quested many moons under the guidance of the Clan **Evans** and **Milne** 'The Merciless'. They have forded mighty rivers, crossed ranging mountains, vanquished ravaging hordes and put up with the Brigade Staff as well.

Victories have been untold with **Milne** 'The Merciless' venturing to The Board and coming back with a crown whilst **Latham** 'The Odious' was beating the lovely **Jill** into submission in 'The Battle of the Nuptials'. A few have been lost on the way and we will mourn the passing of 'The Mighty' **Arthurs**, 'The Not Quite So Mighty' **Cardwell**, 'The Even Less Mighty' **Link** and 'The Really Not Very Mighty At All' **Thomassen**.

We have gained some fine Celtic warriors en route and are glad of **Griffiths** 'That Is Welsh', **Davis** 'That Is Also Welsh' and **O'Brien** 'That Wishes He Was Welsh'.

Tune in to the next exciting episode in two moons time to find out how the seemingly invincible Bravo Tp finished off the Gryphon's Claw and followed it swiftly by downing the Tangle's Foot.

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd/QM **Capt Rick Licence**

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT

Work continues apace on the refurbishment/rebuild of the barracks and the QM now spends the majority of his time attempting to juggle dates for acceptance boards and site meetings between exercises. The real hand on the tiller belongs to the 'RQ' who has more than steered an even course during the many months.

WELCOMES

The department would like to welcome to the fold **LCpl** 'Billy Breakdance' **Smith** who joins us from the 'Iron' Division and **Sig Sam Johnson** from 16 Sig Regt. Both can be assured of a happy working environment compliments of **Sgt** 'Bone Dome' **Brooker.**

BREWERY TRIP

Cpl 'Mac C Nesbitt' **McDonald** took all of his friends on a trip to the Tolly Cobbold Brewery in Ipswich and now has no friends left. It was certainly most interesting and everyone did their level best to appear attentive whilst their minds wandered to the hour or two of insobriety to follow. However, the imagined orgy of intemperance was soon curtailed by the offer of a complimentary half pint 'on the house' followed by a thanks for calling, please call again. Needless to say **Cpl Mac** spent the journey back singing on his own.

TM WORKSHOP
WELCOME

The workshop would like to welcome **Cpl Paul Colborn**, his wife **Adele** and their two daughters. With leave looming and subsequent rear details to arrange the other Corporals would especially like to welcome him.

INSPECTIONS

No sooner had the unit safely negotiated the RSIT when the Tels Pre Team arrived to try and expose our technical short-comings. However, sterling work by **Sgts Dave Mudway** and **Steve Barclay** resulted in an excellent report. Well done!

DETACHMENT

In the midst of our annual round of inspections and with the start of the field training year, **Sgt** 'Basher' **Bates** felt it was an extremely good time to exit stage left and head for America on detachment with 1 LI. His wife **Ruth**, however, thought that it was an equally good time to enter the housing market and he can now look forward to being a home owner on his return.

CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to **Sgts Ally Duncan** and **Dave Mudway** on passing the Foreman of Signals entrance exam recently. **Sgt Ally Duncan** has had extensive experience in the mystic art of man management and equipment husbandry as the Unit Golf Officer and is more than well placed to take on the heavy mantle of potential foreman.

ECHELON

Ex Gryphons Lift 95. For the first time, in a very long time, Echelon threw off the shackles of administrating the Brigade Concentration Exercise Control Camp and deployed into the wilderness of STANTA to practise its field role. Much was achieved and many valuable lessons were learned during the week, not least of all how welcome a steaming mug of tea can be when the chill factor is less than pleasant.

The highlight of the week was the night rolling replen; conceived, planned and run by **Cpl** 'Mac' **McDonald**. The multitude of Cylumes marking the route and indicating the various stop points made for a



Ex Gryphon's Lift

238 Sig Sqn
Chelsea Barracks

Sqn Comd **Maj J. A. Harris**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) M. J. Harvey**

OSCAR TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt J. R. Tyreman**

PROFILE—SIG SHARON ELDER

Sig Elder has been the Squadron's outstanding sportsperson through her success both on the track and at Cross Country. She has been running at representative level for a number of years gaining selection for Sussex and English Schools in 1986, and continuing to run at county level until she joined the Army in 1990. In 1992 **Sig Elder** won the SE District Cross Country Championships and qualified for the Combined Services. Since having her baby in 1993 **Sig Elder** has gone from strength to strength—successfully defending her Londist Cross Country title, winning the Army 3,000m and running at international level on the track for two counties. This year she has once again qualified for the Combined Services Cross Country Championships and will soon be off to Cyprus to begin this season's athletics training.



Sig Sharon Elder
Photo: courtesy of Mike Nicholson

RADIO TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt B. J. Elliott**

GOODBYES

Goodbyes to **LCpl Nav Elliott, Sig Adam Hughes** to 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) and **Cpl Aiden Whitty** to 2 Sig Regt.

The Troop welcomes the arrival of **SSgt John Laffey** to provide a bit of a culture shock for some of the longer serving members of the Troop.

Most of the Troop have been involved in the organisation of the Squadron's Boxing ambitions and threw themselves wholeheartedly into the decoration of the gym for the minor unit semi-finals.

Several members of the Troop deployed via a low flying Chinook as enemy for the 1 Bn IG Close Observation Platoon. This involved two and a half weeks at Okehampton Camp, lurking suspiciously on street corners, firing a multitude of foreign weapons and being daring terrorists against the nasty security forces.

CROSS COUNTRY

Under the inspirational leadership of **WO2 Geordie Harevy** the Squadron Cross Country team has had a successful season so far. Consistant high places by **SSgts Cowen, Rose, Sgt Harry Kemp** and the SSM ensured we are top of the league in the Southern Area Championships. The London District Championships went much the same way with the Squadron winning first place individuals (male and female) through **SSgt Cowen** and **Sig Sharon Elder**. It won the minor unit championships beating most of the major units on the way. Next up were the Army Championships at Longmoor. The best performance of the day was from **Sig Sharon Elder** placing fifth (the women coming third overall) while the men managed a commendable eighth.

Those representing the Squadron throughout the season: **Capt J. R. Tyreman, Lt B. J. Elliott, WO2 (SSM) Harvey, SSgts Cowen, Q. Rose, Sgt H. Kemp, Cpr R. Ezard, LCpl O'Leary, Sigs Roberts, T. Wright, McMahon** and **Campion**.

Women: **Capt J. Harkness, Sgt B. Smith, Cpl M. Adey, Sigs S. Elder, F. Smith, K. Glennister** and **S. Hill**.

BOXING

The evening of 14 December 1994 saw over 250 people witness the semi-final of the Army minor unit boxing championships which saw the Squadron drawn against 59 Ind Cdo Sqn (RE). This was always going to be a difficult contest but the team was in high spirits after defeating 237 Sig Sqn in the previous round. 59's experience was clear and despite a spirited effort our only winner on the night was **Sgt Roger Thompson** at Welterweight. The Squadron had worked hard to host the event and the evening was a resounding success. The competition ended in March 1995 with 59 Ind Cdo Sqn winners of the Army minor units boxing competition.

238 Sig Sqn Boxing Team:

Featherweight: **Lt B. J. Elliott**, Lightweight: **Sig Martin Campion**, Light Welter: **Sig Craig Glynn**, Welter: **Sgt Roger Thompson**, Light Middle Weight: **Cpl Aiden Whitty**, Middleweight: **Sig Anton Psaila**, Light Heavy: **LCpl Will O'Leary**, Heavyweight: **LCpl Doug Smart**.



Sig Anton Psaila

LADIES FOOTBALL

Eventually women's football in the Army arrived and without fail, 238 Sig Sqn had entered a team. With the great help of our two coaches **Sigs Paul Reid** and 'H' **Hamilton** training began. Firstly came the shock to most people that the ball didn't seem to go the way it was meant to.

Before we knew it the first tournament had arrived, and we were in Bassingbourn playing the first game. Within the first 10 minutes **Sig Fiona Smith** thought she had hit a brick wall when she went smack into an opponent and blacked out, but she was soon on her feet and charging around again. Eventually in the fourth game with a great pass from **Sigs Caroline McMahon** and **Melissa Fortune**, we got our first goal of the day and also a demonstration of the group dance much to the amusement of the watching crowd. Needless to say we came last.

Then we played at Colchester with an improved result of 13th out of 16. Things were looking up as we went into the third tournament held in Aldershot. With some excellent saves from **Cpl Mandy Brazier**, speedy running from **Sig Sharon Elder** and great defence by the rest of the team, we held them off until **Sig Fiona Smith** scored a superb penalty goal which placed us into the quarter finals. The game was hard fought but sadly we lost, and ended up fifth out of 20.

The rest of the team are **Sigs Sandy Munday, Kathy Winder, Katherine** 'Griff' **Griffiths, Zoe Byrne, LCpls Ann Vardy, Sharon Bellew** and **Sgts Bernie Smith** and **Chris King**.

Also a big thanks to our Australian Army exchange member **Cpl Karen Ward** for her contribution.

241 Sig Sqn
Donnington

Sqn Comd — **Maj Garth Letori**
Yeoman/SSM — **WO2 (YofS) Wilf Wedge**

GET A GRIP ON LITTER CAMPAIGN

'Get a Grip On Litter' is a national campaign run by District Councils to clean up those parts of their areas that the refuse men don't go near. Whistling 'The Wombles of Wimbledon Common Are We', our little band of litter pickers from Comms Tp set off on what has become the Yeoman's annual trip to preserve the green belt of Telford. Because we did so well last year, this year's campaign lasted for only two days.

Firstly, we were issued with our essential equipment; black plastic bags (biodegradable–of course), plastic bibs, presumably in case **Sig Perkin** dribbled and large sticks, which could only be described as grabbers, just in case anyone tried to make a run for it.

The first day, under the watchful eye of **Sgt Sparling**, we poor squaddies and squadettes began assaulting the area of Wellington Retail Park. Amongst our finds, **Cpl Kev Ashfield** started his initiation into the delights of fatherhood, by discovering a mountain of soiled disposable nappies. Not to be outdone, **LCpl Jenny Lyne** found a dead duck, and no we don't mean **Sig Mooney**. Surprisingly, given the location, we did not find any boots.

The second day saw the Troop collecting litter from beside Stirchley Lake, this is where **Cpl Kev Ashford**, **Sigs Martin Perkin**, **Ray Jopling** and **Des Mooney**, found a rope swing and decided to have a go at playing Tarzan, **Sig Jopling** was the guinea pig and sailed across without problem, but **Sig Mooney**, who is not as slim as he once was, was not so lucky and almost ended up in one of our black bags. After filling a few more bags, the Sqn Comd turned up with food for his hard working troops–or so he said–but coincidentally the Chairman of the Council and his photographer happened to arrive at just the same time!

It was an interesting and worthwhile two days, and now Comms Tp are claiming to be dual traded as Data and Refuse collectors.

FAREWELLS AND ARRIVALS

We say good luck to our SQMS and part-time SSM **SSgt Chris Talbot** and his wife **Andrea**, who are leaving us for the more docile climes of 7 Sig Regt–come back Staff, we are not so sure that it was a good job for the Yeoman to take over as SSM. A big welcome to our small but happy clan goes to **Cpl Harry Harrington** and his wife **Maria**, **Cpl Kev Ashfield** and his wife **Kay**, **LCpl Kerrie Ewings**, and **LCpl Jenny Lyne** from Cyprus.

COURSES AND SPORT

We must mention **Sgt Sparling** and **Cpl McChesney**, who keep disappearing to various parts of the country to play either hockey or football–at least that's what they tell us. Congratulations to **LCpl Lewis** and **Sig Perkin** who recently passed a squash skills course–all we have to do now is teach them to play squash. Congratulations to **LCpls May** and **Ewings** and **Sig Perkins** on passing their driving tests–and all we have to do now is teach them to drive!



Photo by Jim Tennant

243 Sig Sqn
Bulford Camp

FOCUS ON TECH TROOP

Tp Comd — **WO1 (FofS) T. Prince**

Tech Tp is the centre for Operational comms within the Army. The Squadron is located at Bulford but the Troop is situated in the bowels of HQ Land Command within Wilton. It is sub divided into two departments–SCP and Secure Workshops.

SCP (SYSTEMS CONTROL POINT)

SCP is run by **SSgt (FofS)** 'Deano' **Briers**. SCP is an integral part of the engineering and maintenance of data and voice communications coming into and through Land Command, for various out of area locations. SCP is manned entirely by Royal Signals technicians.

SECURE WORKSHOPS

The workshops are responsible for the daily maintenance of all comms equipment within the JHQ and all of the 15 outstations within South West District. They are the place to be in the summer because it looks more like a mountain bike centre than a workshop. Tins of Electrolube and tech tool kits go into storage to be replaced by chain oil and puncture repair kits. The puncture repair kits do come in very handy as **SSgt** 'Geordie' **Merrie** actually went for the world record number of thorns in two bike tyres.

On a more serious note–visiting the outstations can be very interesting especially if the driver is **LCpl Jefferies**.

The Troop has enjoyed a baby boom, so congratulations are in order for **Cpl Andy** 'Mapper' **Tuck** and **Mrs Tuck**, **Cpl Simon** 'Shadow' **King** and **Mrs King** and **Sgt** 'Gaz' **Hinton** and **Mrs Hinton**. Best wishes go out to **LCpl** 'Flipper' **Topping** who is in Hedley Court.

WIRE PHOTOGRAPHS

Please do not ask for photographs sent for publication in *The Wire*, to be returned, unless they are irreplaceable.

Contributors should be aware of the fact that although every care is taken with contributions, they should not risk losing a photograph that cannot be replaced.

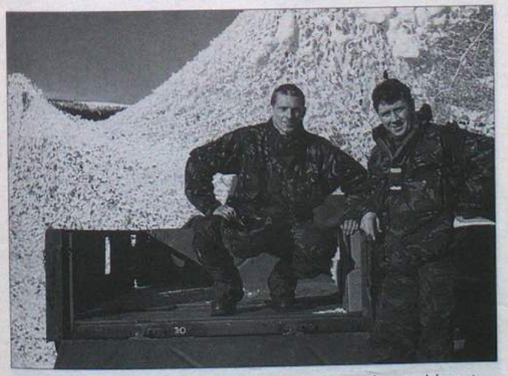
249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

EXERCISE STRONG RESOLVE

Ex Strong Resolve was a major NATO FTX held West of Trondheim, Norway, over the period 16 February-13 March. The aim of the exercise was to practise the deployment and operation of a Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF); for the Squadron it was the culmination of its build-up training further South in Norway. As usual, movement to the exercise area was far from uneventful and resulted in the odd night or two in the AMF(L) holding area for personnel waiting for their vehicles to arrive. Weather conditions were good with relatively dry conditions for the majority of the deployment.



Sgt Cook about to leave Sqn Echelon



Sgt Castle and Cpl Concepcion enjoy the arctic sunshine at Log Base

The exercise passed relatively uneventfully and was a complete success for the Squadron. It was even rumoured that the Yeomen were happy with comms! Some people, however, were rather confused about the exercise's objectives after observing the frantic activity around the Norwegian Mobile Bath Unit. The USMC was unable to secure this vital installation which seemed to become the focus for the entire exercise. Rumours that it was now part of the Squadron Echelon were later denied by the Quartermaster, **Maj P. C.** 'Shower King' **Bawden**.

The Squadron sends special thanks to the members of other units who joined it for both Ex Hardfall and Ex Strong Resolve; **Sigs Williams**, **Roachford**, **Withan** and **Hansford** from 2 Sig Regt and **Sig Broom** from 602 Sig Tp (SC). See you next year!



WO2 (RQMS) McNab during a BV 206 mounted roving acquisition

SQUADRON COMMANDER'S RUN

Friday, 24 March, was the date selected for the first cross-country run over a gently undulating course of 6.7 miles. After a recce of the course by the top PT group a target of 53 minutes was selected by **WO2 (SSM) Barnes**. Considering the length of time that the Squadron has been out of training, the times produced on the day were a good start but significant improvements are expected. No doubt that this will mean a steady reduction in the target time too! The Squadron's top three runners were:

Sgt 'Jock' Castle	39mins 24secs
LCpl Chris Marlow	41mins 37secs
WO2 (SSM) Steve Barnes	42mins 19secs

ARMY ROAD RELAY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The arrival of **Sgt** 'Jock' **Castle** has produced a renewed interest in athletics. A team was recently entered in the Army Road Relay Championships and did extremely well, finishing as the runners-up in the Minor Units category. The team members were **Sgt Castle**, **Cpl Million**, **LCpl Porter** (RLC attached and fastest team time) and **Sig Hill**. More events are on the horizon and the team are wished every success in the future.

FAREWELLS

The end of Ex Strong Resolve and the return to UK saw a number of personnel leave the unit. **Lt Richard Spencer** has left on promotion to become 2IC of 255 Sig Sqn at 16 Sig Regt and his Tp SSgt, **SSgt Terry Crane**, became the first of the SNCOs selected for promotion to leave the unit with a short move up the road to 206 Sig Sqn, part of 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt. Both had been with the Squadron for many years and done a great job with Support Tp.

Others who have left include **Sigs Bridger**, **Common**, **Nock** and **Zallman**. They have all left the Army and plan a variety of civilian occupations. Good luck to you all.

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

HANDOVER/TAKEOVER

On 11 January 1995 **Maj Gary Mason** handed over command of the Squadron to **Maj Kevan Thornber**. The occasion was marked by a Squadron Parade which had been well rehearsed by the SSM **WO2 Gary Waters**. All members of the Squadron would like ot thank the Sqn Comd and **Mrs Mason** and the family and Jasper the 'wonder dog', for their support and help during his tour. Good luck for the future, you will be sadly missed.

SQUADRON WELCOMES

We welcome Sqn Comd, **Maj Kevan Thornber**, his wife **Tina** and their two children, fresh from the Blandford building site where he was working on that ancient myth Bowman.

A warm welcome also to **Capt David** and **Lisa Kinnaird** as Dhekelia Tp Comd. Fresh from JDSC and 19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209), he can now relax and enjoy the somewhat slower pace of life in Dhekelia Garrison. Other new members of Dhekelia Tp include **Cpl Paul Coates**, his wife **Gail** and their children **Chelsea** and **Sam**. Also to **Sigs Winder** and **Fortune** who are on temporary cover in the soon to close Commcen.

At Airfield Tp a warm welcome goes to **Lt Alan Owen** as the new Tp Comd, **Cpls** 'Fudge' **McPhee** and family, **Sig** 'Wobbly' **Warburton** and wife **Sue** and **Mr Hibbs** and family. **SSgt Sartorious** promises an enjoyable, rewarding and thoroughly relaxing tour!

FAREWELLS

Goodbyes to **Capt Tim Jones** and we wish you well in your new post as OC Flywall Royal School of Signals Blandford Camp. At least the weather was fine in Cyprus! Farewell also to **Capt Nick Tomkins** who left for Europe in a Mazda MX5 in January. He hasn't been seen since but is due to arrive at 220 Sig Sqn sometime this year for more Telemechs and Static Comms. Farewell also to **Sgt Ian Tucker** (thanks for the golf clubs) and his wife **Tina**, **Cpl Billy Lilburn** and **Lynne** and family who move to Bassingbourn and **LCpls Paul Walker**, **Mrs Walker** and family and **LCpl MacDonald** who move to 15 Sig Regt. A special farewell to 'Stumpy' **Pearce** and **Dave Handley** who leave for Civvy Street!

SQUADRON PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **FofS Scotty** 'Kokinelli Kid' **Steven** and **Sgt Neil Jennings** on attaining substantive promotions. Also to **LCpls Cunningham** and **Stennet** for proving that Telemechs still can obtain promotion.

DHEKELIA TROOP
662 SIGNAL TROOP AMALGAMATION PARADE

662 Sig Tp held its amalgamation parade on Tuesday 13 December 1994. The inspecting officer **Maj Gen A. G. H. Harley CB OBE** (Commander British Forces Cyprus). He inspected an immaculately turned out quarter guard provided by members of 662 Sig Tp, headed by **SSgt Mick Senior**, and 259 Sig Sqn, headed by **SSgt (FofS) Hank Potts** The Troop was formed on 24 August 1990 to provide communications for the Eastern Sovereign Base Area. As the 662 Sig Tp pennant was lowered for the last time, it brought to a close a short but very significantly important contribution. The pennant of the new Dhekelia Tp was then raised.

A reception for guests, families and friends followed where **Capt Nick Tomkins**, the Tp Comd presented a line test set to the Squadron. **Maj Gen Harley** presented a CBF's Commendation for Bravery to **WO2 (FofS) Wilson** HQ BFC for saving a young boy's life on the cliffs of Episkopi.

Our thanks go out to the CO 1RGJ for the 'Buglers' which provided an added dignity to the occasion and to all who contributed to ensure a most memorable day.

This is the first time that this Troop has appeared although everyone is sad to say farewell to 662 Sig Tp, we know that Dhekelia Tp will continue to identify with the devotion and professionalism that 662 established. News from the various sections includes the outstanding work being carried out by the Telemech section, who have nearly completed the cabling in Richmond Village. In the Technician Section **Sgts Flannigan** and **Cunningham** have finally abandoned work for the Foremans Entrance Examination and **Sgt** 'Lunn Poly' **Wood** is now back from his many courses in the UK!

In Comms Section **Sig** 'Greengrass' **Stonestreet** continues to enjoy popularity for his sterling work as Duty Keys. MT Section is still trying to convince us all that it knows what it is doing and donations would be gratefully received for a Safari Landrover engine which finally seized on its maiden trip out of workshops to Troodos. Finally the Commcen crew struggle on despite imminent closure looming over their heads, it will be a sad day when the old 'Headquarters Near East' Commcen finally closes for good to be replaced by an ubiquitous secure fax.

EXERCISE SAFE DRIVE 1995

On Thursday 19 February **Sgt Sherwood** was informed that he was the new team leader of Ex Safe Drive 95 and had 24 hours in which to recruit a team for the event. In next-to-no-time two volunteers had come forward,



Maj Gen A. G. H. Harley unveils Dhekelia Tp plaque
Maj Mason on right

Sigs Morley and **Mangera**. Immediately paint brushes were in action in an attempt to spruce up an ancient Land Rover. At 0600hrs the next day the team departed with a fresh copy of JSP 351 for RAF Akrotiri with that never say die approach to the competition.

Over a period of two days it covered vehicle manoeuvring, first aid, road driving skills, vehicle servicing, cross country driving, motor cycling, go-karting and night navigation drive. After passing the initial scrutiny test the team gave its all and achieved third prize against competition from MT and TSU detachments island wide. Congratulations to all who took part, it's amazing what can be achieved in a short period of time. **Mr Harrop**, you owe **Sgt Sherwood** a beer!



Ex Safe Drive, 259 Sig Sqn competing in the cross country phase

264 (SAS) Sig Sqn
Hereford

Two members of the Squadron contracted Hodgkins' disease, but after successful treatment at QEMH Woolwich kept away a badly dressed chap in rags with a sickle.

As a result it was decided that the Squadron would try and put something back into the System to help others who might be similarly afflicted.

As the two 'patients' were keen 'bikers' it was decided that the biking community might be willing to be involved—what a splendid bunch of chaps they turned out to be.

We received support from the National Chopper Club (Hereford), the National Association for Bikers with a Disability (NABD), and the British Motorcycle Federation (BMF). We shared a stand with Biker Mag and the American Owners Motorcycle Club (AMOC) at the BMF rally. This was followed by a motorbike convoy through London, complete with Hells Angels outriders, and a run from London to Brighton for AMOC.

After a successful start we then descended on the Corps to raise even more money. Having visited 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)), we raided 2 Sig Regt before crossing the North Sea to visit units in Germany. By 2330hrs, the bar on board the ferry was heaving and 60 T-shirts had been sold. The tour of Germany turned out to be a riot.

THE GLORIOUS TOTAL

Hodgkins' Association	£6000
NABD	£2000
QEMH Woolwich (Mammography Appeal)	£2000



Presenting the Cheque to QEMH Woolwich



The Stand at the BMF Rally

THE RIDERS
WO1 Paul Ferris
(Moto Guzzi Nevada 750)
WO2 Mort Hutchinson
(Triumph Daytona 1200)
Sgt Gaz Pope (Honda Fireblade)
Sgt Gomez Atkinson
(Harley Davidson Sportster)
Cpl Nobby Clark (Honda VFR 750)
Cpl Wayne Hayes (Kawasaki Z650)
Mr Bob (Rancid Civvy Mechanic) **Hizzey**
(Honda Pan European)

THE ROADIES
Rose Ferris
Lisa Bentley
Sgt Paul Robins
Sig Geoff Hiland

ADVENTURE TRAINING
EXERCISE ALLADINS MIRROR 95

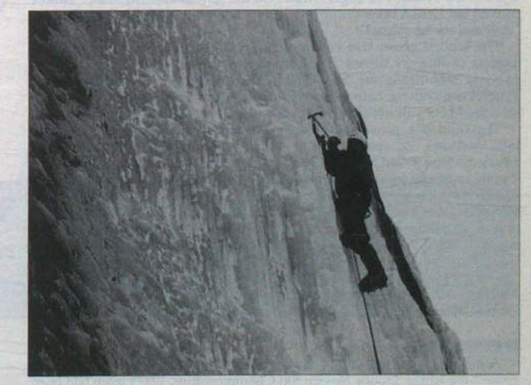
'And I thought parachuting was a good adrenalin pumper!' somebody shouted nervously above the deafening wind. The situation was a little precarious 300ft off the ground with a couple of ice axes in your hands, together with strange metal spiky things on your plastic boots. Not to worry, 'Smudge' **Smith** soon got the encouragement he was after when the guide, free climbing next to him, secured him safely on to a belay stance. Just one of the few comments made when eight of the Squadron's winter climbing virgins became Chris Boningtons in a single day. Made even more incredible when, that night, in the pub in Grantown on Spey, the crag was higher than the 600ft it actually is (Ordnance Survey have obviously got it wrong!) and the technical difficulty was directly proportional to the amount of 80 Shilling consumed. So ended day one of Ex Alladins Mirror, 264's annual winter adventure training exercise in the Scottish Highlands.

The following day was spent at the Lecht Ski Area, perfecting the downhill technique, trying to look good in front of the 'snow bunnies', alas, failing miserably. However, by the end of the day the lads had perfected their technique and were looking pretty good in their 'honest we are not squaddies' goretex suits on loan from the mountain store.

By the third day everybody was itching to get to grips with the ice axes and crampons again. Therefore, we hired our two local guides and proceeded to climb up ridiculously steep snow slopes in combined temperatures of -40ºC, and everybody thoroughly enjoyed it! It is just as well we've got a well stocked mountain and arctic store!

Now the bit everybody has been waiting for: the snow hole expedition. Two days in the Cairngorms, revising micro-navigation techniques and learning avalanche assessment, but best of all living in a great big hole dug out of a snow bank. Home was what you made it, there were some holes that were bettered only by the Hilton itself. Any amount of shelves and storage space with inside lights (lots of candles) arranged in a cosy arrangement, all that and boil in the bag rations (with the odd hip flask of course), what more could you want! The following day was spent navigating back to the vehicles in a hideous Cairngorm gale. Successfully negotiated and, back at our outdoor centre, certain members of the Squadron decided that the week wouldn't be complete without a spin on the karaoke. Needless to say, Elvis has no serious contenders for the rock 'n' roll crown, though there were some good attempts!

The week was rounded off with a skiing day, some opting to perfect their downhill techniques, others deciding to give the off-piste variety a go. The snow was in top order ensuring a good day all round. An excellent week held annually, why not come to Hereford and get on it next year?



Ice climbing in the Cairngorms

280 (UK) Sig Sqn
BFPO 35

A busy time in the Squadron draws to a close at the end of the first term. A period that has seen Cadre Courses, Exercises, Train Guards, Weddings (**Sig Avery, Cpl McNeil**), Adventure Training, Cadet visits, Induction Training, OPEVAL, births to **LCpl Cuthbertson** and **Mrs Cuthbertson**, **LCpl Berrill** and **Mrs Berrill**, RMA training, Outstanding Signallers, pay going down, LOA going up, two generals visiting, the end of the financial year and finally the Bett Review.

Collective sighs of relief as everyone runs for the channel and home for Easter. Next term starts with a four star General's visit, the end of the football season (thankfully!) and the beginning of athletics, swimming and cricket, Oh, and some exercises as well. We hope the summer sports teams will perform as well as the winter ones. Roll on warm nights, barbecues and suntans.

STOP PRESS

Well done the Shooting Team for winning another cup, the Falling Plate Competition at the Rhine Troops SAAM. (I think we will have to buy a bigger trophy cabinet.)

EXERCISE FRAN ABILITY

On Monday 13 February 21 Signallers from all Troops took part in the Squadron Cadre Course. The aim of the course was to develop all of the skills required for promotion to LCpl.



The Stretcher Race–5 Bde eat your heart out!

The course was split into two phases; phase one, carried out in barracks and phase two in the field at Arsbeck and Leuth training areas.

The first phase tested all students in their knowledge of ATD's plus a lecturette and the inevitable drill periods. Various lecturettes such as 'how to wear a kilt' and 'the ball point pen' provided a challenge, however the most informative was **Sig** 'Chalkie' **White**'s explanation on 'how to make a pot of tea'. Milk, two sugars Mate! On the serious side **Sig** 'Jase' **Dukes** proved his Drill Competition 1st place was worthy with his lecturette on 'drill and squad control'.

The second phase was held over a period of three days covering all aspects of infantry tactics. The second evening saw **Sig** 'Kev' **Brooker** expertly ambushing the Sqn Comd, **Maj Weston** and the MTO **Capt Patrickson** with the help of **Sigs** 'Eddie' **Cochran** and **Chris Umney**. I'm sure the MTO will not forget that body search in a hurry!

The third day proved to be very demanding starting with a Platoon OBUA Attack and culminating in a 3.5km stretcher race. For the Platoon attack Section 2, led by **Sig Chris Umney**, had a shock when it realised that its approach was covered by C.S. and not a respirator to be seen! After masking up the 'Free Fire Brigadians' HQ was successfully overrun. The stretcher race with simulated casualties produced excellent team spirit over a gruelling 3.5km course. On the final day of the course the Top Student, **Sig** 'Skids' **Skidmore** led the parade for the Sqn Comd's March past. (Was that Dukes calling the time?)

Congratulations to **Sig Skidmore** and also to 2nd place **Sig Steve McNally** and 3rd place **Sig** 'Kev' **Brooker**, all of Charlie Tp.

Well done to all students and D.S. for a successful two week course.

WINNERS AGAIN

A mix of major and minor units gathered in Bavaria in early April to contest the Rhine Troops Novice Ski Championships. 280's team had been training for a week and hopes were high.

Sig 'Skids' **Skidsmore** led off with a blistering start in the 4x10km Nordic followed by **Cpl** 'Stu' **Sanderson**, **Sig** 'Paddy' **Logan** and **Cpl** 'Kev' **Lewton**. The team won easily with 'Skids' taking both the Novice Individual Gold and the Nordic Championship Medal by minutes. An Intermediate Gold was also won by **WO2 (RQMS) Pete Charles**.

A Team Silver in the Alpine event was followed by a Gold in the Ski Touring taking the team to Overall Nordic/Alpine Champions. With all the individual efforts as well, a total of 25 medals were bought home. Well done to all.



Sig Sqn Novice Ski Team:
(*L to R*): Sigs Skidsmore, Logan, WO2 (RQMS) Charles, Cpls Sanderson, Lewton

NOT ANOTHER GARRISON SPORTS EVENT

Volleyball this time at JHQ, the Rhine Troops Championship. We took a squad of ten knowing that there would be some decent teams, but to our surprise we never dropped a set all day. In the final we played and beat 14 TOPO by two sets to 0, so we walked away, yet again, with another cup.

To top it all, last month saw five members of the squad being selected for the BA(G) team who plan to have a tour or two: **Sgt** 'Taff' **Burdge**, **Cpls Chris Glover**, **Pete Trant**, **Paul Meredith** and 'Thai' **Cleet**.

Congratulations and good luck in the coming year.



Cpl Chris Glover and Sgt 'Taff' Burdge

2 Sig Sqn (V)
Dundee

Sqn Comd — **Maj Bryan Gilfether (V) MBE**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Max McGillivray (V)**

The first of April 1995 saw the official demise of 2 Sqn 39 Sig Regt (SC) (V) and the birth of an exciting future for the territorial signallers in Dundee; 2 Sig Sqn, an independant Signal Squadron currently undergoing re-role training to assume the HF role from 56 Sig Sqn (V) in Eastbourne.

The Squadron held a trade training weekend 1-2 April at the TA centre in Dundee and the sense of occasion was not lost with a commemorative flag raising ceremony on the first day of 2 Sqn's life. The operators in the Squadron have quickly shaken off the mantle of special communicators and are deeply engrossed in learning new skills, procedures and equipments to meet the new task head on.

Much has already been done to lay the foundations of the re-role training, due to the efforts of **SSgt Bob Davidson** who seized the task in the absence of a PSI in February/March.

The end of March saw the return of our PSI **SSgt Tony Doherty**, for his second tour in Dundee, bearing gifts in the form of our first four dets which he helped to drive from 56 Sig Sqn (V) in Eastbourne. His first comment was 'Haven't you all gone a bit wrinkly?' to which we retorted 'Yes but we've still got hair!'

Welcome home to **Tony**, **Sue** and baby **Alice Rose**.

The Squadron has also seen some sad departures in the form of three long-serving and key figures in the Squadron family. **Sgt Ian Lumsden-Gordon**, whose NRPS Technician role is lost under the new establishment, moving to 1 Sig Sqn in Bletchley, **WO2 (SSM) Bill Strachan** who has migrated to 32 Sig Regt (V) in Edinburgh, and **Maj Sandy Monks** who is hanging up her Regimental Ops Officers' cap on retirement. The very best of luck to one and all in their new ventures; they will be dearly missed.

Another key figure is temporarily missing from the team, in PSAO **Capt Bill Naismith** who took ill at the farewell dinner with 39 Sig Regt (V) recently. We wish him a full and speedy recovery in the near future. The 2IC **Capt Eric Blyth** is covering for **Bill** at the moment and finding good use for his recent service funds accounting course.

Congratulations to **SSgt Max McGillivray** on promotion to WO2 (SSM) and to **Cpls Jos Lindsay** and **Joe McGuggon** on promotions to Sgt. Mess life promises to be livelier with their happy smiling faces included. The PSI apologises but couldn't resist the wind-ups that came with the promotions.

Troop Commanders **Lts Jackie Lockhart** and **Vic Cavin** recently attended Ex Ground Iron with 56 Sig Sqn (V), building on the hospitality shown by 56 at the Burns Night supper held in Eastbourne. The exercise proved to be a valuable introduction to the new role for them and experience gained will be of great help in managing the new style of radio dets. Many thanks to Sqn Comd 56 Sig Sqn (V) and his staff in Eastbourne.

The Squadron has a busy few months ahead with much practical experience to be gained. However, we have a great asset in our favour, enthusiasm and, the comms ethos of getting through, which has always been the trademark of 2 Sqn.



2IC Capt Eric Blyth addresses the Squadron on 1 April as the PSI SSgt Tony Doherty prepares to raise the Squadron flag on our first day as an independent Squadron

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please advise the Subscriptions Clerk at RHQ, IN WRITING, of any change of address. This information should not be telephoned.

604 Sig Tp
Aldershot

Tp Comd **Capt S. R. Mannings**

FORMATION OR REFORMATION?

604 Sig Tp was officially formed on 1 February 1995, to be operationally effective on 1 September 1995. It may be argued that 604 is not actually a new unit as the name existed in BAOR until 1988. However, this previous unit was in Germany, supporting a different HQ and in a different role.

This section could also be headed Arrivals and Departures, but as 604 is a new unit starting from scratch there are a few too many names to include—maybe next time.

SPORT

The unit is so new that at present it consists of only personnel; no vehicles, no equipment not even accommodation of our own. For these reasons sport and PT have been the Troop's main activities. The HQ that we support, HQ CSSG(UK), watched with envy until finally laying down a challenge, HQ v 604 at noon (on the football pitch). The challenge was accepted, the match played and the challengers sent reeling with their tails between their legs. The final score 7—0 to 604.

The game was played in good spirits with the aim of selecting a combined team to play 31 Sig Regt (V) in the future, under the astute guidance of **LCpl Bobby Robson**. Commitment and contribution in midfield and at the back from **LCpl** 'Thumper' **Smart** and **SSgt Eric** 'Cruncher' **Lord** were noted not only by the coach, but by the shins of the opposition. Also, a remarkable display of daring was observed by **Sig** 'Gordon Banks' **Backer** in both the HQ and 604 goals! The match was a success apart from the Man of the Match award which was given to a technician(!), **Cpl** 'Brooms' **Broomfield**.

Roll on 31 Sig Regt (V).

University of London OTC

OC **Capt Jonathan Manley**

The Hilary Term has been busy for the Signals Sub Unit of ULOTC. Most have been involved in MTQ2 training, which reaches its climatic exam on 10/11 April. But not all Sub Unit attention has been focused on this.

ULOTC again entered Ex Lightning Strike, the inter OTC competition at Westdown Camp. Due to a clash with Ex Courage Trophy and the Athlone Company Pass Off Parade, the team was reduced somewhat in numbers and had to be supplemented by the Celtic UOTC's; many thanks to those who joined us!

The mixed team tried hard and showed great aggression, especially in the Log Run with 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para). **OCdt Farquharson-Roberts** showed both us and the instructors on the 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt stand how to drive an AFV 432 by completing the obstacle course in 25 seconds; the instructors' best time was over 30 seconds! The method 'foot to the floor and yank the levers!'.

The stand run by 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn gave us the opportunity to do our best 'Vivian Westwood impression' and dress the team leader, **2Lt John Symons** in improvised clothing. We were well and truly beaten by Exeter UOTC, however it must be said that we did not have an equal start in terms of models to dress! We also had the opportunity to test our fearsome improvised weapon, made from a metal bar and trip flare; it was more fearsome in the hands of **OCdt Andy Hodgetts**, as everybody worried he would hurt himself with it!

All in all, it was an excellent day, thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part. Although London UOTC narrowly missed the prizes, it was an interesting insight into the Corps and was discussed long into the night in the HQ Mess. Special thanks to **Capts Norris** and **Tasker** and the rest of the ORLO team for making it such a great day (and night) out.

Greater success was achieved that day by other Sub Unit members, particularly **WOCdt Tracy Bully**, who led the OTC female team to third place in Ex Courage Trophy, the London District Inter Unit competition. This was a truly excellent result for the contingent, illustrating how the hard training had paid off. **JUOs Graham Alexander** and **Craig Smith** have rejoined the Sub Unit after finishing the year's basic training with the recruits, 16 of whom have now transferred into the Royal Signals Sub Unit.

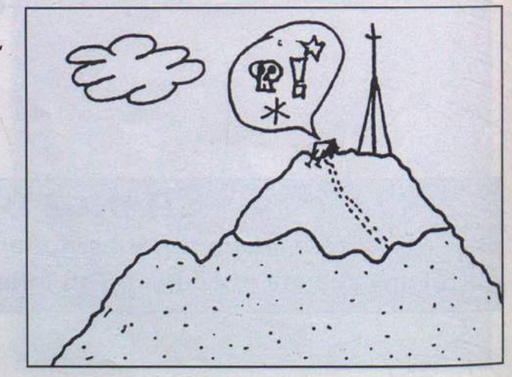
University of Southampton OTC

Sarawak Tp, the Signals Troop of the Southampton UOTC, has long had a reputation for comfort, warmth and inactivity that is more appropriate to an old people's home than a military unit. True or not, this year the 'all new' Sarawak Tp has set out to shatter this image once and for all, making up for our inexperience with bags of enthusiasm.

One new member of the Troop who is not short of experience is our new PSI, **WO2** 'H' **Wells**. He has launched himself into the tasks of organising the training schedule for the year and getting the Troop up and running (literally).

Our first term has been rather uneventful as most of the Troop have been fully committed to the MTQ 2 training. Some members of the Troop have been able to cross the Brecons with 63 Sig Sqn (V) and to cross the water with the Sappers at Lyme Regis as well as providing our usual signals support to the rest of the SUOTC.

The schedule for this term is rather fuller with specialist signals and 'Gucci kit' intros from **WO2 Wells**' contacts as well as weapon training, fitness, navigation, patrolling and Troop sports in preparation for Ex Lightning Strike.



Batteries not included

EXERCISE LIGHTNING STRIKE 1995

The annual Royal Signals National Universities Officer Training Corps competition took place this year on Saturday 25 March at Westdown Camp. The competition, which is traditionally well attended, saw a total of 198 students from 18 UOTCs taking part.

Throughout the day the competitors' brains were tested, but none more so than at the 237 Sig Sqn EWS stand where they intercepted, located and jammed enemy communications. Whether or not that same ingenuity would have enabled them to defeat the enemy's 'invisible toffee' guns at the 1 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215) stand remains to be seen but teams certainly had fun trying in the 432s!

The competitors' brawn was then more than tested as 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para) insisted that a competition was not complete without a short(?!) log race. Needless to say every UOTC successfully made it, although the casualties they had to rescue en-route might not always have been so lucky!

264 (SAS) Sig Sqn had recreated a complete survival stand. Although no team killed the enemy with their make-shift weapons, Sheffield UOTC must have had points added for ingenuity. Parisienne catwalks had nothing on the variety and scope seen in the team commanders' survival outfits and not surprisingly the 264 Sig Sqn stand was high on popularity at lunchtime when pigs heads, sheep, rabbits and dandelion coffee were on offer.

A most colourful stand, 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) was a cross between Arctic warfare and It's A Knockout. It was definitely one of the most entertaining sights as 22 cam-white clad students raced around Salisbury Plain on snowshoes in the sunshine!

The speed at which 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt was able to demonstrate a track change after one was thrown was impressive, as was the instructor's ability in getting the aspiring 'Damon Hills' around an obstacle course. The Bosnian minefields of the 30 Sig Regt stand also proved to be an obstacle to the students who were wearing blacked-out respirators, but the practice they got in putting up masts would come in handy for the final race.

21 Sig Regt (AS) provided a patrolling stand which had the UOTCs directing each other by HF comms to some interesting locations! Luckily there were no casualties throughout the day on the scale of those seen at the RADEX Tp, The Royal School of Signals, stand. Blown-off legs and squirting arteries provided the officer cadets with a daunting challenge and the 50 mile journey to the nearest hospital nearly finished them off.

The day culminated in the final race, traditionally run by 2 Sig Regt and it was as much fun as ever. The stand staff (who looked the part) were as exhausted as the teams by the end of the day as masts went up and down and landrovers were pushed backwards and forwards. None of it was made easier by the students having to 'ski', six at a time, on the same planks, some backwards, down the hill!

Feedback suggests that Ex Lightning Strike was enjoyed by everybody and a big ORLO thank you goes to all the units that worked so hard and gave up their weekends to provide stands for us and to all the UOTC Officer Cadets who were brave enough to take part both by day and by night! Here is a list of this year's winners and to those UOTCs that did not get a prize this time, don't worry, there is always Ex Lightning Strike 1996 to look forward to!

Stand	OC	Winners
264 (SAS) Sig Sqn	**Capt Bill Adsett**	Southampton UOTC
3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt	**Lt Dave Brown**	Manchester UOTC
The Royal School of Signals	**Lt Mark Brookes**	Birmingham UOTC
1 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215)	**Lt Al Long**	Tayforth UOTC
30 Sig Regt	**2Lt Richard Newhouse**	Queen's UOTC
21 Sig Regt (AS)	**Lt Louise Tomkins**	Bristol UOTC
237 Sig Sqn	**Lt Russ Edwards**	Oxford UOTC
5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para)	**Lt Andy Fallows**	Wales UOTC
249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))	**Capt Keith Mannings**	Aberdeen UOTC
Final Race 2 Sig Regt	**Lt Robbie King**	Tayforth UOTC

'Speckled Jim' Trophy—**Bristol UOTC** (and Aloysious the Aardvark)
Overall Winners—**Aberdeen UOTC**
Overall Runners Up—**Queen's UOTC**



Aberdeen UOTC, the eventual winners, making their weapons on the 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn Stand



Manchester UOTC at the 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) Arctic Warfare/ It's A Knockout stand



Brig J. H. Griffin, Comd The Royal School of Signals, presents the runners-up prize to Queen's UOTC

THE ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

Admiral	Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander CB OBE
Commodore	Col J. E. F. Kirby OBE

Rear Commodores: Offshore, Lt Col J. R. S. Amberton;
Dinghies, Lt Col M. J. McKinlay; Windsurfing, Maj D. I. Gilchrist.

CONTACTS

Yachtmasters:	UK: Capt P. F. Johnson, Blandford Mil 2464
	BAOR: Capt R. K. Orr, Birgelen Mil 286
Secretaries:	General Capt N. A Walker, Blandford Mil 2256
	Dinghy Racing UK: Capt D. C. A. Ellis, Blandford Mil 2340
	Dinghy BAOR:Maj S. I. Andrews, Osnabruk Mil 5247
	Windsurfing UK: Lt M. C. Wadsley, Hullavington Mil 8815
	Windsurfing BAOR: Maj M. W. Edwards, RAF Laarbruch Mil 5711
	Retired Members Rep: Lt Col (Retd) C. K. Powell, Blandford Mil 2437
Soldier Reps:	Sgt Finnigan: Thorney Island 8263 Sgt P. Downie: Bulford Mil 2837

The Royal Signals Yacht Club communicates with its members through the medium of **The Wire**, *which regularly prints a forecast of events, accounts of activities and contains details for club officials.*

Any member of the Corps who subscribes to Corps funds is automatically a member of the Yacht Club: this membership is activated simply by registering with one of the Club secretaries.

QUEST FOR GOLD – 1996 SAILING OLYMPICS

Our campaign in the International Soling class continues, but not without its problems!

LATE ARRIVAL OF THE NEW BOAT

The boat was on board a Ro-Ro ferry, on its way back from the States, to arrive in time for a Match Racing qualifier at Weymouth. However, with the ferry being diverted to an unscheduled stop on the eastern seaboard of America, and then suffering propeller problems in mid-Atlantic, such that it could only make half speed, our boat did not arrive in time for either the Weymouth event or the training that we had planned for the previous weekend. We had to resort to chartering a boat, the going rate is £500. Needless to say, the boat that we got was not laid out in an identical manner to ours, and several of the systems on board were less than perfect in their operation.

WEYMOUTH MATCH RACING

With a chartered boat, and no practice since we left Miami in February, we entered the Weymouth qualifying weekend. By the end of the Sunday we were starting to put together some halfway reasonable sailing . . . just exactly one and a half days too late! We did, however, manage to qualify for the European Match Racing held in May in Torbay.

THE NEW BOAT ARRIVES

Our own boat finally cleared UK Customs on Tuesday 11 April, half an hour later we were at Proctor Masts. It was a hive of activity in our area, with Proctors working on the interface for the new boom, the riggers working on new halyards and control lines, while we made the road trailer UK street legal. Representatives from our sponsors, ND Serviceteam, worked on the boat to affix their logos. Work finally finished late that evening. Fitting new shroud cars was completed on the Wednesday and we were all set for the National Championships.

UK NATIONALS

The National Championships were held at Kielder Water, over the Easter weekend. The weather gave us a taste of sun, rain, frozen mornings and snow storms. Because of the location only 14 boats entered, and we had a convincing win overall. The fleet racing was followed by the Soling class Fort National Match Racing Trophy, where we were disappointed to finish runners-up to **George Barker**, the class chairman, in the final.

HYERES, FRANCE

From the Nationals we travelled back down to the South of England overnight on the Wednesday night, to go to work on Thursday and Friday morning prior to leaving for France. We had non-stop rain all the way down through France, for 14 hours, arriving at Hyeres around midday on the Saturday. Having taken over our accommodation we set to getting the boat rigged, registered and launched.

For the next three days it rained non-stop, and this combined with our tiredness from our travelling led to a lack of the usual zest and input in the boat. We were having a very mediocre regatta, (along with several other of the British Soling competitors). After a crew discussion as to what we were doing wrong, we raised our game when we had a gear failure. In a wind of 30-35 knots our mainsail fell down approaching the windward mark. With that pressure of wind we had no option but to beat the 2.5 miles back to shore under jib alone.

It was whilst doing this that we discovered that another failure had occurred; the adjustable jib tack and forestay were gently sawing their way back through the foredeck, to try and reach the mast! A vital piece of plastic had torn out of the deck, leaving the GRP to take a force it was never designed to withstand. With only one day's sailing left, we decided that it was not worth carrying out a 'bodged' repair, and lifted the boat early to get it back to UK for a professional repair. So on the Friday morning we departed Hyeres for England once more.

It is of interest to note that of the 28 Solings sailing on that Thursday, nine suffered broken or bent masts, one a broken boom and another a broken kicking strap lever.

This was our first experience, as a team, of strong winds in the Soling, and there is no doubt that they are very exciting going downwind under their monster spinnaker. As a result of this experience, our tame boatyard is fitting two Elvstrom Super Maxi self bailers, to augment the existing two standard bailers!

THE WAY AHEAD . . .

Seaquency, the name chosen for the boat by ND Serviceteam, came out of the boatyard in time for the first May Bank Holiday weekend, when we carried out more training under our own personal coach in the form of **Maj Steve Pyatt**, RE. This, in preparation for the European Match Racing at Torbay from 17-21 May, with the SPA regatta at Medemblik at Holland from 23-28 May. With the UK Olympic trials at the end of August this year, we have to get as much productive time on the water as we can, sailing against other contenders when they are available, on our own to sharpen crew drills when they are not.



Nationals Prize Giving
(L to R): Capt David Ellis, The Chairman of Northumbrian Water, Sgt Phil Hawkins (RLC), Cpl Phil Lever

WINDSURFING

The season is now under way and in the next issue we should have the results from the UK Corps Championships. Indeed, the calendar for the forthcoming months is packed with possible events to attend. Special note for all funboard sailors should be made of the Army Funboard Championships on 6-8 September in Holland.

In September, we have the Corps Wide championships, for which your support will be appreciated. This event is open to all novices as well as experienced sailors.

If you are interested in sailing in regional events orchestrated by civilians then you should contact UKBSA, PO Box 36, Sarisbury Green, Southampton, Hants SO31 7SB. They will send you a marvellous magazine called 'Raceboards' which will give you all details of racing events in your area as well as useful tips.

In the next newsletter we shall include a classified section so if you have any windsurfing kit you wish to advertise then please 'phone or write.

SPORT

GOLF

THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS SPRING CHAMPIONSHIPS 26 AND 27 APRIL 1995

The Spring Meeting and Corps' Golf Championship this year was held in Blandford for the first time on 26 and 27 April, having moved from Catterick Garrison Golf Course. The Championship was also the occasion that the Corps' golfers could gather to celebrate the 75th anniversary and each prize was engraved to reflect this fact. The two days of competition were played at The Ashley Wood Golf Club and comprised an individual Stableford Competition on the first morning, a 36 hole Scratch and Handicap Medal Competition which followed in the afternoon and continued until the next lunchtime and finally a Greensome Stableford to complete the two day meeting.

Well over 100 players applied to play, however the field had to be limited to 96 which is the capacity for two rounds of golf per day. In practice most of those who wished to play were able to do so since there were last minute cancellations from players who could not make the journey and reserves were substituted.

Many old friends thus met on the Tuesday evening in Blandford Camp where they were looked after very well by the camp staff. On the Wednesday morning the weather produced testing golfing conditions with a very stiff wind for all to contend with. Generally, apart from the first two hours, the rain kept at bay however for which all were most grateful. Several of the golfers were playing the course for the first time and others who had been to Ashley Wood before had not played the new nine holes which have been opened for only just over one year. Generally speaking everyone agreed that the course was in excellent condition for the time of the year and provided a good test of golf with some splendid long par four holes to overcome. It was not surprising that scoring on the first morning was not exceptional with the Stableford being won with 36 points and second place being gained with 34 points.

The 36 hole competition is the essential part of the two day gathering and players struggled with both elements and the course to produce their best results. In truth the second day's weather was not as taxing as the first had been but even so the challenge was almost too much for most and scores below handicap were very much the exception to the rule. Indeed over the 36 hole event only one player produced a net score below par and that by only one stroke.

By the afternoon the exertions of the golfing activities were being felt by most but the fray of the Greensome Event was eagerly taken up and a final chance to win a prize was sufficient to entice tired limbs into action once again. There were several very good performances and certainly all enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere in which the competition was played.

We were delighted to welcome the SOinC as President of Corps' Golf to the event in the knowledge that work commitments had thwarted his recent attempts to attend the Championships. **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle** was able to play on the second day of the competition and appeared sporting, we presume, a good luck cap from a recent visit to the USA. The magic influence of this item of clothing was not sufficient to guarantee absolute success but to compensate the General met many old friends and with all other golfers sampled the splendid catering of **Angie** in the Clubhouse at lunchtime.

The SOinC kindly agreed to present the prizes to those lucky golfers who had tasted some form of success. Before this he presented **Mr Coneo Jeans**, the Chairman of The Ashley Wood Golf Club, with a 'Hole in One' decanter which the Society presented to the Club in recognition of the occasion of the first championship being held in Blandford in the Corps' 75th anniversary year. The Chairman in thanking us for the presentation welcomed us to the Club and looked forward to many happy years of Corps' golfing there in the years to come. After the prizes were distributed final departures were made and all looked forward to the Autumn Meeting on 13/14 September where all vowed that they would do much better

ROYAL SIGNALS CHAMPIONSHIPS–WINNERS

36 Hole Scratch Competition	
1st and winner of the Falloway Trophy	**Cpl Yates**
2nd	**Maj Yates**
3rd	**Cpl Rogers**
36 Hole Medal	
1st–Div 1	**Sgt Harriott**
2nd–Div 1	**Maj Eaton**
3rd–Div 1	**Capt Wood**
4th–Div 1	**Lt Col Browne**
1st–Div 2 and Winner of the Handicap Trophy	**WO2 Hitchen**
2nd–Div 2	**SSgt Backhouse**
3rd–Div 2	**Sgt Holes**
4th–Div 2	**Capt Marsden**
Winner of the Junior Soldiers Cup	**Sig Greenham**
Winner of the Officers Scratch Cup	**Capt Watson**
18 Hole Stableford	
1st and Winner of the Stableford Cup	**Sgt Kimber**
2nd	**Col Walters**
3rd	**Mr Newell**
First 18 Hole Medal	
1st	**WO2 Burgess**
2nd	**Capt Bosher**
3rd	**Mr Jones**
Second 18 Hole Medal	
1st	**WO2 Stonier**
2nd	**WO1 Prince**
3rd	**SSgt Brown**
Greensomes Pairs	
1st	**Cpl Lane/SSgt Backhouse**
2nd	**Mr Green/Col Briggs**
3rd	**Sig Greenham/Cpl Lang**
4th	**Capt Young/WO2 Atherton**
Inter-Unit Team	
1st Winners of the Cup	36 Sig Regt
(Sgt Harriott, SSgt Backhouse, SSgt Chadwick)	
2nd	30 Sig Regt A
(Capt Wood, WO2 Hitchen, Sgt Macpherson, Sgt Brown)	
3rd	11 Sig Regt C
(Lt Col Palmer, Maj Banham, Cpl Rogers, Cpl Lane)	



36 Sig Regt (V) team—winners of the inter-unit competition
(L to R): Sgt Harriott, SSgts Backhouse and Chadwick



Sig Greenham receives the Junior Soldier's Cup

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

President: The Master of Signals

Chairman and Treasurer: Major General P. D. Alexander CB MBE

Vice Chairmen: Brig C. T. Garton Area 1; To be appointed Area 3;
Brig T. H. Wheawell Area 4; Brig A. M. Willcox Area 5; Brig G. J. Curl CBE DL Wales

General Secretary: Colonel A. N. de Bretton-Gordon — **Assistant General Secretary: Major G. Schofield MBE**
Welfare Secretary: Mrs P. J. Haw — **Administrative Officer: Mr. R. H. Whittle**

Association Office, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Tel Military System: London District 8424. STD 071 414 8424 Welfare Secretary (direct line) 071 630 0801. All contributions for *The Wire* should be addressed to the Editor and any queries referred to him on extensions 8428 or 8433.

The Association communicates with its branches and individual members through the pages of The Wire, *which contains accounts of Branch affairs as well as a forecast of Association events.*

Branch Secretaries are asked to check that their Branch members receive sufficient copies of The Wire. *Association HQ can arrange for copies to be delivered in bulk to Branch Secretaries for further distribution if this is convenient: it helps us save on postage.*

Dates of Branch events can always be published in The Wire *and should be submitted to the Editor. We also welcome letters, requests to contact old comrades and announcements of births, marriages and deaths. We hope that each Branch will contribute a short account of its activities, preferably with photographs, at least once a year.*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES' MEETING 8 APRIL 1995

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Last year, the focus of The Association's activity was our final reunion at Catterick. Despite the sadness of the occasion, it was a very successful event; well attended and with each of the activities during the weekend a little gem of nostalgia. We gave it our best shot and I think most people looked back on the whole thing with some satisfaction. It was a high point in the life of The Association.

This year, it is our 75th Anniversary and we are aiming to make the Reunion another high point. Some of the ingredients are there and we shall be talking about the detail of the day later. But there is no doubt that we shall have to work hard to make the day a success on the scale of last year's Reunion. In many ways, this is a year of retrenchment, for The Association and the Serving Corps. The Association is facing a move of RHQ to Blandford later in the year. As consequence, many of the team running The Association are about to change—though the passage of time has forced some of the changes, too. Your Chairman is handing over, the Assistant Secretary is retiring, the Administrative Officer and Welfare Officer are not moving to Blandford, and we shall have to recruit a new panel of Welfare Committee Chairmen. Most of these matters we shall touch on again as we move through the agenda, but the sum of all this change is a daunting challenge to The Association.

At the same time, the Serving Corps are also facing major change, as you will be hearing later from the Deputy Signal Officer in Chief (Army). The impact of the move from Catterick to Blandford is still being absorbed and you will understand that Blandford is substantially a building site. But it is the organisational changes which present the main challenges to the Serving Corps, and will inevitably impact on The Association too.

More conventionally, I have used this opportunity to comment on the health of The Association and particularly, on our benevolent activities. As far as membership of The Association is concerned, we have had an excellent year. More Branches are forming all the time, and in the past few months The Central Committee has approved the formation of two Branches and the affiliation of two more: yesterday we welcomed the affiliation of the 1 AB Div Signals Branch. We have also had a drive to sign up individual Members, particularly those leaving Regular Service. This has been very successful. So, the situation is very satisfactory, and I record my thanks to all those who have helped to make it so: the Vice Chairman, the Area Representatives, the Branch Officials. I know it is often uphill work: but it is appreciated. I must also add my thanks to Branches for their hospitality: I have much enjoyed being invited to your various occasions.

Turning to benevolence, we shall look at the financial implications when we turn to the accounts, but I thought you would like some details of the case load. It does not vary much from year to year: last year we assisted some 700 old soldiers of the Corps who were in need. In addition, we aided Members of the Serving Corps, we paid Nursing Home fees, School fees, bursaries, Christmas grants, Holiday costs and other items: all in all, a considerable volume of activity. We have a reputation for looking after those in need: without being a 'soft touch', I believe we do what is necessary. We will look at the financial figures in a few minutes. Before I leave benevolence I should like to record thanks to the Welfare Committee Chairmen, most of whom will be standing down when RHQ moves to Blandford. They do a stout job in often quite harrowing circumstances. They are **Brigadiers Brett, Clinch, Proudman** and **Wheawell, Colonels Pickard, Beattie** and **Mellor**. We owe them a debt of thanks.

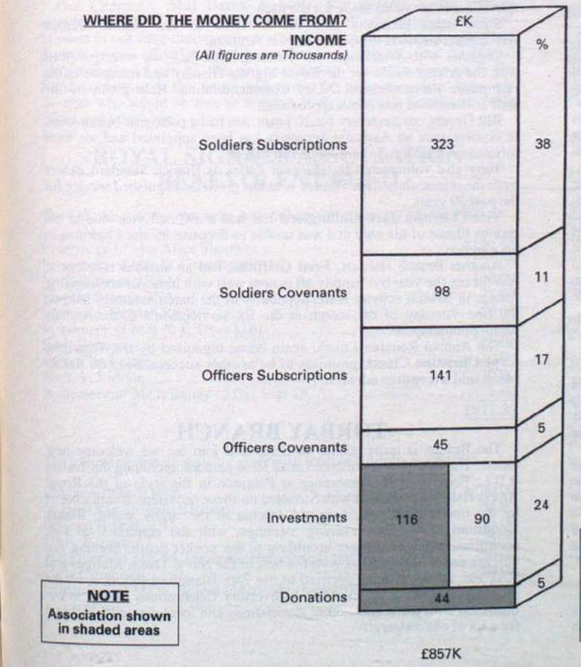
A final point on benevolence: we have had an actuary look ahead for us to forecast what is likely to happen to our benevolent case load over the next few years. The outcome is that there is likely to be no significant change for 10 years or so. This is because although those who served in the war are inevitably dying out, those who remain are reaching the stage where increasingly they need our help. This information about the long term demands of benevolence accords with the research done by SSAFA and others, and it has enabled us to develop a financial strategy. By the way, please support both SSAFA and the Army Benevolent Fund: they are both absolutely critical to our benevolent work as an Association.

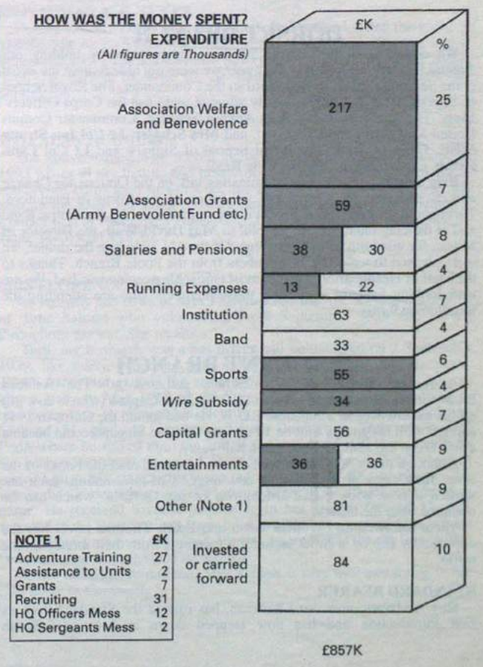
I need say little more, except to add that your Central Committee has been active in handling on your behalf a good deal of detailed work for The Association. Yesterday, for example, we approved a long list of honour and 50 year awards for Members. This is an important aspect of Association life, and I know these awards are greatly valued.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1994

		1994	1993
INCOME			
Receipts from Corps Funds		£345,970	£284,611
Subscriptions		1,442	
Donations:			
Individuals	£34,287		
Branches	2,183		
Units	6,569	43,039	39,128
Dividend Income (Gross)		102,023	98,370
Whernside Centre		8,050	7,666
Interest on deposit a/cs		6,050	5,524
Profit on sale of Investments		39,925	138,048
Total Income		£546,499	£573,347
EXPENDITURE			
Running Expenses:			
Salaries	34,861		
Pensions (staff)	2,763		
Office	2,645		
Travel	4,992		
Audit	3,694		
Postage	800		
Insurance	930	£50,685	£46,483
Corps Activities:			
Games Club	49,191		
Yacht Club	12,959		
WIRE Magazine	34,365	£96,515	£74,580
Reunions		36,511	21,452
Benevolence:			
Serving Corps Grants (28)	16,412		
Retired Corps Grants (700)	161,760		
Pensions/Supp. allowances (6)	1,950		
Nursing Home Fees (22)	16,365		
Bursaries (10)	10,562		
Convalescent Holidays (30)	3,786		
Christmas Grants (319)	6,100		
Army Benevolent Fund	53,200		
Other Grants	5,872	£276,007	£272,352
Write down in value of Whernside Centre		29,216	—
Total Expenditure		£488,934	£414,867
EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		£57,565	£158,480
ACCUMULATED FUND 1 January 1994		£1,246,481	£1,088,001
ACCUMULATED FUND 31 December 1994		£1,304,046	£1,246,481
INVESTMENTS			
Listed (at cost)	£1,131,429		
Unlisted	5		
Whernside Centre	133,331	1,264,765	1,211,228
ASSETS			
Income Tax (recoverable)	3,356		
Loans (Branch Standard)	88		
Sundry Debtors	3,648		
Cash (Deposits)	48,414	55,506	129,864
LIABILITIES			
Sundry Creditors	–16,225	–16,225	–94,611
NET CURRENT ASSETS		39,281	35,253
Represented by Accumulated Fund		£1,304,046	£1,246,481

CORPS AND ASSOCIATION FUNDS–1994





ALDERSHOT BRANCH

As we anticipated, a fine day dawned for our Spring Luncheon at the Army Golf Club so that we were able, as in the Autumn to enjoy our drinks before lunch on the terrace. This was also the occasion of our AGM and we were pleased to welcome to the Committee **Mrs Carole Thomas** (spouse of our Welsh bard) to represent the ladies. Tribute was paid to **Lt Col Jim Blake** whose help and enthusiasm has contributed so greatly to the revival of the Aldershot Branch. We will miss him, but happily he leaves the Garrison on promotion. We understand he has warned his successor of the great responsibility he will inherit!

We were fortunate that the Corps Band under the direction of **Maj David Wall** provided the occasion for our March Meeting. This was a very special event as **Maj Wall** announced that the audience was hearing the first public performance of a musical arrangement composed for the Corps Anniversary Celebrations. The Concert was followed by a Buffet Supper arranged by **Lt Col Jim Blake**, courtesy of 251 Sig Sqn, during which **Maj Wall** and his musicians provided us with a less formal and very lighthearted programme of musical entertainment.

BATH BRANCH

We held our A.G.M. on 5 April at the Sergeants' Mess, 21 Sig Regt (AS), for which we must, once again, thank the Regiment.

Thirty-eight members and guests attended. As we have a widespread membership from Wootton Bassett in Wiltshire to Taunton in Somerset, it is gratifying that so many could attend an evening function. It is also gratifying that so many members who are unable to attend because of distance or infirmity send their subscriptions and best wishes.

We had bad news and good news. The bad news was that **Capt (Retd) Edgar Harrison OBE, MC, BEM**, relinquished the Chairmanship, and the good news was that **Lt Col G. Oakley** was willing to take over his duties. **Lt Col Oakley**, in accepting the Chairmanship, gave a resume of **Edgar Harrison**'s most distinguished service career and the President, **Maj J. F. Everett MBE, TD**, spoke warmly of his services to our Branch of the Royal Signals Association.

We had as our guest **Brig J. E. Neeve**, Comd 2 (NC) Bde and Cotswold Garrison, who entertained the meeting with his description of the dexterity necessary to juggle more than one job.

As we had The Master or Signals at our Annual Luncheon in October 1994, our ambition knows no bounds, and we are looking for another luminary to grace our next luncheon in October.

There was a good turn out for the Drumhead Service held on the Recreation Ground in Bath on 7 May, where the Band of the Royal Signals played 'Retreat'.

DORSET BRANCH

We commenced the Corps 75th Year celebrations by holding our Annual Dinner on 17 March. This year we were not able to hold the event in the Sergeants' Mess in Blandford so the Commander, The Royal School of Signals, **Brig J. Griffin**, kindly allowed us to use the Corps Officers' Mess. The guests included **Brig Adrian Schuler**, Commander Comms United Kingdom Land Command, and **Mrs Schuler, Lt Col Ian Strong MBE**, Chief of Staff, The Royal School of Signals, and **Lt Col Lynn Relph**, Commanding Officer 11 Sig Regt.

Brig Schuler gave a most illuminating talk on the Options for Change and its effect on the Corps, and the future of the Corps in Blandford. Throughout an excellent dinner we were entertained by the Corps Band and at dancing later. We are grateful to **Maj David Wall**, the Director of Music, for allowing us this privilege. Of the 111 attending the dinner, we were pleased to welcome 14 members from the Poole Branch. Thanks to the Staff of Headquarters Mess, a most enjoyable evening was had. We are now looking forward to hosting those members who are attending the Reunion on 9 July.

EAST KENT BRANCH

A record number of 87 members gathered at 'The Ashford International' Hotel for an excellent talk by **Jack Caplan** (who is now 80) on his experiences as a Japanese P.O.W. He had joined the Corps in 1941 and left with his gunner unit on 1 February 1942 to Singapore and became a P.O.W. on the 15th for three and a half years.

Although many of us have seen all the films and read the books of the time, **Jack**'s talk produced some new nuggets of information. **Jack** has written a new book called 'Memories of the Gorbals' which can be obtained from the library.

There followed an excellent lunch and **Edith Thomas** never lets the opportunity slip by without separating members from their money on the raffle.

STANDARD BEARER

Roy Andrews, now our Chairman, has carried the Standard from its first introduction and has now stepped down in favour of **Keith Chambers** who, unbeknown to us has always longed to have a go. **Keith** has now kindly taken over the responsibility and will be on Parade at Blandford for the 75th Anniversary Reunion. (**John Ballantyne** has offered to stand in if necessary).

CALAIS TRIP

Twenty-seven members, having remembered to put their clocks forward, assembled at Dover Docks to board the '*Fantasia*' for Calais in almost millpond conditions. We soon discovered there were a few bargains to be had in the Duty Free Shop. A bottle of whisky bought at boat price on the outward journey could be purchased at half price on the return trip. At Calais we were bussed free into town where most of us partook of a light lunch before the return journey, at £1 return, yes only £1–what good value.

Gillian Badcock our Hon. Secretary's wife has still not come down to earth, after setting off to Crufts a few weeks ago, with five Springer Spaniels, she returned with four awards. Well done **Gillian**, after all the hard work you have put in, we are all pleased for you. **Gillian** breeds and shows Springer Spaniels.

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH

A well attended AGM on 7 March did not disguise the feelings of the members as they reflected on the misfortunes of the Branch in 1994. During that time the following members had died and expressions of sympathy were extended to their families. **R. J.** 'Bunny' **Austin, Stuart Bridgwater, Jack Lloyd, John Lodder, Henry Newton, R. J. Noyce, John Page, Doug Pearcey, Edgar Ring, Charlie Waterman, Norman Williams** and **Stan Willis**.

The Branch was particularly hit by the absence of its hard-working and popular Chairman, **Maj Nicholas Warren MBE, TD**. Having made a marvellous recovery following an operation in January 1994, a year later he had to undergo further major surgery. Throughout the three months he spent in hospital his cheerfulness and determination to recover has been much admired by friends and nurses alike.

Hospital rules were stretched which enabled him to receive a steady stream of visitors. Returning to his home on 6 April he had already decided that he would take the Chair at the annual Reunion Lunch on the 30 April.

However, 1994 was not a year of gloom entirely. For example, the Branch was delighted to welcome as its President, **Brig J. C. Clinch CBE**. His well known enthusiasm for amateur radio transmissions, particularly for the disabled, he has arrived at a most opportune time.

Six members of the Branch were privileged to join the Association party for the D-Day Commemoration Ceremonies in Normandy. Gratitude is expressed to the Reading Branch, especially to **Alan Foot**, for the splendid arrangements made for the party.

Some other members who are involved in the Market Garden Association attended the Ceremonies at Arnhem.

Together with Winchester and Reading Branches, we were involved with the arrangements for the Royal Signals Display and marquee at the Hampshire Remembrance D-Day Commemoration. Help given by the staff at Blandford was much appreciated.

Bill Green, our Secretary for 20 years, has had a poor year health-wise. In consequence an Assistant Secretary has been appointed and we were fortunate in finding a volunteer in **Tony Dear**.

Tony also volunteered to take over duties as Branch Standard Bearer from the immaculate **Alex Winter** who has given distinguished service for the past 30 years.

Vice-Chairman **Jack Cullingford** has had a difficult year due to the serious illness of his wife and was unable to deputise for the Chairman in his absence.

Another Branch stalwart, **Fred Griffiths**, had an anxious moment or two during the year but happily all is now well with him. An encouraging feature in Branch activity is the popularity of the lunch meetings held on the first Tuesday of the month at the Ex-Servicemen's Club, Archers Road, Southampton.

The Annual Reunion Lunch, again being organised by the Treasurer, **Capt Christine Cluett**, promises to be another success, over 60 tickets being sold a month in advance.

TORBAY BRANCH

The Branch is quite active, so come and join us; we welcome new faces!! The Branch is represented at all local parades, including the Torbay R.B.L. Festival of Remembrance at Paignton in the style of the Royal Albert Hall (marvellous!) with Standard on these occasions smartly borne by the one and only 61 year old enigma of the rugby world, **Benny Goodman**! Jolly good evening meetings, with the emphasis on fun, occasional lunch or dinners according to the pocket depth, evening fun quizzes and skittle matches with the best of the Navy, Tanks, Marines and RAF etc, we are looking forward to the 75th Blandford Reunion, whilst diligently preparing for the 50th Anniversary Celebrations locally in co-operation with the R.B.L., other associations and local council!! Not bad for a lot of old codgers!!

3 DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

It was a good, if not to say godly, group who assembled at the Victory Services Club in London on Saturday 25 March for the 43rd Reunion Luncheon and AGM of our Club because, among our 102 members and guests attending, we had no less than three Padres present. Our Guest of Honour on this occasion was **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB, MBE**, Chairman of the Royal Signals Association, who was accompanied by **Mrs Alexander**.

The period between the bar opening at 1100hrs and the start of the AGM at 1200hrs was spent in greeting old and making new friends, which is, of course, the main object of the Reunion. After the AGM, which lasted about 10 minutes, it was back to socialising during which **Maj Gen Alexander** moved through the throng chatting here and there and getting the feel of the assembly meeting, among others, our first lady member in her own right, **Capt Gabby O'Meara**. He also had a chance to admire the two superb cakes, baked and decorated by **Lesley Benedek** wife of **Paul Benedek** one of our members. Then at 1300hrs we sat down to luncheon during which we were able to sample a piece of the larger cake with our coffee. It tasted as good as it looked. The RSM, **WO1 Dave Wilson**, snaffled the smaller cake, murmuring something about a raffle prize at the Regimental Fete.

After luncheon our President, **Brig** 'Bertie' **Brett**, asked the General to give us a rundown on the Association and its activities. **Maj Gen Alexander** expressed his pleasure at being with us and went on to tell us how things were with the Association with special mention of the distribution of Corps and Association property between Blandford and our erstwhile home at Catterick. He explained that while wanting to keep all our property close to hand and under our care it was felt that we should not remove from Catterick every trace of the Corps' long tenure in the North and that some carefully selected mementoes of our presence had been left *in situ*. A few of the items moved to Blandford would have to remain in storage till the new buildings are completed.

Lt Col Ian Foxley, the CO of 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt, then brought us up to date with the news from the Regiment. He had brought with him a photograph of the new Corps painting, 'Swiftly Ashore' and told us a bit of the background to its commissioning. It is hoped that there will be cards available shortly, with the painting depicted, to be used as general purpose greetings cards. He went on to tell us of the plans for the Regiment to exercise in the USA and what a hardship that would be compared to exercising on Salisbury Plain. Still somebody has to do it so why not the Regiment? Because of the dates of the Regiment's visit to the USA in 1996 we shall have to bring our 44th Reunion and AGM forward to Saturday 23 March 1996 from Saturday 30 March as published in our latest Newsletter. Please pass this information on to those friends who do not subscribe to *The Wire*.

Our Chairman, **Maj Derek Roberts**, was pleased to be able to introduce 15 'first footers' at this Reunion, not all new members however, as some of our long-time members who live a long way from London had made a special effort on this 50th anniversary of Victory and the Corps' 75th birthday to join us. We are considering holding a Reunion in the North sometime in the future and would be pleased to hear from any member who might be able to assist in such a venture. Finally the raffle raised £142 this year.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during March 1995

In memory of Mrs Alice Sherman	£187.50
In memory of Mrs D. Greenbrook	125.00
Norfolk Branch RSA	100.00
Lincoln Branch RSA	75.00
Cotswolds Branch RSA	50.00
In memory of Maj A. F. Dyer MBE	25.00
RAF Brampton	25.00
Certa Cito Lodge	10.00
Mr T. V. Seddon	10.00
In memory of Mr J. Bailey (3 Div Sigs OCA)	5.00
	£612.50

The following donations were gratefully received during April 1995

Brighton Branch RSA	£100.00
56 Div OCA Despatch Riders	63.00
Bedford Branch RSA	30.00
Mr R. J. Evans	25.00
In memory of Mrs M. Lumgair (Harrogate Branch)	20.00
Certa Cito Lodge	10.00
In memory of Mr W. Spittal (3 Div Sigs Reunion Club)	5.00
	£253.00

REUNIONS

'F' BOYS COMPANY REUNION IN THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY CORPS FOUNDING YEAR 1995

A reunion has been arranged for ex 'F Co' members on 27 September the cost of which will include a simple buffet lunch to be held at the Union Jack Club adjacent to Waterloo Station, London. As this is a special year in the history of our Corps may I ask those who have not attended the previous reunions to make a special effort to come to what is a most enjoyable informal occasion. It is a very pleasant experience to meet again the men with whom one spent one's formative years.

The Master of Signals **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL** has kindly consented to attend as our guest of honour despite a very heavy programme and is looking forward to seeing old friends.

Our President is **Bruce Beattie** in lieu of **Fred Pavey**.

Contact is **Maj (Retd) D. J.** 'Don' **Chetwynd**, 11 Parmiter Way, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 2BS. Tel: 01202 882750. Date: 27 September 1995. Time: 1100 to 1500 hrs. Venue: Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, London SE1 Facilities: Private room and bar. Refreshments: Light Buffet Lunch. Cost: £9.50

56 DIVISION (CITY OF LONDON SIGNALS) OCA BRANCH

The Annual Dinner of the above branch will be held at the Union Jack Club, adjacent to Waterloo Station, at 1900 hrs on Friday 24 November 1995.

New members are always welcome. For further information please write to **Steve Bland**, 222 Wickham Road, Shirley, Croydon, Surrey CR0 8BJ or telephone 0181 656 9740 (Home) or 0171 276 3947 (Office).

KOTA BHARU, KELANTAN, MALAYA

Mr P. Hackling is recording the war in Kelantan 1941 (and pre-1941) and would like to hear from any ex-Signals personnel who can offer any help. Please write to him at 57 Garden Suburbs, Pontywaun, Crosskeys, Gwent NP1 7GD, UK.

SSGT PETER BARRY MITCHELL

The above named who served in the Corps for 23 years (14 years in Cyprus) until 1987 will celebrate his 50th birthday on 15 May 1996. **Mrs Mitchell** is planning a surprise birthday party for him and hopes that as many of his former colleagues as possible will be able to attend. Please write to her c/o 42 Beverley Road, Redcar, Cleveland.

SIGNALMAN A. E. SYKES

During a recent visit to Narvik, **Maj J. E. Trotter** located the grave of 588496 **Sig A. E. Sykes** who died in May 1940, aged 39 years and is buried there in a Commonwealth War Grave. Any relative of the **Sykes** family is invited to write to the Editor if he wishes to obtain the photograph.

WO2 ALAN HUGGINS

The above named who served in the Corps from 1965 (Denbury) to 1993 writes to say that he and his family are now settled in North Wales and would be pleased to welcome any friends from the Corps, who are visiting the area. His hotel boasts a large bar (especially for linemen!). Contact him at Plas Owen Hotel, Glyn Ceriog, Llangollen, Clwyd LL20 7DA. Tel: 01691 718707.

MRS FLORENCE ASHTON

We recently had news of **Mrs Florence Ashton**, the 95 year old widow of **Tom Ashton** who volunteered on 2 September 1939 and served throughout the war. She recalls:

'**Tom**, my husband, was a bus driver and volunteered on 2 September 1939, like many, expecting it to last six months rather than six years. **Tom**'s father did exactly the same on 2 August 1914 but sadly he was blown away in May 1915 on the Somme, at the age of 31. Nothing to remember him by except his identity disc which was buried with my husband. My husband was rescued from Dunkerque. **Tom** was sent to Perth where he stayed until the end of the war, but I still begrudge those six years spent apart, though I shouldn't moan as we had 60 years of married bliss. My grandfather was a regular soldier in the 19th century. He was in the Crimea at the time of Florence Nightingale, hence my Christian name. He received a small pension from her private fortune. He was engaged in the Boer war and I was born in 1900 but completed his service soon after and returned to Ireland. He was a Sergeant in the 6th Enniskillen Dragoon Guards, long since disbanded'.

*We are delighted to add that **Mrs Ashton** is very well and living in her own home in Cornwall.*

OUR CLAIM TO FAME
By T. W. Potter

Three generations of the **Potter** family have served in The Royal Corps of Signals, and possibly hold the record for service in the Commonwealth Brigade.

Let me start at the beginning. During World War 2 my father served with the 1st AB Div Sig as a dispatch rider. He was captured at Arnhem and interned as a POW at Stalag (XIB) where he remained until the end of the war. He was **Sig J. W. Potter.**

Now for myself, ex **Sgt T. W. Potter**. I was called up for National Service in June 1952. In August I signed on that year as a Regular. I followed my father in the trade of 'Dispatch Rider'. After a short spell at 5 TR Ripon I was posted to 1 (AA) Mixed Sig Regt, at Orsett, Grays, Essex where-upon I volunteered for a Korean draft. Anybody remember Canvey Island?

Upon arrival in Korea, the 'Sharp end' I joined 28 (Comwel) Bde K Tp, 28 (Comwel) Sig Sqn. This was the period 4 June 1953 to 24 July 1954.

Next followed a tour in Cyprus where I arrived in jungle greens and bemedalled. This covered the period 25 July 1954 to 21 May 1956. Does anyone remember the British Institute being burned down or the Caledonian Ball Bomb?

That was followed by an enjoyable tour at SHAPE HQ, Paris, France.

Claim to fame–a second tour with the Commonwealth Bde 208 (Comwel) Sig Sqn, MJ Taiping, Malaya. This made a total of four years, two months and 42 days service with the Brigade. May be the longest?

After a spell in BAOR 12 Bde Sig Sqn, I was posted to driver training, 8 & 24 Sig Regt, Catterick.

I completed my 18 years service as an Army Recruiter, Wakefield and Leeds. A very successful tour, where I recruited a musician who later became Drum Major of the Corps Band.

I finally retired in November 1970. Many of you may remember me at The Corner Shop at Scotton.

My son followed in my father's and my footsteps. He enlisted into the Corps at Junior Leaders, Troon. He rose to the rank of RQMS and served for 18 years.

Total **Potter** service 42 years.

To sum up despite World War 2, Korea (The Forgotton War), Cyprus, Malaya, Northern Ireland, not to mention many other theatres we served in, our time in the Corps will remain close to our hearts. The 'Esprit de Corps' is not forgotten.

Long live the Corps and may it go on to an even greater future.

As for me, I am soon to retire from Catterick to Rickmansworth, Herts, at last I am going home to my boyhood roots and memories of the bombing in the War that I left behind; a complete circle.

SMOKE SIGNALS

I was in Southern Burma in May '45. The re-conquest of that country was almost complete and preparations were well advanced for a landing on the coast of Malaya (Operation Zipper).

Our Chief Signal Officer–I forget now whether it was **Brig St John Martin** or **Cyril Knowles**–heard the news of Victory in Europe somewhat wryly. 'Tell the chaps to break off for a ten-minute smoke,' he said.

Roger Delahunty
The Cottage
Rillington
Malton

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THE NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM: VE AND VJ DAYS COMMEMORATED

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War the National Army Museum will be holding a series of special displays and exhibitions. A young Person's War, 1941-45: A Journey Across Occupied Europe looks at a young Englishman's experience of captivity. Soldier Magazine: 50 Years On tells the story of the establishment and development of the British Army's own magazine. The Special Exhibition Monty's Men: The British Soldier in North West Europe will be extended and will reflect the British soldier's experiences from D-Day to victory in May 1945. The role of women in the Army and their major contribution to the war effort is highlighted in The Right To Serve, while the story of the British 14th Army is told in the Museum's Permanent Gallery The Forgotten War: The British Army in the Far East.

For further information contact: Fleur Mainwaring, Public Relations 0171 730 0717 ext 2243.

Corps Goods Available from the Museum Shop, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH

Telephone enquiries to: Blandford Military ext 2248 STD (0258) 482248.
Price list with effect from 1 April 1995:

	PRICE £
Blazer Badge	13.95
Blazer Button Set: 6 Large, 6 Small–presentation boxed	22.20
Set: 4 Large, 6 Small–presentation boxed	18.40
Bookmark–Real Leather	0.65
Fine Marker pen/pencil set, boxed with Museum Crest	2.50
Ballpoint pen, assorted colours, Museum Crest	0.69
'Tubby' notepad 3½" x 3½", leatherette cover with Corps Crest	1.50
Cap Badge–pre 1947 style	3.15
Cap Badge–current style	2.75
Coasters–leather, set of 4, with Corps Badge	2.50
Corps Badge, on foil, framed and glazed, 11" x 9"	7.95
Corps Cassettes–Information Sheet Available	6.20
Crystal Engraved with Corps Badge	
Brandy Glass	7.95
Brandy Glass–cut	19.50
Whisky Glass	9.95 ea
Whisky Glass–cut	16.00 ea
Wine Glass	7.75 ea
Spirit Decanter–cut	55.00
Ships Decanter–plain	45.95
Bud Vase	15.75
Crystal Tankard–1Pt	15.95
Gilt Cufflinks, die stamped with Corps Badge	15.25
Enamel Cufflinks, Corps colours & 'Jimmy'	6.50
Hipflask, captive top, leatherette finish	17.50
Keyrings– Leather with Museum Crest	0.50
Corps (enamelled Corps Badge on leather tag)	2.25
Ladies Brooch, Sterling Silver set with Marcasite	28.50
Ladies Brooch, 9 carat Gold	65.00
Ladies Headscarf, Dark Blue with 'Jimmy' in one corner	9.25
Lapel Badge (Association Members only)	2.25
Ladies Lapel Badge	4.50
Mug, white china with Corps Badges in blue	2.45
Bon Bon Dish, gilt edged white china with Corps Badge	2.95
New–Gents Notecase/Wallet–Black leather with crest	11.25
New–Credit Card Holder, black leather with Corps Badge 8 PVC pockets	3.95
Postcards	0.20
Pendent, white enamelled with 17" chain	5.50

Prints:	Unsigned	Signed
Frontier Ambush	8.50	12.50
Smith, George Cross	8.50	12.50
Palace Guard	8.50	12.50
Dhofar Incident	8.50	12.50
Imphal Road	8.50	12.50
Catterick Parade	8.50	12.50

Photographic prints–20"x16" (approx) – Information Sheets available	15.00
Statuettes:	
5" Silver Plated Pewter Soldier with SA80 on Self Plinth	28.50
6½" Silver Plated Pewter 'Jimmy' on Teak Plinth	39.50
9" Royal Signals Officer in Full Dress (Bronze Resin)	79.50
9" Royal Signalls Soldier with SA80 Rifle (Bronze Resin)	79.50
11½" 'Jimmy' cast Bronze Resin	79.50
9" Signaller with SA80 Rifle and Manpack Radio (Bronze Resin)	65.00
Silver Plated Teaspoon with pre–1947 crest	2.50
Sticker, Corps Badge on Corps Colours, good quality – Large	0.50
– Medium	0.50
– Small	0.50
Stickpin, Sterling Silver Corps Badge, can be used as Brooch, Lapel Badge or Tie pin	24.95
Gents Scarf, pure wool in Corps Colours	13.50
Sports/Leisure Wear, Excellent Quality, various sizes/colours:	
Sweat Shirts with embroidered Corps Badge	14.85
Sport Shirts, pique knit with embroidered Corps Badge	13.50
V/Neck Sweater with embroidered Corps Badge	17.50
Rugby Style Shirt, Corps Colours and embroidered Badge	21.25
Tablemat Set, six blue acrylic with Corps Badge	39.50
Tablemat, Large 15" x 11½", blue acrylic with Corps Badge	10.95
Cocktail Mat Set, six blue acrylic with Corps Badge	17.50
Tankard, 1pt, polished pewter, heavyweight, with *embossed* Badge	27.50
Tankard, 1pt, polished pewter, lightweight with *engraved* Badge	15.95
Teatowel Blue Signals Design on White Background	2.50
Teatowel, World War II vehicles	2.65
Teatowel, V.E. Day (two styles)	2.00
Thimble, Bone China with Corps Crest	2.50
Tie, Corps Colours in polyester, 3" width	5.75
Tie, Corps Colours in Pure Silk, 3" width	12.75
Umbrella, Golf Size, Corps Colours	15.75
Video/Audio Pack, presentation boxed "Songs That Won The War"–Original Artists	14.99
Wall plaque, 'Royal Corps of Signals' shield, 6" x 7"	15.95
Plaque, 6" x 4" with pewter SA80 and Signals Badge	14.25
Watch strap, Corps Colours, Nylon	1.45
Corps Christmas Cards, Pack of 5	3.00

Prices inclusive of VAT. Overseas orders will be less VAT. – Overseas orders will be less VAT
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Bulk Orders from P.R.I.'s will attract a discount.

Produced by the Publishers, THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD (Telephone London District Mil ext 8428 STD 0171-414 8428)
Printed in Great Britain by Holbrooks Printers Ltd, Norway Road, Hilsea, Portsmouth, Hants PO3 5HX.
For advertising rates apply to: Combined Service Publications Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR (Telephone 01252 515891)



THE Wire

August 1995



The Royal Corps of Signals 75th Anniversary



Public Duties – Royal Signals

The Queen's Guard 24 June-6 August 1995

The Royal Corps of Signals has once again been honoured to find the Queen's Guard in this, our 75th Anniversary Year. The Guard was commanded by Maj D. G. Proctor Royal Signals and detachments from 2nd Signal Regiment, 7th Signal Regiment, 16th Signal Regiment, 249 Signal Squadron (AMF(L)) and 250 Signal Squadron made up the Guard. The Corps Band provided musical support throughout.

Picture A – Maj D. Proctor and Lt I. Heath lead the detachment past the hundreds of spectators who gather daily to watch the Guard Mount.

Picture B – Maj D. Wall, Director of Music Royal Signals, marches the Band into position on the Forecourt of Buckingham Palace on Princess Royal Day, 28 June.

The Royal Signals Magazine

August 1995 Vol. 49 No: 4

The Wire

All correspondence and matter for publication in **The Wire** should be addressed to **The Editor, The Wire**, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD
Tel No: London District Ext 8428 and 8433
STD 0171-414 8428 and 8433
Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of February, April, June, August, October and 10th December for publication six weeks later.

All enquiries regarding subscriptions/despatch should be made to ext: 8426

Subscription rates 1995 (Bi-monthly) (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, and Dec). Individual: Yearly **£9.00**; Bi-monthly **£1.50**.

Remittances should be made payable to Royal Signals Corps Fund

Editor Lt Col M. Q. M. Greaves
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

***The Wire* is a member of the Association of Service Newspapers**

BIRTHDAY HONOURS

MBE

Lieutenant Colonel R. I. Buckley Royal Signals
Major B. K. Billsberry Royal Signals
Major A. P. Hudson Royal Signals
Major M. R. G. Stockdale Royal Signals
Warrant Officer Class 1 R. J. Underhill
Warrant Officer Class 2 (Foreman of Signals) S. C. Johnston
Warrant Officer Class 2 E. F. O'Connor
Sergeant I. L. D. Bailey
Lance Corporal M. T. Plumb
Lance Corporal K. A. Touhey

PRINCESS ROYAL DAY–28 JUNE 1995

On the occasion of Princess Royal Day, 28 June 1995, and in this our 75th Anniversary year, The Master of Signals and all ranks of The Royal Corps of Signals, serving and retired, send their Colonel in Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, their best wishes, affectionate greetings and their thanks for Her kindness and devotion to Her Corps.

I send my warm thanks and very best wishes to the Master of Signals and all ranks of The Royal Corps of Signals, serving and retired for their kind message in which they forwarded their best wishes and affectionate greetings on the occasion of Princess Royal Day, 28 June 1995.

Anne, Colonel in Chief

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Our front cover picture shows Sig K. Smith who was awarded the George Cross posthumously for his bravery on the Island of Ist in the Adriatic on 19 October 1945. A full account of this action appears on page 210.

Our back cover picture depicts 2 Divisional Signals and 4 Corps Signals re-establishing line communications on the Kohima-Imphal road on 28 June 1944. The picture is taken from the Corps' painting 'The Imphal Road.'

Our inside front and back covers shows The Royals Corps of Signals providing the 'Queen's Guard.'

The opinions expressed in* The Wire *are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of the Corps or the MOD. This publication contains official information. It should be treated with discretion by the recipient.

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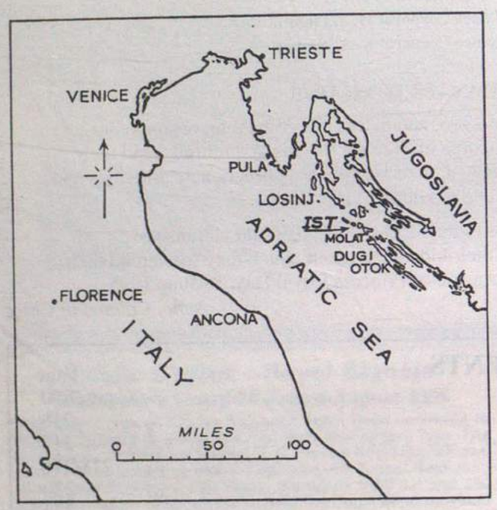
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SIGNALMAN K. SMITH GC

Awarded the George Cross, Ist Island, Adriatic, 19 October 1945

In late 1944 there were Germans and fascist-minded partisans operating in Jugoslavia, and there was considerable movement of German shipping in among the islands which abound along the north-east coastline of the Adriatic Sea.

A yeomanry patrol of the Long Range Desert Group consisting of an officer, eight or nine troopers, a signalman, a medical orderly and a dog, embarked in a trawler near Manfredonia in Italy and were landed on the small island of Ist. The object was to keep a watch on shipping and to provide a jumping-off ground for raids on enemy-held islands and the mainland. Ist depended upon fishing–with only just enough soil to grow sufficient grapes to produce wine for home consumption. The able-bodied male population had been deported as slave lavour.



There were three varieties of partisan. The Ustashi, fascist supporters; the communists, supported by the Allies; and the Chetniks who appeared to be nobody's friends. Military activities witnessed by the patrol included an M.L. being blown out of the sea by an E boat, and a traitor being executed by a partisan firing squad.

The patrol were billeted in three houses, one being the sick bay, one where the signalman, **Kenneth Smith**, and those who helped to carry the radio lived with it, and one where the remainder were accommodated. The chore horse did not always work and many a long hour was spent on the alternative, a pedal generator. It was reckoned that it took eight hours pedalling to listen in to 'Workers Play Time' on the B.B.C.

Kenneth Smith was a quiet man, a softly spoken countryman from Lincolnshire and the eldest son of the family. He had enlisted in Royal Signals as a regular soldier on 23rd January, 1939. He had become, in the opinion of his comrades, a super operator and was completely unflappable.

Life on Ist was pretty good and lighthearted. The locals were extremely friendly and their loyalty extended to learning the patriotic songs of the Allies. However the habit of standing to attention while singing 'She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain' (military version) was disconcerting.

On 10th January, 1945, about 10 p.m. on a pitch dark night, **Kenneth Smith** and Jock Watson (a trooper of the yeomanry) were asleep in their house, Sgt Jetley was a patient in the sick bay, and the rest were playing nap in the main billet. Something disturbed Watson and he went to the front door. As he opened it he heard something clank behind it. He saw it was a large time bomb which was ticking. There was a booster of extra explosive alongside in a canister.

Watson ran to the nap school next door, where he had some difficulty in convincing them that he was serious. They returned and woke up **Kenneth Smith**, who when he in turn had been convinced, dressed quickly and with Watson and Cyril Smith each picked up the portion of the radio for which he was responsible, and made for the open air.

At some point Kenneth Smith must have remembered the family who were asleep in the back-room, and had to choose between their safety and that of the radio to which he owed a duty. He saw the way to save both. He put down the equipment, picked up the bomb, and made for a piece of waste ground between the house and the village church. Before he could get there, there was a tremendous explosion. Kenneth was blown to pieces, a member of the patrol received thirty-seven wounds from fragments, and a partisan was killed. No harm came either to the family at the back of the house, or to the precious radio set. Later events that night proved that but for Kenneth's action they would have been killed, since a similar bomb which was found at the back of the main billet blew up before it could be dealt with and totally demolished the back of the building. It appeared that about thirty Ustashi had infiltrated to Ist from a nearby island.

Kenneth Smith's valiant deed was not the thoughtless action of the ignorant. The whole patrol knew these time bombs and knew that, in addition to being unreliable if touched, many contained mechanisms to explode them immediately if moved. He was therefore a most gallant soldier who gave his life for his comrades and allies.

The posthumous award of the George Cross to 2328696 **Sig Kenneth Smith** was announced in the *London Gazette* No. 37311 dated 19th October, 1945.

This article is based upon the reminiscences of Gilbert Jetley, Esq., formerly of the Sharpshooters and Cyril Smith, Esq., formerly of the Kent Yeomanry.

SIGNALS HIMALAYAN CELEBRATIONS

Exercise Ramjung Diamond took place in the Nepal Himalayas as part of the Royal Corps of Signals 75th Anniversary celebrations. The intrepid team, led by **Lt Adrian Jones** from the 1st (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, set off for Kathmandu in early April. The team's objective was Ramjung base-camp at 16,500 feet. This could only be reached by several weeks of arduous trekking in the remote Rolwaling region, close to the border with Tibet.

From the start it became clear that this was to be no easy task. Intense heat and punishing mountain trails lay ahead. Least concerned were the porters and hardy cook boys who ran ahead with 200lb basket packs. **Sig Jenkins**, training for a Royal Marine Commando course, was most impressed, exclaiming 'These porters are unbelievable. No wonder they make such good soldiers'.



A typical mountain track. Note porters at rear with huge packs

The upper reaches of the Tamba Kosi River were followed by the forests of Beding. The team pushed on above the tree line to the spectacular glacial Rolpa Lake at 14,500 feet. **Cpl Crawford**, the team's photographer, described it as 'unreal' and 'well worth all the effort'.



Cpl Crawford, the team's photographer

Camp was established before the final push to Ramjung base-camp. A large fire was built to alleviate the sub-zero temperatures. As the sun set, **Lt Jones** was startled by what he saw. Flying low to the ground, with an amazing nine foot wing span, was a Bearded Vulture. Of the sighting, he said, 'It looked like some huge prehistoric creature. The Crested Serpent Eagles that we had seen earlier pale into insignificance next to this. I had heard the locals tell of how these birds can kill livestock including young goats. Now I believe them.'

The ascent the following day was hampered by fresh snow falls but after four gruelling hours, Ramjung base-camp was reached. **Cpl Joyce**, the team's medic, was most surprised. 'I though that base-camps were supposed to be sheltered,' he said. 'This has got to be one of the most exposed places I've ever been to.'

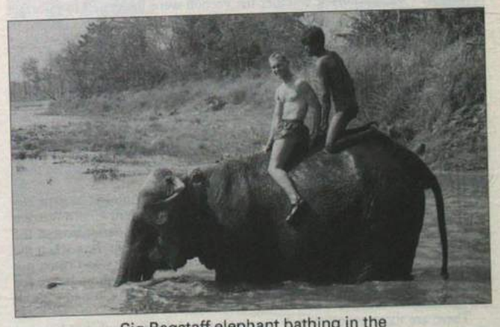
The wind and extreme cold prompted the jubilant team to drop to a lower, more hospitable altitude. During the return trek, the team was pleased at being accompanied by very large and brightly coloured Windmill Butterflies. On arrival at the market town of Charikot, we were keen to move by bus to the Trisuli River for the whitewater rafting.

SSgt Martin commented that, 'A bus journey in Nepal is an experience in itself.' This was indeed the case. Half the town's people seemed to want a lift either by clinging to the sides or clambering on the roof. The driver concentrated hard on avoiding cows in the road since the punishment for killing this sacred animal in Nepal is 20 years' imprisonment. After rafting for two days, the team moved on to the intensely humid jungle of the Royal Chitwan National Park. Elephant bathing was the highlight here, some rhinos were also spotted but, alas, no Tigers.

On return to Herford, **Sig Murray**, fresh out of trade training, described the exercise as 'an experience of a lifetime!'



Back row: Lt Jones (flag), Cpl Joyce, Sig Murray, LCpl Keay
Front seated: Sig Bagstaff, Kaji, Binod, Sangir,
SSgt Martin, Pasang



Sig Bagstaff elephant bathing in the Royal Chitwan National Park

PARAGLIDING WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN CHAMONIX

by Maj M. S. Wallis

(**Maj Mike Wallis** is staff officer at Headquarters Director Army Aviation. He took up paragliding in 1993 following a course at the British Forces Alpine Hang gliding and Paragliding Centre in Germany.)

In May 1995, I attended a three-week military paragliding instructors' course at the Ecole Militaire de Haute Montagne (EMHM) in Chamonix-Mont Blanc, France.

EMHM is the equivalent of an arms school, dealing in alpine skills for mountain troops and is commanded by a lieutenant colonel. EMHM hosts courses for other nations either in groups or as individuals. It teaches skiing and alpinism at four levels from initiation to advanced techniques. It also acts as home base for the French National Military Ski Team and for the Military High Mountain Group, specialists in physical climate extremes. It is this latter group which mounts mountaineering and polar expeditions worldwide.

Paragliding is developed and taught by the French as a military alpine technique. It can be an effective method of movement for lightly armed mountain infantry. As such, it is taught to volunteers within designated mountain units. Each mountain battalion has one platoon which is capable of movement by paraglider. Tandem paragliders can be used to transport specialists untrained in paragliding. The first levels of competence, brevets A and B, are taught in units by unit instructors. Instructors are trained at EMHM. All qualified military tandem pilots must first become instructors.



French Paraglider troops waiting patiently at the take-off site

EMHM is responsible for the formulation and documentation of all policy and regulation regarding military paragliding. The Chef de Corps, the Commandant of EMHM, awards all qualifications. There are detailed regulations covering training, operations, safety, equipment husbandry and maintenance. The equipment is specifically designed for military use and is not suitable for sport paragliding.

With the approval of **Brig C. L. Elliott**, the President of the Joint Services Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association, I made a brief courtesy call on EMHM in February 1995, whilst I was on Ex Wyvern Triangle. I was enquiring whether the French were interested in informal liaison on paragliding matters. To my complete surprise, I was invited to attend an instructors' course. I was never the ideal candidate; I only have two years paragliding experience, and at 47, age was no longer on my side. However, no Service trainee paragliding instructor was available during the period of the course, neither could any be found who could speak French, so it just had to be me!

The first two weeks of the course consisted of theory and practice plus preparation for the third week (in which young soldiers were given real *ab initio* theory and practical lessons by the trainee instructors). The syllabus took in meteorology, theory of flight, equipment husbandry, maintenance, operational flying techniques and much more.

The others on the course with me were all French alpinists in their 20s and 30s. They ranged in rank from Sergeant to Adjutant Chef (Warrant Officer). I was deeply impressed by the single-minded dedication of the instructors (mainly Warrant Officers) and the students. On days when the weather precluded flying, lessons would begin at 0800hrs and often not finish until dinner, which was at 1900hrs, with only a short break for lunch. Discussions were conducted with a passion only found in true paragliding fanatics.

There are three events which warrant a more detailed account because they epitomise the spirit of the course:

The Military Flight

A body of troops can paraglide to a designated landing point in 'patrols' of three. The patrols are chosen so that the glider sizes and pilot weights match as far as possible. Each patrol member takes off as close as possible, with due regard to wake turbulence, and flies in close formation to land on a target 25m square. The military solo paraglider is the CARLIT; this is very stable and has a glide ratio of 5:1. The harness is very simple; it is like a climbing harness but with chest and shoulder straps. The glider is suspended from karabiners at the shoulders, giving a very upright flying position. There is no reserve parachute. A rucksack is carried on the back. A strap is looped through the top of the rucksack and is connected at either end to the same karabiners as connect the pilot to the glider. During flight, the rucksack is slipped off the shoulders and is left to hang by the strap from the karabiners, so relieving the weight on the pilot and allowing him more control. The glider is easy to launch and control but flies like a brick. Flying in formation requires concentration and it is necessary to be alert to the position of the wake of the glider in front, especially when approaching the ground.

On my first flight, I carried a 30kg rucksack and, as it was incorrectly adjusted, I was unable to slip it off my shoulders in flight; this resulted in great discomfort! Also, on landing (which was quite fast) an accurate flare was important and I needed a good run to avoid being flattened by the rucksack. The steep glide angle compared to sport paragliders fooled most of us and the first time we all landed 20-30m short of the target.

The High Mountain Flight

We took the cable car to the Aiguille du Midi, an intermediate peak on Mont Blanc at 3778m above sea level. We climbed down the snow ridge to the take-off site, using crampons, ropes and harnesses, steadying ourselves with ski poles. The snow was deep. The take-off was at 3600m above sea level, towards the North into the Chamonix Valley, starting over a sheer 300m ice cliff! The idea was to fly and land on a glacier, march to a second site and take off again, landing in Chamonix. I was fairly nervous because from this particular site, a failed take-off could be fatal, although there was a stopper man to help abort, just before the point of no return. The wind, which normally helps, was discouragingly light. About half of us had taken off and I was next to go when what little wind we had, dropped. After a fruitless wait, the wind turned to our rear, so a decision was made to use the South take-off site. This involved a climb of several hundred metres. I was still rigged up with my paraglider and its rigging lines bunched in my hands; the climb was the most exhausting thing I have ever done, although the vertical distance was only 37 metres! I finally took off into the bowl of the Mont Blanc massif to fly the only way out, down over the Mer de Glace glacier. Once airborne, I had an exhilarating and spectacular glide of over 14km involving a height loss of over 2.6km. The air on a glacier always flows down the slope, so it was important to keep to the mountainside in order to conserve height. I had slightly misunderstood the briefing and I crossed the glacier to search for warm air above the rocky mountainside, facing the sun. In re-crossing it to head for Chamonix, I went through some 'sink' at 7m/s (or 1400ft/min) downwards. I lost a good deal of height and decided to land in the hang glider landing site, which was nearer, rather than risk the trees around the paraglider landing site. At several points during the flight I'd been over a mile above the ground. At one point, a big avalanche had broken to my left and passed underneath me. It all took 40 minutes and was an unforgettable experience.



The author's view of the huge granite cliffs of the Mont Blanc massif at an altitude of over 3000m

The Tandem Flight

In the third week, we practised launching the tandem paraglider in pairs, alternating as pilot and passenger. The weather had been against us but, on my very last day, it cleared just enough and so we had our tandem initiation. For my first flight, I had control and had an instructor as passenger. The paraglider was a SWAN, with stable handling and a fairly steep glide (again 5:1). It launched easily and take-off was achieved satisfactorily. During take-off, the passenger has to do most of the running and the pilot runs bandy-legged to avoid tripping the passenger up! Control inputs are heavier and response is slightly slower than with a solo glider and the landing is faster. The approach has to be made with a good safety margin, losing the remainder of the height either by S-turns towards the target or by shortening or lengthening a rectangular approach. I used the 'S' method. The timing of the flare is more critical than in solo landings and both pilot and passenger must touch down running. The instructor was obviously satisfied with my first flight and offered me a real passenger in the form of a young soldier who had never flown before. This second flight also went well and, once airborne I enjoyed it much more than with the instructor; both I and my passenger were euphoric. The flight plan was ultra-conservative and the flight very short due to the low take-off site. Nonetheless it was a significant milestone in my paragliding career and one which I will not be able to repeat for a long time because I do not have a dual licence. I was most impressed by the sang-froid of the instructor in having the confidence to let me pilot a rookie passenger on only my second tandem flight. The passenger did not find this out until after we'd landed!

That concludes the three high points of the course.



The author *(left)* launching a tandem paraglider for the very first time. Note the passenger (an instructor) also checking to see it is fully inflated!

Some impressions

Military paragliding is effectively limited to mountainous terrain or high hills at the least. Paragliders, like paratroops, are very vulnerable in the air, and cannot even be inserted densely. I guess they would fare very badly in an opposed landing. The constraints of the weather are severe and paragliding can only be viewed as an option to be taken by some troops and then only if the conditions are right. Perhaps to overcome some of these constraints, the French are experimenting with paragliding using night vision goggles (NVG). Paraglider wing-tips and pilots are marked



Landing near Chamonix after a high mountain flight

using radioactive lights (like Beta lights). They are also experimenting with a motorised paraglider where the pilot wears a back-pack engine driving a caged propeller. The former (NVG) is most improbable in any great numbers because the level of expertise required would exclude all but the best pilots. If, say, disorientation were to occur there would be no chance of gaining the safety of height in order to re-orientate oneself. The latter (paramotor) is more promising but current motors are very noisy. In Britain they are currently illegal, although this may change; the British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association is currently formulating rules for paramotors on behalf of the CAA.

My hosts, from the Commandant down to the national servicemen working in the barracks, showed me the utmost kindness throughout my stay. I was impressed by the quiet professionalism of the regulars and by the impeccable manners of all I met. The aim of my participation on the course had been to foster liaison rather than to become a paragliding instructor in the French Army. I believe the aim was fully achieved.

In order to reciprocate my invitation, two French military paraglider pilots have been invited to the British Inter-Services Paragliding Championships in August 1995. The Championships are hosted by the British Forces Alpine Hang Gliding and Paragliding Centre in Bavaria. It is probable that one of the instructors at EMHM, who is a Brevet d'Etat in paragliding, will attend, so I think we may have a competition on our hands!



Approaching the 'Mer de Glace' glacier. To give an idea of scale, the glacier is over 1km wide

PRESENTATIONS TO THE CORPS MUSEUM

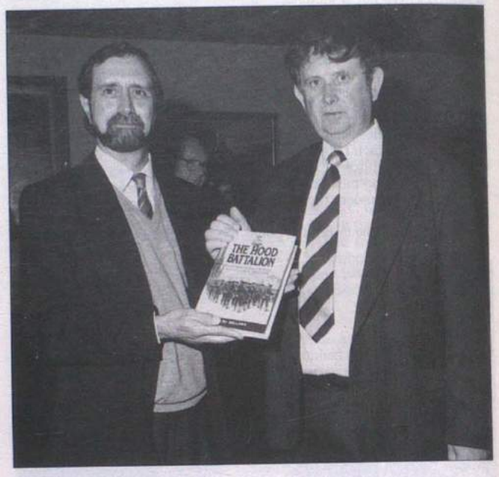
On Friday 19 May **Mrs Ethel Bradley** donated the medals of her late husband to the Royal Signals Museum.

Mr Charles Bradley joined the Royal Signals TA in 1932 and served until 1946, seeing action with the BEF, in North Africa, Italy and North West Europe. He later spent four years with REME TA.

Mrs Bradley is seen presenting the medals to **Dr Peter Thwaites**, Deputy Director of the Museum, flanked by two of her sons.



Mr Leonard Sellars is shown presenting a copy of his book, *The Hood Battalion*, to the Deputy Director of the Royal Signals Museum, **Dr Peter Thwaites** after the Service of Remembrance for the *Collingwood* Battalion, RND, at Blandford Camp, on Friday 2 June. **Mr Sellars** became interested in the Royal Naval Division when he discovered that his great-uncle was killed in action at the Dardanelles while serving in the *Hood* Battalion. His book, based on first-hand accounts of the *Hood* Battalion's exploits, drew in part on material held in the Museum's archive, and includes a chapter on Blandford Camp during the First World War.



THE MAN FROM THE MINISTRY

(with continued apologies to all other R Signals personnel working in the MoD)

by Maj Steve Turnbull, SO2 PS10a2(A), Directorate of Personal Services (Army)

More news and views from the world of Army Personal Services. This month an update on the issues highlighted in earlier issues of *The Wire*.

AFPRB

The Armed Forces Review Body have been out on the road, visits have included Bosnia, Northern Ireland, Catterick, Germany, Cyprus and some others. Feedback to date has highlighted the following issues for this year's pay review: Lost leave, increasing the X factor, the rights and wrongs of operational or deployment pay and the costs of private accident insurance for soldiers in operational theatres or in 'hazardous occupations'.

It is too early to be able to predict what results may be achieved but the Service personnel staff are very keen to achieve an increase in the X factor over and above any pay increase that may be appropriate. Financial compensation for lost leave is more difficult, in an ideal world we wouldn't need to provide it and financial compensation may not be desirable but the Review Body are sure to make their views known this year.

During their visits the Review Body have been getting the impression that the basic rate of pay is not an issue! This is normally, the result of their receiving an unthinking 'yes' to the question 'are you happy with your rate of pay'–so be warned if you take part in a discussion group with the Pay Review Body, **think before you speak!**

THE BETT REVIEW

A road show has been touring all the major commands and UK districts, hopefully some of you had the opportunity to get your point of view across in the syndicate discussions that followed each presentation. This consultative phase lasts until 14 July this year. Thereafter there will be a study period building towards a firm decision about the implementation in May 1996. In the meantime there are **21** further studies being undertaken to validate **Bett**'s ideas. There is still plenty of time to get your views across to the chain of command.

MARRIED ACCOMMODATION

Many of you will have noticed that the houses you live in (if you live in quarters) are now under new management. The Defence Housing Executive (DHE) came into effect on 1 April 1995 to take over the management of all married service accommodation of all three services. The long term aim remains to sell off the quarters' estate to private interests at some time in the future. A study team is working with banking interests to determine the best way forward!

FORCES' RAILCARD

The survey to determine the future of the Forces' Railcard is still being completed. The final phase, a postal survey is unlikely to be complete before the end of August. The data will then be analysed and some results should start to be available in the late autumn (fingers crossed for the future of the railcard).

FORCES' DISCOUNT BROCHURE

The Forces' Discount Brochure 1995/96 is now ready for distribution. Ensure you get your copy–units should bid for copies direct to the central distribution centre at CSE Llangennech in Wales.

That concludes this update on issues from Personal Services (Army).

200,000 DM FOR UNESCO

7TH SIGNAL REGIMENT AND BAND OF THE HUSSARS AND LIGHT DRAGOONS HELPED WITH THE REOPENING OF THE KREFELD RACE COURSE

During the weekend of 22/23 April, 7 Sig Regt and the band of the Hussars and Light Dragoons helped with the reopening of the Krefeld Race Course after extensive refurbishment. The proceeds of the very successful weekend, 200,000 DM went to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, UNESCO.

On Saturday, the UNESCO Charity Turf Gala, chaired by German Ex-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs **Hans Dietrich Genscher** and UNESCO Ambassador **Frau Ute Ohoven** was opened with music by the band of the Hussars and Light Dragoons. The main raffle prize was a race horse which the lucky winner could keep for one year. The Pikemen pictured at the VIP entrance are **LCpl Bevan**, **Sig Andrews**, **Sig Moore** and **Sig Hemley**. The food for the many high ranking guests who attended the cocktail party prior to the main event was provided by the Chefs of the Regiment led by **WO1 (RCWO) Charlie Harkin**. It was suspected that the buildings would not be ready in time for the grand opening, and in the event, the kitchens were not so in stepped the military Chefs and the evening went without a hitch.

Sunday, the Regiment helped with the race meeting, supplying teams of soldiers at strategic points around the course to level and maintain the track after each race. The photograph shows **LCpl Brian Hall REME**, **Sig Tony Palmer**, **Sig Steven Jay**, **Sig Jake Lavin** and **Sig Mark Langley** poised ready to go when the horses have passed. The soldiers who took part on both days thoroughly enjoyed it and the Regiment now has a waiting list of volunteers to assist at the next 18 race meetings. The Commanding Officer, **Lt Col D. McDowall MBE**, said: 'It is the Regiment's intention to maintain this close and valuable tie with the Krefelder Rennverein for the foreseeable future.' The work is clearly enjoyed by the soldiers and appreciated by the Krefeld citizens. Plans are already being made for next year's first anniversary event.





JOB ADVERTISEMENT

HEAD OF ROYAL SIGNALS PUBLICATIONS

The Corps Committee of the Royal Corps of Signals wish to employ an Editor to produce their Corps publications. The post equates to a Retired Officer Grade II with a gross salary of £17,000 a year, which includes an increment to allow for contributions to a personal pension scheme. Conditions of service, hours of work, leave etc are related to normal Civil Service rules.

The main responsibilities will be the production and distribution of the following publications:

The Wire. An 80 page bi-monthly publication which provides the news of the activities of the serving and retired members of the Corps.

The Journal. The publication of the Royal Signals Institution, which includes articles of professional interest to all members of the Corps. Issued every four months.

The Retired Officer List and Newsletter (The Blue List). Issued annually and containing information on Corps affairs and activities, and a current list of all retired officers.

The List of Serving Officers (The White List). Issued annually, showing the principle appointments within the Corps of both serving and retired Senior Officers. It contains the details of all regular and volunteer Serving Officers and Warrant Officers Class I of the Corps.

The Editor will be assisted by a full time Civil Servant Administrative Officer.

Ideally, applicants should be former Royal Signals Officers with at least sq or signal staff experience and a good knowledge of Corps affairs. They should have the ability to correct texts and diagrams, and write sound English. Although IT experience is not essential an interest in acquiring Word Processing, Desk Top Publishing and Database systems skills would be useful. The post is available from 1 September 1995 and will be located in Regimental Headquarters, Royal Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset.

Enquiries should be made in writing or by telephone to
Colonel A. N. de Bretton-Gordon
The Regimental Secretary
RHQ Royal Signals
56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD
Telephone 0171 414 8421.

MOVEMENTS

OFFICERS
JUNE 1995

Rank and Name			*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col D. A. Lynam	...	...	ACDS (CIS)
Lt Col D. M. Steele	...	...	21 Sig Regt (AS)
Lt Col R. D. Symonds	...	...	HQ 4 Div
Maj A. M. Stokoe	...	...	33 Sig Regt (V)
Maj L. Tanner	...	...	The Royal School of Signals
Capt K. J. Arnold	...	...	Exch Appts Australia
Capt I. G. Favager	...	...	HQNI
Capt D. J. Foulkes	...	...	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Capt P. E. Hargreaves	...	...	7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207)
Capt A. L. Hayden	...	...	15 Sig Regt
Capt J. A. G. Langley	...	...	15 Sig Regt
Capt R. T. O'Hara	...	...	HQ Brunei Gar
Lt A. S. McCole	...	...	4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204)

JULY 1995

Rank and Name			*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col W. P. Crowley	...	...	34 Sig Regt (V)
Lt Col R. J. J. Ellis	...	...	QG Signals
Lt Col R. J. Steed	...	...	School of Infantry
Maj A. G. A. Brittenden	...	...	SANGCOM
Capt J. A. Clare	...	...	ATR Bassingbourn
Capt R. M. Dobson	...	...	55 Sig Sqn (V)
Capt D. P. Dolling	...	...	225 Sig Sqn
Capt R. J. Freeman	...	...	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt J. S. Gunning	...	...	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para)
Capt S. P. Moffat	...	...	237 Sig Sqn
Lt L. D. Burrell	...	...	2 Sig Regt
Lt A. P. J. Coulston	...	...	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt D. W. Edwards	...	...	2 Sig Regt
Lt J. P. Hazelwood	...	...	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt R. J. Lovett	...	...	21 Sig Regt (AS)
Lt K. McKenzie	...	...	ATR Bassingbourn
Lt R. S. Moir	...	...	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Lt K. A. Reynolds	...	...	ATR Bassingbourn
Lt A. E. Talbot	...	...	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Lt L. Taylor	...	...	7 Sig Regt
Lt H. J. Woods	...	...	14 Sig Regt (EW)
2Lt G. J. H. Cheong-Leen	...	...	21 Sig Regt (AS)
2Lt A. J. Gray	...	...	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt A. S. F. Hutton	...	...	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt S. J. Short	...	...	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

MOVEMENTS–CORRECTION

A/SSgt J. Alger has been posted to Alpha Tp, 24 Airmob Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210) and not 30 Sig Regt as published in the June issue of *The Wire*.

PUBLICITY EVENTS 1995

August		
2	Burwarton Show	White Helmets
5-6	Gatcombe Park Horse Trials	White Helmets
11-12	Shrewsbury Flower Show	White Helmets
13	Rochdale VJ Day	White Helmets
17	Denbigh and Flint Show	White Helmets
19	Derby County Show	White Helmets
20	Sunderland Steam Show	White Helmets
23	Gillingham Show	White Helmets
27-28	Eye Show	White Helmets
September		
2-8	German Tour 2	White Helmets
9-10	Braintree	White Helmets
23	Calor Gas, Slough	White Helmets
October		
14	56 Sig Sqn (V) Eastbourne Reunion	R Signals Band
November		
12	Remembrance Day Blandford	R Signals Band

The calendar is accurate at the time of going to press, but you are advised to contact the Units concerned to ensure that there have been no changes before embarking on long journeys. Confirmation and information can be obtained on the following numbers:

White Helmets (01258) 48 2365 R
R. Signals Band (01258) 48 2778

AN ALTERNATIVE EVENT FOR THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Not wishing to be outdone by the bravura performance of the Corps Guard at Buckingham Palace a young Officer of the Corps decided to celebrate the 75th Anniversary in style.

Having attended the Corps Anniversary Dinner at the London Hilton he set out to make his mark on the occasion by marching down the middle of the Mall, at 0500 hours, in dinner jacket with medals, BACKWARDS!!

Accompanied by two trusted supporters–to keep him on the straight and very narrow white line–he strode out from Admiralty Arch. Halfway down the Mall the three were accosted by two of Sir Paul Condon's finest in a patrol car:

'Good Morning Gentlemen. Are you all right?'
'Why yes Officers. We're just playing Silly B.....s.'
'Oh, OK then.'

With that the boys in blue roared off down the Mall without a backward glance. They are obviously used to black tie clad, backwards jay walkers!

The difficulty of this feat should not be underestimated; walking backwards with arms to shoulder height after an extremely good dinner, three hours in a Leicester Square disco and a Chop Suey 'breakfast' requires the kind of coordination rarely seen outside secure mental institutions. Yet, the march was completed successfully in an almost military manner with all necessary drill movements performed by the book.

Is this a new entry for the Guinness Book of Records?

ROYAL SIGNALS 75TH ANNIVERSARY RED WINE

11 Sig Regt has commissioned a Red Wine in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Royal Signals. The label is painted on to the bottle. The wine, which can only be purchased via the PRI 11 Sig Regt at a cost of £7.50 per Btl (750ml), or £84.50 per case, is either good to drink now or to lay down until the 100th anniversary or even to keep as a memento. It is sure to attract collector status just as the 50th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings bottle has done.

For further details and order forms contact either: The PRI on Blandford Mil 2236, Civil 01258 48 2236 or the RSM on Blandford Mil 2240 Civil 01258 48 2240.

DEATHS

Butterworth–Maj E. Butterworth–served 1956-90–died 19 May 1995
Cooper–Lt Col R. E. Cooper–served 1931-71–died 14 June 1995
Haycock–Col M. B. Haycock CBE, TD, DL–died 1 July 1995
Morley–LCpl D. Morley–served 1993-95–died 3 July 1995
Pratt–Maj H. W. Pratt–served 1932-45–died 14 May 1995
Tant–Capt A. H. Tant–served 1932-59–died 17 May 1995
Tiffin–Capt F. V. Tiffin–served 1943-46–died 9 April 1995
Stockdale–Pte (Mrs) B. Stockdale–served 1942-45–died 25 May 1995

OBITUARIES

Constantine–Maj H. Constantine who served in the Corps from 1927-48 died on 28 May 1995. He served with 2 Para Sigs K Section and was a regular attender at the Caythorpe reunions. He was also a life member of the Association. We send our condolences to his widow.

Hornby–Bill Hornby. With sorrow, Southport Royal Signals Association members learned of Chairman **Bill Hornby**'s sudden death on 9 June, aged 74.

He joined the Army in 1938 and the Royal Signals in 1940, serving as a Sergeant with 11 Div and 19 Div and was wounded during the Burma Campaign. He left the Army in 1946.

Bill was Chairman of Southport Branch for eight years and an enthusiastic supporter of anything promoting a good image of 'the Signals'.

He will be remembered for his untiring efforts, even when ill, planning social functions and fund-raising activities.

His dedicated work merited special recognition from RHQ and in May 1992 he was awarded Honorary Membership of the Association for outstanding service to the Branch. **Bill** was also Chairman of the Southport Conservative Club during the years 1993 and 1994.

Two hundred mourners attended his funeral at Southport Unitarian Church on 16 June. The Standard Bearers of the Royal Signals Association, the Burma Star, the Dunkirk Veterans, the Royal Engineers and the Royal British Legion Burscough were present and members of the Associations formed a Guard of Honour. The Pall Bearers were members of the Signals Association. The Service was conducted by the **Rev. John Roberts**, Minister of the Church and Signal's Padre.

Members of Southport Branch have lost not only a Chairman but a Comrade who will be sadly missed. Sympathy is extended to his widow **Thelma** and all his family.

Kendrick–WO2 Phil Kendrick. It is with regret that we announce the death of **Phil Kendrick** on 9 May 1995 at his home in St Annes-on-Sea after a six month illness.

Phil joined the Corps in 1939 with the TA in Manchester. He was soon posted to West Africa and eventually went with 81 (WA) Division to Burma where he saw active service with an Artillery Unit.

After the war he served with Gurkha Signals in Malaya, training Gurkhas as Radio Operators. He served with various units at home and abroad in 2 Div, 4 Div and 1 Div in BAOR and Cyprus.

He completed his service in 1967 where he started, with the TA in Manchester.

He will be sadly missed by his many friends and we send condolences to his dear wife **Peggy** and children **Christine** and **Phillip**.

McCount–Mr Phil McCount died peacefully on 6 June 1995, at his home in the Wirral. **Phil** served in the Corps from 1942-46 mainly with the first Army in Italy. A member of Liverpool Branch RSA he received his 50 year Badge in 1993. He is survived by his wife **Sal** and son **Phillip**.

Morley–LCpl Dominic Morley. It is with great regret that 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt announce the sad death of **Dominic Morley** on 3 July 1995, who died from a gunshot wound whilst participating in a Regimental field firing exercise.

Dominic Morley joined the Corps as a specialist operator on 5 April 1993. He completed his Tele Tech (R) training at 8 Sig Regt and joined 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt and was promoted in July 1994.

Dominic worked in 212 Sig Sqn as part of a closely knit team in the Technical Workshop. He was a very personable and intelligent young man who was an avid reader. He was well-liked and respected by all and never found it too much trouble to help others. He had recently passed his Class 3-2 upgrading exam and was on track to be promoted to Cpl. He enjoyed taking part in outdoor pursuits and particularly liked cross country running. **Dominic** will be sadly missed by all members of the Regiment. Our deepest sympathies go out to his family and friends.

Parfitt–Capt George Edward Parfitt served in the Corps from 1945-70 and died on 11 June 1995. A life member of the Association since 1960 he will be missed by friends and family. We send our condolences to his widow.

Robinson–LCpl Simon Robinson. It is with much regret that we report the death of **LCpl Simon Robertson** 20 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (200) on 10 June 1995, in Paderborn.

Spivey–Sgt H. 'Hocker' **Spivey**, 'Z' Section, 1 AB Div Sigs died on 19 June 1995. He served with the unit in North Africa, Italy, Arnhem and Norway. He was a founder member of the 1 AB Div Sigs OCA and always gave a dissertation and a toast to absent friends at annual reunions. He leaves a widow, **Gladys**.

Many readers of *The Wire* will be saddened by the news of the death of **Mrs Margaret Buchan** (better known as 'Maggie').

Maj (Retd) Richard Hamilton writes: **Maggie Harper** died suddenly at home in Shetland, on 7 June 1995. She was well-known to members of NATO FSS (Shetland), and to many visiting VIPs, as the Landlady of the Meadowvale Hotel, Sumburgh. Originally from Buchan, near Aberdeen, she and her husband **Jim**, a native Shetlander, had owned and run the hotel, overlooking Sumburgh Airport, since the late 1960s. There were no frills and fancies at the Meadowvale, just lashings of plain wholesome fare, garnished with **Maggie**'s unique style of welcome to her 'Army Boys'. Be they JNCO or General, they were all addressed in the same friendly manner, with a broad Aberdeenshire accent. **Jim** the landlord, who survives his wife, may be remembered as a more reticent character. When I last spoke to her, some weeks before, she asked as always about her Army visitors of days gone by. 'They were a fine laddies ye ken, even the High-Heid-Yins', she said. Maggie died in her 79th year, and will be sorely missed by her husband, her family, and a generation of the Corps, whose travels took them to the Northern Isles of Shetland. **Maj (Retd) David Collins**, **Howard Loates**, **David Edwards**, **Bob Porter**, **Clive Wadley**, and I, attended the funeral at Dunrossness Kirk, together with a large congregation of Shetland Folk. Sincere condolences have been passed to **Jim** and the family.

REMEMBERING . . .

In this anniversary year,
those members of the Corps who lost their lives in the service of their country
and those who have died subsequently, those made prisoners-of-war,
those who suffered physically and mentally, and their families
. . . we remember them

NOTICES

CORPS DATES

2 September Corps Luncheon (North), Catterick
12 October Master's Guest Night including Hon Colonels Briefing, Blandford
3 November Corps Scottish Dinner, Glasgow
9 November Field of Remembrance, Westminster
23 November Royal Signals Institution London Lecture, London
19 December Corps Carol Service, London

RHQ ROYAL SIGNALS

RHQ Royal Signals re-locates to Blandford on 11 September 1995. The address will be–RHQ Royal Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.

Notes for the October issue of *The Wire* should be sent to the present address, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD to arrive by 15 August latest.

SAPPER/SIGNALS DINNER–14 NOVEMBER 1995

The Sapper/Signals Dinner is being revived in this our 75th Anniversary year and will be held at Chatham on Tuesday 14 November. Many old hands will recall such dinners of yore in far flung outposts so it is appropriate that attendance at this year's dinner should be drawn from a wide cross section of both Corps. We have agreed that it will be a 75-a-side event (appropriate figures this year) and that each Corps will have 25 younger officers (captain and below), 25 more senior officers (Major and above) and 25 retired officers. Serving officers may include both regular and volunteers. The cost of the dinner is expected to be about £25 a head and there will doubtless be some form of after dinner entertainment, in traditional Sapper/Signals style. Those wishing to attend this event are invited to apply to the Assistant Regimental Secretary at RHQ by the end of September.

OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S DINNER 24 NOVEMBER 1995

The next President's Dinner will be held at Welbeck College on Saturday 25 November 1995.

Dress is Mess Kit for serving officers and Black Tie for retired officers. The cost will be £14.00. Timings are 1930 for 2000 hours. 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, Tel 01909 476326.

Applications should arrive at least three weeks prior to the Dinner.

WHERNSIDE MANOR–THE ROYAL SIGNALS ADVENTUROUS TRAINING CENTRE

Whernside Manor is the Royal Signals' adventurous training centre and is now under command of the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate. The manor is situated in the heart of the beautiful Yorkshire Dales and is within easy reach of many adventurous training areas. These activities include caving, abseiling, climbing, high and low level walking, mountain biking and canoeing, with tailored programmes varying in severity. The centre can accommmodate 60 personnel and the staff can assist you in training pursuits.

Royal Signals account for 40% of the annual bookings with a generous discount given to Corps members. The Manor is open all year and your requirements can be discussed before any detailed planning takes place. Bookings may be made for families and in addition there are self-catering facilities.

It is the aim of the Corps to sell Whernside Manor because of our move to the 'Centre of Excellence' at Blandford. Currently the 'housing climate' is not right for a profitable sale and so it is continuing as a training centre.

To take advantage of these excellent facilities you should contact **Capt Mark Finneran** on 01539 625213 or write to Whernside Manor, Dent, Cumbria LA10 5RE.

KIWI HALF MARATHON AND FAMILY FUN RUN 2 SEPTEMBER 1995

On 2 September at 1000hrs the first Kiwi Half Marathon Charity event will take place within Bulford Camp, this is situated just off the A303 Andover to Salisbury and will be signposted from the exit of the A303.

The aim of the race is to raise money for the Soldiers, Sailors and Airman's Association (SSAFA) and the Regimental Charities of 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt which is based in Bulford and will administer the event.

It is hoped that the race will attract many runners and their families into Bulford as following the race a village fête entitled the Bulford Fun Day will commence on the Village Green starting at 1300hrs. This fête will have all kinds of attractions to suit both young and old.

Back to the race itself–it comprises a multi terrain course across Salisbury Plain. This will provide an interesting variety of difficulty from easy to hard going. Bearing in mind that in September the ground may be soft it would be advisable for runners to bring spikes, just in case.

In order to cater for everyone there will also be two Fun Runs running concurrently with the main race. Every competitor will receive a certificate with medals for winners of each event. If you would like to take part, or send a donation, write for details or an entry form sending an A4 stamped addressed envelope to: **Mr Dennis Budd**, Race Secretary, 1 Gunner Street, Bulford Camp, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 9NY.

We look forward to hearing from all runners of all ages and abilities throughout the South East of England.

FOR SALE

THE 28TH (BR) SIGNAL REGIMENT (NORTHAG) COMMEMORATION PLATE

The 28th Signal Regiment (NORTHAG) commemoration plate was commissioned to mark the disbandment of the Regiment in December 1993. It shows the NATO and NORTHAG Motifs, Corps Colours, Corps Cap Badge and the Fahnenband, all relevant emblems of the Regiment. The reverse of the plate shows a short history surrounded by a Roll of Honour of the 14 Commanding Officers of the Regiment.

A limited number of these plates are available from PRI 280 (UK) Signal Squadron, BFPO 35 at a cost of £38.64.



RECORDINGS BY THE CORPS BAND

The Band of the The Royal Corps of Signals presents its newest recording 'The Signaller' to celebrate the Royal Corps of Signals 75th Anniversary year. The recording is made up of three sections. Firstly 'Music for a Guard Mounting', portraying the band on duty leading the Queen's Guard formed from the Corps for a period of Ceremonial Duties at Buckingham Palace.

Secondly a concert programme 'In Celebration'. The band is renowned for its fine soloists, therefore not only featuring the full ensemble but many of the band's outstanding present day instrumentalists.

Finally the 'History of The Royal Corps of Signals'. **Maj David Wall** produced this concise History of The Royal Corps of Signals for the 75th Anniversary year. No such summary can present a full history of such an essential Corps over its illustrious existance but it does give some idea of its development out of the Royal Corps of Engineers, the reasons behind its formation and, the spirit of its men and women. The narrator and musical arranger is **Maj David Wall**.

Price of CD–£10.00, cassette–£6.00.

Contact address and number are:- Band of The Royal Corps of Signals, 11 Signal Regiment, The Royal School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8RH. Telephone:- Blandford Military (737) 2445/2425, Fax (737) 2445. Civilian (01258) 48 2445/2425.

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"Thinking of you love from Phil"

"To Mum and Dad on your Anniversary love from John and Sarah"

"To Caroline and Steve Congratulations on your wedding from Bob and Jane"

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

During the period 1 April 1994-31 March 1995 the Association assisted 12,241 men and women with their resettlement and placed 4,903 in employment. Of those placed 2,738 were men and women from the Army and 279 were from The Royal Corps of Signals.

As you know, the RFEA works together with the Tri-Service Resettlement Organisation, Services Employment Network, Officers' Association and the Department of Employment, as part of the Forces Resettlement Service.

Our task is to assist all ex-regular servicemen and women who did not hold commissioned rank, who served with good character for a minimum of three years (or less if discharged on medical grounds), to find employment at the end of their engagements. We take a long term interest and can, as a registered charity, offer our free counselling service to them throughout their working lives.

Our Employment Officers maintain close contact with local employers and Jobcentres, also offering them a free service, from our 39 Branches spread throughout the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland. Their addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Resettlement Officers, Corps and Regimental Associations, Jobcentres, Yellow Pages and local telephone directories.

Sadly only half of those eligible to register with the Association do so. I would urge you to draw the attention of the men and women in the Corps who are still serving, but more especially those who have left, to the special service we offer.

LETTERS

From: Mr John Jeffreys

Dear Sir,

I was somewhat amused by the article in *The Wire* concerning an 'ancient piece of equipment' eg a cable wagon at the RHA Barracks in 1941.

When I joined 1st London Corps Signals TA (later 2 Corps Signals) at Fulham House near Putney Bridge these wagons were our standard means of laying cable. We did this very happily at weekends and summer camps, often around Richmond Park and Wimbledon Common.

They were drawn by a 30cwt Morris commercial truck, having six wheels the two rear pairs could be linked with steel tracks provided to turn them into a half track for rough terrain.

This assembly was in full use until our summer camp in 1938 at Corfe Castle where we received our new mechanical cable layers.

When we were mobilised in 1939 I had occasion to return to Fulham House and saw ours standing in its bay in the yard. We went off to France that week and I never saw Fulham House again.

These wagons were a modified type, the originals having shafts for horses. Horses had long gone by 1936, although there were some older people about who had been through riding school at Duke of York's in Chelsea. After all we were cavalry you know–I went off to war in 1939 in riding breeches and spurs!

I saw a cable wagon at work in 1942 just outside Bombay drawn by a mule laying cable beside the road at a rate of knots!

Hope that you will find the foregoing of interest.

Yours faithfully

John Jeffreys, ex 2 Corps Signals & 2 Para Bde

Oak Ridge House,
Sutton Mandeville, Salisbury,
Wiltshire SP3 5L

From: Mr J. Johnson

Dear Sir,

I have just started taking *The Wire* after an absence of many years, and find it fascinating reading.

My Regimental No. is 2321840, enlisted 12 January 1932. After training at Catterick, I was posted to Aldershot 1 Div Sigs. I was an OSBIII and a Lineman CT.

This is in reply to **J. Y. Templeton**'s query of the action of a cable wagon; at full gallop. Yes, I have laid cable at the gallop, on Laffins Plain, but never in action. **Cpl** (Pincher) **Martin** was our No. 1, I was the No. 3. I must admit, it was only for about half a mile, quite sufficient, but what an experience! Not for the faint hearted which brings me to a query of my own. Has anyone any idea what happened to the mechanical cable layer? The 'spewer' was what we called it. I know it was around in to World War 2 because I was in charge of one; but there isn't anything about it in the Museum.

In case anybody out there remembers those days, and maybe me, **Johnny Johnson**, my brother joined up in 1928 in the Corps, with exactly 2000 recruits, between his number and mine, his 2319840, mine 2321840.

I was with 2 Div Sigs right through WW2 until demob in 1946.

Yours faithfully

J. Johnson

LEGACIES AND DONATIONS TO THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

The call on the benevolent funds of the Association, to support members and ex-members of the Corps in need, has grown steadily. At the same time, the income to the Association, which depends heavily on the serving Corps subscribing One Day's Pay per year, has been in decline as Corps numbers have decreased. The Association is always grateful for donations, which are a very appropriate way of commemorating an ex-member of the Corps. The Association has greatly benefited, too, from legacies: please remember the Association in your will.

NEWS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

XV HQNI and 15 Sig Regt BFPO 801

CO **Lt Col A. H. Johnstone**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) D. Deegan**

The Regiment is pleased to announce the following recent successes:
NI Major Units Orienteering Champions 1995.
NI Skill at Arms Meeting 1995 (B Series):
Regular Major Units Championship–first.
Regular Major Units Rifle Team Championship–first.
Section Match–first.
Pistol Team Match–first.
NI Athletics Championships:
Station Ladies Team–Inter Unit Champions.
100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 3000m, 110m hurdles, Discus, Javelin and Relay Team–first place in all. Second place in: 1500, Shot, High Jump and Long Jump.



Cpl Sue McCall, Captain of HQNI and 15 Sig Regt ladies athletic team being presented with the winning trophy by Lt Gen Sir Roger Wheeler



NI Skill-at-Arms Meeting 95–15 Sig Regt Team
Back row *(L to R)*: WO1 (RSM) Deegan, LCpl Eckett, Sgt Anderson, Sgt Dodd (Coach), Capt Berry RLC, LCpl Holbrook, Lt Col Johnstone (CO)
Front row: Cpl Smith, LCpl Derrick, Cpl Menzies, Cfn Kinta, Pte King, Sig Jenkins



HQNI and 15 Sig Regt NI Orienteering Champions 1995
Back row *(L to R)*: WO2 Harden RA, Sgt Fisher, SSgt Cheetham RLC, LCpl Volak RLC
Front row *(L to R)*: Lt Col McEvoy ALC, Maj Bancroft, WO1 (YofS) Benson, Cpl Stroudley
Absent on Duty: Capt Dickinson WFR, Capt Sunderland, SSgts Jordan, Cox, Sgts Moore, Parkhurst, Sig Grant

COMMCEN TROOP

Best wishes go to **SSgt Wilde** (neé **Carthy**) our Troop SSgt on her recent marriage.

On the work front, due to the refurbishment of the Commcen we had to pick up our Trends and move down to the ROC Bunker. It has certainly been an experience (a bad one) and we all look forward to moving back to our new modern Commcen at the end of May.

The Troop has recently held a most successful families and friends barbecue, the weather held out for us and the food was lovingly prepared by **YofS Walesby** and **LCpl Kieran Jukes** (do your wives know you can cook so well?) music, entertainment, children's nanny and general dogsbody was **Sig Sheila Chalmers** without whom none of it would have been possible! The event was organised by **Cpl Britt Dahle** and the Troop would like to thank the Tp Comd and the troops for turning up and making it such a memorable occasion.

225 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj T. C. Wadey**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) B. D. Payne**

A quiet period for the Squadron in all areas, the exception being achievements gained on the sports field. But first the Squadron offers a warm welcome to **WO1 Mick Hartley** and family, **Sgt Jane Fitz-Patrick** who comes to the Squadron on promotion, **WO2 Bill Simpson**, **Sgt Walling, Cpls Walker, Rossall** and **Bibby**. A fond and memorable farewell go to **WO2 Karl Shead, SSgts Roger Coleman**, 'H' **Kiertzner, Troy Phillips, Phil Sandford, Cpls Bottomley, Kier** and **Graham**.

The Squadron is proud of its sporting achievements in the following competitions: 24 May 1995 COs Cup Cricket–Winners, 19 April 1995 COs Cup Athletics–Winners, 19 April 1995 Mercury Cup Athletics–Runners up. Congratulations to all of the Squadron Gladiators who took part.

A mention also to **Cpl Lees, Sgt McNulty** and **LCpl Cherry** for their time and effort in organising the Squadron's contribution to the Station Easter Youth Activities outing on 13 April 1995. An excellent time was had by all and the children look forward to your next outing!

233 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj M. P. Llewellyn**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Gray**

The Squadron bids a fond farewell to **SSgt (SQMS) Smallman** on completion of 23 years' service, and wish him good luck for the future.

Recent successes include winning the CO's Cup rugby and Province-wide Mercury Cup for athletics. Starring performances were given by **Sgt** 'Rennie' **Renshaw** in leading the rugby team to victory over the Auld Enemy (225) in the rugby, and **SSgt Keane** in winning the 5000m by a street, having just stepped off the plane–welcome. Without further ado, news from the Troops:

TM (GREEN) TROOP

Since the beginning of the year and the TOT's sadly misplaced quote, 'We'll slaughter you in the swimming', we have had a fair measure of success in the McKelvie inter-Troop trophy, winning the orienteering and athletics. **Sgt** 'Sport Billy' **Renshaw** and **LCpl** 'Cossie' **Costello** playing important roles. To those in the know the workload has not reduced and we have the additional tasks of bringing everything up to date with regard to records, SOPs, TDP, OJT notes and any other TLA the TOT can think of!

We welcome into the fold **SSgt Keane, Sgt Harboard**, the unseen but already trained **Cpl Hanson** and **LCpl Fraser** and bid farewell to **Sgt Dave Cook, Cpls Lorna Daniels, Ali Young** and **Paul Drysdale**.

The Troop has been extremely productive this year with daughters **Stacey** to **WO2 (FofS) Ken** and **June Dodd, Emily** to **Sgt Sian** and **Marie Alexander-High** and sons **Daniel** to **Sgt John** and **Elsie Sutton** and **James** to **Sgt Brian** and **Carole Large**.

INDIA TROOP
ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

We welcome **SSgt (FofS) Alec Scott** who joins us from a string of cushy postings, his last being 32 Sig Regt (V). Welcome to the real world of FofS! Sadly we bid farewell to **SSgt (FofS) Ian Matthews** posted to RSA Larkhill.

TROOP FOOTBALL

The Troop's consistently poor performances on the football field looked to be coming to an end when the lads lifted the much prized Challenge Plate from IDM Coy in a fiercely contested five a side tournament. The team's true form came through again, however, in April with three consecutive defeats at the hands of PGF (7–1), 177 Sp Pl RMP (2–0) and Def Pl (3–2) before our much awaited first win in a full sized game with a 4–3 victory over the Regimental MT. There can be only one conclusion from these results, that Manager **Sgt Andy Osborne**'s job is about as safe as Brian Horton's.

III 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (203) BFPO 809

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd **Maj G. J. T. Rafferty**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) D. E. Hall**

SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS

The Squadron continues to perform its operational role, the job may have changed for the infantry, with reduced patrolling, but communications are still required across the Brigade area. So it's business as usual. However, we have managed to clock up some successes in the sporting field in the last few months. The Squadron team won the Minor Units Tickle Fitness Trophy. This was presented to the Squadron Commander by the Commander Land Forces NI, **Maj Gen A. C. De L. Leask**. This was obviously a good omen as we then went on to win the Minor Units Skill-at-Arms Meeting Championship, the Minor Unit Athletics Championship, the Minor Units Football (league), and last but, not least, the NI Minor Units Squash League. The latter was won by the Brigade Commander, **Brig C. R. Watt OBE** playing a blinder in the final match.



The Sqn Comd: Maj Gordon Rafferty receiving the Minor Units Tickle Fitness Trophy from CLF (NI): Maj Gen A. C. de L Leask

SHQ

SHQ, the heart of the Squadron, the hub of the wheel, the hole in the doughnut and other such compliments, seem to have more work now than ever before, but we are still managing to get away occasionally. **LCpl** 'Windy' **Miller** got away on a three week UNICOM System Administrator's Course at Worthy Down only to come back after three weeks of stress, late nights and very hard work to find out 'all change', we might not need a Systems Administrator after all. **Pte** 'Danny' **Flatley** has been seen recently trying to slip some work in around his leave. **Pte** 'Tommy' **Harper** has settled well and has even managed to get home since he has been here. **Sgt** 'Geordie' **Shields** has been on more leave. We try to explain it's 42 days a year he gets, not a quarter, but he is adamant.

LCpl 'Nikki' **Wallace** and **Pte** 'Tommy' **Harper** are on driver training moment. We have warned all the locals and cars are staying off the road!

With the summer season beginning **Pte** 'Danny' **Flatley** is going on Adventure Training in France, all is well.

TM TROOP

The Troop has recently gone through a vast change in manpower seeing the comings and goings of both riggers and technicians alike. This has not affected our work situation due to the professionalism of our expert ops team, senior rigger and Troop SSgt.

We are now looking forward to the summer (which was a Sunday last year) when our boat will be put to good use by **Sgt Brett** 'Popeye' **Palmer** who recently passed his boat handler's course; no doubt we'll see some of **Cpl** 'All Sports' **Woods**' talents being thrown around (literally) on Loch Neagh.

ARRIVALS

The Troop would like to say a big TM welcome to **Sgt** 'Baz' **Fowler, Sgt** 'Billy' **Smart** and family, **Cpl** 'Yorkie' **Sowden** and family and **Cpl Jeff Hopkinson**.

FAREWELLS

You know you'll miss us, good luck to you all, **Cpls Mick Rhodes, Weaver, Galloway** and **Steve Smith** and family.

Congratulations and good luck on your Foreman's Course to **Sgt Steve Ruxton** and to **Sgt Eric O'Halloran** and family.

NORTHERN IRELAND SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING 1995

Capt George Wilson, Lt Steve Goodwin, Cpl Andy Carrick and **LCpl Danny Steele** were selected from a cast of thousands to make up a shooting team for NISAAM 95. As is always the case in these situations work commitments meant that very little time was available for training but with the dedication of **Cpl** 'Scouse' **Hale** as the team's coach steady progress was made.

There followed four days of team competition at Ballykinler and this produced some very respectable results mainly due to the team's consistent results. The team won the Minor Unit Rifle Team

Championships, the Regular Minor Unit Championship and the Individual Rifle Championship in the B Series (iron sights) competition. There was a sterling performance by **Capt George Wilson** who gained first place in the Individual Minor Unit NIAPWT and the Moving Target matches whilst **LCpl Danny Steele** came a very creditable third in both events.

The team returned to Armagh jubilant, laden down with a heap of silver cups and shields and wearing Cheshire cat grins.



The successful NISAAM Minor Unit Winners:
(L to R): Capt George Wilson, LCpl Dan Steele, Cpl Andy Carrick and Lt Steve Goodwin. Q–Queenie didn't shoot!!

ATHLETICS

With the athletics season once more upon us, the Sqn Comd, **Maj Gordon Rafferty**, asked for a volunteer to captain the athletics team. **WO2 (YofS) Kev Fowler** looked around the room and realised that he was the only other person in there, he therefore thought it would be a good idea to volunteer!

Although the team has been hampered by a lack of facilities in both Armagh and Portadown, and also by the operational nature of the Squadron's role, it has to date entered two events. The Mercury Cup hosted by 15 Sig Regt, in which the team came a creditable third; two outstanding performances on the day were **LCpl Steve Stranks** in the Triple Jump, Long Jump, and 100m and **LCpl** 'Tommo' **Thomas** in the Javelin.

The team then entered the Northern Ireland Minor Units Athletics Championship, and to the surprise of many, won. There were some sterling efforts on the track with the team only dropping one point all day. However, the Squadron had to draw on some of its 'old Boys' to produce the goods: **WO2 (YofS) Kev Fowler** in the 400m and 400m Hurdles, **SSgt Dave Buckingham** in the 800m and 1500m, and **Cpl** 'Geordie' **Green** in the 100m and showing a great deal of potential in winning the 5000m was **Pte Tommy Harper** from SHQ, they are now off to the UK Championships.

COMMS TROOP

Much movement of personnel means that we have had to say farewell to **Cpl Bill Haley and Cpl Chris Green** on posting. We welcome **Sig Mick Robbie** in place of **Rob Oakman**.

We also have to welcome back from Army Boxing **Sig** 'Kirky' **Kirkbride**. Would someone please tell him to take his gloves off when typing.

Congratulations to **LCpl Rachel Simpson** on passing her B1, **LCpl Jan John** who is now licensed to be on the roads in a car and **LCpl Wendy Moore** who can mop up the aftermath with her First Aid Instructor qualification.

In a last ditch attempt to get out of the block, **Sig Kev O'Leary** has married, we welcome his wife **Alex** and wish them a good tour.

On the social front the Troop had an 'educational' trip to the famous Bushmills Distillery which enabled us to get into the 'spirit' of Ireland. Very soon a crack team of intrepid explorers will depart for the French Alps where **Lt Steve Goodwin** will be dragging them up mountains, cliffs and glaciers with the occasional stop for refreshments!

QM'S DEPT

Apart from the normal 'everyday' work, we have been employed in some department modifications. These were proposed and carried out by the new QM, **Capt W. Heelan BEM**, who was absent on his QM's course, to avoid all that ugly mess!

The department has represented the Squadron in various sporting events:

NISAAM–**Cpls Carrick, Steele**–NI Minor Unit Champions.

Football–**SSgt Ashton, Cpl Maughan, LCpl Nevison**–NI Minor Unit Champions.

Athletics–**Sgt Gajny, Rfn Hooper**–NI Minor Unit Champions.

Golf–**WO2 (RQMS) Stanton** 'Of course'.

We have also enjoyed a department barbecue. Special mention to **WO2 (RQMS) Stanton**, who kept us all entertained with his cooking skills and **Cpl Rod Maughan**'s soccer demo, failing to score a goal against a five year old girl, though managing to attain six stitches in the forehead.

Escape for two weeks Adventure Training in the South of France for **SSgt Ashton** and **Cpl Steele**. 'How will we all cope?'

Finally, we say farewell to **Cpl** 'Chalky' **White** who leaves for civilian life. Good luck and best wishes for the future.

NORTHERN IRELAND MINOR UNITS FOOTBALL WINNERS

The Squadron football team had a very good season; it started off last October with a fine win over Musgrave Park and 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218). These successes were followed up with wins over 46 NI Wksp and FIU. The hardest test was yet to come playing away to 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (213). The Squadron won the game 5–2 with another outstanding performance by **LCpl** 'Harry' **Harris**. The Squadron went in to the new year with hard games to come against Depot R Irish and RAF Aldergrove, both resulting in fine wins. The Squadron did lose its next match away to 175 Pro Coy but in our next game the Squadron won the league.

A special mention must go to **SSgt Brian Ashton RLC** for his coaching, **SSgt** 'Elvis' **Buckingham** (Captain) who worked hard on the pitch throughout the season, and for his administering and organising the team. We now look forward to next season and hope we can repeat this success.



The Athletic Team
Front row (L to R): LCpl Thomas, Pte Harper, SSgt Buckingham, Capt Walsh
Back row (L to R): Cpl Wood, Cpl Green, WO2 (YofS) Fowler (Capt), Sgt Ruxton, LCpl Stranks

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218)
BFPO 807

Sqn Comd **Maj S. D. Hodges**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) D. S. Toon**

SHQ TROOP
Tp Comd **SSgt P. Kerr**

A sad farewell lunch was held by the Troop with a beach barbecue theme. On their way out were the Chief Clerk, **SSgt Paul Kerr**, the finance SNCO **Sgt Dave Simons** and **Mrs Angela Long** the Squadron finance clerk and we wish them all the best in their new postings and all success in the future. The weather was very untypical of Northern Ireland for the barbecue and sun glasses were needed not only for the glare of the long awaited summer sunshine but also for the shirt that **WO1 (RSM) Dave Toon** was wearing. Alcohol flowed freely and the camaraderie was high especially for the speeches where **SSgt Dave Simons**, explaining his success as a finance NCO, stated 'I provide a service and have no need for rank.'

The Squadron has recently burst upon the 20th Century with the arrival of UNICOM. Much banging and drilling has accompanied the installation of the terminals and much gnashing of teeth when it was explained to the UNICOM team that the poor attendance at their instructional course for users was due to our other slightly more pressing commitments. But as the RSM expressed when offered the course, 'Why do I need to do that when I have sergeants and corporals to tell me what I need to know!

TM TROOP
Tp Comd **SSgt K. Simmons**

LANYARD TROPHY PRACTICE
by LCpl Ian Bibby

After months of careful planning we set off to do some Lanyard Trophy training on the route which the competition will take in the Weymouth area. To date little training had taken place in Londonderry mainly for the lack of hills but also because after half a dozen times around the parade square most of the team were too dizzy to continue. So the training session was going to be doubly important both as a route recce and as some crucial training. The team set off in good spirits and the 'chunder book' was opened in the hope of some juicy phrases.

Having left Londonderry at a time when most normal people are still wrapped up in their beds, because **Capt James Anderson** was applying that well used officer time appreciation (work out the time for the route, double it and add the first number you thought of when you woke up this morning), we arrived at the airport quite a bit too early, which was a surprise! We all filed after the boss, like lost school children, to the check-in desk. We blended in naturally at this busy commuter airport as only trained soldiers can with our short hair cuts, rucksacks and various highly fashionable items of attire such as desert boots. Still we don't think anyone noticed us especially when we claimed to be a male voice choir on tour.

The transport wasn't quite on cue at the other end as the hire car companies didn't know who was supposed to be giving us what and we had to play 'frogger' across a dual carriageway to reach the right hire firm. The minibus which we got eventually was spot on and we set off on the longish trip down to Blandford Camp. The weather was great, the company was jovial and all was going swimmingly until we hit the traffic queues. The complexities of queue swapping were proven again because just as you enter the moving lane of the traffic the lane you were in moves faster than you are. Changing lanes is not big or clever so don't do it.

Accommodation had been arranged for us by **WO2 (RQMS) Stonier** of the School Regiment Blandford, for whom we are grateful, and Blandford was a good base from which not only to do our route recce but also for a couple of nights on the town. The route recce went well with **Sgt Des Eldridge** spending the whole of Saturday with his eyes glued to a mobile TV watching his beloved Everton win the FA Cup, whilst bumping into a variety of trees and boulders in the process. The team members were obviously not country boys as **LCpl Spud** 'Mensa' **Tait** asked the question which seemed on everybody's lips 'Do cows bite?' In response **WO1 (RSM) Dave Toon** soon showed that years of training could easily translate car drills into cow drills and set about clearing the pastures as if he was home on the range. **Capt James Anderson** completely disproved the theory that the most dangerous thing known to man is an officer with a map when he was the only one who realised that the team had got itself geographically misplaced. (This is not what **LCpl Bibby** wrote but if you can't change what has been written what is the use of being the *Wire* Officer?–**Capt Anderson**). He was, however, caught out when over the course of the second days' tabbing various articles, such as logs and boulders, were added to his bergen until eventually he had half a forest hidden in there. His language was quite graphic when he discovered why his bergen was the second heaviest in the team as he reached the beach at the end of the day, it was in fact, only the second heaviest because **Sig George Hignett** brought along all his worldly possessions eventually carrying the combined weight of the team.

The weekend went extremely well and although 264 and 216 Squadrons won't be quaking in their boots that 8 Infantry Brigade have entered a team, the team enjoyed their practice and will enjoy the event even more.

COMMS TROOP
Tp Comd **SSgt J. Crabb**

On the evening of 10 May a CSE show was held at the Waterside Inn for all members of the Squadron. This proved to be a great success.

Only a few congratulations this month; to **LCpl Scotty Paul** on his marriage to **Geraldine** and to **Sgt Des Eldridge** on passing his Yeoman's entrance exam.

MT TROOP
Tp Comd **WO2 (MTWO) P. Peart**

The MT has said farewell to a lot of members over the last few months. We must extend warm welcomes to the new replacements, **Sig Paul Allen** and his wife **Ann-Marie**, **Pte Sonia Hill** and **Sig Mick King** who can now savour the delights of Londonderry for the next two years. The Troop also sends its congratulations to **Pte Mark Ling** and his wife **Sarah** on the birth of their baby daughter **Jessica**. Even though the Troop has been very busy lately we still managed to fit in a Troop function organised by **Cpl Steve Page**; a good night and morning was had by all.

Recently the MT, guided as ever by the MTWO, **WO2 Phil Peart**, has been heavily involved in organising exercise Long Slog which is a sponsored run from John O'Groats in Scotland to Lands End in Cornwall. The aim of the run is to raise £15,000 for two charities; the first being the British Limbless Ex-Servicemans Association (BLESMA) and the second is to help Londonderry's Altnagelvin hospital to purchase kidney dialysis machines. The run which will take place later this year will be a multi unit effort with some 26 runners taking part from units within the 8 Infantry Brigade area. As part of the Squadron's preparations for the run, a unit auction of some quite exclusive lots was held. It was a great success raising some £1,700 and MT would like to thank all those who helped out, with special thanks to **SSgt Jim Crabb**. Now there is just the run to look forward to and we will relay the results to all our avid readers out there in the next *Wire*.



Ex Long Slog–Team photo prior to the run from John O'Groats to Lands End

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

The Royal School of Signals
Blandford Camp

A need to improve and enhance the entrance to the Camp, as part of the expansion programme, has meant that the old gates have been removed and the entrance has been given a radical face lift. Four attractive hand made piers with carved Portland stone inserts displaying the Blandford Forum Coat of Arms and the Royal Signals badge, now greet visitors and depict the close links between the town and Corps over a number of years. At the last public engagement of his year as Mayor, **Cllr Frankie Lane** officially opened the gates on 11 May 1995.

Although he has moved on from Mayor of Blandford to his new appointment as Vice Chairman of North Dorset District Council, **Frankie Lane** continues to promote close relationships between the military and civilian population of Blandford. On 16 June he presented the Medical Centre with a children's nebulizer on behalf of the local community.



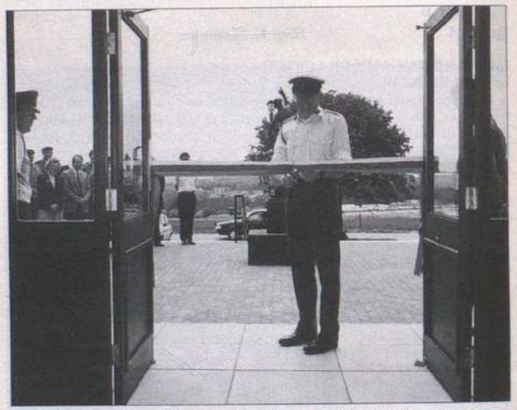
The new gates are officially opened by the Mayor of Blandford



The Commander takes possession of the nebulizer and . . .

As part of the overall plan for the rebuild of Blandford Camp, it is planned that all elements of the Communications and Information Systems Engineering Group (CIS Eng Gp) will be relocated in purpose built buildings in the area to the east of Engineers Corners. On 11 May, **Brig J. H. Griffin**, Commander Royal School of Signals and Blandford opened the new main CIS Eng Gp building at Drake East (the area immediately in front of the old 'Dad's Army' site). It is planned that the whole of CIS Eng Gp will be complete on the new site when Communication Projects Division and the Army Electromagnetic Compatability Agency move in September.

For many months visitors to Blandford Camp have simply been given the instruction to steer towards the giant crane on the horizon. The 150 foot high structure, which dwarfed the Blandford Tower, was clearly visible more than 12 miles away and provided a formidable landmark. With the basic structure of the new Trade Training Centre complete and all heavy materials in place, the crane was dismantled at the beginning of June.



Brig Griffin officially opening the new CIS Eng Gp building



Brig J. H. Griffin presents the Evis Memorial Sword to 2Lt Andy Coulston, Top Student on Troop Commanders Course 32

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BRADLEY SQUADRON (SINGLE ENTRY)

Sqn Comd	**Maj Dave Smith**
CSM	**WO2 (CSM) Jim Timperley** (Scots Guards)
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Dave Old**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Squadron said a sad farewell to **WO1 Chris Calow** on completion of 22 years service. We wish **Chris, Ann** and family the best for the future. Farewell also to **Capt Mark Cornell**, Sqn 2IC who is posted to 7 Sig Regt. A warm welcome goes out to **WO1 Sandy Dos Martyres** who takes over as Echo Tp Comd.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Sig James** and **Sig Parkinson** on their wedding–we wish them all the very best for the future.

THE LONDON MARATHON

It seems that all good ideas materialise in the early hours of a Saturday night, and this was confirmed when **Sigs Lee Crook** and **Richard Simpson** decided to run the London Marathon. Under the watchful eye of the coach, **WO2 (YofS) Mick Dawson**, assisted by the PT staff, the weekly mileage increased and the times got quicker. As the months progressed and the snow came, the spikes got longer. It was with confidence that we travelled down to London and began pasta loading on Guinness and pizza. Your first marathon is an experience and to complete it in 3 hrs 15 mins for **Sig Lee Crook** and 3 hrs 2 mins for **Sig Richard Simpson** is an excellent achievement. In addition over £700 was raised through sponsorship for St Michael's Hospice, a local Harrogate charity.

BOXING

Sigs Raymond Wray, Mark Turner and **S. F. Forshaw** were selected to box in the Army Novice Boxing Championships in Aldershot 26/27 April, under the expert guidance of their coaches **Cpls Dave Leask** and **Gaz Beardall**. **Sig S. F. Forshaw** was first in the ring and after an excellent bout lasting three rounds unfortunately lost on a points decision. **Sig Wray** was next to fight. His inexperience showed and the contest was stopped in the first round , however, he showed great courage by entering the ABA finals. **Sig Mark Turner**, an ex England boxer in civilian street with 65 bouts, was next to fight. His opponent was an Army boxer and the fight lived up to all expectations. The bout lasted three rounds where both boxers gave 100%. Although **Mark Turner** lost on a points decision he was selected for the Army Boxing Squad and has tremendous potential.



The boxing team
From *(L to R)*: Cpl Leask, Sigs Foreshaw, Wray, Cpl 'Gaz' Beardall

THE HOWES/WOOD MEMORIAL

In memory of **Cpls Howes** and **Wood**, both ex apprentices, who were tragically killed in Northern Ireland, the College now holds an annual sports competition in their honour. The Squadron won both the hockey and rugby games. The hockey was closely fought with the final score Penney Sqn 1–Bradley Sqn 3. Goalscorers were **Sigs George Chandler** with two and **Vinnie Walsh** one. The rugby match was dominated by Bradley Sqn forwards and although the match was closely fought in the first half, the final score of 37–15 reflected the Bradley Sqn pressure of the second half. Man of the match was **Sig Zak Spencer**. **Mr** and **Mrs Howes** presented the rugby prize and **Mr** and **Mrs Wood** presented the hockey prize to the Squadron teams.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Sig Karen Temple received the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award from **HRH The Prince Philip** at St James's Palace on 18 May. The Duke spoke to **Sig Temple** about her great achievements and was also very interested in the TG Op course she is presently attending in the College. She was overheard saying 'This is the proudest day of my life'. Well done!



Sig Karen Temple at St James's Palace

PENNEY (APPRENTICES) SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj Graham McNeill**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Mick Boyle**

We have recently said goodbye to some of the old hands namely, **WO2 (SSM) Terry Oakes, Sgts** 'Dutch' **Holland** and **Willy Ryan**. Our new arrival, **WO2 (SSM) Mick Boyle**, has settled into the SSM's chair. Amidst the usual number of people away on courses, a special message of good luck goes to **Capt Andy Churchill** who is currently being run ragged in the hills of Warcop on P Company.

EXERCISE QUICK RUCKSACK–AN APPRENTICE'S STORY

At the beginning of term the Sqn Comd required volunteers for Ex Quick Rucksack, a selection weekend for those wishing to go to Austria adventure training later in the year. What follows is the course of events over the weekend as told by **AT Leah Steward**–I am sure that it contains no exaggerations whatsoever!

'I wasn't sure if I was going to enjoy mountain climbing, but when the Sqn Comd, **Maj G. J. McNeill**, asked for volunteers to go to Snowdon I thought I'd give it a go. We started climbing at 0900 hrs and began to ascend up the mountain until we reached the dizzy heights of Mount Snowdon. Our group, which was led by **Cpl Matt Thomas** and included **ATs Kidd, Jones, Donnelly** and myself, climbed as though we were on a speed march in PT–until we realised that we didn't have to. I have always been frightened of insecure heights, so I was quite surprised that I didn't feel scared when we hit the rocks that we had to scramble up. The best bit was when we reached the 'Knife Edge', where there was a 15in (roughly) ledge to walk on and on either side there was nothing–just a drop of a couple of thousand feet! It was amazing to be up there. All the way round

our group were in good spirits, cracking jokes and posing for ridiculous photographs–the atmosphere was really good. We ended our walking at about 1630 hrs–one particularly amusing incident was when **AT LCpl Chris Jones** fell into a bog up to his waist. One minute he was talking and the next he'd shrunk a few feet–the look of shock on his face was a picture! The next day we began climbing at about the same time, it was more exciting because there was far more scrambling to do, climbing up the rocks that were at some stages totally vertical! **AT Jackie Kidd** had a pretty frightening experience when she was dangling from the rocks, with one foot on a pretty unsafe foothold and the other frantically searching for support whilst asking (very politely of co urse) where all the footholds had gone. By about 1400 hrs we began to tire, we all went a bit quiet until I fell into a small boggy patch and got covered in filth, which did wonders for morale (everyone else's morale that is!). When we arrived back at the accommodation we did a quick clean up and all piled into the minibuses. Unsurprisingly, most of us fell asleep soon after setting off. All in all the weekend was really good fun and I would definitely go again. Best of all, I'm not as frightened of heights anymore.'

TECHNICIAN WING

OC	**Maj Peter Shawyer**
Wing SSgt	**SSgt Dick Woodfine**

Since our last *Wire* article, Technician Wing, following the transfer of the Single Entry Technician courses to Blandford, has settled back into Apprentice Technician training. At present we have only six classes: three from 93B and three from 94C intakes. This term has seen the handover of the Technician Wing from **Maj Brian Maltby** to **Maj Peter Shawyer** who joins us from HQ Land Command. The photograph shows **Maj Shawyer** handing back the 'Blocks' to **Maj Maltby**. These are not starting 'Blocks' to assist **Maj Maltby** in his resettlement, but are the blocks he had under the desk to give his knees room! **Maj Shawyer** is definitely not height handicapped, it is just that **Maj Maltby** stands 6ft 5in tall. Now the technician apprentices do not have to tremble in front of a man, who when sitting down, was taller than they were, standing up. **Maj Bryan Maltby** will leave the Army in a few months time on completion of 38 years service. He started his service as an Apprentice at Harrogate in 1957 (57B) and has completed the full circle by finishing up as OC Technician Wing at Harrogate. All of the Technician Wing Staff wish **Maj Bryan Maltby** and his wife **Sue**, who live in Harrogate, the best of luck in the future.



Maj Bryan Maltby hands over to Maj Peter Shawyer

OPERATOR WING

OC **Maj P. M. Castle**

Firstly farewells to **Sgt Bradford** and his wife **Julie**, who did an excellent job as Wing Secretary, **Sgt McKinnon, Karen Ellams** and **Karen Cable, Cpls Oldfield** and **Nick Basford**. A big thank you for all your time and effort and we wish you all the best in your future posts. The welcome mat has been dusted off and put out for **Sgt Roy Emblen** and **Cpl Cox**. Also welcome to **Sue Atkinson** who has taken over the hot seat of Wing Clerk. After a quick break (if you call three weeks quick) at the end of Spring term, everyone was back into the swing of Explanation, Demonstration, Imitation, Confirmation and . . . AAAAAARGH . . . Test. Yes, with the YofS persons cracking the whips, and the HIOs using the cattle prods, the educating machine powered up and started popping out Tradespersons.

During the early weeks of summer term the College hosted the Royal Signals Recruiters Convention. In the best possible taste, under the direction of **Maj Castle** and the artistic guidance of **YofS Mick Dawson**, the Operator Wing keen team set about tearing down anything that was worth taking, or an eyesore, and reshuffling the lot to make up pretty impressive excellently bodged display boards (not many of the other wings noticed the lack in some cases of complete wall boards in their departments–great things electric screwdrivers!). Over the three days that the Recruiters were here, they were shown round a varied selection of guest units' displays, briefed by Heads of the College Departments, students, nail biting or more commonly getting to grips with trade skills and theory and were invited to ask questions. I must admit I never heard any student disagree with what they were told–so the recruiters must be getting it right, though some instructors do wonder. The current Senior Term is in the starting blocks in preparation for Graduation Parade.

QUADRANGULAR GAMES 1995

Althought sporting competitions at Junior level have declined due to the demise of Junior Units, the annual Apprentices Games competition still went ahead and was hosted by the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate over the weekend 20/21 May. The 1995 competition was the first year as a Quadrangular event replacing the Triangular competition which has occurred annually since before 1950. This year the event was held over two days between four colleges: REME (Arborfield), RE (Minley and Chatham), RLC (Aldershot) and R Signals (Harrogate). The competition comprised of 12 sports with six of them being scoring events. The games programme started at 0900 hrs on Saturday morning with a downpour of rain, where the Basketball and Squash players were the only competitors to remain dry unlike the Tug-of-War, Cycling, Cross Country, Tennis, Football and Hockey teams!

The Sappers got off to a storming start, dominating the competition from Event 1 and leaving R Signals and REME battling for second place, with the RLC content just to be included in this year's competition. The Master of Signals, who visited the Games on Saturday morning, lowered the flag to start the Cross Country event and true to form the RE took the lead, however R Signals finished in second, third, fourth, sixth, seventh, eighth, tenth and thirteenth places which gave Harrogate a convincing win in this event. The Army Youth Football Challenge Cup, sponsored by Atlas Hydraulic loaders Ltd, was incorporated into the Quadrangular Games Competition and proved to be a tightly fought tournament. The REME and R Signals teams made it through to the final where after extra time, Harrogate managed to steal a last minute goal making the final score R Signals 3–REME 2.

The sports finished on Saturday in time to allow mass viewing of the FA Cup Final with all TV sets within the College illuminated with blue and white and red and white shirts. Saturday evening's entertainment–a comedian and disco–provided the opportunity for both staff and apprentices from the four Colleges to socialise and swap experiences.

Sunday began bright and early in the gymnasium with a very noisy, roof raising Volleyball competition and the rest of the sports enjoyed a sunny, warm morning. The Competition was a great success thanks to the PT Staff and OIC Sports hard work. The final results were: first, RE Chatham Minley; second, R Signals, AA Coll Harrogate; third, REME Arborfield; fourth, RLC Aldershot.

ARMY YOUTH CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS 1994/95

The College has had a very successful football season culminating in a victory over Princess Marina College in the final of the Army Youth Challenge Cup competition. Four College players have regularly represented both the Army Youth and the Combined Services Youth teams this season. The photograph shows the team captain **AT LCpl Al Borrill** in front of the Army Youth Challenge Cup with his award for the Army Youth 'Player of the Year' on the left and the 'Quadrangular Games Football Trophy' on the right.



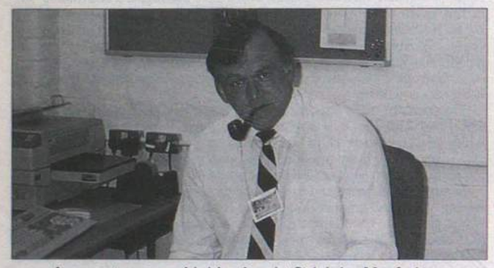
Army Youth Challenge Cup Winners
From *(L to R)*: Maj D. Bornstein AGC(ETS), ATs Thirwell, Gleadall, Alston, Opie, Brown, Wozniak, Jerman, WO2 (QMSI) Guy, AT Needham, SSgt Dick
Front row: Sgt Hukin, ATs Traynor, Nichols, Moore, Borrill, Minsall, Lucas

Defence Research Agency (DRA) Malvern

Did you know we existed? Tucked away under the Malvern hills a group of renegade officers live and work. Time has come to reveal all about this rare strain of Officer Royal Signals.

First a few words about DRA Malvern. Many of you will remember it as the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment (RSRE). In its present form, it is a division of the Defence Evaluation and Research Establishment (DERA) which is itself an agency of the MoD. The DRA has eight sectors within it, two of which are based at Malvern: Command Information Systems (CIS) Sector and Electronics Sector, although there are departments on site from others parts of DERA which our officers are part of. Malvern itself is beautiful and most (artistic licence used here) officers find time to run up the Beacon regularly (bit more artistic licence, here I think): people in Malvern either have strong thigh muscles or worn out clutches (no not crutches, we are not that old).

Leader of the strain is **Lt Col John Macfarlane**, a post command officer who is therefore more relaxed about life. He, his pipe and his golf clubs work for the Sector director, a grade 5 civil servant, as the military/communications advisor. His main areas of influence are currently ASTOR and monitoring the work of the American programme into the digitisation of the battlefield.



A man at peace with his pipe, Lt Col John Macfarlane

Within the tactical communications departments, two officers provide expert (sic) military advice, **Maj Robin Clapp** and **Maj Mark Davis**. The former advises on all tactical communications apart from some specialist user communications, and the latter provides the advice in these specialist areas. **Maj Clapp** has also been active in promoting the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE) within the establishment, whilst **Maj Davis** has scored a major coup over his predecessor due to the fact that he has actually been seen in work! **Maj Davis** is quick to point out that an ex CO suggested that he should be behind bars, and that is exactly where he is now! He does however have a beautiful view of the Malvern hills and a plentiful supply of coffee.

If I told you what **Maj Dick Strawbridge** was up to I would have to shoot you, that is of course if I knew in the first place, which I don't. Needless to say he still has an outrageous moustache and a couple of hairy dogs to go with it. We would have printed a photograph of him but we couldn't find him.



An artist's impression of Maj Dick Strawbridge dealing with something very secret.

One of our newer arrivals is **Maj Mark Eaton**, who spends a lot of time commuting between Worcester, Malvern and DRA Fort Halstead. One of a gang of three who play Corps golf: indeed he came third in the Royal Signals Spring meeting at Blandford. His major claim to fame is the organisation of our range day complete with transport, refreshments, background activity, ammunition but no weapons. One of our gunner officers admitted that he had just as much chance of hitting the target with a 9mm round, with or without the weapon.

In no particular order of self-importance, we come to **Maj Olly Halstead**. He occasionally works in between games of golf, we think. He is heavily into scenario generation. On being posted to the DRA he is rumoured to have said: 'I don't mind what I do as long as it's not scenario generation'. He was last seen running about attempting to provide a mobile phone for the Senior Military Officer (a Royal Engineer's Brigadier) on our last CFT. His major claim to fame was the insistence that all the civil servants who work with him take a sports afternoon on a Wednesday and attend a happy hour every Friday.

Every organisation has to have an 'odd one out'. Ours is **Maj Alisdair Harrison** as he works about 15 miles away at DRA Defford on satellite communications especially tactical terminal project support. It is believed he is now able to order an Amstrad 'dish' with some degree of authority. Unfortunately the man in Dixon's did not understand what G/T meant. Until recently, he was also unusual because he commanded some soldiers–two to be precise–who were on permanent loan from 39 Sig Regt. They have now seen sense and have deployed to Bosnia. He is a keen skier and hang glider although he has not managed to combine the two yet: I am sure he is working on that one and I am sure that he will have plenty of practice on an expedition in the Spanish Pyrenees later on in the year.

Last but not least, **Maj Les Plumb**. A very canny man–he arranged for his SO1 to be posted so that he could claim pay of higher rank. **Maj Plumb** works in the Electronic Warfare department and is therefore a member of the secret squirrel club. This allows him to have jollies in America without having to tell anyone why he is there.

Just in case you think we at the DRA are non-military, I will tell you about our military activities. Twice a year we all go to electronics branch REME for our basic fitness test. Twice a year we also take part in a Combat Fitness Test (Units Other Than Military Ones) [CFT (UOTMO)]–a highly skilled activity which requires one to have a pub lunch in the middle of an arduous hill walk. Well O.K. then, not that arduous. This biannual event usually brings out that even rarer species, the Retired Officer. Chief amongst these are: **Col (Retd) John Roberts**, **Col (Retd) Jonathon Cox**, and **Lt Col (Retd) James Sweetman**.

Not only that but one warm and sunny day in May a group of sharp shooters were seen at Long Marston, courtesy of the Royal Engineers, taking their annual personal weapons test on the 9mm pistol (once the Engineers had found some). After that we had a fun shoot on the SA80, that is until **Maj Clapp** had a misfire–Sorry lads!

One final person is deserving of a mention; the only other serving Royal Signaller here in Malvern, **WO2 (FofS) Steve Johnston** who works as part of the BOWMAN integrated logistic support (ILS) team within electronics branch REME. We congratulate him on his recent MBE for work in AFSOUTH.

I think that is as much as I can tell you about life here at Malvern. Don't try and get a posting here though because none of us is leaving. So there!



Majors Plumb, Eaton, Halstead, Clapp and Harrison enjoying a day out at Long Marston. The train in the background is an inter-city 125 number 12743

NEWS FROM THE REGIMENTS

1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

201 SIGNAL SQUADRON
DIVSAAM 95

Following its success at the Regimental Skill at Arms Meeting, 201 Sig Sqn competed against the Infantry at this year's 1 (UK) DIVSAAM, the first time a Signals unit has entered this event. Under normal circumstances, every effort would be made to allow the team to train. However, the annual morale boosting visit by RSIT put paid to that cunning plan, limiting training time to a minimum.

Training was conducted by **SSgt (YofS) Paul Rose** ably assisted by **Lt Craig** and **Sgt Rob Eden**. Improvement came quickly, especially for the LSW gunners, **Cpl** 'Dougie' **Douglas**, **LCpl Nick Ulley**, **Sig** 'Geordie' **Lowes** and **Sig** 'Dot' **Perkins**. However, some team members insisted on using unconventional methods, especially **Cpl Graham** and **Sig** 'Mo' **Morrison**.

The DIVSAAM was fired over two days. The first day consisted of an eight man march and shoot competition, a six man rifle shoot, a two man LSW and the pistol competition. An excellent days shooting saw both LSW gunners, **LCpl Nick Ulley** and **Sig** 'Geordie' **Lowes**, and one rifle shot, **Sig** 'Smegs' **Smillie** through to the finals. When the team returned for the final day we learned that we had achieved overall first place in the Infantry DIVSAAM, an unbelievable result and one that gave the falling plate team the boost it required for its competition.

The first round saw the falling plate team (**Sgt Rob Eden**, **LCpl** 'Turbo' **Warburton**, **Sigs M. J. Holt** and **Smillie**) versus the Coldstream Guards, a grudge match, and after a closely fought battle 201 came out on top. The Infantry final saw 201 versus 2LI and again, after a good shoot, 201 were victorious.

The overall falling plate final (SUSAT v Iron Sight) was between 201 and 14 Sig Regt (EW); a fitting final for the Corps which saw 201 win what was a well contested match.

The GOC, **Maj Gen Cordy-Simpson** presented the following prizes to the Squadron: Runners-up Section March and Shoot, Champion Infantry Team, Winning Infantry Falling Plate, Winning Overall Falling Plate and Top 20 Shot–**Sig Smillie**.

(A special mention should be given to **Lt Craig** for the standard of his drill while collecting the Champion Team Trophy). There is no doubt that this result would not have been possible were it not for the operational training that 201 Sig Sqn received, which raised shooting standards throughout the Squadron as a whole.



Back row *(L to R)*: SSgt (SQMS) Alden, Sig Bennett, Cpl Douglas
Centre row *(L to R)*: SSgt (YofS) Rose, Sig Knowles, Sig Morrison, LCpl Wiley, Sig Lowes, Cpl Graham, Sig Buchanan, Lt Craig
Front row *(L to R)*: Sig Holt, LCpl Warburton, Sgt Eden, Sig Smillie, Sig Perkins

REGIMENTAL CADRE COURSE –A SIGNALLER'S PERSPECTIVE
by Sig Terry Walker, Puma Tp, 208 Sig Sqn

From 26 April to 12 May 1995, 45 soldiers from the Regiment undertook the dreaded Cadre Course. The worst part is always the start, what will it be like? What will the DS be like? How hard is the exercise going to be? Will I get thrown off the RSMs inspection? We started off with a BFT and a number of initial written tests. By the end of this we had already lost three people. Our first drill period under the watchful eye of SSM **SSgt Burns** would have made any Guardsman fall over laughing. At least there was room for improvement as we had drill every day bar one during the exercise!

After the initial tests, we had a reprieve over the Bank Holiday weekend, but it was back to the classroom on Tuesday 2 May. The lessons covered map reading, first aid, NBC, field craft and M of I. My lesson was 'How to Change a Baby's Nappy', I think this proved to be quite intriguing for most of the singlies! One pleasing aspect was that I did not get jailed on the RSMs inspection parade, but be assured that there were those that did. The following Sunday we deployed into the field for the three day test exercise. During this one of the more memorable(?) tasks was a run through (not across!) a river infested with trip flares. Aside from the basic field craft we also had to endure a particularly gruelling log run.

After all the drill periods the final parade, which was inspected by the GOC **Maj Gen Cordy-Simpson**, went smoothly. **Sig MacGowan** of 212 Sig Sqn was awarded Best Student and **Sig Morrison** of 201 Sig Sqn was Most Improved. Overall the Cadre Course was not as bad as I expected. In fact the general feeling was that it is too short to really assess the students and for them to gain the most from it. We also felt that the exercise phase would be better if it was longer. Having said that I'm glad that I did the two week course!



Sig MacGowan receiving 'Best Student'

PROJECT ROMANIA

On 14 May two civilianised Dafs (painted blue) a minibus and 16 volunteers from the Regiment set off on a 38 hour journey to Baia Mare in Romania which involved driving across Hungary. The aim was to deliver aid in the form of paint, carpets etc and spend two weeks doing basic maintenance to the local YWCA sponsored hostel. The trip went very well with only the standard six hour wait at the Romanian border.

The hostel itself was in a very bad condition with peeling walls, no hot showers, carpets or doors. The crew got to work with **Cpl John Rogers** trying his hand at plumbing for the first time (it didn't show). **Sig** 'Copey' **Copeland** and **Sig Simon Hodgson** fitted the top two floors with carpets only stopping to drink 53 cups of tea per day, made for them by one of the orphans on the condition that he got **Copey**'s camera when he left.

Everyone else got stuck in to the 1,001 other jobs that had to be done. The problems were amplified by the lack of materials. To buy locks for the doors a 20 hour round trip to the capital was needed. As well as working, we visited local communities including an orphanage. The gypsies were very pleased with the clothes we brought them although **LCpl Adel Smith** was also happy walking around the hostel in train spotting kit. On the second day the BFBS film crew and the CO, came down for a visit (we won't mention getting lost in Paderborn, sir). Everyone had an introduction to Palinka the local moonshine, which doubles as paint stripper.

Meeting the gypsies and orphans was an eye opener for everyone and although **Sig Brian Hurcombe** wanted to take them all home, **Sig Tammy Powers** was almost left behind. The pig fat and other local delicacies won't be missed but everyone left with great admiration for the orphans (as well as a few tummy bugs) and the satisfaction that we had achieved what we had set out to do.



STATION FETE

The fete began with a fun run, to raise funds for the Regimental project in Romania, over a 6km course for the more athletic and a 4km course for those in search of a gentle perambulation. A variety of costumes were on display, with the medical centre looking extremely colourful dressed in clown outfits. The two courses were jointly started by the Burgermeister, **Dr Gerhard Klippstein**, and the GOC, **Maj Gen Cordy-Simpson**.



The Burgermeister, Dr Gerhard Klippstein, with pistol in hand, and the GOC Maj Gen Cordy-Simpson, at the start of the Fun Run with a selection of the fancy dress competitors

Throughout the day there were several events to entertain the crowds. One of the key crowd pullers was the Tug-of-War competition run by **Sgt Paul Robson**. In addition to the Inter Tp competition which was won by Kiwi Tp, the Regiment hosted an Anglo-German Tug-of-War competition. The local German Fire Brigade and a sports club team called Turmgemeinde Herford pulled against teams from both Messes. The Officers' Mess team, slightly disadvantaged, following a ladies dinner night, put on a brave show, ably assisted by the Adjt, **Capt John Botterill**. However, it was the Sergeants' Mess team which ran out victors in a closely contested final against the Turmgemeinde Herford team to take the trophy.

The main event of the day in the central arena was the ever popular It's-a-Knockout competition. The competition was played in the true spirit of the event with lots of fun and plenty of water to soak the competitors. Like last year, the event was coordinated and refereed by **Sgt Rob Eden**. Each of the Squadrons devised a game for the remaining teams to take part in. The final result was in doubt right until the end, but last years' winners, HQ Sqn, managed to beat off 211 Sig Sqn to retain the trophy.

A key attraction on the day was the showjumping and dressage event. Organised by **SSgt Bush**, there were classes for all age groups, and competitors turned up from the Garrisons in Germany as well as members of local German clubs. The event sponsored by BMW, ran throughout the whole day. The Garrison Commander's wife, **Mrs Bridget Kerr**, kindly presented the prizes.

At the other end of the age spectrum, the Tumble Tots class, run by **WO2 (QMSI) White**, and Judo Club, run by **LCpl Sansbury**, put on impressive displays to a large gathering of proud mothers and fathers. Towards the end of the day there was a display of dance and movement performed by an even younger group of children from the Ballet Club.

As well as the main events, there was a variety of side stalls and traders to entertain and attract all ages. For the adults, the beer and Pimms tents proved to be popular venues. The children, on the other hand revelled in splattering the teachers in the stocks, having fun on the SSAFA bouncy castle and getting their face painted by the Wives' Club members.

At the end of the day in excess of DM10,000 was raised for deserving causes. Principal amongst these was the Regiment's Project Romania, the purpose of which is to refurbish an orphanage in Baia Mare in Romania.

A fun day was had by all. Congratulations go in particular to all members of 212 Sig Sqn for all their hard work before, during and after the event for providing the administrative back-up for the fete.



The ballet club giving a delightful display of its dance and movement skills

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2 Sig Regt
York

CO — **Lt Col J. L. Fletcher**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) Whiting**

WASHINGTON DC

On Sunday 2 April a group of six soldiers left York with the R Signals' Corps silver for Washington DC. The lucky participants were: **Cpls** 'Gaz' **Roberts**, **Mick Delaney**, **LCpl Alan Montgomery**, **Sigs Phil Jenkinsons**, **Darren Hodgkinson** and 'Dusty' **Miller**. The purpose of the trip, which was organised by **Lt Col Moreland**, was to assist at the British Embassy which was holding a 75th Anniversary Dinner to celebrate the formation of The Royal Corps of Signals. Hosting the dinner was **Brig Baly** with the SOinC, **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle**, as the major guest. The Anniversary Dinner proved to be a great success and the soldiers reluctantly returned to England.



Presenting Lt Col Moreland with the 2 Sig Regt Plaque
(L to R): Sig Phil Jenkinsons, Sig Darren Hodgkinson, Cpl 'Gaz' Roberts, Lt Col Moreland, Sig 'Dusty' Miller, LCpl Alan Montgomery, Sig Mick Delaney

MORRISON CUP

The sun shone for the hottest day of the year and from all over England teams of highly trained and finely tuned athletes flocked to the hallowed grounds of the Rydale Stadium in York. The event was of course the annual Morrison Cup Athletics meeting.



Cpl Tim Tomkinson winning the 400m Hurdles

The day appeared to be running smoothly under the watchful eye of **Maj Les Wood MBE**, until the wind blew the scoreboard over. It landed on top of the trophies, leaving two sorry looking trophies in its wake. If anyone knows a reputable silversmith, please inform 2 Sig Regt before next year!

Despite the slight setback the day provided some most entertaining sporting achievements. **Sig Dhir** from 30 Sig Regt, won the Pole Vault in a gruelling battle against **Lt** 'Julius' **Caesar** the final height cleared was 3m. **LCpl Smith** from Comms and Sy Gp put the shot an impressive 11.60m, narrowly beating the competition from **Cpl Jones** and **LCpl Hannah** from 2 Sig Regt.

The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL** and the SOinC, **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle** were at the meeting to present the medals. The final result, with 2 Sig Regt taking first place in the Major Units, was not a surprise to anyone. The more exciting battle was for second place where 11 Sig Regt held off the strong challenge of 30 Sig Regt, narrowly beating them by two points. In the Minor Units, 21 Sig Regt (AS) beat 215 Sig Sqn and Comms and Sy Gp, proving that despite the fewer numbers there is still a lot of athletic talent throughout the Corps.

2 DIV SAAM
Captained by SSgt Terry

The 2 Div SAAM took place at Strensall Ranges on 19 May. After a shakey start the Riflemen, **Lt Colin Kell**, **Sgt Paul** 'Dapps' **Dappriech**, **Cpls Pete Blagg**, **Kevin Allan**, **Steve Hillier**, **LCpl Wilf Warnes**, **Sigs Steph Taylor**, **Carl** 'Woody' **Underwood** and **Linton Breaks**, settled down and through their consistent good shooting managed a creditable third position with **Lt Kell** and **Sig Taylor** making it through to the final association shoot for selection to Bisley. This was followed by the LSW Shoot/Section competition. The team did extremely well especially in the Para Cup where again, a third place was achieved, despite the loss of a gunner **Sig Taylor**. Overall it was a successful competition during which the team gained experience.

HQ SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Les Wood MBE**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Rob Ibbotson**

SHQ TROOP

The Troop extends a warm welcome to **SSgt (SQMS) Mary Cobban** on her return to the Troop after three months leave and to **Sgt Bill Bailey** who moved into the Troop from the Guardroom to cover the SQMS's absence. **Maj Les Wood** artfully arranged his MBE investiture to coincide with the Regiment's Operational Readiness Test, good planning boss! He is also to be congratulated on becoming the Army M45 Individual Orienteering Champion, an event he took part in to miss Ex Summer Eagle!



Maj Wood after receiving his MBE at the Palace
(L to R): Capt Tim Wood, Maj Les Wood, Mrs Stephanie Wood, Miss Helen Wood

QM'S DEPARTMENT

QM — **Lt Col T. R. Gainford**

The QM's Department has been working fast and furiously over the last few months keeping the Regiment's head above water during the recent Regimental Battle Camp, where it was rumoured that **Cpl Wayne 'Swampy' Prout** actually did get out of his sleeping bag, while **Cpl Wally Wallace** was fighting the elements on the Sennybridge Training Area. **Sgt Martin** 'Swerver' **Richards** unselfishly volunteered to stay back in camp and assist **Mr Kev Potter** with the onerous task of keeping the department ticking over.

CONGRATULATIONS

The department congratulates **WO2 (RQMS) Dave Showell** on his selection for promotion to WO1 and hope that he and his wife **Lin** enjoy their posting to 19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209) where he takes up the appointment of RSM–watch and shoot, watch and shoot.

REGIMENTAL SUMMER SPORTS COMPETITION

The Inter Sqn Summer Sports competition has just ended and beavering away behind many a desk, stacked with reams of official looking paperwork, are found the heroes! The competition took place on the 12 and 13 April and consisted of cricket, tennis, volleyball, squash, swimming and a cross-country run, the latter in which all members of the Regiment took part. HQ Sqn teams worked extremely hard throughout the two days and proceeded to sweep the board, winning four out of the six events. This in turn led to a convincing victory for the Squadron and proved yet again to the other Squadrons in the Regiment that 'HQ' certainly are a force to be reckoned with.



Pte Julie Blackwood receiving the Winners Cup from the CO, Lt Col Fletcher

214 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Pete Stephenson**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Dave Richards**

At 1200 hrs on Thursday 25 May 214 Sig Sqn were tasked to move to Leeds to assist with the analysis of the site where a light aircraft had crashed the previous night in a violent thunderstorm. **Maj Pete Stephenson** moved forward with the advance party to assess the situation before the main body left at 1300 hrs. Unfortunately, the Squadron was to miss running a BFT, which we were all looking forward to so much!

On arrival at the site we were informed that our role was to comb 3km back along the flight path searching for documentation that had fallen out of the plane after the tail section had fallen off. We were split into groups, mixed up with the police officers and led off to search the surrounding fields. The RSM would have been proud of us! Every scrap of paper was picked up and bagged with the military precision that can only be developed with years of practise on areas around camp. **SSgt Andy Terry** was heard to quote 'No wonder we are going so slow' on hearing that the Police were earning £200 in overtime for a single day's work.

There developed a most interesting cameo between **Maj Stephenson** and **Capt Gareth James** as to who would be giving the interview to BBC television. **Capt James** took an early lead as he spoke to the cameras soon after arrival. But the boss' experience told as he paced himself and broke into the lead to give the interview that actually went out on air.

The day came to an end with a hay box of range stew generously donated by the Cookhouse and the thanks of the police ringing in our ears.

217 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj G. Whyman**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Williams**

PHANTOM TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt Lee Hendricks**

The Troop has seen them come and seen them go. This month we give a hearty welcome to **Cpl Brett Spruce**, **LCpl Bob Thirsk** and **Sig Burn**. Last, but by no means least, we welcome the Troop '3' IC **2Lt Nick Morris** who, after an arduous course at Sandhurst, successfully escaped with nothing more than a shrapnel wound to his right knee and a slight limp. A fond farewell to **Cpl** 'Gaz' **Hayhurst** and **Sigs Callaghan** and **Mercer** who have both joined Civ Div.

RAF BENSON PRE-NIJMEGEN TWO DAY MARCH

by Sig 'Skellow' McCluskie

On the weekend of 21-23 April, 12 members of 2 Sig Regt were involved in the RAF Benson two day marches. All four Squadrons were represented and with **Sig** 'Kiwi' **Wiseman** we managed to add that Commonwealth touch. The first day's marching began with reveille at 0430 hrs and breakfast at 0530 hrs.

The team got around the first day's course quite quickly. This was not due to the team's physical fitness but more to the fact that we could not bear the other units' singing. No sooner had we overtaken one team of singers, then another would come into earshot and we would have to get away from them! This continued until the boss **Lt** 'Jimmy' **Hendricks** started to join in and sing about 'five pints of Bass'. (Don't give up your day job!) We completed the 25.4 miles in six and a half hours and by 1500 hrs we were in the bar for some pain relieving medication.

Sunday morning came all too quickly accompanied by moans from **Sgt** 'Big Bird' **Simons** and **Sig** 'Scouse' **Rochford** about over doing the pain relief the night before. The marching began with all team members feeling a bit stiff. There was the regulation dawn chorus of cadence songs from the other teams. Not to be out-done **LCpl** 'Gaz' **Roberts** led us in song with a fruity little number about a guy called Jack.

We finished a convincing first on the last day with a time of seven and a quarter hours. We were placed in the top five teams overall, with the Royal Anglians taking the Best Army Team trophy. We did however win a team award for finishing together.

The march was judged on who looked the part, with the biggest and best flags. This was despite the best efforts of drill experts **LCpls Phil Dicken** and 'Monty' **Montgomery** who are both bitterly disappointed at not being selected for Public Duties later this year. We left RAF Benson with sore feet having secured a place at Nijmegen in July this year. I would like to finish with a word of thanks to our sponsor 'Brufen' who supported us fully and without them the march would not have been possible.

219 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Bruce Avison**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Mick Williams**

The Squadron finally says farewell to the 'stand-in' Yeoman, **SSgt Steve Pellant** and his wife **Liz**, who are off to cash their LOA at 7 Sig Regt. They are joined nearby by 'Fizzbizz' **FofS Lowe** and **Careys** who are off to St Tonis. Both go to Germany on promotion and will be very much missed. To paraphrase another great man, never has so small an Ops Cell done so much, for so many, with so few resources!

Ever mindful of the future, welcome to **SSgt (FofS) Joe Docherty** and **Carolyn**. The FofS had the pleasure of arriving during RSIT and within a week stood up to be counted on ORT and Ex Summer Eagle. As you have probably gathered, things operate a little differently in York!

FALCON TROOP

Tp Comd — **2Lt Rick Sellwood**

Once again it has been a turbulent time in the Troop with familiar faces disappearing and new ones appearing. **Sig Charlie Ellis** moves over to the Gym to be under the watchful eye of the **WO2 (QMSI) Spowart**. **Sgt Smith** goes off to do his RSSC and **Cpl** 'Gaz' **Roberts** and **Sig** 'Mac' **MacVicar** go to be the Palace Guard. We wish them all well and a safe return.

Welcome to both the new members of the Troop. Fresh from the sleepy backwaters of M Tp comes **Sgt Nige Roberts**, renowned throughout the Corps for his quicksilver skills on the rugby field. Last, but not least, welcome to **Sig Webb** the only man in NATO to not know a Landrover has more than 3 gears.

SEVENTH HEAVEN REACHES FIRST ANNIVERSARY

The Regimental PRI has celebrated its first birthday. The work which has been put in during this year by all the staff both civilian and military has been tremendous. Thanks must also go to the previous PRI Officers; **Capt Martin Smith** and **Capt Chas Greig** who, in their turn, have guided the merry crew on its way! It's going to be all plain sailing for the new boy, **Capt Gerry Knight**. Welcome to your new appointment and please we want a pay rise! Pictured with the cake are **Anne Pocock**, the centre's manageress, **Julie Simcox**, **Rose Pettitt** and our most recent recruit to the shop, **Lynn Barron**. Here's hoping the next 12 months are as good as the last.



THE REGIMENT PREPARES FOR PUBLIC DUTIES

Despite being diverted by the possible Op Grapple commitment we are still on course for the Palace.

The Regiment's 24-strong Palace Guard detachment continues its training for duty in London. Temporarily detached to Colerne, the home of 21 Sig Regt (AS) the soldier's days are filled with drill and their nights with bulled boots and best kit inspections. Although shortly to be recalled for the 'Larn Yersel Bosnian' package at Sennelager, they will return to UK immediately to pick up guarding the Palace until August 1995.



SSgt Stuart Read giving the guard the benefit of his knowledge

HQ SQUADRON

The Squadron Clerk, **LCpl Paul Gorton** has deserted us, going to the Royal Engineers in UK–sorry old son, the Engineers use 2066s as well! He is replaced by **LCpl Shirley Barnacal** who brings a fresh outlook to the office. Welcome aboard **Shirley**. The SQMS, **SSgt Al Martin** has now become fully computerised and when his workstation is installed he will be able to say no on the INTERNET.

MIKE TROOP

Recently, Mike Tp has become a hive of activity with the RSIT coming up. We say hello and welcome to **Sgt Jim Davidson**. who, no sooner had he arrived when he fell victim to a cricket ball which struck him in the face breaking his cheek bone, unlucky **Jim** but welcome to the Troop! A temporary farewell to **LCpl Kev Ward** who has gone to NI for three months and also **Sgt Simon Norris** who has rushed back to the Falklands. Apart from the 'good' news of RSIT approaching, we are able to congratulate **Sgt Jim Logan** on becoming a father again. On the minus side we are losing our well loved Foreman **WO1 John Thomson** to Radio Gp in Blandford. That's a good post for a highly qualified Ptarmigan man! All the best **John**, we'll miss you.

229 SIGNAL SQUADRON
TRUNK NODE 011

The Troop has been through a very busy period with the essential RSIT prep. Highlight of the month has been the helicopter exercise, practising fast lining, hover jumping and basic handling. Many applications for air crew service are now in the post to the AAC.

A sad farewell goes to two of the Troop stalwarts: **Sig Prentice** is leaving the Troop. **Paul** has spent his entire career in the Troop and we wish him the best of luck for the future. **Sig Mike King** has wangled a posting to 8 Bde. In return for the loss of these two old hands we welcome **LCpl** 'Racey' **Dacey**, who celebrated his arrival by swallowing a 'jelly bean' and causing a COSH incident with just one peristaltic action. Good luck for the rest of your time with us–you may need it.

TRUNK NODE 012

Trunk Node 012 is now looking at being reroled to RRR 012 due to the lack of manpower–the majority of the Troop has been posted or off on swans. We would like to congratulate **Sigs Donna** and **Shaun Powell** on their imminent new arrival–you were told not to drink the water. Congratulations also go to **Cpl** 'Digger' **Brooks** and **Mrs Brooks** on the safe arrival of **Josh**–sleepless nights will follow. Farewells go to **Sig Bishop** who has got on the ultimate swan–two years in London and to **Sigs Donna Powell** and **Fraser McNichol** who have both been moved to SHQ. In keeping with our new role, we are not able to welcome any replacements–hint hint!

Inter-operability came and went–the highlight being **Sig** 'Taff' **Langley**'s display of free climbing. He is thinking of retrading to become a rigger–his mastery of 'climbing the scam 12 with a green plastic belt harness' is soon to become a classic manoeuvre. We would like to welcome **Sig** 'Scouse' **Hazlehurst** back in one piece from his parachuting course and **Sig Neil Hemley** back from his seasickness course–so much for it being a skive. Finally we would like to wish **LCpl Glen Neighbour** the best of luck on his marriage and good luck to **Sig Gill McSkeane** on her wedding and congratulations for her success on the regimental cadre course.

TRUNK NODE 013

The Troop would like to welcome its new arrivals–**Cpl Mark Grey** and his wife **Sarah** and **Sig Steve Kennedy** and **Kirsten**. Only one farewell this month, to **LCpl Brian Whitehead** (was it not only last month we welcomed him?)

Congratulations go to **Sig Gerry Hinton** and **Judith** on their recent wedding. Fourteen members of the Troop attended this occasion.

INTER SQUADRON ATHLETICS

Planning for the inter-Squadron athletics competition started very early within 229 Squadron in order that the best possible team be put forward. Regimental ops must have felt threatened by this and foiled our cunning plan by sending the majority of the Squadron on an inter-operability exercise over the athletics competition. The remaining 22 members of the

Squadron did not let us down and produced some excellent results on the day. Particular mention should go to **Sig Tracey Ross** who managed first place in the 800 metres, 100 metres and high jump. **Sig Donna Powell** came second in the javelin and shot.

Fourth position was achieved by the Squadron–watch out for us next year–or will we be on exercise again?

230 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj N. J. Bateson**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) O'Connor**

EXERCISE WOODLAND FLIGHT 2

In March the Squadron took part in Ex Woodland Flight 2 which was not the full deployment that was forecast but a Trunk Squadron exercise on Haltern Training Area complete with enemy and all four seasons of weather in one week. Highlights of the exercise included the abduction of **Sig Irons** from the back of his Radio Relay detachment, the feeding of the refugees by **Capt Hargreaves**, the capture of TN015 SW&FC complete with crew.

Sqn Comd 'I could run around this exercise area in 15 minutes' made excellent use of his orienteering map reading skills and led the OSC group on numerous night moves and rescued several lost Trunk Nodes.

ARRIVALS, DEPARTURES AND PROMOTIONS

Over the last two months the Squadron said farewell to **SSgt Shaun Keilty** who has left us (with his slippers) on promotion to be SSM HQ Sqn 15 Sig Regt, **Cpl Jones** leaves us for an easy life at 14 Sig Regt (EW), **LCpl** 'Bing' **Crosby** (249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) and **Pte Jo John** (MoD). **Capt David Wilson** is back from his tour in Bosnia and has returned to work (and tennis). New arrivals include **SSgt Alan Higgins** (a Kev-ball player at 7 Sig Regt!) and **2Lt Harrild** straight from Sandhurst on a six month attachment.

FIRST THOUGHTS OF A TROOP COMMANDER
By 2Lt Sam Harrild

Having been sent to 7 Sig Regt on an attachment straight from Sandhurst I was still feeling a little wet behind the ears, the last thing I had expected after my initial interview with the Adjutant was to be introduced to my own Troop. Wasn't I supposed to watch someone else being a Troop Commander? Wasn't I supposed to be the silent observer with no responsibility? Apparently not. There they were, my 27 men (well 10 of them after those on leave, attachments, fatigues, sport etc) and 13 vehicles–what was I supposed to do with them all? I received the idiot's guide to Ptarmigan from the troop SNCOs before being led out to the vehicle park where I spent the rest of the week being a spotter learning to recognise the different type of vehicle. (I still haven't got the hang of referring to them all by registration number.) My top drawer is full of wonderful diagrams of the Ptarmigan network kindly donated by all those people who think they have discovered the best way to describe the system and are so pleased that there is now someone else in the Regiment with even less knowledge than themselves.

Now to the troop itself–I had been trained to cope with this at Sandhurst. I had worked through the scenario of the admin nightmare, the family problems, the horrific debts. I had my *aide memoire* on how to deal with anything thrown at me but nothing happened–except for **LCpl Woodward**'s lung collapsing in my first week!

Back on the vehicle park the boys were preparing for RSIT and didn't seem to trust me with anything more than a paint brush. However, it did seem a good way to get to know the guys even if I did get known as 'the new one going through the coveralls phase.' Outside of work I found myself volunteered to take part in some orienteering event (nothing to do with the fact that my Sqn Comd is **Maj Bateson**) which was not the greatest of successes although at least I did find my way back unlike some I could mention (who said that blondes aren't dizzy?). Next I found myself running 800m at the inter Sqn athletics (well done 230 Sqn, Page Trophy winners again!) followed by a second and much more successful attempt at orienteering (1st place Rhine Garrison).

A month further on I now know (roughly) what each vehicle does and who does what in the troop (football, swimming, rugby, athletics, hockey, judo, sailing . . .). One week before RSIT I am learning how to inspect a det commander's folder rather than perform countless room inspections. On the sporting front I have been back to UK to compete in the orienteering championships, completed a 5km cross country run against the French, German and Belgian Armed Forces and represented the Regiment at the recent Zone A and Rhine Garrison Championships in the 800m (yuk!) and also the 100m hurdles (1st place–and I did run over them not under them). Now I am just looking forward to my Troop Commanders course at this wonderful place everyone keeps telling me about . . . Blandford!

231 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj Charlie Miller**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Grant Pocock**

SUPPORT TROOP

Support Troop has recently swollen with the arrival of drivers, EDs and technicians who maintain MAN 098 in the field. Sadly we said farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Grant Pocock** and his wife **Annie** who departed for Colchester in June. Congratulations on a successful tour.

MAN 097 TROOP

The Troop has undergone much turbulence by way of comings and goings. We welcome **2Lt Kyle Barker** straight from Sandhurst and **Sig Paula Marshall** from JCUFI. Sadly we lost **LCpl Ian Sanders** to German civvy street and we wish him every success.

Military training has recommenced with a vengeance and given **SSgt** 'Beavis' **Brand** and **Sgt** 'Taff Butthead' **Morgan** the opportunity to inflict NBC drills on any unsuspecting soul who passes their way. They even managed to catch the SSM who ended up choking for Britain. The 2IC, **Capt Gus Colville** was heard to mutter 'In 28 years I have never had to go into this depth with NBC'. Perhaps they didn't have respirators when he joined up!

232 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj Turner**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Simcox**

Welcome to five more technicians from 229 Sig Sqn. **Cpl Bob Godfrey**, **LCpls Andy Ward**, 'Bev' **Bevan**, **Cpl Garry Askew** and **LCpl Bill Bailey** who have graduated from M Troop, HQ Sqn. Welcome also to the new 2IC, **Capt Cornell**. Goodbye to **Capt Phillips** who is posted to South Africa. Best wishes to **SSgt Dave James** for his forthcoming wedding in Barbados, where are all our invitations? Good luck to **Sgt Rick Gorman** who is attending his Foreman of Signals course in September and a thank you to **Sig Smith** for her efficiency in the Squadron office.

BRITISH ARMY GERMAN ANGLING LEAGUE

The Regiment held its own in Holland and is set to break new ground in Krefeld.

The Angling team met with some degree of success at the British Army Angling League match fished on the river Vecht in Holland on 4 June. The venue promised weights up to 16 kilos.

On the day, the Regimental team was forced to 'poach' a replacement angler from 14 Sig Regt (EW) team to replace team captain, **Cpl Jason Andrews** who was absent on compassionate leave. Get well soon **Greta**, and best regards from us all. From a total of 95 competitors in 19 teams the lads achieved the following placings:

Section A	**Sgt Steve Donaldson**	8.750kg	3rd
Section B	**Cpl Ivan Oakey**	2.650kg	4th
Section C	**LCpl Steve Hobbs**	8.280kg	4th
Section D	**Sgt** 'Scouse' **Wharton** (14 Sig Regt (EW))	0.950kg	13th (**Capt Knight** says 'Stick to football 'Scouse''.)
Section E	**Sgt Brian Clarke**	1.650kg	13th

The team achieved a creditable 4th position, only missing 3rd by one point. At last we can boast some silverware!

Next up on the calendar is the Biswell 6 on the Maas near Roermond. We are forming a Krefeld Angling Club in co-operation with 280 (UK) Sig Sqn. Anyone interested in joining us is more than welcome.

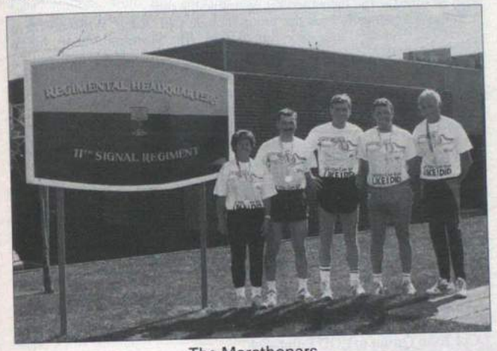


The picture shows Sgt Steve Donaldson REME, Cpl Ivan Oakey and LCpl Steve Hobbs with third and two fourths from the Vecht match . . . Tight Lines

11 Sig Regt
Blandford

LONDON NUTRASWEET MARATHON

Training (for some) started in the depths of winter and culminated on 2 April when five members of the Regiment completed the London Marathon. Between them they raised over £2,500 for various charities including the Motor Neurone Disease Association, The West Dorset Hospice, MacMillan Services and The Wessex Children's Hospice. All the runners would like to thank everyone who sponsored them.



The Marathoners
(L to R): Mrs Elsie Smith, Sgt Bru Baker, Maj Tom Pengelley, Capt Tom Dean and WO2 (SSM) John Smith
'Where is Maj Pengelley's Medal?'

1995 SOUTHERN DISTRICT ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONS

The ladies of 11 Sig Regt won the Southern District Orienteering Championship held on 31 March at Bovington. Notable achievements were **Capt Annabel Basker** 2nd W21 and **WO1 Elaine Jeffery** 1st W35.



S Dist Ladies Orienteering Champions
Back row *(L to R)*: WO1 Elaine Jeffery, Capt Annabel Basker
Front row *(L to R)*: Sig Julie Fozard, Lt Col Relph, Cpl Mary Hessell

ONE SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj P. Rutherford CAF**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) R. A. Snow**

SQUADRON COMMAND'S PERSPECTIVE

Well, the resident colonial Sqn Comd has now been on the ground and in the job for four months. It has continued to be a learning curve 'straight up!' Thanks to the experience and advice of both Sqn 2IC **Capt Nick Caleb** and SSM **Bob Snow** the transition has been smooth.

1 Sqn continues to establish itself here at Blandford from all points of view, and the strength increases at a steady rate. At last count we stood at 230 all ranks. On 1 June the Squadron said farewell to **SSgt Steve Hughes** and his wife **Sue**. **SSgt Hughes** has been with 1 Sqn both in Catterick and Blandford. He has provided outstanding support to the Squadron in every respect, but particularly in his dealings with the young soldiers of Bravo Tp. It was primarily due to his efforts on the advance party that the Squadron established itself so well here. He and **Sue** and the wee lads are off to sunny Glasgow where on promotion **SSgt Hughes** will be a one man show in dealing with young potential officers.

The Squadron had the task of hosting the Canadian High Commission's Army Advisor and his wife. **Colonel** and **Mrs J. B. Boileau** were at Blandford on the 18th May. The Squadron Cadre were well versed on what things that they were to say about their Canadian Sqn Comd. However they all ended up telling the truth that **Maj Rutherford** in no way measures up to the Canadian Mountie of Due South. All in all **Colonel** and **Mrs Boileau** enjoyed the tour of the Regiment and the Camp.



Visit of Col J. B. Boileau, Army Advisor at the Canadian High Commission
(L to R): Cpls Parkes, Muir, SSgt Slack, WO2 (SSM) Snow, WO1 Gillan, Col Boileau, SSgt Smurthwaite, Maj Rutherford, SSgt Hughes, Capt Caleb (+ Bertie), Cpl Gray

ALPHA TROOP

It is with regret that we have to say goodbye to **SSgt Smurthwaite** and we wish him all the best in his new role as troop staffy in Bravo Tp. We would like to welcome **SSgt Stuart** as our new Troop SSgt.

On to sport. Alpha Tp provided strong support to the Regiment's team in the Morrison Cup Competition on 3 May. The team came second, closely behind 2 Sig Regt. Notable contributions came from **Cpl Billy** 'I want one point' **Bremner** with his heroic 5 metre hammer throw and **Cpl** 'Ginge' **Davey** who ran in the 3000m and the 5000m coming a very creditable second in both.

There was a good turnout from the Troop at the Bournemouth half marathon in April. **Cpl Craig Silk** was the first of our Troop in, with a time of just over 1 hour 27 minutes. Strangely, **Cpl** 'no training' **Beseant** officially came in close behind, about 30 seconds later, and **Cpl Si** (264) **Lithgow** only managed an official time of 1 hour 58 minutes. **Si** was later heard muttering something about a mix up with race numbers. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the PT staff for the interval training session the following morning, it worked wonders for blisters and aching limbs. The Poole 10 km race is coming up on 24 June and there should be a good turnout from the Troop for this event, at least one course will be turning up in its entirety.

CHARLIE TROOP

The middle of May has seen yet another very busy month in Blandford. With the overall influx of courses, both short term and long term having been increased, it has been met by some very welcome changes in the overall administration of the Troop. The recent free transfer of **SSgt Andy** 'just off for a run' **Slack** from Computer Support Gp has brought us up to 'full strength'. Welcome to the Troop Staff, any chance of getting my leave pass signed now! However, with the coming and going of Tp Comd **WO1 John** 'Whippet seller' **Gillan**, it is still left to the full time staff to liaise over commitments to the RP staff etc. Recent success stories from the troops include Freefall parachute courses, basic gliding courses and exercise enemy for the RSDCC held at the Military Training Squadron in Colerne. With the coming month in mind, the 'potted sports' to be held during the first two weeks in June will hopefully keep the troops happy, especially with the barbecue and social event being held on the final meeting. In the meantime, a selection of interesting 'assignments' for the troops to participate in makes for an interesting month, with St James's Palace and Wimbledon fortnight proving popular.

MILITARY TRAINING SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj A. J. Bowering**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) P. Griffiths**

The Sqn Comd and his merry men extend a warm cam cream and webbing welcome to the following: **Capt Steve Clarke** who joins us on promotion from a previous life as MTO in Blandford. **Capt Paul Rennie** as OC everything! from 204 Sig Sqn–it's OK Sir, you can still drive the men on as you can a 432! **WO2 (QMSI) Andy Riddle** SASC who did us all a favour by leaving the sheep behind in Brecon. **SSgt (SQMS) Paul Morton** who has got more badges on his arms than a boy scout, and a nice suntan courtesy of 259 Sig Sqn! **Sgt Phil Render** and his wife **Sue** from 220 Sig Sqn. **Sgt Russ Tong** from 19 CTT, **Cpl Dave Fitton** from 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218), **Cpl Brian Kirkup** from Blandford **Cpl Don Burdus** from 16 Sig Regt and **SSgt Nick Preston** also from 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218).

A teary 'wet wipe' farewell to **Capt Rab Young** who leaves the Squadron to head up the Public Duties gang–also stationed here in Colerne. **Sgt Mark Giles** who leaves for 35 Sig Regt (V) shortly on promotion.

Since the last gripping instalment of *Wire* notes much water has flowed under the bridge namely in the form of the RSSC and RSDCC courses getting underway and at the time of writing both are nearing completion. The first TA RSDCC has also been and gone and the 5th TA recruits course has begun. The Squadron now boasts two civilian members in the shape of **Mr Chris Newport**–Clerk, and **Mr Chris Deacon**–driver. With so many arrivals lately, the Squadron is almost fully manned. **Cpl Neil O'Connor**, the only Squadron PTI we possess–has worn out more pairs of boots and training shoes than he cares to mention as he is inundated with 120 students almost daily!

Sgts Tony Manktelow and 'Foz' **Forrester** have recently completed an extremely enjoyable six week stint at Pirbright on a drill course.

Sound the fanfare–we've finally been issued the '95 pattern webbing; it was becoming embarrassing teaching TA recruits who wore the new kit whilst instructors made do with '58 pattern! Finally we extend best wishes to **WO2 (RQMS) Dave Cox** who leaves us on completion of 22 years' service–many thanks for the hard work and smiles.

TRAINING SUPPORT SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Capt T. Jones**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Smith**

SYSTEMS EXERCISE TROOP

A turbulent time for Systems Exercise Tp has culminated in the arrival of the remaining vehicles from Catterick. With Interim Soldier Training now taking place alongside management training things are hotting up and the first Soldier Training Exercise to be held within Blandford Garrison is now under way. Along with the change of role of the Troop came changes of personalities. Many of the members of Schemes Tp 8 Sig Regt are now firmly in place here in Blandford which affords continuity of training. We wish all of them and their families an enjoyable tour.

Some sad farewells from the Troop include **Cpl** 'Jules' **Williams** off to interesting climates, also farewell to **Cpl Jim Skimins** who is off to AFCENT shortly.

TRIALS SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj C. R. Urquhart**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Gaston**

NEWS

The Squadron has had a varied period since the last issue. The five 'workers' manage to do the chores of a 100 men when Trials is duty Squadron. **Cpl** 'Jacko' **Jackson** has recently run a successful range week for those that attended. **Cpl Chris Benson** has become a Kit Kat millionaire. **Cpl** 'I'm not here' **Ian Woods**' (lost?) motorcycle has been found in a farmer's field. **Sig** 'not another Jiff' **Graham Lavery** has been jiffed again.

Yet more departures–We bid a fond farewell to **Capt Emma Clover** and her two dogs to civilian life. **Sgt Ralph Johnson** to Northern Ireland, **Sgt Paul Irwin** to civilian life with Cable and Wireless in Port Stanley and **LCpl John Quinn** to EOD Edinburgh.

Arrivals–not a lot–Welcome back to **Maj Pete Smurthwaite** as Tech Adjt.

Late news–HDRS (oops sorry), it's now known as NCRS has been 'successfully' trialled. The barracks IS radio system has finally reached its trialling phase.

The Wire

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14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 36

CO	**Lt Col A. W. Russ**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Stachini**

75TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

To maintain the feeling of nostalgia in this memorable year, it would be appropriate to include a brief history for the benefit of past, present and future members of the Regiment.

14 Sig Regt (EW) was formed in 1959 from the United Kingdom Commonwealth Communication Army Network Signal Regiment (abbreviations were just as rife then as they are today) taking over responsibility for world-wide communications on behalf of the British Army. At that time it was based in Britain. On 1 July 1977 it reformed as 14 Sig Regt (EW) with the mission to provide Commander 1st British Corps with Electronic Warfare support. By 1978, the Regiment had settled in Celle where it remained until 1993. The Regiment retained the Freedom of Entry into Gloucester, originally awarded to 30 Sig Regt in 1966. The Regiment was subsequently honoured with the Freedom of Celle in 1987. On the formation of the ACE Rapid Reaction Corps in 1992, the mission changed to reflect its provision of Electronic Warfare support to this NATO Headquarters and to British elements under its command. At the same time, changes in the organisation of the British Army in Germany led to its move in April 1993 to Osnabrück where the Regiment's Headquarters and two of its field Squadron's are now based. A third field Squadron, 237 Sig Sqn, is located in Hullavington, England. As the only British Regiment to conduct Electronic Warfare, 14 Sig Regt (EW) has provided support to a number of National Operations. These have included the conflict in the Gulf, Operation Desert Storm, and more recently in support of UN peacekeeping operations in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia and the British rapid deployment to Kuwait.

Plans are now being drawn-up to re-unite the Regiment in Wales in early 1996, although some personnel will be moving before the end of the year. A separate article on the Regiment's move to RAF Brawdy will be published later.

24HR SPONSORED RUN

Although this article is a little late being published, it is important to show just one of the fund-raising activities that members of 14 Sig Regt (EW) have organised in 1995.

The idea for the event was born after the Regiment heard the tragic news that one of its loyal members **SSgt** 'Geordie' **Usher** had become seriously ill with cancer. He returned to UK for treatment and the good news is that he is recovering well and returning to his usual high standard of fitness.

His many friends in the Sergeant's Mess decided to show their support by attempting a 24hr sponsored relay run during which each participant had to complete a number of two-mile circuits. **SSgt Alf Cupper** organised and took part in the event along with a team of 12 runners from the Mess. The run started on a cold and wet day which caused some concern that the target of 200 miles would not be reached. On the day spirits were high and in fact runners exceeded the target by completing 228 miles, whilst raising £1,500 in sponsorship. A donation to the Cancer Research Charity was also made by the Mess. The photograph shows **WO1 Steve Palfryman** battling against cold and wet weather conditions.



226 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj D. McCaulay**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) M. Heelan**

EXERCISE SILVER STALLION

In April dets from H and R Tp's deployed to JHQ to participate in Ex Silver Stallion. The aim of the deployment was to highlight the potential of EW in the modern 'spectrum of conflicts'; seeing that the battlefield of the 'good old days' has gone. The event involved most of the Regiment and dets from German, Dutch, American and Danish EW forces. National barriers were quickly broken as non-British personnel learned the full meaning of British humour, pinpoint driving (X marks the spot) and a few dress rehearsals. Minor problems were quickly overcome with a Danish tech winning the 'initiative' award for hot-wiring his truck seconds before drive-on and managing to hold the leads in place while his passenger changed gears. The remainder of the exercise ran according to plan which included a series of presentations incorporating a high-tech laser show, individual detachment briefings and a superb lunch.

EXERCISE SWEATY PALM

Ex Sweaty Palm is the annual escape and evasion exercise conducted under arduous conditions. The aim of the exercise is to teach and test prone to capture procedures, battlefield/combat survival and resistance to interrogation techniques. The exercise consists of a training phase in barracks, a 'hill' phase and a running phase. During the 'hill' phase students were instructed on how to construct survival shelters, locate and recognise edible plants and to trap and skin certain animals. At the end of this practical training section, students were then set loose to try and avoid being captured by a 'live' enemy.

Congratulations must go to the first captives, **Sgts** 'Scouse' **Peters**, **Kev Taylor**, **LCpl** 'Mos' **Williams** and **Sig** 'Baz' **Still**, who were kindly handed over to the hunter forces by a friendly German; or so they thought! The fact that they were sitting in his car at the time added salt to their wounds. Overall it was a hard, yet enjoyable exercise (when it didn't rain!). For those who took three days to learn critical words such as Essen and Wasser, will have even more enjoyment learning the equivalent in Welsh for next year's exercise!

237 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj A. J. Madson**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) S. Stevenson**

The Squadron has finally returned from a series of trips which have included places of temperate climate such as Cyprus and temperamental climate such as Sennybridge. We did, however, find that both exercises included snow, the difference being that you had to take time off work to enjoy the snow in Cyprus. **WO2 (SSM) Stevenson** is now firmly in the chair and the photograph shows the passing of the book (sorry typing error) flag to officially mark the end of the handover/takeover period. Neither is smiling, so it appears that both of them are looking forward to their new appointments.



(L to R): SSgt Mark Browning, WO2 Steve Stevenson–hand over of Squadron Pennant

245 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj P. Osment**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) C. Sear**

AID TO THE PÄDAGOGIK SPECIAL CHILDREN'S SCHOOL IN OSNABRÜCK

The Regiment has been raising funds for this special school since its arrival in Osnabrück in March 1993, during which a close bond has been developed. Fund raising events such as sponsored triathlons, discos and sponsored runs have been organised. The children have been invited into the Camp to take part in Christmas parties and fun fayres. The Regiment has raised a total of DM 15,000 and will continue to help the hospital until the Regiment moves from Osnabrück.

THE 'KWIKFIT' BACKLOADING TEAM

Due to the proposed introduction of Vixen the need for Panzers has decreased. This is not a problem for the 'Kwikfit' team, as one phonecall will suffice to transform your fleet of Panzers and prepare them to be backloaded. The plan was to backload 22 Panzers in four phases. Phase one took place in January, and with the help of 'Kwikfit' team leader **SSgt Martin Boston** the first six Panzers were ready to roll out of the railhead in Osnabrück. With a wave, and a slight tear in the eye, and a sigh of relief the Panzers were accepted by the DB loadmasters and we bade sad farewell to the friends who we had become quite attached to over the past nine days. Phase two was completed in quick time as the 'Kwikfit' team increased in experience.

ANGLO GERMAN SHOOTING COMPETITION

Team Leader: **WO2 (SSM) Clive Sear**.

Men's Team: **SSgt (YofS) Pete Goodliff**, **SSgt (FofS) Andy Garrett**, **SSgt (SQMS) Ritchie Plummer** and **LCpl** 'Fossy' **Foster**.

Ladies Team: **LCpl Babs Ennis**, **Ali Barlow**, **Sig Bob Vellacot** and **Bob Roberts**.

Members of the Squadron represented the Regiment at a local shooting competition organised by the Bundeswehr. The competition took place in Voxtrup near Osnabrück. It was the first time that a female team had entered the competition which startled a few of the civilian competitors. From the outset there was fierce competition between the male and female members of the Squadron with **LCpl Babs Ennis** showing the 'boys' the way by getting top scorer on both days. A consistency in shooting which earned her team a trophy for the highest female team average. Overall the Squadron team gained a commendable second place and a few more trophies for the 'war' cabinet. The photograph shows both teams parading their trophies outside the Squadron building.



Squadron Shooting Team

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16 Sig Regt
BFPO 40

ADVENTUROUS TRAINING–SAILING

Five members of the Squadron arrived at Kiel Yacht Club on the Sunday afternoon. As we got off the mini bus a small, well tanned young man who looked about 16 years old approached us and directed us to the yacht *Quicksilver*. You can imagine our surprise when we discovered that this young man was actually a 22 year old, **LCpl** by the name of 'Windy' **Gale**. He then informed us that he was the Skipper of the yacht and not what we had thought at all!

After the introductions were made we all stowed our kit away on the yacht and started to make a plan of action. We decided not to sail until the following morning when we could set sail for Aeroskobine.

At 08.30 hrs the next day we set sail into the Baltic. The weather was glorious, a light wind to push us along, clear sky, a bright, hot sun and not so much as a ripple on the water. Yet **Cpl** 'Richie' **Berg** still managed to become seasick within minutes of leaving the port, much to the amusement of the rest of us. The crew went to its delegated positions–**Richie** and 'Windy' at the helm, myself and **Sig Chris Deaville** on the Fore deck putting sails up and down, **Sgt** 'Tom' **Tucker** in the Galley cooking and **Sig Jase Marshall** in bed. These positions stayed much the same for the remainder of the week.

By 19.30 hrs we had arrived at the hectic town of Aeroskobine which consisted of four houses, a shop and a pub.

Tuesday morning we set sail again for the town of Haderstev. The weather was again fantastic, so we all got down to some serious sun bathing whenever possible . . . that was in between putting sails up and down, attempting to tie knots and escaping from giant long-range recce bees.

When we arrived at the port, seeing that it was considerably larger than the last, we were all anxious to sample the local entertainment.

Wednesday morning we awoke ready for another day's sailing and sun bathing en route to our final Danish port of call of Sonderborg. The weather yet again was fantastic so by the time we reached our destination we all looked the same colour as embarrassed lobsters. Sonderborg was by far the best port we visited . . . I mean the gang planks were set up the best.

We left the next day at 1400 hrs so we could experience some night sailing before we returned to Kiel. Unfortunately, the weather didn't allow us to get the full benefit of this as it didn't get dark until an hour before we reached our final destination of Kiel Yacht Club.

The entire week was absolutely amazing, the whole crew benefited not only from the knowledge that the Skipper passed on to us but also from the fantastic sights of a very beautiful country.



The A Team–Well at least we didn't ram it!

EXERCISE GREEN GAMBIT

To those of you wondering what a Green Gambit is it was the name for our Battlecamp, made famous by our previous CO.

Leading up to Battlecamp people became more curious as to what this battlecamp would have in store for us, expecting plenty of scenic walks through the country, often arranged by our previous CO, but all of this was soon forgotten about by the occasional SOP kit check!!

The big day finally arrived and the Troop with a few members of Foxtrot Tp, set off for Sennelager Training Centre, skilfully led by **SSgt** 'Tracker' **Smith**.

On arrival a splendid job was done by the Regiment's cooks at feeding the hungry hundreds with one Norwegian container of soup, great start. The remainder of that day was filled with TOETS, which most members of the Troop passed.

The next day began with the obligatory early morning PT lesson, followed by a wet and miserable day out on the ranges.

Each day was filled with trips to different ranges, a few more than necessary all down to **SSgt Tracker**. Everyone passed their zeroing and grouping test enabling us all to progress on to the live firing ranges.

Included into the week's events was a morning of command tasks, our Troop was now led by **Cpl** 'Scouse' **Reeves** due to our illustrious leaders being absent on duty. A fun morning was had by all, relieving a previous days torture of an NBC degradation phase. During these tasks the Troop had to overcome several problems, one of which was being guided through a village blindfolded.

One of the more notable events of that morning was an attempt by Echo Tp to erect two 12x12 tent frames blindfolded, their only aid to what they were doing came from their Troop Commander. After having plenty of practise on exercise building HQs, expectations were high, but after 20 minutes work their efforts would have made any abstract sculptor proud.

Day five started with a trip to the anti-ambush range. A quick cabby in a Warrior down the range, after a shake up by the driver we de-bussed at the end and did a fine tactical withdrawal to allow the professionals to do the job which 'Scaleybacks' would not be able to undertake–or so some thought! Afterwards we set off to, and finally found, the LAW 94 Range (what tracker again!!) Each of us was given four spotter rounds and a noise cartridge to simulate the main round, several impressions of Hamlet Cigars were managed sending smoke rings across the range. Several budding infantrymen were discovered on this range, **Sigs Neil Tarry** and **Mal Connop** both boasting about their success. Well guys maybe it could be another course you may want to try!

Battlecamp culminated in a March and Shoot followed swiftly by an assault course competition. Those of you who know this assault course will know it is no easy task especially after a nine mile march. However, the Troop was up to the task, with Section one winning the competition after completing the march with 12 minutes to spare and successfully knocking down all 27 plates in the shoot. The ice cold water up to the . . . um . . . top of the legs, on the assault course, was just what you have always wanted–a few voices went an octave higher!!

Sadly, the last day arrived bringing an end to Battlecamp, but not before a Fire Power demonstration by the RMP Close Protection team and their cars. A few members of the Regiment got to see the other side of the flashing blue lights!

March and Shoot winning section: **Cpls Mark Reeves**, **Neil Cawthorne**, **LCpls** 'Waz' **Wright**, **Phil Whitehead**, **Sigs Keith Batey**, **Mandy Smith**, **Neil Tarry**, 'Tiny' **Tindale**, **Chris Deaville**.

LEICESTER TROPHY SWIMMING AND WATER POLO

On 29 May a slightly overcast Monday morning The Leicester Trophy (Inter-troop) swimming and water polo competition took place in the 'Blue Pool' JHQ. The swimming got off to a good start for Support Tp with the Adjt **Capt David Robson** winning the 50m freestyle, followed by the CO winning the 50m Breastroke. The 50m butterfly and the 200m individual medley saw most of the Regimental swimming team competing against each other. **LCpl Mark Bisatt** of Support Tp narrowly beating **Sgt Bruce Ibbotson** of 253 Sqn by two tenths of a second in the Butterfly and **Sig Tracey Punyer** (Combined Services swimmer) beating an all male line up with ease. **Capt Richard Spencer** won the 100m freestyle to take Echo Tp in to the relay events with a 2 point lead over Support Tp, but it was 252 'A' Team that was leading the competition at this stage. The relay events saw the lead change hands frequently between the top three teams. The final placings came down to the last race the 'Chain of Command' **2Lt Jules Walster**'s team of Echo Tp beat the COs' team from Support Tp by four tenths of a second to win the Leicester Trophy swimming. Following a short lunch break the inter troop water polo knock out competition got under way. 252 'B' Team (an all female squad) were drawn against 252 'A' Team in the first round. It was surprising how some of the lesser known 'tricks' of the sport were quickly adopted, such as the wearing of cricket boxes by male players!! Through intimidation on their side the ladies team lost by one goal. The semi-finals saw the two favourite sides Echo Tp and Support Tp playing for one of the places in the final. After a hard fought match Echo Tp ran out winners 4 goals to 1. The second semi final was a close match between 252 'A' and Golf Tp, the final score was 2–1 for 252 'A'. Echo won the final 4–1. All games were excellently controlled (and on occasions explained, to some of the novice players) by **QMSI Helen Sleightholme**.

21 Sig Regt (AS)
Colerne



THE KING IS DEAD–LONG LIVE THE KING

The Regiment would like to bid a very fond farewell to **Lt Col**, soon to be a real Colonel, **David Lynam MBE** and his wife **Val**. As is normal, but in our case true, we would like to thank him for his time with the Regiment and wish him and his wife all the best in the future. It is unfortunate that he will just miss the operational deployment he has always wanted for the Regiment, but such is life . . . It should be added at this point that there is no truth to the rumour that **Lt Col Lynam** was offering money for someone to nobble the new CO so that he could take the Regiment out to Bosnia.

At the same time as saying goodbye to **Lt Col Lynam** we would like to welcome **Lt Col Don Steele MBE** and his wife **Diane** and hope his tour of duty with the Regiment will make our lives enjoyable and pleasant . . .

BATTLE CAMP 95

As a parting gesture the CO insisted the Regiment go on a Battle Camp to sunny Sennybridge in April. Surprise was the order of the day, surprise we actually did it and total surprise we actually enjoyed it.

The camp consisted of Squadron Training for the first part of the camp and a Regimental Fibua/Dibua package for the second part. During the first few days training was intermingled with delightful events such as the assault course. The weather varied from lovely spring sunshine to winter snow and gales which meant that the water obstacles on the assault course were cold enough to freeze even a brass monkey! The photograph of the assault course shows **Sig Parry** of A Tp avoiding getting wet at all costs. It is very unfortunate that photographs have no sound recording as, believe me, it really was cold.



'No way am I getting wet' Sig Scouse Parry from A Tp

During the course of the Battle Camp the QMSI, **SSgt Roberts** and **Sig Lobb** went for a spin in a Landrover. The results were no injuries but it left LAD in the form of **WO2 (AQMS) Millward** and **Cpl Robinson** quite a task to recover and repair the vehicle. The repair amazed everyone as the LAD section of two, armed with only a hammer and a brick, took what we thought was a wreck and transformed it into a roadworthy vehicle. Unfortunately for the QMSI and **Sig Lobb** it was the RSM's Landrover that was damaged and he has vowed to get his revenge!

Thanks to the photographer, **LCpl Fletcher** could not see to save the casualty on the night time first aid stand, but his photo came out OK, I thought?

The Fibua village was an excellent conclusion to the Camp. The lads learnt how to build defences and how to clear buildings. Once they twigged that half would be defending houses whilst the other half attacked, as the finale to the exercise, it was difficult to stop the defenders making the houses impregnable. Orders were issued for the boiling oil to be removed, all booby traps to be defused and portaloos to be removed from the top of doors.



The REME in their element. WO2 (AQMS) Millward and Cpl Robinson survey the damage

The final attack and defence of the village was great! Attackers were killed off and reborn at regular intervals as very slow progress was made down the main street. As one of the attackers dropped their grenade, whilst attempting to scale a ladder to the first floor of a house, arguments developed with umpires as to who was dead and who was not. Within the houses things were even worse. So keen were attackers and defenders that to be killed off was an insult to one's personal, highly developed and newly acquired, battle skills. The arguments and formal complaints of death by umpire were all relatively heated, but a sign of the realism with which this phase of training was being taken. After three hours and thousands of blank rounds the defenders, in accordance with the pink, had to surrender as the final house was surrounded and the attackers were about to move in for the kill.



LCpl 'I can't see what I am doing now' Fletcher at the First Aid Stand

NEWS FROM 43 (WESSEX) SIGNAL SQUADRON

During the VE Day commemorations 43 Sig Sqn (V) combined a mobile communications exercise with a 2CV car rally organised by **Rob Bellinger** and the 2CV Club of Great Britain.

The purpose of the rally was to commemorate the French motor company's wartime success in keeping important technological information from the occupying German forces. At the time German industry was desperately seeking the French technology to enhance their own vehicles, so the company's action in helping prevent the Germans obtain the information was an important, albeit little publicised, contribution to the Allied war effort.

To mark Citroen's wartime action 585 2CV's congregated at Salisbury to travel via Longleat to Cheddar in Somerset. During the journey the vehicles were spread out over a distance of 15 miles so communications were essential to maintain control throughout the event.

The Squadron provided communications using the static home defence Mould system backed up by an HF guard net. Two dets travelled with the rally whilst another five dets occupied strategic positions along the route.

A number of celebrities attended the event which was featured on Blue Peter consequently many individuals managed to acquire the coveted Blue Peter badge!

The lunchtime halt at Longleat brought more excitement for the Sqn Comd, **Maj Leyland** and YofS **SSgt (YofS) Prater**, who were called upon to attend a photocall with Lord Bath before participating in a tea party in the gardens of Longleat House.

At the end of the event **Rob Bellinger** paid a generous tribute to the Squadron for its contribution to the event's success and bestowed honorary membership of the 2CV club upon the Regimental 2IC when he was discovered to be a 2CV owner himself.

For many though the day will be particularly memorable for **Sgt Reid**'s exciting rendition of the 'banana boat song'.



Members of 43 Sig Sqn (V) with the Fyffes banana car

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30 Sig Regt
Bramcote

143 (WM) BRIGADE/ROYAL SIGNALS SAAM 1995

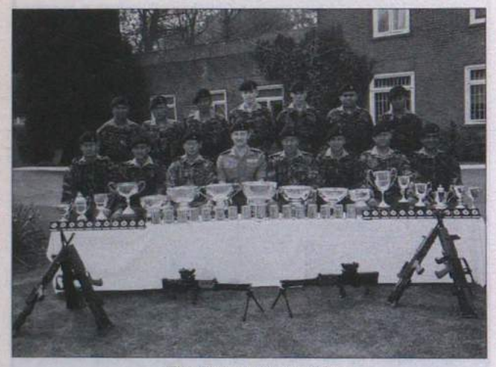
This year's 143 (WM) Bde and The Royal Signal's Skill at Arms Meeting took place from 22-23 April at Kingsbury Range and 24-28 April at Ash Ranges respectively.

Early April was the only time available for the Regiment's team to prepare for the SAAMs. Despite many other commitments the team finally got together and trained for about two weeks prior to the competition. Once again the Regimental Shooting Team produced excellent results by winning both competitions outright.

In the 143 (WM) Bde Skill at Arms Meeting, apart from coming an extremely close second in the Gun match all other matches were won with a big margin. **Cpl Nirmal** was Individual Rifle and Pistol Champion while **Sig Bharat**, **Cpl Gangaram** and **Sgt Yamkumar** were second, third and fourth.

In the Corps Skill at Arms Meeting the Regiment's B Team swept all the team events while the A Team secured close third place. **Sig Bharat** was the Individual Rifle Champion and **Cpl Nirmal** and **Sgt Yamkumar** secured second and third positions. The team also won the Inter Corps Falling Plate Shoot. Four members **Sgt Yamkumar**, **Cpl Nirmal**, **Sigs Bharat** and **Fatchet** from the Regiment represented the Corps in Methuen Cup but unfortunately the RLC won the event.

Sgt Yamkumar, **Cpl Nirmal** and **LCpl Surje** qualified to compete in RASAAM at Bisley. **Cpl Nirmal** and **Sig Bharat** have been selected to represent the British Army in Canada. Well done and good luck at Bisley and Canada.



The Team with the CO

EXERCISE JUNGLE TROOPER 1/95

Jungle Trooper is an annual jungle warfare exercise run by QG Signals. It lasts from six weeks to two months and takes place in the jungle of Brunei. This year, as well as soldiers from Hong Kong, a party of 17 deployed from 30 Sig Regt including the OC Exercise **Lt Niall Stokoe**.

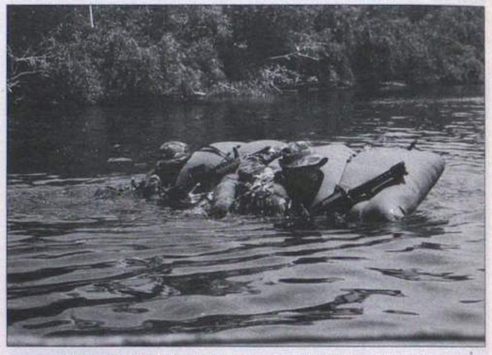
Initial training was extremely difficult with a week in Hong Kong before deployment to Brunei. Some very weird and wonderful solutions were found to the problem of acclimatisation. Incidently, the exercise suffered its first casualty at this stage. **LCpl Allison** suffered an ankle injury. On deployment, Brunei proved to be as hot and wet as we had been promised it would be, perspiration was all around. Nevertheless, the lads quickly settled in to the cheery routine of PT at 6am and bhat for lunch and supper.

As a JLC was being run concurrently with Ex Jungle Trooper, most of the initial training was in Sittang Camp. It was not long though before the lads were getting their first taste of the jungle. On the navigation exercise nobody became geographically embarrassed, but according to **Sig Tony Dunn** they went straight through the swamp in order to get a true taste of the jungle. The river crossing proved to be a far more entertaining event, **Sig Omprasad Gurung** proving that the SA80 was designed to be a submersible weapon.

There was, as ever, a final exercise, which consisted of five days under canopy. Here the real 'rambos' came to the fore, with **Rfn Bhupendra Sheresta** and **Sig Dhanbahadur Burathoki** both demonstrating the art. It also provided a small excitement for **Cfn Chris Marshall** who had his first chopper ride during the heli-insertion.

Unfortunately, there had to be an R and R phase. The Jungle Troopers had to make the difficult decision between staying and clearing the camp or adventure training. So with much reluctance they were packed off to either climb Mt Kota Kinabalu or raft the Padas river. A good time was had by all. After the R and R there was one final blow to morale which was a week free in Hong Kong before the return to UK.

All in all Jungle Trooper was an excellent exercise. It provided R Signals personnel with a unique opportunity to experience the difficulties of working in a jungle environment. Most, if asked, would love to go again and that is probably the best guide as to how enjoyable it was.



River crossing the hard way–Sig Omprasad Gurung

EXERCISE RAM BELIÉR
by Cpl Quinn

On Sunday 2 March a hand-picked team of diplomats from 30 Sig Regt led by **Lt R. Rumsey**, deployed to Toulouse in the South of France with two VSC501 mobile satellite detachments for a two week's trial with France's largest satellite Ground Station and two French mobiles.

The three day road trip began well with the majority of the detachment leaving the ferry's casino with rather less money than they started with, but with a slightly better knowledge of the Roulette table. After a very long drive we arrived on the 4th and proceeded to set up the detachments ready for the next days comms trial.

During the days to follow the trial went well, even getting ahead of schedule and showing the French that their equipment could give a better quality of service at higher, previously unreached data rates. Meanwhile, during the night, we tested many different techniques of impressing the locals, including playing bodyguards for a British VIP, namely **Mr Rumsey** who would only dance with a woman if her friend would dance with his personal bodyguard, **Sgt John** 'Kevin Costner' **Greenwood**, and the dance floor had been secured, which of course it was by the remainder of the crew.

After all this hard work a well deserved trip to the beach was organised for Sunday, where again we proceeded to work hard, but this time on nothing more important than our tans.

The Workers: **WO2 (FofS) Hardy**, **WO2 (FofS) Batley** (600 Sig Tp), **Sgt John Greenwood**, **Mr Steve Carroll**, **Cpls John Scott**, **Warren Quinn**, **Neil Moss**.

The Holiday Makers: **Lt R. Rumsey**, **Cpl Steve Smith**, **LCpls Cliff Lawrie**, **Paul Plant**, **Sigs Si Turner**, **George Marshall**, **Cfn Williams**.

EXERCISE SWAN DRAGON
SUB-AQUA DIVING–SCAPA FLOW

Scapa Flow is a dramatic and windswept expanse of water some 12 miles across, which is almost completely encircled by the islands of Orkney. On the land all around there are poignant reminders of Orkney's war-torn past. Deserted barracks and gun emplacements bear silent witness to its military history. For centuries Scapa Flow has been a safe, sheltered and heavily defended anchorage for the Royal Navy. Great warships and dramatic deeds are an integral part of that past. In the First and Second World wars the main Atlantic Operations HQ was set up at the naval base of Lyness. It is, however, what lies beneath the waves of Scapa Flow that is making Orkney a magnet for today's sports divers.



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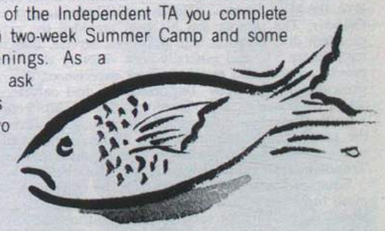
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You can contribute as much time as you want in any one year. The minimum that we ask is that as a member of the Independent TA you complete 6 weekends, a two-week Summer Camp and some weekday evenings. As a Specialist we ask only 15 days training and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



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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.

In a single, momentous event on 21 June 1919, the entire German Imperial Navy's High seas Fleet was scuttled to avoid it falling into the hands of the British. It was the single greatest piece of naval suicide the world has ever seen. Seventy-four great warships slowly sank to the bottom of Scapa Flow to litter the sea-bed. Initially the Admiralty resolved to leave the sunken fleet to rust on the bottom of the Flow forever. Over the course of the coming decades the majority of the warships were salvaged and today only eight of the original fleet remain on the sea-bed waiting to be explored. They are the 26,000-tonne battleships *König*, *Markgraf* and *Kronprinz Wilhelm*, the 5,000-tonne light cruisers *Dresden*, *Brummer*, *Köln* and *Karlsruhe* and the 900-tonne destroyer V83.

It is on this historic stage that a small band of intrepid divers from 30 Sig Regt mounted a sub aqua expedition to Scapa Flow to dive the wrecks of the Grand German Fleet.

Unfortunately, several of the original team members were unable to participate, including **Lt Tarquin Shipley** who had prepared all of the ground work and the necessary paperwork, but was dispatched with undue haste onto Op Grapple. After a trawl around the Corps, these gaps were filled by **Sgt** 'Dapps' **Dapprich** of 217 Sig Sqn, **Cpl Paul Chapman** of 5AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para) and **LCpl Mike Daws** from 11 Sig Regt who managed to convince their bosses that it was a good idea to join in. **Capt Mike Kerr** took over the reins as expedition leader and **SSgts Steve Wardle** and **Ian Flooks** covered as the expedition SADS to ensure that safe diving practices were complied with.



(L to R): LCpl E. Emblin, Sig D. Robinson, Cpl S. Arundel, SSgt I. Flooks, Capt M. Kerr, SSgt S. Wardle, Sig M. Tones, LCpl M. Daws, Sig C. Trundley, LCpl P. Chapman, Sgt P. Dappich

The expedition based itself in Stromness on a self-catering live-aboard boat, the MRS *Sunrise*, which is probably the largest live-aboard in the Orkneys. The skipper and his boat provided the expedition with an excellent dive platform with first class service. Due to the low water temperature 5°C, and generally poor visibility at 30 metres, the diving proved arduous and tested the less experienced divers to their limit, particularly **Sgt** 'Dapps' **Dapprich** who had only recently gained his sports Diver qualification. There was also an air of concern below decks regarding the potential hazards of self-catering. However, everyone shared the galley duties with impressive results, with **LCpl Mike Emblin**, winning the prize for 'mine sweeping' any leftovers and **Sig Chris Trundley** proving that there is life after McDonalds!

Equipment serviceability proved to be quite high, although with so much high-tech equipment in use and low water temperatures, there is always the potential for some equipment difficulties. Jammed open valves causing 'free-flows' were experienced, and **Sig** 'Robbo' **Robinson** is the living proof, that if you try and try again, you will eventually complete a dive. Commiserations to his diving partner, **Sig Matt Tones** who was not sure if he was diving on or with a wreck! By comparison, **Cpl Shaun Arundel** and **LCpl** 'Ems' **Emblin** tried on several occasions to break the world record for cold water saturation diving.

During the exercise the majority of the important wrecks were dived, some of which were found to be in a poor state due to previous salvage work undertaken during the 1920's. However, there are those, such as the *Karlsruhe*, which are still well preserved with their main armament intact and with sufficient visibility to make it one of the more exciting and interesting dives. Between dives, opportunities arose for trips ashore, these included trips to the various museums, which give a graphic account of the islands long and colourful history.

A visit to St George's Chapel is a must. This remarkable building is primarily a Nissen hut which was transformed into a Chapel by Italian POW's for their own use during WW2. Apart from the impressive internal decor, the main feature being its remarkable stone facade, which transforms the entrance into that of a conventional church.

Ex Swan Dragon offered a wide variety of interesting and testing diving undertaken in some difficult conditions, which took some of the participants to their limit of diving knowledge and experience. Everyone felt that the exercise was a success and they enjoyed the challenges that the exercise presented.

REGIMENTAL ORIENTEERING

The Regimental Orienteering team enjoyed excellent success in this year's Wales and Western District Championship, although it has to be said, competition could have been stiffer. Nonetheless, we are delighted to report that the team won the male and female Major Unit team trophies with the added bonus of **WCpl Nevens** winning the best overall female on the C Course. The result was particularly rewarding as the district does not enjoy an orienteering league and the Regiment hawks itself around Southern and Eastern District in search of competition.



Cpl Nevens receiving her individual prize from Brig M. P. S. Shaw

ADMIN OFFICER RETIRES

Mrs Jill Brogan recently retired from the Civil Service after more than 25 years, all spent at Gamecock Barracks in Bramcote near Nuneaton.

Jill, who is married with two children and lives in Fenny Drayton was bid a fond farewell by all 70 of the civilians based at the Camp, with a buffet lunch and drinks. The big surprise for **Jill** was to see her family present at the function.

All the civilian staff had clubbed together and a presentation was made on their behalf by **Maj Peter Cain**, the Civilian Administration Officer.



Mrs Jill Brogan is presented with her retirement present by Maj Peter Cain

FINE ART PRINTS

Ex ***SSgt E. Warburton*** *(ex 30 Sig Regt) is now supplying limited edition fine art prints from his original paintings, mounted and framed, containing a personal message. Please see his advertisement on page 219.*

The Queen's Gurkha Signals
Hong Kong

Comd	**Lt Col R. M. Crombie**
GM	**Maj (QGO) Silajit Gurung** MVO
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Omprakash Gurung**

BRITISH FORCES HONG KONG SAAM 95
by Cpl Prembahadur Ale

QG Signals snatched the Champion Team Cup (Iron Sight), at the recent SAAM, which was held at Lo Wu ranges. The team, led by **Lt (QGO) Navindra Bikram Gurung,** started off exceptionally well by securing a long lead after the first event, the march and shoot. The rifle match was disappointing, with the team ending up third, however **SSgt Rajendraman Gurung** went on to win the best individual Rifle Shot. The Cup was secured when the LSW (Gun) team won their shoot despite a lower score than any in training. The only excuse for **Cpl Tekbahadur Gurung** was that he claimed he was not wearing his magic combat jacket. **LCpl Kamal Rai** fought his way to second place overall in the individual LSW shoot. The prizes were awarded by the Commander British Forces Hong Kong, **Maj Gen B. H. Dutton CBE**.



Cpl Prembahadur, LCpls Lalbahadur, Pritinarayam and Sig Bagbir leading the way in the March and Shoot

REGIMENTAL ACTIVITIES

The Regiment has maintained its close links with the local community by running many charity events, the most recent of which was Hike the Hills which raised over HK$1M for a local Cancer Hospice. **Capt David Turner** and 30 soldiers from the Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn (HKGSS) provided assistance in coordinating the event, which even involved carrying some ladies down the hills! The Regiment is now gearing itself up for its major charity event of the year, Ex Trailwalker in November. **Maj (GCO) Lilbahadur Gurung**, who is heading the Regimental effort, is hoping to exceed the HK$10,450,000 raised last year and repeat the success of winning the event!!

Sport has continued to play an important part in the Regimental activities, and we have participated in a wide range of competitions from athletics to squash to basketball to football. The orienteering team, coached by **WOI (FofS) Bob Downie**, were narrowly pushed into 2nd place at the HQBF championships. The scratch seven-a-side rugby team, despite the encouragement (from the sidelines) of **SSgt Martin Perry**, were defeated in the plate final by lRGR. However, the Regiments rugby pride was upheld by the Comd's son, **James**, who was in the winning side of the Under 11's competition at the recent Hong Kong International Sevens. A team from the Hong Kong Military Service Corps members of the HKGSS, led from the front by **Sgt Lai Yuen Fung**, upheld the Regimental reputation at their Corps cross-country event, despite having only a pool of 13 personnel to choose from.

MOVEMENTS

The last few months has marked a sad time for the Regiment with the drawdown hitting hard and a large number of officers and soldiers departing for Nepal on redundancy or pension. While the list is too long to name them all, there is no doubt that the Regiment owes them a great deal for all they have done over the years, and we wish them all the very best of luck for the future wherever it may take them.

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj S. P. Davies MBE**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) P. Baker**

The move of the majority of the Regiment from Sek Kong Garrison to the Prince of Wales Barracks on Hong Kong Island meant a new look Regiment. The old HQBF Admin Unit were subsumed into the Regiment and formed a large part of the 'new' HQ Squadron. This provided a mixed range of cap badges, nationalities and new customs!

This varied Squadron has proven to be a real success with all ranks mixing well and learning from each other. The largest contingent within the Squadron are the Locally Employed Chinese Personnel (LEPS), who are employed as chefs and stewards in all Joint Services Messes found within the Barracks and on Her Majesty Ships sailing from HMS *Tamar*. LEPS have been serving with the British Forces of Hong Kong for over 150 years, but it was not until 1905 that the Admiralty engaged LEPS with pay, and allowed them to wear uniform. It is with real sadness that due to the handover of the colony in June 1997 many of these fine tradesmen are being made redundant. The Squadron has 20 Gurkha officers and soldiers within its ranks and its main function is the manning of RHQ and the running of the Manning and Record office for all QG Signals personnel world-wide. They are exceptionally busy during this period of draw-down, dealing with the redundees and the moving back of families to Nepal.



The numerically aware HQ Sqn Basketball Teams



Three Corps members, present and past, who were at the British Korean War Memorial Service at Glouster Hill, Korea on 23 April
(L to R): Mr Frank Fallows, Executive Vice President–International, British Korean Veterans Association, Capt Chris Ford, Adjt QG Signals, Mr Douglas Burgess (NZ), Ex-Sgt C Troop, 1 Comwel Div Sig Regt, Korea 53/54

31 Sig Regt (V)
Southfields

CO — **Col Keith Bruce-Smith TD**
Adjt — **Capt Andy Cameron**

WELCOME

Capt Andy Cameron, Adjutant has actually appeared in person now and is settling into his new job.

FAREWELL TO 47 SQUADRON (V)

47 Sig Sqn have now officially left our Regiment to join 39 Sig Regt (V). The Regiment wishes them well for their exciting new future and new TAC in Uxbridge later this year.

CORPS AND INNHOLDERS ANNIVERSARY DINNER

To celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the formation of the Corps and the Regiment's 10 years affiliation with the Worshipful Company of Innholders, the Regiment held a Dinner at the Innholders Hall, College Street, London on 28 April.

The dinner was run in a rather different form to the normal dinner night as traditions of both the Regiment and the Worshipful Company of Innholders were combined, making it a very special night. Nearly 80 WOs, Officers and guests attended.

After pre-dinner drinks everyone took their seats. Grace was given by the Regimental Padre, **Rev D. Crawley RAChD** followed by a wonderful meal accompanied by the Band of the Middlesex Yeomanry by kind permission of **Mr Williams**.

After the toasts, the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col K. J. Bruce-Smith TD** toasted the guests and gave a humorous speech. This was followed by the Master of the Worshipful Company of Innholders, **Mr M. E. Wates** giving a toast to the Regiment. The toast to the Royal Corps of Signals was proposed by the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE DL**.

The traditional Innholders Ceremony of the Loving Cup was held. The ceremony according to Chambers' book of days, is said to date back to a time well before the Norman Conquest of 1066. From the assassination at Corfe Castle, on 18 March 987, of **King Edward The Martyr**, while drinking from the Cup proffered to him by his Stepmother **Queen Elfrida**. So her son, **Ethelred**, should be King and who did, in fact, succeed as **Ethelred the Unready**. The tradition then started when drinking from a large cup, as it was passed around, whoever is drinking has his companions both sides of him protecting with drawn swords. A modified version is now used to pass the Loving Cup around the table.



The top table setting off the Loving Cup Ceremony
(L to R): (Hon Col) Maj Gen I. O. J. Sprackling, (Master of Signals) Maj Gen Birtwistle, (CO) Lt Col Keith Bruce-Smith, (Master of the Worshipful Company of Innholders) Mr Wates, (SOinC) Maj Gen Boyle

We were honoured with many guests attending the evening, including the Master of Innholders, the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen I. O. J. Sprackling OBE**, **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle**, **Maj Gen Sir Roy Redgrave**, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB, MBE, DL**, **Brig J. E. Neeve**, **Brig N. F. Wood**, Mayors and Mayoress of the Regiments Boroughs, seven previous Colonels of the Regiment, to mention just a few.

The Worshipful Company of Innholders are great supporters of the Regiment, sponsoring various awards such as 'The Soldier of the Year Award' and sponsoring equipment such as abseiling safety harnesses and helmets, allowing the Regiment to partake in activities it couldn't otherwise do. The Regiment is always very grateful for their invaluable assistance and their affiliation.



It must be a record–seven former COs of the Regiment–and the present one, get together at the Anniversary Dinner
(L to R): Lt Col L. G. French, Lt Col R. C. A. Thwaites, Col J. C. Eversfield, Col B. J. Austin, Lt Col J. P. Brian, Col D. A. B. Crawford, Lt Col K. Bruce-Smith (present CO) and Col C. P. Stenning

MAYOR MAKING DINNER

On 25 May the Regiment organised a dinner to welcome the newly inaugurated Mayors and Mayoress of Wandsworth and Croydon. Twenty officers attended the wonderful dinner at Southfields TAC to host the Mayor and Mayoress of Croydon, **Cllr Clarence** and **Mayoress Vilma McKenzie** and the Mayor of Wandsworth, **Cllr Vanessa Graham** and escort. A very enjoyable and interesting evening for everyone.



Lt Col Keith Bruce-Smith and his wife Sue entertain the Mayor and Mayoress of Croydon, Cllr Clarence and Mayoress Vilma McKenzie



41 Sqn Comd, Mayor of Wandsworth, Cllr Vanessa Graham, Mayoress Vilma McKenzie and Maj Rod Thomas at the Mayor Making Dinner

THE OPENING OF
THE NEW EXTENSION TO THE MUSEUM
AND THE
ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION REUNION
IN BLANDFORD TO MARK THE CORPS' 75th ANNIVERSARY
9 JULY 1995

in the presence of

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal
Colonel in Chief

The Royal Signals Association Reunion to mark the Corps' 75th Anniversary was held in Blandford Camp on Sunday, 9 July 1995. This simple sentence does not convey the hard work under difficult conditions undertaken by many to ensure that this significant historic event was appropriately celebrated. The hot weather was preferable to the rain that usually accompanies these Reunions and brought out a variety of sartorial innovations to cope with the humid conditions. The construction firms restored some semblance of order and normality to the biggest building site seen in Blandford Camp for some time so that this important event could go ahead with some decorum.

Some 1,400 members and their guests attended the Reunion; far more than ever before and not expected during the planning stages. This clearly indicates that the membership has accepted the new home of the Corps and is determined to support Blandford into the future. Some 51 Branches were represented at the Reunion and 35 paraded their Standards at occasions throughout the day.

The day started with the arrival of **The Colonel in Chief** in a helicopter of the Queen's Flight who was met by **Major General A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL**, The Master of Signals, **Major General A. H., Boyle**, Signal Officer in Chief (Army), **Brigadier J. H. Griffin**, Commander, The Royal School of Signals, **Colonel A. N. de Bretton-Gordon**, Regimental Secretary and **Captain A. R. Basker**, the Aide de Camp. A Church Service was held in the gymnasium and conducted jointly by the **Reverend Peter Clemett**, the present incumbent and the **Reverend Chris Ward**, his predecessor. It was a moving and joyful occasion with good rousing hymns for the packed congregation in the gymnasium and some 50 members in the Garrison church which served as an overflow. All Standards were laid up during the Service and the Peterborough Branch's new Standard was dedicated.

This was followed by **The Princess** receiving a briefing by **Lieutenant Colonel Pat Soward**, the Project Officer of the New Wing of the Museum. Meanwhile, Association Standard Bearers lined the route to the New Wing of the Museum and other members gathered for the official opening. The **Colonel in Chief** accompanied by **Major General C. N. Last CB, OBE**, the Chairman of The Royal Signals Institution, was greeted at the entrance to the New Wing by **Brigadier J. H. Griffin** and invited to cut the ribbon to formally open the building. This was followed by **The Princess** unveiling a Commemorative Plaque and then a tour of the building to meet those concerned with fund raising, design and construction. Museum and Project Staff and Members of the Serving Corps who have raised the bulk of the funds required for this historic project were also presented to **The Colonel in Chief**. The **Princess** was clearly interested in the way ahead and has given the inspiration and encouragement to ensure that there is a successful conclusion to this important addition to the Corps' heritage in the days ahead.

The next event was lunch in quite the largest tented city which had been erected near to the athletics track at the other end of the Camp. Before meeting the 120 or so members of the Association selected to meet **The Colonel in Chief, Her Royal Highness** presented The Princess Mary Medal to **Major General P. D. Alexander CB, MBE**, the Chairman of The Royal Signals Association and The Master of Signals Award to **Major G. Schofield MBE**, the Assistant General Secretary of The Royal Signals Association. **Her Royal Highness** then spent over an hour talking to Members of the Association which was very much appreciated by those fortunate to have been selected. A number of photographs were taken by the official photographer and by members which will surely be treasured mementoes of a unique historic occasion.

Undeterred by the uncomfortable humid conditions **The Princess** then toured a static display by members of the Serving Corps from 11th Signal Regiment, 5 Airborne Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron (216 Parachute) and 249 (Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land)) Signal Squadron. The Blandford Project Team also had a display to inform members of the new buildings being constructed in Blandford Camp. The Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society also had equipment and details of membership on display.

Finally, there was a tent where commemorative artifacts could be bought and where the Officers' Commemorative Centrepiece of a Six Foot Cable Wagon in Bronze was on display; this was critically examined by a number of Old Comrades to ensure its authenticity and attracted particular attention from **The Colonel in Chief**.

The afternoon concluded with an Arena Display by the Bands of the Corps of Royal Engineers, 34th (Northern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) and The Royal Corps of Signals. The world famous Corps Motor Cycle Display Team, the White Helmets, gave their usual breathtaking programme but with more panache, inspired no doubt by the presence of **The Colonel in Chief**. The Massed Bands and Branch Standards then marched past **The Princess** to bring the Reunion to a fitting conclusion.

This was, without doubt, the largest gathering in the Corps' new home and bodes well for the future. Members went home in the knowledge that Blandford will fully meet the many requirements for it to fulfil its role as the home of the entire Corps' family. As always, The Royal Signals Association are indebted to the Commander, The Royal School of Signals, and members of the serving Corps for all their hard work in difficult conditions for making this important Reunion in the Corps' 75th Anniversary Year a memorable and happy occasion.







1 – Her Royal Highness opens the new extension to the Museum

2 – Her Royal Highness unveils the plaque

3 – Major General P. D. Alexander receives the Princess Mary Medal

4 – Major G. Schofield receives The Master of Signals Award

5-14 – Her Royal Highness talks to members of the Association

15 – Her Royal Highness leaving the Reception

16 – At the Static Displays

17-19 – Arena attractions

20 – The March Past

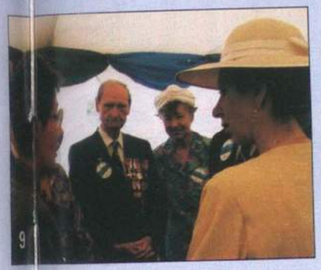
























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DRIVER TRAINING

This year's Regimental course took place 13-20 May at Browndown Training Camp. It was run concurrently with a Regimental cadre training course and rerole training for 56 Sig Sqn (V) from Eastbourne and 2 Sqn based in Dundee–a busy week for the Regiment.

Detailed planning for the course was carried out by the MT Section, namely **WO2 (MTWO) John Middleton** and **LCpl Neil Wilson** with assistance from many other departments, notably the QM's Dept and the Sqn NRPS.

16 students from the Regiment including 56 Sig Sqn (V) who have recently joined 31 Sig Regt (V) together with five reserves joined the course.

The instructors were recruited from the Regiment, with the criteria of nerves of steel, patience, a sense of humour and an up to date insurance policy! None of the vehicles had dual controls!

The students had to pass the UK Highway Code Matrix Test before being behind the wheel. Most students passed with little problem, followed by classroom work covering vehicle works tickets, accident reporting, driving skills, first works parades and basic fault finding.

Day two, after PT with **Sgt** 'Trav' **Travis** it was driving training, LGV Cat C and Light vehicle Cat B. The Guard/Admin Party placed a scrapes and skirmish scoreboard outside the guardroom. It wasn't long before **Sig Rebecca Coxsmith** decided that a street sign on a quiet housing estate would be a nice trophy–fortunately no real damage was done.

As the days progressed the students ventured further away, Gosport, Fareham, Portsmouth then the Hamble Estuary and New Forest. With many parties, quizzes and beers to relax people–(in the evenings only) some foolishly volunteered to take PT. After the MTWO taking the warm up, the new PTI–**Sig Helen Dempsey** took over. The MTWO and **WO2 (YofS) Byron Sinclair** were used to demonstrate the little green frog song, much to the amusement of all those present.

Cfn North from 56 Sig Sqn (V) led the way with the first LGV pass. With **SSgts Roy Smith** and **Sheila Billing** booking in the tests, students tried to control their nerves. Meanwhile instructors waited for their students to return and either offer congratulations or take a quiet walk to console those who found it all too much. Congratulations to **Sig Sullivan** from 41 Sig Sqn (V), who surprised everyone by being the first to pass–surprising because on day two he was voted the student most likely to meet a badly dressed man wearing black and carrying a sickle! Bowling, organised (or was it disorganised?) by **LCpl Neil Wilson** helped everyone relax–especially those awaiting their test. Many turned to **Cpl Sharon Driver** for advice and comfort when they failed and were persuaded to retake. **Sig Helen Dempsey** supplied lucky crystals and charms to all–saying 'if it worked for me it can work for anyone'! 15 passed.

Some were so anxious to get back to the bright lights of London, they forgot to take their vehicle back (well done **LCpl** 'Becks' **Strickland**) **LCpl Cheryl Lowdell** passed her test–lucky really as she had just joined the MT team! Thanks to all the instructors for their dedication, professionalism–and nerve and last but not least the admin team led by **SSgt Andy Raynsford**.



Sig Dempsey (41 Sig Sqn (V)) instructs the MTWO and YofS in 'The Frog Song'!

ORIENTEERING–ROYAL SIGNALS AND ARMY/UKLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

On 9 April the ladies team came second and the men's team third in the TA Championships. But unfortunately the teams were not complete for the R Signals and Army/UKLF Championships, so competitors had to enter as individuals for many classes. In Harrogate on 6/7 May they did particularly well in the Relay competitions and **2Lt Gill Pearson** came second in the D Course. On 20/21 May in Catterick they also took part. It was all good practice for future competitions. The competitors were **Capt Dave Thomas, Sgt Bob Gallagher, Sgt Lynn Dowghty, 2Lt Geoff Mitchell, WO2 Rod Oakley, 2Lts Gill Pearson, Sarah Streete, LCpl Tanya Nicholson, Sgts Robbie Robson, Meg Garven** and **Sig Rebecca Cox-Smith**.

HQ SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–SOUTHFIELDS EXERCISE LONG HAUL

HQ Sqn has now taken part in its first exercise including HF Communications. The Squadron sent out a radio detachment on 7/8 May. Previously it organised the support roles for the rest of the Regiment rather than HF comms. It was a useful and interesting weekend, putting its newly learnt signal skills to the test.

41 (PRINCESS LOUISE'S OF KENSINGTON) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–COULSDON NIJMEGAN MARCH–CONGRATULATIONS

The teams from 83 and 41 Sig Sqns (V) qualified to enter a joint team into the march in July. They will join the British Military Contingent (BMC) in Holland. The march will comprise four successive days of marching along Dutch roads and byways with teams completing 25 miles each day, carrying a 10kg pack!

The trials were held at RAF Benson, Oxfordshire over two days; 22/23 April. The weather was cruel to the participants, the team had to follow the 40km route for both days. The start time was 0650hrs and entrants had to finish before 1700hrs to qualify. It was tough and gruelling, but well worth the result they achieved.

DINING OUT OF MAJOR STEVE POTTER

Former Sqn Comd, **Maj Steve Potter**, accompanied by his wife **Sally**, was dined out of 47 Sig Sqn at a dinner attended by members of the Officers and Sergeants Messes and the Corporals of the Squadron. The dinner was held on 18 March in a local hotel.

In his farewell speech **Maj Potter** said both goodbye and welcome to the Squadron. A paradox explained by the fact that having left 31 Sig Regt (V) at Christmas and joined 39 Sig Regt (V) and in the capacity of OC RRTT for 39 Sig Regt (V) he will be continuing his links with 47 Sig Sqn (V).

Acting Sqn Comd, **Capt Guy Lester**, on behalf of the Squadron, accepted a print of fox cubs presented by **Maj Potter**. The fox has a strong association with 47 Sqn and is represented within its history by a highly treasured piece of Regimental silver. The latest addition to the fox family will hang proudly on the wall in the new TAC in Uxbridge later this year when 47 Sig Sqn (V) move to their new location.

83 (LONDON) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–HAMMERSMITH THE MOVE

Yes, the Squadron is now in the Duke of York's Barracks! They moved in late May for the official re-opening ceremony of the Duke of York Barracks by **HRH The Duke of York**, which took place on 18 June.

NELC STAND–KENSINGTON TOWN HALL

On Wednesday 12 April, 83 Sig Sqn (V) were invited to NELC presentations by the Mayor of Kensington at the Town Hall.

The Squadron provided an information stand for the evening. The aim was to inform employers about the TA, and the benefits for both the participant and the employer.

Members of the TA who invited their employers were able to visit stands and talk to serving members from a variety of arms and services ranging from the London Regiment to the ACF.

The reception was followed by prizegiving to employers who had been particularly supportive of their staff who served in the reserve forces.

There were a number of interesting visitors who the soldiers spoke to. They included veterans who had been in the Corps during World War 2, fellow soldiers from the Duke of York's Headquarters and people with no military experience or knowledge of any kind.

32 Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

CO — **Lt Col I. O. Robertson**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) G. G. A. Reith**

The Regiment has been building up individual and team battle skills in preparation for annual camp in September which will be fully tactical for most of the period. The Camp will involve a comms phase leading into an infantry exercise which will include live field firing.

EXERCISE SAFFLOWER STRETCH

Squadrons have been carrying out dry military training at TACs and their own tactical exercises at weekends. Ex Safflower Stretch was a Regimental military exercise at Castlelaw Training area and consisted of a military skills competition. All members of the Regiment who took part were put through eight Military stands on day one ranging from the basic NBC, first aid and weapons through to night navigation, cam and concealment and defensive positions. The weapons stand consisted of the Weapon Handling Test which has now been brought in as part of the new Army Operational Shooting policy.



The RSM introduces SSgt Ray Ramsey PSI 51 (H) Sig Sqn and Sgt Steve McVey who was Top Student recently on his SSgts Course, to the SOinC

The SOinC(A), **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle**, visited the Regiment on the first day and after being briefed by the Trg Maj, **Maj Ian Seraph**, visited most of the stands and then had an informal lunch in the field with all available Officers and SNCOs. The SOinC will no doubt remember the visit as the one where he arrived safely at Edinburgh Airport while his luggage and all his uniform that he required for the day remained in London. Compliments of a well known airline!



Pte Caroline Paterson and Sig Susan Holmes brew up

The second day of the competition consisted of a small arms trainer competition followed by the assault course. The competition was a close run thing with both 61 Sqn and 2 Sqn neck and neck right up to the final event. The eventual winners were 61 Sig Sqn (V) with a blistering time over the assault course.

The complete exercise was held in the field with all elements of the Regiment under canvas. The RP Sgt, **Sgt Jackie Dolan** ensured that **WO1 (RSM) Reith** got the new luxury version of the Army 9x9 which comes complete with officers' bed and mattress, gas heater, electric light, bench and wash hand basin. **Sgt Dolan** obviously learned who to look after early on in his career!



Lt Joe Meade and Sgt Stewart Young prepare orders while the rest of the HQ Sqn section carry out Battle Prep

The COs Trophy Cabinet is steadily being filled and the Regiments sporting achievements so far this year are:

Skiing	
1995 TA Inter Unit Alpine Ski Champions	**32 Sig Regt (V)**
1995 TA in Scotland Inter Unit Alpine Ski Champions	**32 Sig Regt (V)**
1995 R Signals Alpine Ski Individual Champion	**Capt Hinsley 32 Sig Regt (V)**
1995 R Signals Alpine Ski Individual Runner Up	**Sgt McGoldrick 32 Sig Regt (V)**
1995 Veterans Alpine Ski Individual Runner Up	**Capt Payne 32 Sig Regt (V)**
Shooting	
1995 Army in Scotland Skill at Arms Meeting Team Snap winners	**HQ Sqn, 32 Sig Regt (V)**
1995 R Signals TA Corps Skill at Arms Champions	**32 Sig Regt (V)**
1995 R Signals Individual Champion at Arms	**Cpl McDonald 32 Sig Regt (V)**

Winners at the 1995 TA Corps Skill at Arms Meeting of the Association Cup, the FIBUA Match, the APWT Match, The LSW Match and the Pistol Match.

52 (LOWLAND) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd — **Maj Fiona Farquharson (V)**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Keith Anderson**

After the Squadron's recent participation on the N.C.R.S. trials at Cultybraggan Training Camp, which lasted a month, our Squadron has settled back into a more normal training programme. In preparation for our Annual Camp in September, there has been a period of intense infantry training. This has involved a number of overnight exercises that have included patrols, Section and Platoon attacks, night navigation and a defence exercise. This has demanded a great deal of physical and mental stamina on the part of those involved and it is hoped that this will be helped by the increased amount of physical training that is taking place within the Regiment. There has been an enthusiastic response from the majority of our Squadron to this recent upsurge of infantry-type training.

As a result of a considerable amount of effort from our Regimental Shooting Team, led by its captain **Capt Strachen** from 51 Sig Sqn (V), our Regiment was successful in winning all of the available competitions at the Corps Skill-at-Arms meeting in April. This has been an inspiration for our Regiment to maintain high standards at Skill-at-Arms.

We would like to congratulate **Sgt McVey** who came top of his TA SSgts' Course. His previous experience with the 'Cabbage Heads' (Marines) had obviously stood him in good stead for achieving this result.

Our Squadron presently has a number of troops participating in adventure training in the Scottish Highlands. Ex Ciche Terrain aims to develop initiative, confidence, leadership skills and self reliance in young soldiers. They will be gaining this experience through canoeing, route planning, navigation, hill walking and abseiling in the area surrounding the Lairig-Ghru and Ben Macdui in the Cairngorms.

There have been a number of social events organised for the purpose of raising money for an internationally renowned, registered charity. These events have included discos, race nights, ceilidhs and raffles.

61 (CITY OF EDINBURGH) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd — **Maj Allan Lapsley**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Bill Strachan**

PERSONNEL CHANGES

At the beginning of April, 2 Sqn became affiliated to 32 Sig Regt (V) and the SSM of 2 Sqn **WO2 (SSM) Bill Strachan** transferred to become the new SSM 61 Sqn. **WO2 Jeff** 'I became a yeoman last year' **Jephcote** was at last able to hand over and take up the post. of YofS.

The handover was planned by **WO2 Jephcote** and all officers and SNCOs were notified to appear in SD/No 2 Dress for the last Thursday Training night in April. All was revealed on the night when a photographer appeared and a formal photograph was marshalled by **Sgt Sam Shaw** and **SSgt Helen Jephcote** (no relation?) to record **WO2 Jephcotes** last night as SSM. **Lt Jill Montgomery** from 40 Sig Regt (V) is now working in Edinburgh and training with the Squadron. There is no truth in the rumour that we swapped 69 Sig Sqn (V) for **Lt Montgomery**.

ROBERTSON RUMPUS 1 (MAY 95)

Despite the encouraging words from **WO2 (YofS)** 'Mac' **Mackenzie** that on no account were 61 Sqn to win the Regimental Skills Weekends (again!), **Lts Brian Shankland** and **Stuart Middleton** led two teams in the competition. **Capt** 'Big PC' **Campbell** organised the admin area in his typical stylish way. The advance party set up a proper tentage camp with 9 x 9's, 12 x 12's and mine tape in perfectly straight lines all to the PSAO's exacting standards.

On the assault course there was a change of plans and the last men **LCpl Ryan Sweeney** swapped places with **Cpl Roy Taylor**. This inspired change brought victory to the A team and the trophy for the Squadron.

WEST LOWLAND HIKE

1995 marked the 25th Anniversary of the West Lowland Hike. A weekend cross country walk for the Boys Brigade. As usual 61 Sig Sqn (V) were requested to provide the safety and administration communications.

Cpl Roy Taylor took over from the PSAO as master of tentage and organised the admin area on Friday afternoon assisted by **Sigs Ken Mann**, **Scott MacGillivray**, **Chris Scott** and **Julie Wardrope**. **Sgt Jackie Smith** managed to provide the traditional FFR burning of a clutch whilst playing in a muddy field.

On Saturday night the grateful organisations hosted a barbecue for the participants with the police giving a demonstration of new batons and handcuffs to volunteers.

PROMOTIONS

The month of May marked a steady stream of promotions for members of 61 Sig Sqn (V). **Lts Brian Shankland**, **Donald Dodds** and **Alan Pepper** were all promoted to Capt and **SSgt Rab Meldrum** was promoted to WO2, Master Chef. The promotion to Captain for **Alan Pepper** came just in time as he leaves in June for a three month stint in Africa with 'Raleigh International'.

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

The Regiment has just returned from deployment on Ex Summer Eagle and preparations for Ex Able Condor are well underway. Summer Eagle went well for the Regiment with a good turnout in spite of the Cup Final involving Manchester United and Everton.

In spite of the usual constraints placed on the Regiment at work and Exercises there can still be found time for members of the Regiment to take part in unusual and adventurous activities. Operation Unity Challenge is chronicled elsewhere in this issue and other members of the Regiment will shortly be deploying on Ex Columbian Dragon.

The usual turnover of personnel has continued throughout this period and it is with a heavy heart that we have to bid farewell to the following members of the Regiment: **Maj Bob Dobson** who moves to become 'Permanently Static And Old' (PSAO) at 55 Sig Sqn (V) here in Liverpool. **Maj Katriona Miller** on posting to 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde. **WO2 Marie Watkinson** and **WO2 Jimmy Forbes** on retirement. **SSgt (FofS) Mick Campbell** on posting and promotion. **Sgt Jimmy Jenning** on leaving the Regiment and the TA.



Members of the Regiment relaxing during Selection for Columbian Dragon

We welcome into RHQ **Maj Tony Fahey** as the new Traffic Officer, all the way from 80 Sig Sqn (V). Welcomes also to **Maj Andy Stokoe** as the new Training Major. Elsewhere in the Regiment we welcome **Maj Chris Fidler** as 80 Sig Sqn Comd and **SSgt (FofS) Phil Johnson**.

OPERATION UNITY CHALLENGE
DELIVERY OF AID TO UKRAINE

Operation Unity Challenge was a 33 Sig Regt (V) exercise to deliver aid to Odessa in the Ukraine. The purpose of this exercise was threefold:

- To deliver much needed aid to a children's hospital in Liverpool's sister city of Odessa.
- To raise the Regiment's profile throughout the region through the publicity engendered by the exercise.
- To provide Soldiers of the Regiment with an activity that would test their initiative and resolve to the full.

To help achieve these aims the Regiment enlisted the help of The Lord Mayor of Liverpool, **Cllr Roger Johnston**, and the evergreen Pop Star **Gerry Marsden**. Sponsorship had been raised through local companies. We were helped considerably in this by the fact that a local TV company was accompanying the exercise to record the event.

Saturday 24 April saw the team, complete with TV crew assemble at Deysbrook Barracks, Liverpool to start the long journey to Odessa. The original intention was to leave at 0530 hrs for the journey to Folkestone and Le Shuttle. At 0530 hrs, as planned, the team departed for Folkestone. Just after reaching Kettering the first problem occurred. The truck we had been supplied with began to develop faults. The truck and these faults were to become a major source of concern throughout the whole exercise and it is a tribute to the workmanship of **Cpl Ian Boyd** and **LCpl Steve Byrne** that the truck made it through the whole journey. After breaking down a second time in UK it was decided that in its present condition the truck (which had only been made available to us the day before departure) was unlikely to make Folkestone, much less Odessa. The decision was made, therefore, that we should attempt to reach a barracks in UK and spend a day and night working on the vehicle to enable it to complete the long and difficult journey that lay ahead.

It was Sunday evening by the time all the necessary work had been completed. Although nobody had any great confidence in the trucks ability to make the journey it was felt that given the high standard of the two REME personnel in their trade that any problems en-route would be overcome. After this false start the team continued through the Channel Tunnel and into continental Europe.

It had been intended that the team would stop overnight in Krefeld. By now, 24 hours behind schedule, it was decided that it must now press straight on to Berlin. A very long hard drive followed. It was felt by all

that this was worthwhile as on arrival in Berlin the team was back on schedule and able to take advantage of a day's rest before the next leg into Ukraine via Poland.

In Berlin the team was hosted by the German Army in a vast Barracks in the former French quarter. Whilst the remainder of the team enjoyed the sights of Berlin the CO and **SSgts Russell** and **Roberts** drove up to the German-Polish Border to recce the route and ascertain what delays were likely to occur. Long delays were expected at the Polish border which we were keen to avoid. However, the CO had a plan that would overcome this; his ruse appeared to work and it was agreed that the following day we could go straight to the front of the queue, thus avoiding a delay of anything up to 24 hours. Retribution for this subterfuge was swift and effective. In Berlin, at about the same time, a tree decided that it had been upstanding for long enough, thank you very much and, decided to fall on to one of the vehicles causing considerable damage. It was a very still day and the tree looked remarkably healthy. The CO decided that life was not as peaceful as it was cracked up to be!

The following day saw the convoy heading for the Polish Border less two members of the team who stayed behind to oversee repairs to the damaged vehicle. They eventually caught up with the team at the Polish Border with the vehicle fully roadworthy. The CO was yet to face the task of getting broken glass out of his Service Dress which had been kept in the back of the vehicle.



CO, Lt Col Peter Parfitt and the evergreen Gerry Marsden loading 'Gerry Aid' prior to leaving for Odessa

The journey through Poland did not pass without incident. As there were very real concerns about the safety of vehicles travelling through Poland, where the ancient art of highway robbery is enjoying a renaissance, it had been decided that we would drive through in one go. On more than one occasion some nifty navigation was required when unexpectedly low bridges prevented the convoy passing. **Pte Steve Riozzi** our HGV 1 chef ensured that a steady supply of egg banjoes kept everyone going and the drivers were rotated every two hours. Sleep was scarce and the effects of the long drive was made worse by appalling weather on bad roads. A great sigh of relief came from all when we eventually came to the Ukrainian Border where it was planned the team would rest for several hours before the long drive to Odessa itself. Sadly this was not to be as after completing all the Customs formalities the team emerged into Ukraine at long last to be met by three Ministry of Interior troops. They were to escort us on the final leg of our journey to ensure that we were not robbed en-route. Welcome though their assistance was, their insistence that we continue straight on to Odessa was not met with universal approval! After a short break our marathon drive continued.

With the exception of **SSgt Russell**, who knows the Ukraine very well, everyone was struck by the conditions they saw. The roads defy description and the air of poverty and neglect that is the legacy of the old Soviet Union left their mark on everyone. A dead body lying unnoticed in the road, a man quite literally blind drunk, children and adults begging in the streets, and the disrepair of many of the buildings gave us much food for thought. Finally, after a 60 hour journey the team arrived in Odessa which offered a sharp constrast to the rest of the Ukraine.

ODESSA AND THE HANDOVER OF AID

After seeing the conditions on the drive through Ukraine the team was pleasantly surprised by the great port of Odessa. The city boasts an eventful history and has survived the ravages of communism relatively intact. It is a most beautiful city, full of bustle and enterprise that is not found elsewhere in Ukraine. The people are cosmopolitan in outlook and open and friendly and the welcome they gave to the team was very warm. It is a city of contrasts, combining the elegance of the pre-communist era with the excesses of communism. After a much needed and well earned rest in a local hotel the team embarked on a busy programme of sightseeing and official functions provided by our hosts.

Our second day in Odessa saw the handover of the medical equipment. Nobody who was there will ever forget the conditions in the local hospitals or the children that we met. The staff of these hospitals work extremely long hours in appalling conditions with woefully inadequate equipment. The team was left feeling humbled by what it had seen and proud that the equipment it had brought on the long journey would soon be making a very real difference to child care in Odessa and, quite literally, saving countless lives.

The team's ranks had by this time been swelled by the **Lord Mayor of Liverpool** and the singer **Gerry Marsden**. Gerry was so moved by the plight of the children that he undertook, on the spot, to raise money on his return to Liverpool to further equip the Children's Diagnostic Centre.



Team members pose under the 'Volunteer Triangle'
(L to R): Pte Michelle Blowes, Cpl Johnny Smith, Cpl Ian Boyd, LCpl Steve Byrne, SSgts Ron Russell, Di Winrow and 'Baz' Roberts

The high spot for many members of the team was an impromptu concert given by Gerry on the Potemkin Steps, Odessa's most famous landmark. Young people from the city joined in and a carnival atmosphere was apparent as members of the team and the locals sang and danced together. The sight of British servicemen and women singing and dancing with new found Ukrainian friends would have been unthinkable in the past. Though the locals may have found the words to You'll Never Walk Alone and Ferry 'Cross the Mersey strange they certainly entered into the spirit of this totally spontaneous open air concert.

The teams short stay in Odessa was coming to a close and preparations for the long drive back to the UK began. As the team departed all agreed that they would like to return and none would forget Odessa and its people.

After a long and (relatively!) uneventful journey back through Europe the team finally returned to Liverpool on 6 May. All had worked incredibly hard during the course of the two weeks and felt a real sense of pride in what they had achieved. The equipment that was taken is already saving lives in Odessa and the links between Liverpool and Odessa were firmly cemented.

THE FUTURE

Whilst the Exercise started off as a one off opportunity to enhance the Regiment's profile, develop links within the community and offer our soldiers an opportunity to take part in an unusual event, it is apparent that more equipment is still needed in Odessa. The possibility exists that a further convoy could be sent out next year by the Regiment. Planning is now well under way for Gerry Marsden to put on a benefit concert in Liverpool in November as a direct result of his visit. Granada television is planning to do a documentary on the exercise in addition to the coverage it has already supplied for national television.

Watch this space, as they say! . . .

34 Sig Regt (V) Middlesbrough

CO — **Lt Col M. K. Stretch**
Adjt — **Capt P. M. Kelly**

NEW PTARMIGAN TRAINING CENTRE OPENS

The GOC of 2 Div, **Maj Gen P. A. J. Cordingley** DSO, opened The Ptarmigan Training Centre–the first built for the Territorial Army. The Mayor of Darlington, civic dignitaries and the Comd of 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde, **Brig M. P. S. Shaw** and **Mrs Shaw** were all present.

Three high-tech centres are planned for 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde and the first went 'live' at Darlington based 50 Sig Sqn (V).

The Centre immediately swung into action with trade training being undertaken throughout the day.

The need of a Ptarmigan Training Centre became apparent with the move of trade training from Catterick to Blandford in 1994. The building features the latest in computer and communications technology, a lecture theatre, four classrooms and a vehicle bay. Radio equipment can be set up in the rooms so that trainees no longer have to crowd into the back of a box-body to learn their skills.



50 Sig Sqn (V) provides Quarter Guard
The GOC talks with Cpl 'Mac' McDonald at the opening of the Ptarmigan Training Centre in Darlington. Standing each side of Cpl McDonald is Sig McCrae and Cpl Micky Jemmett

ANNUAL PLAYING OF RETREAT

The opening of the Ptarmigan Training Centre was followed later in the afternoon by a cocktail party and the Playing of Retreat by the Regimental Band under the direction of its Bandmaster, **WO1 John Dodd**. Guests included the Lord Lieutenant for Durham, **Mr D. J. Grant** and **Mrs Grant** and the Lord Lieutenant for Cleveland, **The Lord Gisborough** accompanied by **Lady Gisborough**. The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL** and **Mrs Birtwistle** were present among 160 guests of the Regiment.

The evening culminated in the lowering of the Union Flag by **Cpls Mark Stein** and **Steve Wiltshire** to the strains of 'Sunset'–the Ptarmigan Training Centre provided an excellent backdrop to the proceedings.

Maj Alan Grindrod, **Capt John Wilson** and **WO2 (SSM) Appleby** are to be congratulated for providing a memorable occasion.



Lt Col Stretch introduces the Bandmaster, WO1 John Dodd, to the GOC

PERMANENT STAFF PHYSICAL JERKS

The CO and RSM took the Middlesbrough Permanent Staff up yet more hills in the Lazenby Bank area between Middlesbrough and Redcar. The lovely views of British Steel and ICI served to inspire and cheer this courageous group as they defied the bounds of gravity and surmounted the summit of several hills. The chilled mist and damp reminded everyone why the North East is such a beauty spot.



Permanent staff on Physical Jerk!
(L to R): Cpl Stein, Capt Kelly, WO2 McNeice, SSgt Lang, Sgt Bennett, WO2 Sykes, Cpls Bartley, Owen, WO1 Ara, Cpl Eastwood, Sgt Docherty, Lt Col Stretch, Cpl Wiltshire, Cpl Makin with Cossie and Maj Wallace

QUIZ SHOW KING

Barrister and TA soldier, **Kevin Clarke** reached the finals in Channel Four's '15 to 1' programme. **Kevin** is a Trg Op in **WO2 (YofS) Sid Perks'** merry band of 'keeners'.

VE COMMEMORATION–HARTLEPOOL

The Band led the parade in Hartlepool's commemoration of VE Day in which 1,000 veterans were on parade together with serving members of the Armed Services and civic groups. A crowd of well over 5,000 turned out to witness the event.

XXXV

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

FREEDOM OF SHREWSBURY

On Sunday 30 April 1995 The Shropshire Yeomanry was granted the Freedom of Entry to Shrewsbury by Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council. The Shropshire Yeomanry is formed from the many local Yeomanry units who have maintained a long and valued connection with the local Borough since its formation in 1795. However, following the major re-organisation of the Territorial Army in 1967 many units were either disbanded or reformed. This reorganisation led directly to the formation of 95 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn. 95 Sig Sqn can proudly trace their roots to the Shropshire Royal Horse Artillery that was raised in 1860 as the 1st Shropshire Artillery Volunteers. Their historical heritage was clearly apparent on the day of the parade and the weather matched their pride, enthusiasm and excellent turnout and bearing. 95 Sig Sqn in resplendent order and commanded by **Maj Richard Hemmings** joined other Yeomanry units on the parade, which drew large crowds of spectators and was very much a family occasion. In attendance was the CO **Lt Col John Ewbank** who was joined by the Honorary Colonel **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB, MBE**. Together they welcomed other Regimental guests who included Comd 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde **Brig M. P. S. Shaw** and his Dep Comd **Col B. N. T. Foxon OBE**. The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Shrewsbury and Atcham, **Cllr John Pritchard** reviewed the parade and took the salute.



95 Sig Sqn (V) on Parade



The Hon Col with Sgt Potter and ex Sgt 'Nobby' Clark

Following the parade all members of the Squadron, including former members and old comrades and their families, were treated to a lavish lunch in Sundorne House TA Centre. The lunch itself was kindly organised by the PSAO **Capt Dennis Hawksford**. At this lunch members of the Squadron and their families were joined by the CO, the Hon Col and the Dep Comd 11 Bde. A splendid end to an eventful, memorable and historical day!

VISITS TO THE REGIMENT

Maintaining the spotlight, 95 Sig Sqn received a visit by the GOC 5 Div, **Maj Gen I. L. Freer CB, CBE**, just a week before its Freedom Parade. The GOC was continuing a series of visits to the Regiment during TA training evenings. The GOC was greeted by the CO, **Lt Col John Ewbank** and the Sqn Comd, **Maj Richard Hemmings**. Following a short briefing the GOC toured the TA Centre, viewed TA training in progress and chatted to many members of the Squadron. This included the **Winstanley** father and son team. **Cpl Martin Winstanley** was naturally quite coy when the GOC raised the delicate subject of his TA relationship with his father **Clive** who just happens to be the SSM–and just to put the record straight remains completely impartial! Following his tour of the Squadron the GOC presented a number of awards. The husband and wife team of **Maj Paul Fathers** and **Capt Joanne Fathers** were presented with their well-earned Territorial Decoration for their outstanding service to the Territorial Army. This was followed by the presentation of the LS&GC Medal to **SSgt (FofS) Bernie Andrews, SSgt (FofS) Russ Dale** and finally to **SSgt Jeff Clarke**. All medal recipients are to be congratulated for their exemplary and dedicated service.



GOC 5 Div presented the LS & GC to SSgt Jeff Clarke



SSgt Russ Dale with his family following the medal presentation

Following the medal presentation ceremony the GOC joined all recipients for a light supper and drinks together with all other members of the Squadron in the all-ranks bar to round off a very successful visit. Continuing with the visit theme Comd 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde, **Brig M. P. S. Shaw** also continued his series of visits to the Regiment when he visited 89 Sig Sqn during their TA training on Tuesday 13 June. During the visit the Comd promulgated the well-deserved promotion of **Cpl Kev Davidson** to the rank of Sgt; judging by the surprised look on his face you would have thought he had just won the National Lottery and looking at his bar bill later on in the evening he wished he had! Before leaving Rugby's TA Centre the Comd was treated to one of **SSgt Charlie Walkers'** special curries that was served by his trainee chef and proficient Central Op, **Sig Ben Lucas** who, considering his extraordinary catering expertise, may just be in the wrong trade!

VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

As expected and in common with many other units the regiment remained active and engaged in local community VE Day celebrations. 89 Sig Sqn in particular mounted a full parade, which included vehicles and a marching contingent, through the borough of Rugby. They joined many local veterans and Royal British Legion and other contingents also on parade. **Maj Colin Meikle** was granted the honour of Commanding the whole parade that as expected went extremely well. Many veterans (which included the Polish and West Indian contingents) then joined the Squadron for a spectacular street party and free lunch and beer (kindly donated by the NAAFI) in the grounds of the TA Centre with over 300 plates of food being served.



89 Sig Sqn (V) on Parade

The Squadron was also joined by the Mayor of Rugby, **Cllr Joe Reeves** who it has to be said has taken a shine to the Squadron and has become one of our greatest local supporters. Special thanks, however, are reserved for those members of 48 Sig Sqn who kindly gave up their day to drive some of the Squadron vehicles. This gesture of goodwill ensured most members of the Squadron were available to form part of the marching contingent and we are extremely grateful for their support. Elsewhere in the Regiment 48 Sig Sqn also arranged a successful street party as did HQ Sqn which also provided a great deal of assistance locally.

143 BRIGADE SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING

One thing the Regiment never does is to shy away from any competition and we manage to enter teams for most military and sporting activities with varying levels of success that reap their own rewards. The 143 Bde Skill-a-Arms was no exception and the intrepid **SSgt Chris Hymas** managed to mould together a very capable team that by the very nature of the competition faced some extremely tough opposition especially from Regular Infantry units. The meeting took place at Kingsbury Ranges during the weekend 22/23 April. Needless to say the team acquitted itself well and achieved a remarkable 11th position–a final position all team members can be justifiably proud of. **2Lt Matt Watts** did a fine job as Team Captain and **Sgt Maxine Williams** is to be congratulated on achieving the highest score in the APWT phase of the shoot–as she said 'not bad for a woman'! The event did not pass however without at least one humorous incident and **Sig** 'Dead-Eyed Dick' **Simms** unfortunately provided the humour.

Sig Simms feeling pretty miserable at his woeful performance muttered that his morale was at an all time low. Much to his misfortune he made this comment in the presence of **Sgt Pete Mouland** who mockingly responded 'Don't worry **Dick** it can't possibly be as low as your score'! Other team members who have requested their names appear in print are, **Cpl Naveed Muhammed** of 48 Sig Sqn, **Sig John Hickson** of 58 Sig Sqn and **Cpl Craig Kinsey** and **LCpl Steve Leighton** both of 95 Sig Sqn.



The proud team!

ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Regiment's *Wire* notes would not be complete without updating our Orienteering achievements and, fortunately, the good news continues. Last year, despite a very strong performance in the Corps TA Minor Unit Championships, we lost our grip on the Pritchard Trophy after holding it for many years. This year we were determined to recapture lost glories and regain the trophy. Happily after a superb team performance during the TA Championships held at Harrogate during the weekend 6/7 May the trophy was restored to its rightful position. The team composed of **Lt David Hooper, SSgt Mick Purdy, Sgts Martin Jeanes** and **Steve Thomas, Cpl Colin Marshall, LCpl Steve Rothwell** and **Sig Karen Jeskins** were naturally in jubilant mood and now looked forward to the Land (UK) Championships. This took place during the weekend 20/21 May at Catterick. Following one or two changes **OCdt Nick Barnett** joined the team which in itself was unique as the only male TA Royal Signals unit competing. The competition therefore was very strong but we still managed to achieve 11th place out of 20. All in all a very commendable result and a good team effort.

EXERCISE COOL BREEZE

During the week 5-9 June the Regular Permanent Staff took a well earned break from the extensive pressures of serving with a TA unit by engaging in a spot of Adventure Training. As they arrived at Tregantle, RSIT, Veh PRE's, Parades, Training, Visits and Exercises were quickly put at the back of everyones mind and thoughts turned to more leisurely activities. Early morning PT was however still the order of the day just to shake off the cobwebs and then down to some serious adventure training. Abseiling, Sea Fishing, Mountain Bike Riding, Orienteering and Clay Pigeon Shooting followed in hot pursuit and these activities were interspaced with a spot of golf, swimming, sunbathing and some social activities. The Trg Maj, **Maj Iain Brown**, anxious to repeat his impersonation of a leaf falling from a tree, did not let the side down and in fact this year excelled himself. He has discovered to his cost that Orienteering through gorse and bracken wearing shorts leaves rather nasty marks all over your legs, sunbathing without protective headgear causes serious breakout of mutated dandruff and drinking Lucozade whilst abseiling was bound to turn to tears and almost turned into a glucose drip instead! **SSgt Keith Stewart** has also learned to his cost never to flex his muscles and swagger in front of trawlermen of dubious disposition. A word of warning though, never offer him a 'Fishermans Friend'. Talking of Fishermans Friends the QM, **Maj Barry Williams** is offering a reward for information that will lead to the identity of the individual who filled his bed with them! Our newly arrived REME PSI **SSgt** 'Porg' **Cavanagh** has realised, a little too late, not to confide in anyone! **SSgt Chris Hymas** also appears reluctant these days to talk of his fishing expertise. Was this also a case of too little too late?

This splendid week concluded with a Permanent Staff Dinner at which the CO, **Lt Col John Ewbank** was presented with a magnificent silver pen to mark his departure later in the year.

37 Sig Regt (V)
Redditch

CO **Lt Col Stamford Cartwright (V)**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) John Riley**

HELLO AND GOODBYE

We welcome **SSgt (FofS) Mick Cowie** and family and congratulate his predecessor, now–**WO2 (FofS) Paul Sweeney** on his posting to JHQ at Rheindahlen.

RHQ has been mostly concerned of late with the anticipated issue of NCRS and planning for Annual Camp in September. In the meantime, Ex Silver Link in May and Golden Link in June kept our signalling skills fresh in our minds; Ex Summer Solstice in July kept us on our toes at Sennybridge.

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Les Porter (V)**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Les Griffiths (V)**

CROSS-COUNTRY DRIVING

After seeing some of the attempts to get vehicles into location on exercises, it was clear that it would be in everyone's interest to practise the techniques involved and the capabilities of the vehicles within the Squadron. To this end a weekend was arranged by **WO1 (MTWO) Jim Smiley**, to enable the Squadron to go to the Driffield Cross-Country driving circuit.

The weekend's training began on Friday evening when the drivers were shown videos of the techniques of cross-country driving, and also reminded of convoy drills, a subject which again needed to be taught and practised. Early on Saturday morning the convoy set off in two packets, to practise convoy, and as it turned out, breakdown procedures (the clutch went on the 4 tonne winch vehicle, which was recovered to the training area by the LAD). After a slow start getting into the correct drills the remainder of the journey went smoothly with everyone arriving at the training area within the time-scale laid down. After a quick lunch the main event of the weekend began with everyone being shown the correct way to safely get back down off a steep incline after stalling a vehicle; this was practised on the highest and steepest obstacle on the circuit. After all the drivers had successfully completed this task they were then shown the correct approach and descent over the obstacle. Once the basics were out of the way, everyone was taken to the start point and allowed to drive, in convoy, around the whole circuit, after which they were then allowed to drive round on their own, although they were closely watched by the MTWO and his safety staff. The weekend achieved the aim of improving driving skills and everyone enjoyed it. The course has now been booked for December and we will test the driving skills learned under winter conditions.



The Cross-Country Team
Back Row (L to R): SSgts Di Feest and Heather Kenny and Cpl Dawn Phillips
Front Row (L to R): Sig Pat Tomlinson and Cpls Lesley Kippax and Louise Daveron

53 (WELSH) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–CARDIFF

Sqn Comd **Maj John Duggan (V)**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Fred Newton**

EXERCISE FULL FRONTAL FIBUA

The exercise was upon us once again–FIBUA phase II! Time to park and pack away the FFR's and PRC 320's and get out helmets, cam cream and the PRC 349's (well you can't expect a Signal Squadron not to have any form of communications) in our efforts at getting back to basics on our military skills. Phase II of the training consisted of a weekend exercise in and around the FIBUA complex on Sennybridge Training area. **Capt Nick Cox** set the scene for this progressive training weekend–the next step up from phase I which was held in July 1994.

The Troops set about assaulting the FIBUA village on Friday night after receiving orders that enemy forces were in the vicinity. Although DS were on hand before the assault to mine tape hazardous areas, we still managed to upset the SQMS by shredding a pair of combats while the soldier was still in them!

The main effort on Saturday went into defending buildings and the Troops were not too happy when they were informed at the night shoot that they would be assaulting the same buildings on the Sunday. Sunday dawned bright and dry (surprisingly for this training area) and all was quiet on the FIBUA front. The Troops fooled the enemy by attacking from the opposite direction. This meant that one particular enemy was shot in the rear whilst hiding in a tunnel between two houses. **LCpl Sharman** could be heard maintaining proper procedure on the net amidst the assault frenzy. **LCpl Reah** used his initiative when leading the assault party through the tunnel. He simply dragged himself over the enemy, and physically pulled the enemy out of the tunnel before the rest of the party succumbed to an attack of claustrophobia–some achievement when the diameter of the tunnel was three feet!

What better way to end a successful assault than a filling compo breakfast and relating heroic stories over deep fried bacon grill! All hairy stories are made with ingredients such as these.



53 Sqn officers on Ex Silver Link
(L to R): Lt Tim Bamber, Capt John Mugford, Lt Fiona Middleton, Maj John Duggan, Lt David Watson



Sgt John Downie *(centre)* explains the Leyland DAF engine to *(L to R):* Cpl Lindsay Westwood, Sig 'Arnie' Canning and LCpl Ken Barlow

67 (QOWWY) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Roy Naylor (V)**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Ray Campbell (V)**

VE DAY PARADE

The Squadron joined members of the Royal British Legion, Royal Naval Association and RAF Association in the parade which began in the Market Place and which was led by the Stratford Military Youth Band through the town centre. Large crowds gathered to cheer on the parade, which continued to the Collegiate Church of Stratford for a service in the presence of the Town Mayor. Wreaths were then laid at the Cenotaph and the parade continued with the salute taken by the Mayor and the Colonel Commandant from Long Marston.

Both young and old members enjoyed representing the Squadron and were proud to take part.

EXERCISE SILVER LINK

Friday night saw us away to Nesscliffe training area for the first exercise of the training year. The advance party was all set up and a brew and soup awaited us. The accommodation in huts was an unexpected and welcome bonus.

After the usual 0600 hrs reveille on Saturday and a good breakfast, we started the training day, designed to give everyone an insight into what happens when we are in our CUV role. **Lt Kevin Barker** kicked off with a practical lesson on site recce, followed by **Lt Jo Dellamuro** who explained the functions and roles of Main, Swinger and Step up. The afternoon saw **Lt Barker** giving an example of a formal set of orders followed by a move out and a tactical move back in. This was somewhat delayed as someone locked us out of the training area! After a superb evening meal, a practical exercise in the change of command from Main to Step Up concluded the day.

Sunday was a low key day–sans webbing. Cam was crashed and everything packed away. The objective of the day was to erect the Harrier Hide, much talked about but never seen! Guided by our resident expert, **LCpl 'Will' Williams** (well, he had seen one up before) we set to with poles, pegs, net, mushrooms, lots of chiefs, muttering etc. Surprisingly, we got it up and hid a CUV in it! This success could not possibly have had anything to do with the fact that the Young Officers were elsewhere, carrying out a defence of a comms site TEWT, could it? More practice and we may get the Hide up in under an hour and with less than 20 people! To conclude the day the Sqn Comd, **Maj Roy Naylor**, explained our role and introduced the Squadron to ICP, MACA, MACP etc. Answers on a postcard if you remember what they stand for!



2IC Maj Ian Morris and Training Major, Maj Tony Shaw, grimace for the camera, caught on Ex Silver Link

Casualty Corner:- **Sgt Tony Perry** started the trend. Taking 'finger buffet' to its extreme, he took a slice off his digit and overcome with devotion to rations passed out. **Sgt Fred Hughes** bound him up and got him going again, but I'm sure the silver foil hook **Sgt Perry** sported at dinner time is not in any first aid books that I've seen! **Cpl Bob Hampson** managed to rip his knee open on a covert piece of barbed wire and had to be casevaced to Shrewsbury Hospital, still demanding to give his patrol report! Several hours and stitches later and plastered from thigh to ankle, he was returned to us just in time to be sent home.

93 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–BLACKBURN

Sqn Comd **Maj Alan Whittle (V)**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Paul Todd (V)**

Six 'pressed' women from the Squadron took their places amongst 150 Regular and TA athletes on the start line of the National Cross-Country Championships held at Mill Hill, London. The sun was beating down, a glorious day, the rest of the Squadron were up to their armpits in rain at RAF Cosford. Quote of the day must have been 'What does he mean 4.2 miles? You said it was only 3!' 'Never mind, what is 1.2 miles between friends?' It was a fast course with plenty of obstacles, water, mud and of course, an extra 1.2 miles.

The team did themselves proud again, coming in 15th out of 21 in a very competitive field. **SSgt Diane Feest BEM** took first place in the TA ladies Veterans competition (well done **Di**), although she had to get the pension book out to buy the 'youngsters' a well deserved drink. A great effort by all; **SSgts Di Feest** (vet) and **Heather Kenny, Cpls Dawn Phillips, Lesley Kippax** and **Louise Daveron** and finally **Sig Pat Tomlinson**, not forgetting our chauffeur **Cpl Maggie Lavin**, and a special thanks to PTI **Cpl Tracy Ireland** who 'pressed' us all then deserted us for a trade test (only joking **Tracy**–we'll all chase you round next year!).



Our first SAAM Team
Back Row (L to R): Cpl Dave Pollock, LCpls Ewan Lake, Martin Tew, Sigs David Bustard, Andrew Pollard
Front Row (L to R): Sigs Rachel Blackham, Jason Greenwood, Capt Alan Jacobs, Sig Linda McDonald

96 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–COVENTRY

Sqn Comd **Maj Steve Holder (V)**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Mick Comber (V)**

The response to the recruiting campaign was excellent with another seven having signed up following the recent selection weekend.

The Squadron entered its first District SAAM with a team of seven men and two women. Although they came ninth overall the family silver was increased when the Young Soldier Competition was won by **Sig Jason Greenwood**, the pistol shot was clinched by **Capt Alan Jacobs** and the pool bull was won by **Cpl Dave Pollock**.

Congratulations and best wishes go to **LCpl Lydia Iregbu** and **LCpl Phillip Harbun** of HQ Sqn on their recent marriage. The reception was held in the TAC with 100 guests to celebrate the occasion.

Capt Richard Bowden has recently been posted to the Squadron from 93 Sig Sqn (V) in Blackburn. His first visit to the Squadron coincided with the monthly visit of our civilian GP, **Dr Mike Jacoby**, who happened to bring along a bottle of champagne for sampling. **Capt Bowden** went away with the impression that all training nights ended with champagne being served! (if only).

Having rid ourselves of the decorators a new set of contractors have appeared. This time the intention is to make alterations to the stores area, which includes knocking a hole through to the drill hall. For the SQMS's sake we all hope they fill the hole with a door.

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

CO — **Lt Col R. Davenport TD**
Adjt — **Capt J. A. Compston**

THE REGIMENTAL RENAMING PARADE

In January the Regiment was very happy to discover that it was to be bestowed with the honour of incorporating 'City of Sheffield' into the Regimental title. Due to various factors, including the Lord Mayor's term of office, the Parade had to take place before 1 May.

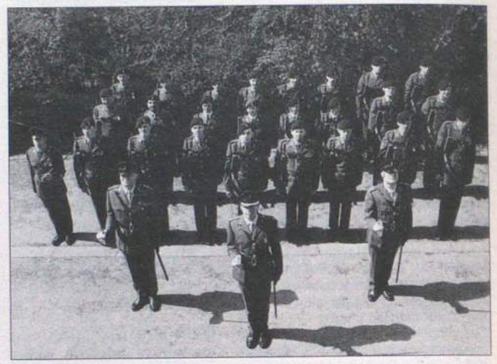


The Master, SOinC, Lord Mayor and CO (Sword held Navy fashion!) unveil the new Regimental Plaque

Planning began in great earnest by our Adjutant, **Capt Jamie Compston** and RSM, **WO1 John Grandison**. Dress and drill were the first of many items to plan; the TA is not issued No 2 dress, so the QM's Department, some priority demands, and some late nights for **WO2 (YofS) Chris Nutt**'s wife, **Jackie**, on the sewing machine, produced 25 tailored uniforms. Drill was the next item, the Adjutant spent time instructing sword drill to the Parade officers, **Maj Stan Fitzgerald**, **Capt Bill Carr** and **Lt** (now Capt) **Andy Smith**. Whilst the RSM finally got the whole of the Parade contingent together on the day before the Parade for the first, last and only dress rehearsal, carried out despite an horrific storm which lasted all day. The guest list was compiled and included the SOinC, Master of Signals, the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, and many other distinguished military guests and representatives of Sheffield's civic, civil and commercial sectors. The Parade went very well, under the command of **Maj Stan Fitzgerald**, despite the lack of composite rehearsals. Lance bearer **Sgt** 'Fletch' **Fletcher** found the rarefied air of Manor Top too much, he was replaced by the very capable **SSgt Steve Bolton** (SPSI 46 Sig Sqn (V), Derby). The Lord Mayor, **Cllr Ian Saunders** and the Master of Signals both spoke of the fostering of relations between the Corps, the Regiment and the City of Sheffield, these were further enhanced at the excellent buffet and social gathering held in the TA Centre after the Parade.

The Regiment is now holding its breath for developments in 1997!





The composite performers

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON (SHEFFIELD)
EXERCISE GREBE GREY

'With a team of four you are to set up a field kitchen to feed 120 men. upon completion of this you are to demonstrate your NBC drills, First Aid skills, Marksmanship and Weapon handling abilities and complete an assault course. You are then to prepare, cook and serve a three course meal in the field for 20 soldiers using fresh rations, within two hours,' ordered the QM(V), **Maj Bill Evans**.

'Certainly Sir,' (or words to that effect) replied **SSgt Medley**.

Thus was the introduction of Ex Grebe Grey, the Eastern District Territorial Army Cookery Competition held on 8/9 April at Strensall training area.

Team work and maximum effort was required by **Sgt** (now SSgt) **Andy Medley**, **Cpl Karen Aston**, **Cpl** (now Sgt) **Andy Thwaites** and **Pte Pete Kirby**, to complete the punishing schedule of the competition. Ably demonstrating they are soldiers first and foremost during the military phase of the competition, they went on to show just how good they really are at their trade. The following was served up as a taste of their cookery skills; Chicken and Banana Fritters, Beef Stir Fry with Egg Fried Rice and various Vegetables, Ginger Sponge, Dutch Apple Flan.

Although the team didn't manage to take the winner's trophy, they did attain a very respectable position. When asked if they would be taking part next year, they replied, 'Take part? We're gonna win it.'

LAD KIDDERMINSTER AND DISTRICT LIONS CLUB
RAFT RACE 95

The race takes place during the first or second weekend in May and normally covers some kind of theme. As this is the 50th anniversary of the occasion of World War 2 the theme had to be VE Day. It was decided that two teams would be entered from HQ Sqn and the LAD. **Cpl Steve Abbey** was the driving force behind the weekend and by the day of the race two rafts had been manufactured.

Over 70 rafts entered the race and the LAD managed to scoop the prize for best dressed raft (we had named the raft 'Turtle' so obviously we had no intention of competing for the fastest time!). An excellent weekend was had by all and many thanks to everyone involved but a special mention must go to **SSgt Austin** (who should never consider changing trade to cook), **WO2 Gwen Wilkinson** (who did not really know what she was letting herself in for when she jumped on a raft called 'The Looneys'), and **LCpl Julie Phillips** (who believed the SPSI REME when he told her that the water was only knee deep and is now qualified as a submariner).

64 (CITY OF SHEFFIELD) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd	**Maj Stan Fitzgerald (V)**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) P. Hodges (V)**

MARTIAL MERLIN

This year's 15 (NE) Bde Infantry skills competition was held on the Catterick training area and based at Wathgill Camp. Entries included

teams from the Brigade infantry regiments along with several 'other arms' including the RLC and Queen's Own Yeomanry.

The composition of each team comprised a rigid rank structure which necessitated ours including several recently qualified recruits namely **Sigs Ogden**, **Shay**, **Cheetham** and 2 x **Oxley**. Despite this level of inexperience the training arranged by **Sgt John Marsden** over the preceding weeks paid off and the team in general acquitted itself extremely well, insofar that we retained the All-Arms-Trophy for the second year running.



The Martial Merlin Team with CO, 64 Sqn Comd, RSM and SVWO in attendance

Sig Jack Culf was promoted from his reserve position of last year to a fully fledged and relatively experienced member of this year's team. He soon realised that the shine soon wears off the seat of combat trousers when they come into contact with mud and **Cpl Trevor Grant** once again proved the worth of his amorous experiences whilst on the Assault Course Stand. Based on a Fibua Course the team had to note three pairs of numbers displayed on route. Unfortunately we only found two. At the debrief **Cpl Grant** guessed the third number as being his girlfriend's lucky number and was correct. He will not be available for the 1996 competition due to his new job of picking winning lottery numbers.

A night navigation competition on the Saturday night was followed by a march and falling plate shoot on the Sunday where again the newer team members excelled themselves.

At the end of the weekend, having been duly announced as winners of the non-Infantry All-Arms Competition, all ten members could be justly proud of their contribution to what was an excellent team effort.

We extend a warm Nottingham welcome to **Maj Tom McCappin**, the new Sqn Comd, who joins us from 46 Sig Sqn (V) at Derby. It's welcome back to **Sgt Dave Morley** (PSI Tech), joining us for a second tour from 1 (UK) ADSR at Herford.

COURSE RESULTS

Congratulations are due to several Squadron members who have successfully completed courses in recent months.

Sgt Vicky Hardy	All-Arms Skill-at-Arms
Sgt Phil Jones	RSSSC
Cpl Andy Paton	PTI Course
LCpl Jane Evans	RSDCC
LCpl Dan Milnor	RSDCC

PROMOTION

Sgt Peter Cooper is congratulated on his promotion to SSgt.

VE DAY AT FARNSFIELD SHOW

A small team from the Squadron, led by **WO2 Nigel Caldicott**, were tasked to provide a display and recruiting stand at a well-established local show whose theme this year was VE Day.

Detailed planning and preparation made the deployment a speedy and successful one with many complimentary comments being received from the organising committee and the general public. **Cpl Alison Dinsdale** looked after the power requirements of the site and also powered the display but of Nottinghamshire Fire Service. **Sgt Roy Broughton** excelled himself by borrowing a Leyland DAF DROPS vehicle to transport borrowed vintage military vehicles to the show. Loading and unloading the vehicle provided quite a spectacle for the crowd. The radio and teleprinter displays proved a popular draw and Control was under pressure most of the time. Everyone's efforts were greatly appreciated and we have all been invited for next year.

PRESENTATION

Miss Kath House, our civilian Admin Officer, completed 30 years' service with the Regiment in April. Her long association also includes service in the TA from 1957 with R Signals and the RAMC before eventually hanging up her combats in 1989 after service with the Army Cadet Force. Still very active, she took up offshore sailing last year and was seen on the Solent in June splicing the mainbrace and all the other things that sailors do.



Miss Kath House receiving a bouquet from the CO, Lt Col Roger Davenport

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **SSgt Mickey Rooney** and **Cpl Gayle Roddis** on their recent well-deserved promotions.

87 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–NOTTINGHAM

Sqn Comd	**Maj Tom McCappin** (V)
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Kevin Gater**

We have had our fair share of comings and goings lately and sadly we must say farewell to **Maj Colin Bachelor** who leaves us for pastures new in the South of England. **Cpl Dave Gordon** (PSI Tech) has also left both the Squadron and the Army to pursue a career with the boys in blue.

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71 (Yeo) Sig Regt
Bexleyheath

GREAT ORMOND STREET HOSPITAL

On Monday 10 April, three members of the Regiment took a day off from NCRS trials duties to attend a cheque presentation clinic at Great Ormond Street Hospital to Arsenal football players–**Tony Adams** and **Paul Merson**.

During 1994 fund raising for the hospital took place by way of participation in the Lanyard Trophy Competition and a parachute jump into water.

Monies raised up to April amounted to over £1700 and there is more to follow.



Presentation of the cheque at Great Ormond Street Hospital
(L to R): Paul Merson, Cpl Paul Bunch (68 Sqn), WO2 (YofS) Andy Campbell (RHQ), Sgt Lol Evans (68 Sqn), Tony Adams

265 (KCLY) SIGNAL SQUADRON

In January SHQ welcomed **2Lt Louise Caswell**, formerly of 8LI, to Bexleyheath where she is taking control of recruiting. We also welcomed our new PSI (Tech) **Sgt Andy Westlake** who is to work in Brighton with 884 Sig Tp. **Andy** is taking over from our TSI, **WO2 Brian Eason**, who has been with 884 Tp since 1992. **Brian** has been involved with all aspects of Squadron and Troop life, organising range weekends, training and many of the social events. He managed to end his career with us by joining the Corps yacht for two weeks on the Gibraltar to Sardinia leg of its trip to Bosnia! Both **Brian** and his wife **Trudie** will be greatly missed. We wish them all the best for the future and, as they live in the Brighton area, hope they will visit us frequently.

The new RMO **Capt** 'Wolf' **Best** was a welcome addition to the February Regimental weekend as shortly before the Officer's Dinner he diagnosed that our 2IC **Capt Huw Jones** was suffering from an acute case of appendicitis. **Huw**, protesting that he would miss the dinner, was rushed to hospital where his appendix burst. He underwent an emergency operation, was transferred to Intensive Care and remained in hospital for 10 days. In retrospect, **Capt Jones** is thankful that the RMO was attending the dinner as he was informed by hospital doctors that if he hadn't had the operation he probably wouldn't have survived!

Several of the more senior members of 107 Sqn R Sigs ACF, who are co-located with us at Bexleyheath joined the Squadron on Ex Sudden Start in February. They were instructed in fieldcraft and tactics by our PSI SSgt 'Q' **Rose** and **Sgt Steve Sefer**. They all thoroughly enjoyed their weekend in the field and we hope that this will be the start of a closer working relationship.

BURBERRY TROPHY

Congratulations are in order, for **WO2 (YofS) Pam Suddens** who was awarded the Burberry Trophy. This trophy is awarded annually by TAVRA, in conjunction with Burberry Ltd, to the TA soldier serving in the Greater London area with the most notable achievement in that year. The trophy was presented at the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate and Awards Ceremony by **Maj Gen Mackay-Dick** and **Mr David Thorsby**, Manager of Burberry's in Regent Street. Amongst her many TA achievements listed in the citation was the fact that **Pam** is the first female Yeoman of Signals in the Corps and on her recent YofS course she was awarded top student. The £200 cheque that was presented with the trophy helped pay for a round of drinks at Bexleyheath!



WO2 (YofS) Pam Suddens receiving the Burberry Trophy from Mr David Thorsby, Burberry Ltd

SPORT

Our ladies cross country team represented London District in the TA National Championships at Mill Hill and although they were not placed they produced a very creditable performance against stiff opposition.

Once again the Squadron football team have surpassed themselves. This season they won the London District Championship again and reached the quarter finals of the National Army Competition narrowly beaten 2–1 by 3RRW in Caernarfon. The team captain **Lt Keith Duffy-Penny** has done a sterling job but he had to admit that he would not have managed without the help and support of the team manager, **Capt Jim Esson**. It is fitting that the team did so well as this is **Jim**'s last season with the Squadron, he retires from the post of PSAO later in the year.

NEWS FROM SQUADRONS

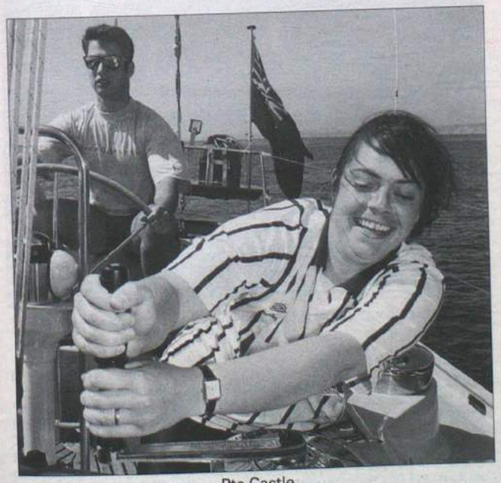
HQ BRITFOR Sig Sqn
Op Grapple
BFPO 544

Force Signals Officer (FSO)	**Maj Tony Morphet**
Deputy FSO	**Capt Fred Whichelo**
Adjt	**Capt P. A. Smith**
QM	**Capt Pete Whitehouse**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Turnbull**

20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200) replaced 19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209)–thanks to all those involved in 19 for the handover/takeover. 200 Sig Sqn will make up the bulk of the Britfor Sig Sqn, the remainder of the Op Grapple's communication needs being supplied by a detachment from 30 Sig Regt. Britfor Sig Sqn is scattered over the length and breadth of Bosnia and, contrary to Mr Malcolm Rifkind's recent comment, we are also in Croatia. Either that or this is a dream and before I finish this article I'll wake up.

The Squadron is hoping for a successful and incident free tour. To ensure the Squadron retains 'the edge' the RSM and Adjt have initiated a rigorous and busy 'Programme of Events' to keep people 'sharp' in Split and GV. The programme includes early morning PT (very popular!), cricket (all we need is a cricket field in Split and mine clearance equipment for the fielders in GV), an 'It's a Knockout' competition and a 75th Anniversary Parade. The FSO became positively aroused on hearing the word 'Parade'. Fortunately for the bemused and worried RSM and **SSM Fradley** (in GV), the FSOs original dream of flags flying, massed bands, formations of elephants, floats and scantily clad cheerleaders has been curtailed to 'three ranks, a quick inspection and "Well done everyone you all look smashing"–never mind, perhaps we could have a Victory Parade, organised by **Capt Duggan** and **Staff Patel**, on our return!

One activity that has proved popular is Ex Spotted Dog. HMG have kindly sent a 55 foot sailing boat, the *Kukri*, down to the Adriatic. The boat has a skipper and a mate and can take up to 10 soldiers for a few days sailing. The photos were taken by staff from the Brigade PInfo section and show members of Britfor Sig Sqn literally learning the ropes. For those of you who have had doubts about the sexuality of Sailors, the Ship's Mate **Neil**, is not wearing lipstick but sunblock . . . nice colour though **Neil**.



Pte Castle
Driving: Sig Glaves



Neil 'The Mate'
Driving: Pte Castle

HQ SECTOR SOUTH WEST TROOP

Tp Comd	**2Lt Alan Garrett**
CSM	**WO2 John Fradley**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Chas Fox**

Well at last, we are here. And we're still here. What did 19 Bde say about Groundhog Day? You too could know the answer, coming to a Brigade Signal Squadron near you soon.

What are we up to, I hear you ask. Well, here are a few odds and sods that may be of interest to those that know the people involved.

Sig Neil Miller has now acquired the 'knowledge' of Bosnia.

Sig Craig Marshall is organising Dhobi-bag recognition classes. He can now spot any nationality's washing at 300 paces. **Sgt Paul** 'PC' **Culleton**, too, is now a fully trained AWI–Army Washing Instructor. Point to note: Although we are at the sharp end(?), we are actually sending our laundry foward.

Cpl 'Mac' **McGregor** is changing the Ops Room around. He hasn't decided to tell anyone about it, but he's cracking on, ably assisted by **LCpl Micky Devlin, Sig** 'Susat' **Brown** and **Sig** 'Buzz' **Bury**.

Sgt Martin Heathcote and **Cpl Al Rooney** have been demonstrating their skills with TV coaxs.

Cpl Tony Martin and **LCpl Tim Borrie**, better known as 'Bet' and 'Raquel', have been doing sterling work in the EFI, which doesn't actually have a name yet. There is something shady, however, about their claim that the quick sale of the 'For Women' magazines was due to Malbat.

Cpl Billy Duggan has been getting stressed with someone who must remain nameless.

LCpl 'Geordie' **Aspery** has changed colour. So have the TAC vehicles, now that they have been pulled out of the mud.

LCpl Dave Bartlett and **Sig** 'Stew' **Farmer** are down in Kiseljak, mixing it with the Royal Welch Fusiliers and doing lots of reading and weights.

Sig McCullough has had the highest pucker factor so far, after meeting a Serb/Bosnian/Croat/Martian (depends whom you talk to) checkpoint.

The Foreman has also now discovered a new route, to be known as Route Redmond.

As for the Troop Commander, the Camp Sergeant-Major and **Sgt Fox**, we're just dandy and finding lots of time for sunbathing. Unfortunately, the time we have found is between 0200 and 0500hrs.

Capt Dooley and the Yeoman are 'ok'.

We are all enjoying ourselves here and it isn't as bad as we expected it would be. Or is it?

1 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215) Tidworth

EXERCISE MAIDEN'S DELIGHT

On a bright Saturday in May, 17 wives from 1 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215) gathered at the guardroom for Ex Maiden's Delight. It was very much a step into the unknown as the programme had been closely guarded by the organisers, **SSgt Mark Rouse** and **Sgt** 'Robbo' **Robinson**.

After a brief introduction by the Sqn Comd, **Maj Ted Flint**, we were marched on to the parade ground by a stern looking man with a pace stick who attempted to teach us the basics of coming to attention and marching–for reasons of security we have decided to keep his name anonymous. Finally, we were all stood to attention awaiting inspection by the **WO1 (RSM) Al Haines** whose classic comments like 'this soldier hasn't shaved today' and 'get them sorted out Sergeant they all have lumps in their jumpers' made us feel at ease. That was until he decided to jail **Lesley Holmes** who was marched off across the parade ground–we tried not to laugh too much!

Next on the agenda was driving instruction in a 432 APC and Foden Recovery Vehicle under the watchful eyes of **Sgt John Ord, Cpl Norrie Crook** and **SSgt Steve Cleary**. As it happened we were all remarkably experienced drivers, with perhaps the exception of **Ursula Turner** and **Marie Parrish** who not only frightened the rabbits but us as well. The drive back to camp proved more thrilling than anything Alton Towers has to offer.

The rest of the day was taken up with Clay Pigeon shooting and a much needed lunch break, followed by a lecture by **Sgt Eric Head** and **Cpl** 'Chesh' **Cheshire** on the finer points of first aid. The instructors probably thought it should have been a lecture on common sense after **Lisa Morris** flooded the lecture room with coffee after trying to put her cigarette out in a paper cup!

After our last chance for a 'porcelain loo' break, it was off out to the wilds (Perham Down) for survival training. Fortunately, the instructors **Capt Mal Heaney** and **RSM Haines**, took pity on us and did not go through with the much rumoured skinning of rabbits.

At this point we were split into two sections to undertake a night exercise, our first task being to erect a tent for our camp lavatory. With dusk setting in, both groups were briefed on the scenario, which was more involved than anything the SAS has ever undertaken! So off we went, crawling through three feet high patches of stinging nettles, to meet with our respective secret agents (where did **Sgt Billy Chambers** get that accent?). The evening's activities culminated in one group attacking the other's camp in search of their gem–it was all out war as **Sgt Kev Twigger** was soon to realise.

And so to bed. It was a shame however that **Sgts Eric Head** and **Billy Chambers** were kept awake all night by a nightingale's voice in the shape of **Mandy Rouse** singing a few well chosen songs and the rest of the group's continuous laughter. It might have had something to do with **Gillian Flint**'s teddy bear hot water bottle that her husband, **Maj Ted Flint** had given her earlier in the evening–was it actually hot water or something more sinister!

Sunday morning loomed upon us rather too quickly and after packing up camp it was off into the sunset to put into practice our first aid techniques. The casualty simulations were extremely good and might easily have turned into real casualties if **Tracy Turner** had had her way! The next hour was spent using both brain and brawn in a fun filled hour of command task exercises.

The finale was the assault course at 22 Engr Regt. After an exhausting warm up with **LCpls** 'Chalky' **White** and 'Daz' **Watts**, off we went to tackle the formidable obstacles before us. A medal was deserved by all as everyone overcame their fear of the scramble net and battled on to complete the course.

And so the exercise was over but not the weekend. After a wash and change at home it was on to the Bradley Club for a Families Lunch and discussion on when the Squadron would hold another brilliant weekend and we could do it all over again.



Gillian Flint burning up Salisbury Plain under the watchful eye of SSgt Steve Cleary



Tired but happy DS and students on completion of Ex Maiden's Delight

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para) Aldershot

Sqn Comd **Maj P. Gillespie**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) J. J. Fairbairn**

FAREWELLS/WELCOMES

Farewell to **WO2 (YofS) Kenny Sirr**, leaving the Army and going to university and **WO2 (ORSQMS) Ray Pritchard** on promotion to 2 Para. **SSgt Stu Couszins** will soon be off to 244 Sig Sqn too. Welcomes are given to **SSgt Davison**, our new Chief Clerk and **SSgt (FofS) Bason**. We also look forward to receiving a YofS too!

BOSNIA
by LCpl McBean

It was the last Friday of Christmas and leave was coming to an end, when I received a telephone call from the then Sqn Comd, **Maj J. Whitby**. He asked me what I had planned for the New Year. Little did I know then that within a couple of weeks I would have undergone training and found myself as the personal radio operator to **Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose** in Bosnia.

It was wet and miserable when I arrived in Split. However my kit was dry as it did not arrive for another two days! From Split I drove up through the snow covered mountains, through villages that had been destroyed, until I reached Sarajevo. The very next day, **Lt Gen Rose** arrived at Sarajevo airport . . . with his kit!

The first few months passed hectically, with the General shuttling between the various factions. He was demanding, cajoling and persuading the differing parties to talk, with his unwavering stance. As a result of this the first ceasefire was declared in Sarajevo.

However, even though the General was busy with so many high level meetings, he always made time to go on to the streets and talk to the locals. They accepted him warmly, especially when the trams started running again, for the first time in over a year.

Everyday was something different, from visiting positions on either side, to meeting many high level VIPs. All of this necessitated driving across confrontation lines and passing along sniper alleys.

During the tour there were a lot of ups and downs, with political strategies always changing and consequently affecting everything else. But throughout **Lt Gen Rose** continued undeterred. Thus it was with a tinge of regret that my tour finally came to an end. It was an eventful year filled with new experiences and memories. None was more so than saying farewell to the General, knowing that I had been a small part of something worthwhile.



The General's TAC party, with LCpl McBean–third from the right *(rear)*

Q TROOP

After battlecamp, the Troop went adventurous training in the North West of the country, Ex Pegasus Reverse was precisely planned by the QM **Maj John Aspinall MBE, SSgt (SQMS) Dougie Craig** and **SSgt Vince McNaught**. The Troop enoyed a well deserved break, and as usual the adventure training activities brought out the best in the usually quiet personalities, **LCpl** 'Dogzy' **Barker, Sig** 'Nipper' **Sherlock** and newly arrived **Sig** 'Charlie' **Chaplin**, all put in maximum effort and got stuck in. To finish off the weekend the Troop visited Blackpool for the day.

Our farewells from the Troop have been to **Sgt Martin Walsh** (14 Sig Regt (EW)), **LCpl Sy Brow** REME (3 Fd Regt RA), **LCpl Jones** RLC (2 Para), **Pte Smith** RLC (Cyprus), all the best. Our arrivals are **LCpls Deacon** REME, **Hayward** REME, **Maguire, Woodward** RLC, **Hooten** RLC, **Sig Chaplin**. Finally welcome back **Sig** 'Taff' **Kinsey** after a long hard slog with 1 Para.



Finishing the adventure training with a day trip to Blackpool

ARMY EIGHT-WAY FORMATION SKYDIVING TRAINING CAMP
by Sgt Andy Scott

The last two weeks in March 1995 saw the newly formed Army eight way squad go to Deland, Florida for a 60 jump training camp. What's this got to do with the Royal Signals though? The link is that two of the eight man team are Royal Signals personnel, namely **Maj Andy Allman** and **Sgt Andy Scott**.

The aim of the camp was to get the team in the air together to practise the various formations that they will encounter in competitions. Although the weather was excellent, this was definitely no holiday. A typical day would see the team in the gym at 0600hrs for PT and stretching off, then down to the Drop Zone for briefing, jumping, packing and re-briefing. The day's events would typically finish at 1800hrs with a beer and dinner courtesy of our chef. Under the watchful eye of the team coaches, the team rapidly absorbed all the lessons and points of improvement. By the end of the 60 jumps the team matched the Norwegian national team in a mini competition. The team successfully proved that it is a force to be reckoned with for the 1997 World Formation Skydiving meet.

For the moment though, I would like to pass on our thanks to our units and the Corps for their support so far which we hope to reward by bringing back a medal from this year's National meet and to represent Great Britain in 1997.



The eight way squad completing a formation over the DZ
Maj Allman *(centre right)*
Sgt Scott *(far right)*

19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209)
Catterick

Sqn Comd **Maj Paul Towers**
2IC **Capt Tudor Hill**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Pete Woodward**

Catterick has never seemed so welcoming as it did on our return from war-torn Bosnia after the Squadron's Op Grapple tour, and back in time for tea and medals!

Blue helmets off, DPM helmets on and back to the serious business of providing 19 Mech Bde with its armoured headquarters, the approaching exercise programme will ensure that we will get back up to speed. The two weeks back at work before the post tour leave was a useful transition period, and also enabled us to sort our holidays out. A few unfortunates missed out on some post tour leave as they had to go to Malaysia on a recce for a forthcoming exercise in October. This must have been hell, judging by their suntans! On the subject of suntans **WO2 (FofS) Mick Dighton** is buying all the blocking creams available in Catterick (not much call for it here) in preparation for a tour with the Saudi Arabian National Guard Communications Project (SANGCOM). We wish him all the best and welcome his replacement **WO2 (FofS) Mark Edwards**.

UAO
Admin Officer **Maj Ron Hails**

Back from sunny Split, the team from the Admin office is settling down again in Catterick. No sunbathing at lunch time now! Life will definitely not be the same with the departure of the Op Grapple Adjutant, **Capt Dan Taylor**, who departs for the second time back to the 'smoke' and his job in the City. Thanks **Dan** for providing that calm sailing on a sea of chaos.

With only the HQ & Sig Sqn to administer, the team have had a fairly relaxing time. The main difference is that **LCpl** 'Snowy' **White** isn't having to pay out a never ending pile of German Marks in acquitance role–they prefer Sterling for beer here.

Lastly, we say a sad farewell to the Pay Sergeant, **Sgt Paul Anwyll**, who is leaving the Army along with his dodgy knee. He leaves work to go back to education and will be studying Information Technology at Liverpool University.

ALPHA TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Ian Ellis**

Following his illustrious promotion in the field, the now **Capt Ellis** has taken over as the temporary Sqn 2IC whilst **Capt Tudor Hill** is on JCSC.



LCpl 'Mac' McMullen and Cpl Tim Vanandul with their handiwork–poor conditions plagued us to the end–this was April

He leaves the Troop in the hands of **SSgt Gary Smith**, who will sit in the top chair when not training for the Army Triathlon team. **Sgt Mo Howarth** joins us from Training Wing, standing in for **Sgt Andy Allen** whilst he recovers from another episode of being literally 'in the wars'.

The Troop is pleased to be back in the UK, especially after having such a good time in the last week down in Split. The Squadron fair was a storming success, with all the normal end-of-tour antics, culminating in the hierarchy being auctioned off to suffer the 'greasy log' ordeal in a pillow fight over icy waters.

Prize for the most ironic posting goes to **LCpl** 'Mac' **McMullen** who returned to UK only to be posted to 20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200). He has reserved his bunk back in Gornji Vakuf. **Sig** 'Pinky' **Pink** leaves for 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207) and **Sig** 'Jonah' **Jones** leaves the Army to enjoy the world of leather . . as a tanner. We welcome the following into the Troop: **Cpl Dean Booker** (from B Tp), **LCpl Steve Birchall** and **Sigs Craig Scott, Jacinta Palmer, Colin Welch** and **Jamie Butler**.

BRAVO TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Andy Knott**

Never did we think that the words 'glad to be back in Catterick' would ever find an ear in this Troop. A new set of garages, a Troop rest room, running hot water, an office not shared with four other Armies, and the prospect of the occasional sports afternoon, rounded off with a few pints. This is the life, and with the prospect of a fair few weeks on leave, there are no complaints to be heard in this Troop.

There have been a number of changes whilst we have been away, notably the arrival of **Cpl Crook**, a playmate for **Sgt** 'Thomo' **Thompson**. The latter has swapped the Radio Troop in Split for the delights of rebro recce. Back from the UAO is **Sig** 'Rossie' **Roscoe**, and from the Grapple QM's stores, our men in the know, **Cpl Russ Shields** and **LCpl Neil Binks**. On the farewell side we say goodbye to **LCpls Dave Harding** and 'Nobby' **Clarke**, who are taking their cold weather kit to 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) for yet more snow. Also leaving are **LCpls** 'Jock' **Wylie, Stef Milner**, and **Sig Ross Hanes**.

Of all the souvenirs taken back from Bosnia, the star prize goes to **Cpl** 'Geordie' **Pearson**. Forget flags, bayonets, AK's and insert a Bosnian Beauty, now named **Mrs Pearson**. She didn't stand a chance against 'Geordies' Newcastle charms.

SUPPORT TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Chas Dale**

Well the ISO containers have made it safely back. The main effort has been to get the Squadron's kit sorted out ready for exercise, with **Cpl Bradley** taking the lead.

Also back from Bosnia, smuggled through the customs is 'The Verminator', **Sig** 'Worsel' **Armstrong**, the Troop pest controller. 'No rat too big' is the watchword of the only man in the Squadron to claim a confirmed kill.

The MT department has been busy recently, with **Cpl** 'Dixie' **Dixon** taking the place of **Kev Reynolds** in the driver's seat as details NCO. He has been trying to find a minibus design good enough for the forthcoming expedition to France; one with surfboard attachments.

DEATH
SIGNALMAN LEE HARPER

Sig Lee Harper died tragically after an accident involving a vehicle in Split, just two days before returning to UK. **Lee** served on the Gorazde Convoys, and was held in high regard by his peers and officers alike. His military funeral was held in his home town of Burnley, and was attended by many of his Squadron friends. He will be sorely missed.

24 Airmob Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210)
Colchester

TO BOSNIA OR NOT TO BOSNIA? THAT IS THE QUESTION
by WO1 (RSM) Steve Morgan

At the time of writing I can honestly say 'it's been a funny old week'. News of our potential deployment to the former Republic of Yugoslavia broke first on the late May bank holiday weekend. I found out from the radio whilst the Sqn Comd, **Maj Meyer**, found out from his mother; we all know that mothers never lie–we must be going.

The Squadron management were called in and formed up in the Squadron office; rumours were rife and ranged from a full deployment to a two week holiday in Tenerife! The Sqn Comd, on his return from the Brigade 'O' Group, soon put us in the picture–we were going to Middlewick ranges! Yes, in preparation for Yugoslavia/Tenerife the Squadron was to embark on an intensive training programme of ATDs which included all the old favourites like ranges, First Aid, NBC etc. Even I did my famous Law of Armed Conflict lecture . . . again; it's funny how an event like this concentrates the mind. I actually had soldiers paying attention, asking relevant questions and even laughing at my jokes; no mean feat in an LOAC lecture.

By the Thursday the ill-founded rumour of a holiday in Tenerife had reached the wives so the Sqn Comd invited them into camp for an update on the situation. The ladies (wives, girlfriends and one mother) were extremely interested in what was said although the Sqn Comd was at a complete loss when asked by one wife what he was going to do about the imminent birth of her baby. The ladies of the Squadron were very supportive and while most didn't really want their men away from home they acknowledged that if we didn't deploy we would all be like hell to live with for weeks to come. Assurances were given that although we were extremely busy we were indeed thinking of our wives. I, on the other hand was thinking of **SSgt Colin Milne**'s wife.

The training programme rolls on: a full plug up (ably assisted by members of 3 (UK) Div), personal documentation, grenade training . . . the list goes on, and all of this in addition to the busy life of a Brigade Signal Squadron. (Note: Getting ready for deployment has no effect on the need to sell Corps Museum raffle tickets.)

At this stage we still do not know if and when we will deploy. The Squadron, always a thriving entity, has taken on a focused sense of purpose; the soldiers who previously walked around with an empty mill board now walk faster, those reporting sick really are. Everyone from the newest signaller upwards wants to practise the unique skills and techniques inherent in the Airmobile Brigade, only time will tell if we do or not.

Amidst all the preparations we must say congratulations to **Capt Phil Deans** on his engagement to the lovely **Biriana**.

ALPHA TROOP

A few hellos and goodbyes; a big Alpha Tp welcome to **2Lt Tom Hawley** on attachment, **Cpl** 'Ez' **Ezard** and his wife **Kay, Cpl Dave Pye** and his wife **Janice, LCpl Pond, Sig Danny Hill** and his wife **Abi, Sig** 'Spider' **Webb** and **Sig Ronnie Foster**. A warm welcome to **SSgt Alger**, his wife **Ruth** and family recently arrived from 30 Sig Regt on promotion; welcome to the Troop and we hope you have an enjoyable and rewarding tour.

Sad farewells to **Cpl** 'Spoilt Brat' **Tennent, Sigs Mark Catney**, 'Taff' **Richards** and congratulations to **SSgt Neil Coatsworth**, his wife **Debbie** and family, on promotion to WO2 (SSM) and posting to 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. From the lads; keep juggling and raising that money for the Corps Museum.

BRAVO TROOP

Life is busier than ever in the Troop, especially for **LCpls** 'flower-power' **McConnell, John McNally** and **Sig Brad King** who have been eagerly competing against the Ops Team in the 'Tom Hanks in Philadelphia' lookalike haircut competition.

Many congratulations go from the Troop to **SSgt Colin Milne** on coming joint seventh in the British Open Golf Championships and for agreeing to buy all of the drinks at the next Troop party from his winnings. Surely you have earned your place in the Corps Team now Staff!

Lastly a few hellos and goodbyes: welcome to **Sig Empson** who arrives straight from training and good luck to **Sig Claire Moses** on posting to 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt.

EXERCISE BRUNSKILL'S INITIATIVE
by LCpl Duckworth, Sig Gourley and Sig Anderson

Alpha Tp Comd thought that an excellent way for the Troop to wind down before Easter leave would be to go down to RMA Sandhurst and participate as CIVPOP in an exercise. What a great idea if that had been the case, but it wasn't, as the best kept secret in the world started to unfold on Tuesday morning at 0830hrs.

Dressed in shirt and tie, we boarded the bus only to have white pillow cases placed on our heads, strange headgear for CIVPOP . . . sorry, did I say CIVPOP!! A quick change of plan resulted in us being dropped off in various locations around Essex in groups of three, whilst the Foreman seemed to enjoy searching us for money and credit cards.

What on earth was going on!! £10, a letter of introduction, a list of 45 initiative tasks to complete, a camera, the town of Leeds to go to and a disappearing bus . . . how did he keep this secret!

But our luck was in, not five minutes later, 'Stu the truck driver' pulled into the lay-by on his way to Harrogate and said that because his boss was an ex-soldier, he would happily take us to Leeds . . . we couldn't believe it.

The first priority was a roof over our heads and after begging and pleading with various hotel owners we managed to get a room in a two star hotel with breakfast to boot. A free Big Mac later, we went back to the room to plan the next two days of events.

Thursday morning we finished off by getting all of the photos developed at Boots for free. One group, much to the annoyance of the Brigade Superintendent Clerk, when in SuperSnaps, were asked 'shall we put it on the Brigade bill' . . . do bears play in the woods?

We returned to Colchester extremely exhausted to hear other groups exploits and have a few cheeky little beers. For the record, the fact that I won the competition had nothing to do with my wife marking it. However, I take my hat off to **Cpl Churchward** for appearing on The Big Breakfast in a penguin suit and for those free flights to Glasgow.

EXERCISE PUGWASH EBOR

At the end of April, Bravo Tp Comd, **Lt John Evans** press-ganged 10 members of the Troop into spending a week sailing to the Channel Islands and back on board the 55ft yacht, *Chaser*.

Everything was going really well while we were in the sailing club and in fact right up to the point when we boarded the yacht. Then during the first Channel crossing **Sig** 'Sedge' **Sedgwick** narrowly beat **Lt Evans** into second place in the projectile vomiting competition whilst **LCpl** 'Mac' **McConnell** came a definite last place in the 'avoid **Lt Evans**'s breakfast' competition.

After a night stop in Guernsey we sailed to Cherbourg to pick up some duty free and delay the return crossing as long as possible. The return trip was a 'tad' rough and **Sig Sedgwick**, having a little trouble finding his sea-legs, spent the journey with his head over the side looking for them; apparently they answer to the name of 'Huey'.

At the end of the week everyone was glad to get back on dry land and the general consensus was that in future we will leave the sailing to those strange Navy types.

EXERCISE IRON ENDEAVOUR

The post-Ex Hardfall period has seen a relatively quiet time for the Squadron, except for annual battlecamp which, this year, was based around a patrolling and escape and evasion scenario. The exercise was, as usual, based in Sennybridge Field Training Centre. The Brecknocians were the 'enemy'/Hunter Force and was comprised of sections from this Squadron, 604 Sig Tp and 63 Sig Sqn (SAS) (V). The Tydfillians were destined to be the 'runners' and were all hand picked men from the Squadron under the leadership of **Lt Gareth Marsh**. The exercise was organised by **WO2 (SSM) Steve Barnes** and **Sgt** 'Johno' **Johnston** and was a tremendous success, although not all the phases were enjoyable at the time! Finally, before accounts of the exercise from the Troops themselves, the Squadron would like to say a big thank you to all the agencies and Corps units who made this exercise possible, especially 604 Sig Tp for providing nearly half of the Hunter Force.

223 Sig Sqn (399 SU RAF)
RAF Digby

THE ARRIVAL

From as early as April 1994 Royal Signals and Intelligence Corps soldiers began arriving at RAF Digby in Lincolnshire and by December 1994 399 Sig Unit was ready to take on its new, innovative role. The initial plan to resurrect an independent 223 Sig Sqn was quickly superseded by one that was based on the principle of full integration with the Royal Air Force. Thus the 10 officers and 200 Army ranks now working at Digby are employed throughout the Royal Air Force chain of command and these, our first *Wire* notes, also include those Royal Air Force personnel who enjoy a close working relationship with The Army.

RADIO SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj Charles Turner**
SRO	**Capt Jim Dodds BEM**

Radio Squadron is the largest of the three operational squadrons and provides the backbone of the Unit in the form of the four watch working Flights; A, B, C and D Flights. With the enormous restructuring brought about by the integration the Squadron has very much evolved, and is still doing so, under the guiding hand of **Jim Dodds**; well at least one hand as the other is clutching his zimmer frame! He has also coped admirably with a young, zealous squadron commander fresh from the MoD who has that heady mix of a willingness to learn and a desire to improve! **Steve Young** is on the transfer list again–we wish him the very best of luck. In February **John Sanderson** took over from **John Herbert** as the Operations WO and their expertise has been invaluable in the past six months, not to mention adding a splash of light blue to the office!



The Station Commander and Royal Signals Officers, WOs and SNCOs

A FLIGHT

D Ops O	**Capt Ashley Hayden**
DSO	**WO Brian Sperrin** RAF
DDSO	**WO2 (Supvr R) Eddie Small BEM**

Our gallant leader, **Capt** 'Gadget' **Hayden**, is off to HQNI and 15 Sig Regt after only seven months and **Brian Sperrin** retires next year; life with A Flight sure is tough!

EXERCISE ALPHA VENTURE 1/95

Oic	**Capt Ashley Hayden**
Ex Co-ord	**Sgt Paul** 'Leo' **Sayer**
Admin SNCO	**Sgt** 'Wodge' **Howard**

Ex Alpha Venture took place in the Lake District National Park in March and although it was planned to introduce soldiers and airmen to adventure training it developed into a battle against the elements. The team members, **Cpl Shane Campbell, LCpls Nikki Jefferson, Seonaid Macgregor** and **Brendan Mathews** along with **JTs Trev Green** and **Adamson** little realised that when they climbed their first peak of the day, they would be ascending into folklore. Following a pleasant start to the trip, where the team was struck by the awesome beauty of the area, not to mention the odd passing Tornado, the weather quickly began to deteriorate and soon visibility was down to zero. Undeterred, the team pressed on finally reaching the summit whereupon a combination of frozen compasses and dodgy map reading resulted in a minor outbreak of geographical confusion. Following several oaths and veiled threats a command decision was taken and the wind-battered group began the descent into a valley in an attempt to get below the snow-line. Fortunately the conditions improved considerably during this phase and the team was treated to a spectacular and impromptu display of break dancing by **Cpl Shane Campbell** and **JT Trev Green.**

A very footsore and weary group finally trudged in through the streets of Ambleside to the lodge at the end of the day, but preparations were soon underway for the evenings activities. Day 2 consisted of some slightly less adventurous, but as equally exhilarating, 'tabbing'. Following two very productive and enjoyable days in the lakes a tired but most satisfied group finally departed for RAF Digby safe in the knowledge that they had undoubtedly made a lasting impression on the area and are looking forward to returning again in the very near future. Our thanks are extended to **Sgt Paul Sayer** for organising such an enjoyable trip.

B FLIGHT

D Ops O	**Flt Lt Simon Watkins**
DSO	**WO Dave Keates** RAF
DDSO	**WO2 (Supvr R) Paul Meadows**

ACTIVITIES

All Flights in RAF Digby compete throughout the year in a number of sporting events to win the holy grail, The Station Commander's Cup. The most recent event was that macho, muscle-rending sport of . . . netball . . . in which B Flt acquitted themselves very well, being narrowly beaten in the final after an outstanding performance by K Flt to leave us in third place overall in the competition and in with a good chance of picking up a medal.

SOCIAL

When **SSgt Bob Fanning** and **Cpl Andy Ball** first suggested a Games Night against D Flt, everyone immediately had visions of playing dominos, darts . . . how wrong we were! Spectators and participants alike were entertained with games of 'Human Jousting' and 'Pole Pillow Fighting' where combatants straddled rotating poles and attempted to unseat their opponents, which **Flt Lt Simon Watkins**, to his chagrin, discovered was not necessarily a game to be dominated by the men.

WELCOMES/FAREWELLS

The Flight has swollen in recent months with new arrivals including **Flt Lt Simon Watkins** who replaced **Flt Lt Martin** 'Jean-Luc' **Pickard**, who is currently in the Falkland Islands, **Cpls** 'Mally' **Malin**, 'Woody' **Wood**, 'Ash' **Ashley** and **LCpls Martin Barker** and **Neil Chrispin**. We also bid a fond farewell to **SSgt**, now **WO2**–many congratulations, **Bob** 'Shorty' **Fanning**, who is now at The Royal School of Signals.

C FLIGHT

D Ops O	**Fg Offr Simon Kennedy**
DSO	**WO Rod Williams** RAF
DDSO	**WO2 (Supvr R) Steve Shannon**

ACTIVITIES

Cpl Gaz King persuaded several Flight members to run in the Lincoln One-Third Marathon and raised £500 for Cancer Relief. The team consisted of **WO2 Steve Shannon, LCpls** 'Oz' **Osbaldestin, Ritchie Glass,** 'Ches' **Chester** and **JTs** 'Tic' **Storey, Bob Angus, Nick Smith** and 'Hair' **Surtees**. Congratulations also to **LCpl** 'Ches' **Chester** for coming a well deserved second place in the Superstars competition for the Station Commander's Cup. Well done to all.

WELCOMES/FAREWELLS

Welcome aboard and congratulations to now **SSgt (Supvr R) Mark** 'Squirrel' **Jordan** and to **Sgt Wally Wallace**, from sunnier climes, who has thrown himself into the Rugby scene as only **Wally** could. Congratulations go to **SSgt Paul Skeith** on his recent preselection for promotion to WO2 and best wishes for his tour in Northern Ireland. **WO Rod Williams** and **FSgt Dennis Buckley** started their farewell functions in style by both appearing live on stage with **Bernard Manning** during a recent Flight outing to Manchester. Both men admitted to retiring from the RAF after 37 years as Fighter Pilots. The Flight hopes their 'props' will continue to turn for many years to come, in their twilight years. A period of change looms for C Flight as three of our present Flight hierarchy are about to leave us. Watch this space.

D FLIGHT

D Ops O	**Lt Simon Meadowcroft BEM**
DSO	**WO Paul King** RAF
DDSO	**WO2 (Supvr R) Andy Ashwell**

ACTIVITIES

Well done to **Lt Simon Meadowcroft, WO2 Andy Ashwell, Sgts Sav Phillips, Steve Macanally, JTs Ellie Jackson, Greg Milne** and **LCpls Aide Raine, Daz Moore** who played and won the Volleyball competition in the Station Commander's Cup. The Flight came third in the netball and is storming the football field for the Wilkinson Cup as we have beaten C Flight 5–2, B Flight 5–2 and G, H and J Flight 5–1. The record goalscorer **Cpl Al Smith**, is also coincidentally joint first in the bookings with **Sgt Sav Phillips**.

SOCIAL

Blueberry Pie Night was the charity event of the year where members of the unit kindly volunteered to be 'pied' in the stocks for charity. Overall £601 was raised for Multiple Sclerosis. Thanks and well done to all those who took part. Things were rather quiet on the social side, 'were' being the operative word until the D Flight v B Flight games night was thought up. During the day **LCpl Kenny Cross** organised a football match which resulted in a 2–2 draw and the evening was a riot of fun. Many games were played from pole pillow fighting to human jousting which was enjoyed by all. Sadly one of our teams 'The Muddy Fungsters' captained by **LCpl Ritchie Cross**, who decided to create some of his own games such as ironing board surfing, came last and were awarded the wooden spoon. Congratulations to B Flight for winning–next time D Flight. A big thanks goes to **SSgt** 'Track' **Trethewey** and **Sgt** 'Jacko' **Jacklin** for organising such an excellent night. A special thanks also goes to **JT Greg Milne** who kept the girls amused by wearing his kilt and to the girl (or maybe Ling?) who stole his boxer shorts, he'd be grateful for their safe return, preferably washed and ironed.

WELCOMES/FAREWELLS

Sadly we have to say farewell to **SSgt Dave Devine** who has now gone to Trade Training and **Cpl Si Nowell** who has moved to K Flight. On a happier note, the Flight is now blessed with two new members, **LCpls** 'Beef' **Kirton** and **Michelle Welch**, who have just arrived from the factory. A belated congratulations goes to **SSgt Dave Devine** and **Julie** on the birth of their baby girl **Liam** last November. Congratulations also go to **Cpl Si Nowell** and **Diane** on the birth of their baby boy **Richard**.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION SQUADRON

J FLIGHT

Flt Cdr	**Flt Lt Tony Woods**
WO (Ops)	**WO Ken Parkin** RAF
WO (Txn)	**WO1 Steve Maddison**
FS (Ops)	**F. S. Graham Campbell**
SSgt (Ops)	**SSgt (Supvr R) Andy Kelly**

As this is our first ever contribution to *The Wire*, a brief description of the Squadron and its structure is perhaps necessary. Spec Comms Sqn consists of J and K Flights. J Flight is made up of personnel from all three services and from an Army point of view there is mixture of Int Corps, led by **WO1 Steve Maddison**, and 26 Tele Op (Ling)s, led by **SSgt (Supvr R) Andy Kelly**. All J Flight personnel have a linguistic capability and are split amongst the four shift working Flights. The highlights over the past couple of months have been the much deserved promotions to Corporal for **Sean Gurney, Neil Merrit, Ed Moses** and **Taff Willumsen**. Congratulations also to **Sgt Les Shrives** who received the news that he had been selected for promotion to SSgt just before he flew off for a well earned break in Bosnia! Happy news also on the domestic scene, the pitter-patter of little feet could be heard over the Yuletide break as **Alison** and **Tony Wood** and **Julie** and **Andy Butler** were both blessed with the arrival of baby boys. Finally, congratulations to **Cpl Gary MacGregor** who perhaps took the integration a bit too far when he got engaged to **JT Debbie Finlay**. Best of luck to them both.

K FLIGHT

Flt Cdr	**Capt** 'Wee Geordie' **Doughty**
2IC	**WO2 Mick Keech BEM**

Being called a Flight/Watch instead of a Squadron/Troop seemed weird at first, but we're slowly getting used to it; they wouldn't let us call it a 'floop'! The Flight was a convincing winner in the Station Commander's Cup Cross-Country event and finished a credible fourth position in the Superstars contest. We also dominated the Netball as we fielded a team which would have seemed more at home on the rugby pitch, hence there was no problem with the ball being passed to hand (although **Cpl** 'Paddy' **Millar** couldn't get out of the habit of spinning the ball as he passed!). The 'front row' of **Cpls Mick Cross, Steve Kelly** and **Sgt Pete Morris** dominated the forward line and **Sgt** 'Oz' **Osborne** alongside **WO2 Mick Keech** held the backs well together for another K Flight victory. Well done to all.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations go to **Sgts** 'Goggs' **Burns** and **Sgt** 'Oz' **Osborne** who both recently came off the board for promotion, the latter has been getting strange looks from the boys in blue as he dons his webbing and sets off for a 'swift' five miler in preparation for his RSSC. Also congratulations to **Cpl** 'Si' **Nowells** and his wife **Diane** on the birth of their son **Richard John**. Mid April saw the return of **Cpl** 'Daz' **Hepburn** from Bosnia and we say 'au revoir' to **Sgt** 'Charlie' **Brown** who replaces him for a four month sojourn.

SUPPORT SQUADRON

ENGINEERING FLIGHT

Flt Cdr	**Flt Lt Tony** 'No Goals' **Houghton**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Russ Baldwin**
Wksp SSgt	**SSgt** 'Don' **King**

Well this is the first of what we hope will be many entries from TM Troop, whoops, Eng Flt, but as most of the techs are away on courses we haven't much to say. Until the next time then . . . and meanwhile keep your screwdriver clean.

240 Sig Sqn
York

Sqn Comd	**Maj Stan Howard**
Adjt	**Capt (Retd) Joe Lovell**

LS & GC MEDAL PRESENTATION

As a unit which comprises a high number of civilians, and used to presenting Imperial Service Medals, we were somewhat pleased to receive three LS & GC Medals in the space of a week. The recipients were **SSgt Dave Simpson, Cpls Gary Skeels** and **Donna Reynolds** and the ceremony was held on 23 June in the NAAFI Club, Imphal Barracks. Presentations were made by the Sqn Comd–**Maj Stan Howard**.



(L to R): Maj S. J. Howard, Cpl Skeels, SSgt Simpson, Cpl Reynolds

The whole event was organised by **Sgt Caroline Gordon**, who discovered that she can cook after all, and there was no need for her husband to run away to the Falklands. Seriously, she did us proud with the food, which was all prepared at home, and there was nothing but praise for an excellent spread.

PAST EVENT

Yes, we have had another Squadron walk around the Moors (and pubs) of Yorkshire, organised by **Cpl Tony Brown**, but for some reason the photos did not materialise. However, another excellent event–thankfully the Sqn Comd is not into hang-gliding or hot air ballooning–yet!

HIYAS AND FAREWELLS

Since our last submission we have been quite busy on the movements scene, and would like to welcome **SSgt Steve King** and **LCpl Nick Marcovic** to the Squadron, also **Sgt Dave Owen** is attached to us for his last six months, we hope you all are kept busy and enjoy your time here.

On the sad side, we have had to say farewell to **Sgts Ron Bates, Brian Ridley** and **LCpl Robbie Quigley**, all leaving us for civvy street, and to **SSgt (SQMS) Dave Simpson** on posting to 7 Sig Regt, our loss and their gain. We wish you all and your families, good luck and good fortune with whatever the future holds for you.

NOTICE

The Squadron now has a logo which is produced on various items of clothing, and a Squadron plaque is to be produced. If any past members of the Squadron are interested in acquiring these much sought after items please contact **Cpl Gary Skeels** on York Mil 2448.

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

Sqn Comd — **Maj Kevan Thornber**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Gary Waters**

CYPRUS MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

In March RAF Akrotiri hosted the All Island Military Skills Competition.

19 Teams entered from around the Island of which the Squadron Team came a magnificent second by beating the Resident Infantry Battalion.

The stands were all Military type tasks.

Congratulations go out to **2Lt Mark Harrop, SSgt Mick Senior** and all the Team on a fantastic result, with special thanks to **WO2 (SSM) Gary Waters** for the pre-training.



FOOTBALL

Once again football dominated the Winter Season here in Cyprus. 259 Sig Sqn produced two teams for the Episkopi Minor Units League. But towards the end with personal posted the 'B' Team had to scrape a team together from the Garrison Medical Centre.

Many thanks goes out to all the Royal Irish Medics who supported us throughout.

The 'B' Team scorched its way to the League Cup Final but were beaten by 1 Royal Irish 'A' Coy (4 goals to 2). Scorers were **WO2 Gary Waters** and **Mr Gerry Gallagher**, our new civilian telemech.

The end of the season was celebrated with a football club presentation night. Chairman **Maj Bob Lockwood** presented the trophies.

Congratulations goes to the following:

'A' Team	'B' Team
Players Player: **Craig Wrath**	Players Player: **Charlie Rigg**
Most Improved: **Dave Amos**	Most Improved: **Kelvin Dale**



280 (UK) Sig Sqn
BFPO 35

COMLANDCENT REVIEWS HIS SIGNALLERS

Commander Allied Land Forces Central Europe, **General Wilmink**, a Dutch four star general, recently visited Francisca Barracks, St Tonis, to meet two of the Signal Units that support his Headquarters in the field. 280 (UK) Sig Sqn is part of the LANDCENT Signal Group consisting of British, German, Dutch and American units.

He is pictured here reviewing the honour guard upon his arrival.



FRENCH COMMANDO COURSE

The Squadron sent a 16 strong group to Givet in France to experience the French Commando Course for ourselves. We started well enough but, until the arrival of our interpreter, communication was at times a bit of a headache. However, **SSgt Terry Murrell**'s grasp of French had improved hugely. We were fortunate in having **LCpl 'JR' Whitmey**, who spoke a little French–and as just reward, got to carry the platoon radio for the final exercise. 'C'est la vie'.



Commanding our budding Commandos was **Lt** 'Regains are me' **Kennedy**, who, while pleased there was little running, was less pleased at the climbing of wires, drainpipes, walls, logs, pipes, ladders grappels, ropes, cables and other obstacles with unpronounceable French names. Apart from being barely able to climb into bed at night, and suffering excrutiating pain (apparently), I'm sure he thoroughly enjoyed himself. In fact, though the average level of fitness was high, there were few who didn't suffer any pain. Of course there were exceptions such as **Sigs** 'Billy' **Butlin** and 'Slobs' **Williams**, who would be more comfortable sitting in trees all day chewing on bananas. Another factor was the unseasonal heatwave that arrived nicely on cue for the first week. The week climaxed with a 40m climb–with helmets, bergens and weapons. The heat from the rock face was blazing and at the summit there were few who could do anything other than lie in the shade for half an hour.

That weekend took us further afield than Givet (nicknamed 'duvet', because it shut at 2100hrs), to Belgium. Thousands of francs were quaffed and a good night had by all (eventually).

Week two brought total success in all competitions. Section one, ably led by **SSgt** 'Doc' **Halliday** (7 Sig Regt), scored a record breaking 1950 out of 2000 points, beating the nearest by some 350 points. Naturally we won the platoon competition in spite of some amendments to the scoring system.

At the end of the week we were accoladed by the instructor, saying we were a particularly outstanding course.

The final week included a three-night final exercise which consisted of a 70km tactical insertion, sabotage, two river-crossings and an assault on the fort. The eventual distance on the insertion was a trifle longer ('The ground is barren and featureless–other side of the map, Sir'). We were all pretty tired by the final stage and the prospect of another climb daunting, however, all made it. The attack was a tad premature, led by an enthusiastic **Sigs** 'Bullet' **Skidmore** and 'Slobs' **Williams**. A final mention must go to **Sig** 'Screaming Bob' **Roberts** (7 Sig Regt) who received a 'Best Student' award.

Generally everyone enjoyed themselves using live explosive, climbing and jumping off high things, learning about OBUA (courtesy of **Cpl** 'Spats' **Brodie**) and probably finding it more challenging than previously expected.

Our French hosts were very hospitable, this meant lots of red wine in the Mess–regardless of what lesson followed and the final night was a ball but that's another story.

It is most certainly a course worth doing.

THE LOCKWOOD TROPHY

For once the weather was kind to us. The time had come to stage the tightly contested Lockwood Trophy, awarded to the winners of the annual inter rank football competition.

All teams played with enthusiasm and 'a lot of heart' to make the contest both exciting and entertaining. The highlight of the day was a goal scored by **Capt Tom Ponton** (the Squadron Team Manager) from a diving header. The crowd erupted with choruses of 'Ooh ah Pontonah', much to his delight.

The final winners were the Corporals who beat the Lance Corporals in the last match 3–0. Well done to **Sgt** 'Fergie' **Ferguson** for the organisation and all competitors who made the day a great success.



The Corporals: Lockwood Trophy Winners 1995

NOTES FROM THE SQUADRON EDITOR

The barbecues and suntans have come but so much for the warm weather. A barmy April gave way to a rain drenched May followed by a freezing June, but there were plenty of highlights to take our minds off the weather; exercises, equipment trials, cricket, athletics, swimming and of course the long awaited French Commando Course.

STOP PRESS

The current celebrations of the Corps 75th Anniversary finished on a high point with the Squadron becoming Morrison Cup Winners 1995. The successes just keep on coming.

JCUFI
BFPO 655

EXERCISE COMMANDO CHALLENGE
(A Scaley's eye view)

It started as just another day in the corridors of JCUFI.

'Hey, Sergeant Major!' came the cry from the OC's office. 'Have you heard about this Exercise Commando Challenge on the 30th of March?'

'Something had crossed my desk Sir' came the cautious reply.

'It sounds like a good idea. Let's look at getting a team together'.

Thus began JCUFI's involvement in the Commando Challenge, an exercise designed to take a team of reasonably fit soldiers and turn them into something resembling the cast of a bad zombie movie.

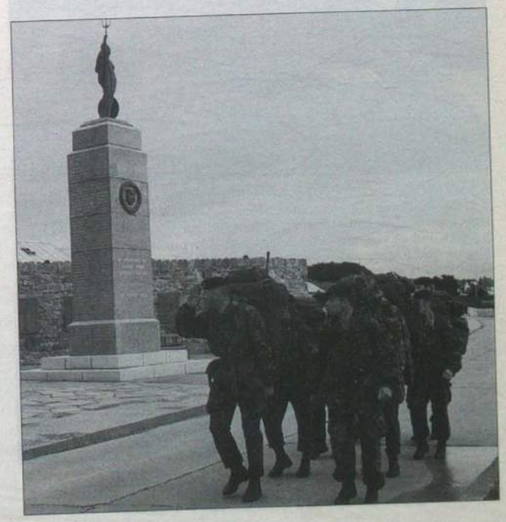
The event, sponsored and run by the Falkland Islands Defence Force (FIDF) was designed to commemorate the advance, by the Royal Marine Commandos from Port San Carlos to Port Stanley during the conflict. It would take the form of a Patrol Competition, over two and a half days, covering 75 to 80 miles across country, with command tasks and ranges along the way. We were to be self contained, carrying weapons, full rations, tentage and survival gear.

It was uncertain until the day before the competition, how many men the FIDF wanted in each team. Eventually the word came down to say that eight was the limit. At the end of the training the JCUFI line up looked like this: **WO2 (USM) Pete Griffiths**–Captain, **Capt Bob Pemberton, SSgt Rick Hughes, Sgt Craig Jones, Cpls Ashley Williams, Mark Sibbald, LCpl Jason King** and **Sig Steve Hall**.

Commiserations (if that's the right word) went to **Capt Terry Waites** who lost his place in the team after a hard fought straw drawing contest.

There were originally eight teams but two dropped out during the training period, including the Reinforced Infantry Company B Team, which trained themselves into the medical centre. At startex six teams were in the running.

The teams gathered at MPA for the heli move to Port San Carlos on Thursday 29 March. It was soon evident that training with a 40lb bergen



has been a bit conservative. Once all the gear, now to include CEFO, was strapped into place there was many a muttering of 'It's the bergen from Hell', and not just from JCUFI! The lightest bergen in our team weighed in at 63lbs.

The first phase of the exercise began at ridiculous o'clock the next day, with teams being set off at half hourly intervals. It was to be the most gruelling day of the competition, comprising a 35 mile march (if your map reading was good) and a river crossing style command task. The first terrain was difficult, as only the Falklands can be, with the first 12 miles running up into the high ground overlooking New House. As the team passed through the second checkpoint we had our first brush with the Press. A camera crew was there to film us as we marched by onto a ridgeline. A few minutes later the cry went up. 'They're following us by helicopter! The cameraman's hanging out the side door!' Quickly we got ourselves into single file, although I think it's unlikely that film footage of eight soldiers doing the Can-Can on a mountainside is likely to get past the cutting room.

The river crossing was completed in the dark and in driving rain, with our only light coming from the headlights of the DS Landrovers. That done, we only had five miles left to go until the night location at Teal Inlet.



604 Sig Tp
Aldershot

Tp Comd — **Capt S. R. Mannings**
TSM — **SSgt P. M. Lord**

BATTLE CAMP 1995

This was to be our first exercise as a Troop, even though we are only 26 strong. The week prior to deployment was spent brushing up our skills and drills with the newly formed Training Team, some good instruction there lads (Geordie speak). The idea behind the exercise was for us to be a hunter force for 249 Sig Sqn on their Escape and Evasion training. The first two days were spent on revision and dry training on Sennybridge Camp, the next three days were spent on the ranges. Our first stand was the section in defence range, where Section 5 earned the name 'Sharpes Rifles'. With **Cpl Sy Link** as Section Commander nothing could go wrong, or could it? The first range was a bit disastrous, but the Section made up for it in the rest of the week with strong competition from the Troop's other Section. We deployed to the field on Sunday 7 May. This phase of the exercise was for the enemy forces to observe us, so it was agreed to use white light to aid the NVA's. The last phase of the exercise was the E&E phase proper, with Sections driving around the countryside looking for escaped prisoners. It was an enjoyable exercise and thanks to 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) for inviting us.

The first day over, we discovered that the FIDF team had dropped out completely and that we were the only team still complete. 'Start with eight, Finish with eight' became our watch word as we began the second day. This comprised another 20 miles of cross-country marching broken by a range competition. This was a composite shoot involving the rifle, LAW 66mm and grenades. The most interesting sight of the day was had coming upon the Police Team lying on a hillside looking like the aftermath of a mortar attack. They were to pull out that evening. Our spirits lifted, we trudged on to Estancia House, the second night stop.

The final day was, for most, the hardest day of all. 20 more miles with aching bodies and sore feet. The team pushed on, conscious that the Royal Engineers were close behind us overall and not wishing to be overtaken. As we came out of the hills and into Port Stanley the bobble hats came off and the berets went on. We marched, in good order, past the memorial to those who fell in the conflict and as a token of respect, the USM gave the command for 'Eyes Right'.

All that remained was the last mile to Rookery Range for the finish and the final Falling Plate shoot. We knew there were other teams close behind us. The Paras had overtaken us earlier and we could hear the sound of their shots ahead on the range. It was decided to jog the last mile in and, after an agonising false finish by a badly placed DS Landrover and a last 200m dash, it was all over bar the shooting. The 25m dash to the firing point was less of a dash and more of a slow dribble. All the plates down and it was off to the FIDF Drill Hall for tea and medals.

Third place medals, to be exact and a certificate from Government House. The Paras took first place followed by an excellent effort by HMS *Leeds Castle*. The whole JCUFI team felt, along with the tired and tender bodies, a great sense of achievement and a firm resolve to never, never volunteer for something like Ex Commando Challenge again.



BLACKBURN ARMY CADET SIGNALS DETACHMENT



Our photograph shows three of the Royal Signals badged cadets during a break in training at Holcombe Moor Camp near Bury recently, left to right they are Girl **Cadet Emma Thompson** aged 14, **Cadet Paul Morini** aged 16 and 14 year old Girl **Cadet Lance Corporal Donna Hague**, both **Donna** and **Emma** are pupils of Darwen Moorland High School, whilst **Paul** who is an ex pupil of the school is now at the Blackburn College studying electronics.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

Admiral	**Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander CB OBE**
Commodore	**Col J. E. F. Kirby OBE**
Vice Commodore	**Lt Col J. Grierson**

Rear Commodores: Offshore, Lt Col J. R. S. Amberton;
Dinghies, Lt Col M. J. McKinlay; Windsurfing, Maj D. I. Gilchrist.

CONTACTS

Yachtmasters:	**UK: Capt N. A. Walker, Blandford Mil 2256**
	BAOR: Capt R. K. Orr, Birgelen Mil 286
Secretaries:	**General Capt G. Neal, Blandford Mil 2664**
	Dinghy Racing UK: Capt D. C. A. Ellis, Blandford Mil 2340
	Dinghy BAOR:Maj S. I. Andrews, Osnabruk Mil 5247
	Windsurfing UK: Lt M. C. Wadsley, Hullavington Mil 8815
	Windsurfing BAOR: Maj M. W. Edwards, RAF Laarbruch Mil 5711
	Retired Members Rep: Lt Col (Retd) C. K. Powell, Blandford Mil 2437
Soldier Reps:	**Sgt Finnigan: Thorney Island 8263 Sgt P. Downie: Bulford Mil 2837**

The Royal Signals Yacht Club communicates with its members through the medium of* The Wire, *which regularly prints a forecast of events, accounts of activities and contains details for club officials.

Any member of the Corps who subscribes to Corps funds is automatically a member of the Yacht Club: this membership is activated simply by registering with one of the Club secretaries.

INTER-CORPS KNOCKOUT COMPETITION

The Corps entered two teams into this event this year. The B team met the RLC 'A' team at Netley on 21 June and were narrowly defeated. The 'A' team is through to its semi-final having soundly beaten the Sappers 'A' at Netley on 30 May by four races to nil.

Several events are coming up over the next couple of months which will be recorded in the next issue–they are:

Jun 30 RAF v Corps Sports Day
Jul 14-16 Army Individual Championships

All windsurfers of whatever ability should have 13-15 September set aside for the Corps-Wide Championships to be held at Weymouth. Contact your OIC for details or the Rear Commodore or Secretary either of whom will be glad to help.

WINDSURFING

The season is now well under way with several reports of events to bring to your notice:

CORPS UK CHAMPIONSHIPS

A glorious three day competition which took place at Weymouth between 17-19 May. This was a mixed competition not just in ability but also with the weather. Day one saw blustery conditions of force 5-6 and lulls of force 2 whereas on days two and three we experienced everything from force 0-4. However, the constant was achieved with the high level of commitment from sailors and organisers.

The first day saw chaos rule with buoys flying off to our neighbouring MoD Police at Portland Bill. But the Officer of the Day **Capt Graham Neal** and **Maj** 'Davey Jones' **Gilchrist** bought or is that brought calm to a possible stormy event. The racing was fierce over the two event races, that is always assuming you knew where to start. Indeed, a good many people were geographically embarrassed by poor orientation of maps and start lines.

The second day was without problems and ran smoothly with the final races being held back to back to ensure the maximum use of the wind. **Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander CB, OBE** performed 'Admirally' on this day, as our Officer of the Day, and is thanked for his assistance.



The Royal Signals Yacht Club Commodore, Col J. Kirby presents the trophies at the Corps UK Windsurf Championships held at Weymouth 17-19 May 1995
The Overall Individual Champion
Sgt Norman Finnegan

First came the roar of noise, then came the grit and dust, and finally the Black Shadow of Law and Order reigned. It was the third Officer of the Day **Col J. Kirby OBE** ably assisted by **Sgt Norman Finnegan** who ruled proceedings with fervour and spirit, a big thank you. The final day was the team racing event, always a highly contested day which it proved to be, with the team talks taking place in great secret. **Maj Dave Gilchrist** took his team paddling in the shallows off the beach and was heard proclaiming the use of seaweed as a lucky charm.

Maj Paul Cross took The Royal School of Signals in to the 'Scooby Doo Passion Wagon' for a few words of advice. **SSgt Howarth** was seen with his team in the club house around the canteen, obviously they were working on carbohydrate loading. In the event the score board so diligently prepared by **Dee Bowles** and **LCpl Ray Reardon**, told the story of victory for the seaweed and carbohydrate teams.



The Major Unit Champions–3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
(L to R): Lt Jon Coleman, Sgt Geordie English, Maj Dave Gilchrist



The Minor Unit Champions–237 Sig Sqn
(L to R): Lt Mark Wadsley, SSgt Tigger Howarth, WO2 Colin Hough

The results for the individuals and team events are as follows:

Individual		
Overall Champion	**Sgt Norman Finnegan**	47 Regt RA
1st Heavyweight	**Maj Dave Gilchrist**	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
2nd Heavyweight	**SSgt Andy Elliott**	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
1st Lightweight	**Lt** 'Johnboy' **Coleman**	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
2nd Lightweight	**Sgt English**	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
1st Novice Heavyweight	**Lt Wadsley**	237 Sig Sqn
2nd Novice Heavyweight	**WO2 Colin Hough**	237 Sig Sqn
1st Novice Lightweight	**SSgt Simon Tatman**	Royal School of Signals
2nd Novice Lightweight	**SSgt Mark Finch**	15 Sig Regt
Best Lady	**Sgt Lyn Harbage Brown**	Royal School of Signals
Best Veteran	**Maj Paul Cross**	Royal School of Signals
Best Guest	**Maj Steve Jones RLC**	15 Sig Regt

Team		
Major Unit	Champions	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt–23½ pts
	Runners Up	11 Sig Regt–56 pts
Minor Unit	Champions	237 Sig Sqn–8¾ pts
	Runners Up	1 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215)–17 pts

CORPS COACHING

This was a three day coaching course, 1-3 May, organised by **Maj Davey** 'Jones Locker' **Gilchrist**. The aim of the exercise was fun and sun tan, or as it turned out a pre-beat up for Navy Seals. **Jane Clague**, Britain's No 1 woman sailor can certainly handle her men as she started warm ups and pumping which saw even the most determined sailors heading for the shore line after half an hour.

Jane Clague inspired everyone with her enthusiastic teaching and top tips with most technical data being covered within an hour of each day.

'Davey Jones' took us through the rule book with consummate ease, little interjection from the sailors was heard. He put this down to his expert teaching skills, the sailors put this down to sleep deprivation.

Sgts 'Geordie' **English** and **Norman Finnegan** were sighted on and off the water asking lots of questions, but the pub was not to be found. The three days were a complete success as borne out by the later results and high standard of racing witnessed in the UK Corps Championships.



Corps Windsurf Training Camp 1-3 May
The Corps Windsurfers with professional coach Jane Clague

SPORT

BADMINTON

END OF SEASON REPORT 1994/95
by Sgt G. Kendall

The 1994/95 Badminton Year has been a good one, starting off with the Corps Badminton Championship held in the Gymnasium of 21 Sig Regt (AS) Colerne on 29 and 30 September 1994. The attendance for these Championships was excellent with over 60 personnel of varying standards competing for various honours. The results are as follows:-

Mens Singles	Winner	**LCpl Pengelly**
	Runner Up	**Sig Manton**
Mens Inter Unit Doubles	Winners	**Sgt Kelly** and **LCpl Pengelly**
	Runners Up	**Sgt Kendall** and **Sig Manton**
Mens Open Doubles	Winners	**Sgt Kelly** and **LCpl Pengelly**
	Runners Up	**Sig Pollock** and **Sig Garner**
Ladies Singles	Winner	**Sig McTurk**
	Runner Up	**Sgt Barnes**
Mixed Doubles	Winners	**Sig McTurk** and **Sig Pollock**
	Runners Up	**LCpl Pengelly** and **Mrs Quinn**
Mens Singles Plate	Winner	**Sgt Parkinson**
	Runner Up	**Sgt Bennett**
Ladies Singles Plate	Winner	**Miss L. Turner**
	Runner Up	**Lt Lawrance**
Unit Team	Winners	21 Sig Regt (AS)

From the Corps Championships the following individuals were selected to represent the Corps at the Inter-Corps Tournament.

Sgt Kendall (Team Captain)	21 Sig Regt (AS)
Sgt Cunnington	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt Stewart	600 Sig Tp
Cpl Moses	21 Sig Regt (AS)
LCpl Pengelly	217 Sig Sqn
LCpl Smith	2 Sig Regt
Sig Lobb	21 Sig Regt (AS)
Sig Manton	21 Sig Regt (AS)
Sig Pearson	21 Sig Regt (AS)

The Inter-Corps Tournament was held in P & RTC, Prince Philip Barracks at Bordon on 25 and 26 November 1994. The team arrived in high spirits, having **LCpl Pengelly**, the current Army No 1 in our team together with the good strength and depth of the old and bold amongst us. Two days of hard play then ensued, with every team member giving maximum effort. The first day's play had us playing the Royal Engineers and losing by the narrowest of margins, 5–4 and then to the REME who beat us 7–2. **Sig** 'Mad Dog' **Lobb**, who could not play in the morning because of a previous squash commitment, strengthened our No 1 Pairing for our match against the RLC which we won 5–4. Second day's play had us battling against the AGC which proved to be a very close match, however we came through to win 5–4 which gave us an overall position of third in the Competition. The Corps Team played very well and have the ability to improve on this placement next year.

The UKSC(G) Inter Corps Championships were held on 8 December at JHQ Germany. Although a poor turnout with only four Corps members entering, a very competitive competition on a round robin basis was played. It soon became apparent that the eventual winner would be the Signals or REME, with both Corps winning their opening matches. All was set for a showdown, which was finally won 6–3 by the stronger Royal Signals Team, with the No 1 pairing of **LCpl Pollock** and **Sig McTurk** not dropping a rubber. The rest of the Team comprised **Sgt Bath** (Team Captain), **Cpl Allen, Capt Whitehouse** and **Cpl Poyning**. The Signals went on to beat the RLC 7–2 in its last match to win the Championships for the first time since 1985. The UKSC(G) Champions go forward to the UK Championships, the holders being the Royal Engineers.

Now on to the Army Badminton Championships held at 21 Sig Regt (AS), Colerne from 6 to 10 February. This is an individual competition, however, with the current Army No 1 Men's Champion **LCpl Steve Pengelly** and the Ladies No 1, **Sig Vary McIntosh**, the Corps hoped to carry off the main trophies. The Army Badminton Cup is also played for at this time, with Units putting up teams of six men. Qualification for this depends on winning District Rounds. After four days exhausting play, 21 Sig Regt (AS) met 5 Royal Irish in the final of the UK Unit Competition, but lost 6–3 in a very closely fought match. R Signals (Germany) then played the Royal Engineers (UK) in the final of the Army Cup, again upset

for the Signals as the Engineers proved to be too strong and won easily 8–1. The day went from bad to worse as **LCpl Pengelly** lost in the final of the Men's Singles to **SSgt Quinny**, and **Sig McIntosh** losing in the final of the Ladies to **SSgt Haynes**. From the Army Championships **LCpls Steve Pengelly**, **Sweeny**, **Sigs McIntosh** and **McTurk** were selected to represent the Army at the Combined Service Match in March. So well done to those four.

The Badminton year on the whole has been one of mixed fortune, however. There are plenty of new young players coming on to the scene, improving all the time. **Sigs Jason Manton** and **Marcus Lobb** to name just two of the up and coming stars in Badminton. I am sure that they will reach the top of the Corps Badminton ladder before long.

Looking ahead, the Corps Team hope to get away to Cyprus for a beginning of Season Tour.

I would like to say thank you to **Lt Col J. E. Thomas MBE** for his support throughout the year, even when he turned up at 0800hrs to watch us play in the Inter Corps and the team did not arrive until 1200hrs and commenced playing at 1300hrs. He still had a smile on his face.

FOOTBALL

CORPS FOOTBALL END OF SEASON REPORT 1994-95
by Capt 'Butch' **Maycock.**

By the time *Wire* readers are glancing through the sports pages searching for the football report we must be nearing the end of the cricket season! Our late start in late November was forced upon us by a series of exercises, Army and Combined Service games and the rescheduled Inter Corps Quadrangular Tournament.

The Merit League. A damp first outing for the Corps side at York saw a spirited performance against York City FC. The Endsleigh League side's manager concerned at the 1–1 score line at half time, brought on himself and six other first teamers to make the score a more respectable 5–1 in their favour. The following even damper day witnessed a better performance against the RAF Logistic Comd but still the Corps went down 2–1. Fortunately these two friendlies prepared the team well for the first Merit League match against the Infantry, **LCpl Jim Strouts** scoring in a 1–1 draw against the most fancied side in the competition.

Sig 'Barney' **Bambrooke** netted four in a 6–0 win over the Army Air Corps and **LCpls Joe Collins** and **Jim Shrouts** (2) ensured that we shared the points with the RLC. A series of sound performances from **LCpl Grant Campbell**, **Sgt Kev Greenwood** and **Cpl Calvin Bent** ensured wins against the AGC, AMS and APTC consolidating our position in the top three of the league prior to the Quadrangular.

75TH ANNIVERSARY INTER CORPS QUADRANGULAR

As part of the celebrations for the 75th Anniversary, the Corps Football Club hosted the Inter Corps Quadrangular Tournament at Aldershot in May this year. Despite several administrative teething problems–like no football pitches–the competition got off to a good start for the Corps, slamming the RA 6–1. **Alford**, **Higgins**, **Campbell** (2) and **Bambrooke** (2) all hitting the target. The next game against the REME was a very frustrating occasion which saw the Corps go down 2–1. The final game of the anniversary tournament was witnessed by **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB**, **CBE**, **DL** The Master of Signals and **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle**, the Signal Officer-in-Chief along with many guests from the other Corps. We were also delighted to welcome ex-Corps presidents, players, coaches and managers from yester year to mark the occasion.

Sadly the Corps managed only a 2–2 draw against the 'old enemy', the Royal Engineers, which meant that the Sappers took the trophy.

A commemorative 75th Anniversary medal was minted to mark the event and the Master and the SOinC presented all the players and officials with their own individual medals.

REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

The Corps continued to feature greatly in both Army and Combined Service Football. **SSgt Alan Higgins** skippered both teams and **Cpl Andy McWilliam**, **LCpls Jim Strouts**, **Joe Collins** and **Sig Barney Bambrooke** all played at the highest levels.

FAREWELLS

The Corps Football Club said a sad farewell and many thanks to **Cpl Andy McWilliam** on posting to 'civvy street' and 'au revoir' to **Maj Tony Rack** and **SSgt Dave Simpson** who now reside at Krefeld. Both deny trying to build a cup winning side at 7 Sig Regt but the recent acquisitions of **Cpl Calvin Bent** and **SSgt Alan Higgins** lead us to think otherwise.

THE COMING SEASON

After a season of mediocre success, 4th in the Inter Corps Merit League and 3rd in the Quadrangular, the coming season gives us the opportunity to consolidate with some silver. 2 Sig Regt's superb Army Cup final win will hopefully be emulated by 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt next year where most of our Corps players have found a new home. The Corps Football Club intend to hold trials early in the new season and unit football officers and individuals who wish to be considered should contact **Capt** 'Butch' **Maycock** at 36 Sig Regt (V) (tel 769 5220) or **Maj Peter Smurthwaite** at The Royal School of Signals (tel 737 2552) as early as possible.

Finally a huge vote of thanks must go to all the COs and OCs who have released both players and staff this season and to those who have hosted the Corps games. Without that sort of support the Corps could not maintain its position in the top echelon of Army and Service Football.

RESULTS SEASON 1994-95

R Signals v	York City	lost	5–1
v	RAF L Comd	lost	2–1
v	Infantry	drew	1–1
v	AAC	won	6–0
v	RAF P&TC	drew	1–1
v	RLC	drew	3–3
v	AGC	won	3–2
v	AMS	won	4–2
v	APTC	won	2–1
v	Peterborough United	drew	2–2
v	RA	won	6–1
v	REME	lost	2–1
v	RE	drew	2–2



Corps Football–Aldershot 1995
75th Anniversary
Standing (L to R): WO1 (FofS) Taylor, Cpl Blakely, Maj Smurthwaite, SSgt (FofS) Sturman, LCpl Strouts, Cpl Harriott, SSgt (YofS) Dennis, Sig Miller, Cpls McWilliam, Bent, SSgt Buckingham, LCpls Collins, Thornton, SSgt (SQMS) Simpson, Capt Maycock, Col Walters
Front (L to R): Cpls Brady, Finn, LCpl Kidd, Cpl Alford, SSgt Higgins, LCpl Campbell, Sigs Bambrooke, Johnston, Sgt Bell

ORIENTEERING

ROYAL SIGNALS ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS 1995

The Royal Signals Orienteering Championships 1995 took place on 6/7 May in North Yorkshire and attracted nearly 250 competitors from throughout the Corps. The event centre was the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate which kindly provided excellent administrative support. Both days of orienteering were in the Howardian Hills, north of York, with the first day being in Hovingham Woods by courtesy of **Mr William Worsley**, and the second day in Gilling Woods, by courtesy of the Abbot Ampleforth College. The venues provided some excellent orienteering with a potential for a good balance between technical and physical difficulty which was fully exploited by the Course Planner **WO1 (RSM) R. F. Cantrell** of 3 PWO.

Both days of orienteering took place in the very warm, sunny weather of the 'VE Day' commemoration weekend which gave everyone a chance to fully appreciate both the beautiful scenery of the 'bluebell woods' and the magnificence of the exquisitely mine-taped admin area laid out by **WO2 (Supr R) Ruddock** and his team from the College. The second day was in the new 'Harris' format which requires teams of four competitors to work together to find all the controls. Although there was some trepidation on the part of both organisers and competitors, the new format worked well and was excellent practice for Army Championships held on 20/21 May.

Maj Bateson came across from 7 Sig Regt to win both the Corps Individual Championships and the M35, while **Cpl Weston** from Comms and Sy Gp (UK) is Corps Runner-up and M21 Champion. **SSgt Crowther** from AA Coll Harrogate is the Corps' Champion Lady and **AT Sanders** is the Corps Under 21 Champion. Full results have been despatched to units and individuals but the principal unit results are:

Major Units: First, 11 Sig Regt; second, HQNI and 15 Sig Regt; third, 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt.

Minor Units: First, 223 Sig Sqn (399 SU RAF); second, 21 Sig Regt (AS); third, 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn.

Regular Female: First, HQNI and 15 Sig Regt; second, 30 Sig Regt; third, 21 Sig Regt (AS).

TA Minor Unit Male: First, 89 Sig Sqn (V); second, 45 Sig Sqn (V); third, HQ Sqn, 31 Sig Regt (V).

TA Minor Unit Female: First, 54 Sig Sqn (V); second, 80 Sig Sqn (V); third, HQ Sqn, 31 Sig Regt (V).

Guest Teams: First, Comms & Sy Gp (UK).



WO2 (FofS) Case of 11 Sig Regt receives the Major Unit Trophy from Lt Col P. Richards, the President of Corps Orienteering



SSgt Arnot of 89 Sig Sqn (V) receives the TA Minor Unit Trophy



AT Sgt Sanders receives the Under-21 Corps Champion Shield



Lt Martin of 54 Sig Sqn (V) receives the TA Minor Unit (Female) Cup

ROWING

The racing career of the fledgling Royal Signals Rowing Club (RSRC) began on 21 May 1995 at the Joint Services Regatta (JSR). Held at Peterborough City Rowing Club over a gruelling distance of 1,000m the regatta is a fiercely contested battle between RN, RAF and Army clubs. The RSRC was formed late last year and until now has been feeding oarsmen into Army squad training notably **Capts Geoff Pullen**, **Chris Wood** and **2Lt John Harrington**. The JSR however was the first time that the RSRC had competed 'in anger', coinciding with the Corps 75th Anniversary.

It took much time and hard work by the new committee **Col David Wills** (chairman), **Capts Geoff Pullen** (captain) and **Chris Wood**(secretary) to release a squad, capable of competing at such a level, from their units for the weekend. However, as planned, on 20 May the oarsmen who were to don the RSRC strip for the first time ever met for a pre-race training outing. Following an initially shakey start the crews rowed first in their fours, then combined into the eight, throwing off the cobwebs and looking very quickly like a quality Corps crew.

The first event of the day was the Senior 2 eights heat. This event is one level below the inter-services eights (Army vs RN vs RAF) standard with the RSRC eight drawn against RMA Sandhurst and RE crews. The RSRC crew was as follows:

Cox, **Cpl Andy Thomson**; Str, **2Lt John Harrington**; 7, **Lt Matt Graham**; 6, **Sig Charlie Farley**; 5, **Capt Geoff Pullen**; 4, **Capt Neil Fraser**; 3, **Capt Chris Wood**; 2, **Lt Tom Crapper**; bow, **Capt Jim Foulkes**.

Following a close start the crew began to drop back from the lead. **Cpl Andy Thomson** drove the crew well and **2Lt John Harrington** kept the rating at 35 strokes per minute, but the opposition proved too much and the crew were narrowly beaten into third place. The quality of the opposition is demonstrated by the fact that the RSRC time was only one second slower than the Navy 1st Eight time! It was now down to the coxed fours to produce the goods.



The Royal Signals Senior Squad
Standing (L to R): Capt John Adams, Capt Neil Fraser, 2Lt John Harrington, Capt Geoff Pullen (capt), Sig Charlie Farley, Capt Chris Wood (sec), Lt Matt Graham
Kneeling: Capt Jim Foulkes, Lt Sophie Davies, Cpl Andy Thomson (cox), Lt Tom Crapper
The squad won one event and nine individual trophies between them

The first coxed fours event was the Senior 2 Event, again one level beneath the Inter-Services race. The RSRC crew comprised the following oarsmen: Cox, **Cpl Andy Thomson**; Str, **Sig Charlie Farley**; 3, **Lt Matt Graham**; 2, **Capt Neil Fraser**; bow, **Capt Geoff Pullen**.

With **Cpl Andy Thomson** aware of the importance of the race and **Sig Charlie Farley** calling on all his Leander Junior squad experience to set a strong rating of 34, the four looked strong winning its heat easily by two lengths, beating HQ 2 Gp RAF. It qualified for the final as the fastest crew. The other finalists obviously aware of the strength of the RSRC four were the Infantry, RA and again HQ 2 Gp RAF (fastest losers). Following a strong start the crew pulled away quickly, every powerful stroke increasing the gap and, following futile attempts by the opposition to close the gap, the crew won again by almost two lengths with a time of 3 mins 37 secs.

The remainder of the eight crewed the entry into the Senior 3 coxed fours. This event, although a slightly lower classification than the Senior 2 event was a much harder fought battle. The crew were: Cox, **Cpl Andy Thomson**, Str, **2Lt John Harrington**; 3, **Capt Chris Wood**; 2, **Lt Tom Crapper**; bow, **Capt Jim Foulkes**.



The winning Senior two coxed four
(L to R): Cox, Cpl Andy Thomson; Bow, Capt Geoff Pullen; Two, Capt Neil Fraser; Three, Lt Matt Graham; Stroke, Sig Charlie Farley
Photograph by courtesy JET Photographic, Cambridge

Coxed again by the experienced **Cpl Andy Thomson** the stern pair **2Lt John Harrington** and **Capt Chris Wood**, both of whom had rowed together in the Army squad, knew that a hard battle was ahead. A strong start however allowed them to win their heat beating RN Bath, RN Portsmouth and the Staff College Rowing Club by over a length lining up in the final against RAF Southern Area, RMA Sandhurst and the RE. The final began with all four crews drawing level, however, the RAF crew began to pull away from the three Army crews who, at 500 metres, were neck and neck. The winning crew broke the course record for the event with a time of 3 mins 26 secs, the RSRC crew with a time of 3 mins 41 secs, after what turned out to be one of the toughest races of the day.

Mentions must go to other members of the RSRC who competed on behalf of other clubs. **Lt Sophie Davies** competed for the Army Womens Rowing Club (AWRC), winning three individual trophies. There was a fine showing from 3 (UK) Armd HQ and Sig Sqn led by **Lt Arabella Mayo** including **Sigs Mullins**, **Yates**, **LCpls Kilby**, **Gardiner**, **Dainty** (AGC) and **Pte Richardson** (AGC). **Sig Mullins** must be congratulated on her stirling efforts in the senior three sculls! Also **Capt John Adams** and **Sig Phil Korba** who, although not winning trophies, competed in Army composite eights and fours making it into one final each.

It was no doubt a triumphant first day for the RSRC. The Senior 2 Crew won the 'Infantry Cup' which had never been presented for this event before making it even more ironic that the trophy is now on display at Blandford (unlucky Infantry)! A total of 16 members of the Corps took part in the event winning a further nine individual trophies. No other Corps or Regiment (apart from RMAS) managed to crew their boats with their own cap badge–RSRC did! The club has now become affiliated to the British Amateur Rowing Association so can now compete in civilian events. To continue the success of the club it is now important that any oarsmen/women or coxes who can already row or who are aspiring **Redgraves**, **Pinsents** or **Farleys** come forward and contact the Captain. It is also important that all units recognise the high standing of the club within services rowing and release rowers where possible. Thanks must go to all those units who did give time off for these rowers for the weekend. For further information contact **Capt Geoff Pullen** (Lisburn Mil 41032).

STOP PRESS–**Cpl Andy Thomson** was selected to cox an Army four at the Henley Royal Regatta.



Sig Mullins at the Joint Services Regatta in Peterborough

SHOOTING

CORPS SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING 1995

The 1995 Corps Skill-at-Arms Meeting was held for the second year at Ash ranges near Aldershot as part of the Joint Corps Skill-at-Arms Meeting where six Corps compete concurrently. The RA, RE, R Signals, RLC, REME and AGC come together in what is now the largest centralised Army service rifle competition in UK, now that Bisley has been reduced to an individual competition.

THE REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting started on Monday 23 April until Friday 28 April and again had fewer teams competing than normal. This was largely due to several District and Divisional Shoots being shot at the same time as the Corps SAAM and by the start of the competition 7 units were represented. 2 Sig Regt, 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt, 7 Sig Regt, 11 Sig Regt, 30 Sig Regt, 5AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para) and 280 Sig Sqn.

30 Sig Regt as predicted, with a high percentage of excellent Gurkha Signals shots, dominated the meeting overall, however they were less convincing than in previous years and 7 Sig Regt gave them a good run for their money.

11 Sig Regt dominated the 9mm Browning Pistol shooting and won all prizes except the Pistol Tiles which was won by 7 Sig Regt 'A'.

201 Sig Sqn who were representing 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt were unable to compete in the Corps SAAM as they were busy winning the 1st Division SAAM instead! An outstanding achievement, well done!

Thanks must go to the Range support staff from 32 Sig Regt (V) together with individuals from 7 Sig Regt, 11 Sig Regt, 251 Sig Sqn and 280 Sig Sqn who worked hard to produce a very successful Skill-at-Arms Meeting.

Brig J. E. Neeve, Comd 2(NC) Sig Bde, presented the Regular Prizes and considerably hastened the procedure by having all recipients double out for their prizes! The new Corps Shooting medal was issued for the first time which incorporates a round bronze medal with crossed 5.56mm Rifles on a ribbon in the Corps colours. Appropriate Bars are issued for the medal for each prize winner.

1995 CORPS SKILL-AT-ARMS PRIZE WINNERS

1995 R Signals Corps Skill-at-Arms Champions and Winners of the Champion Team Cup–30 Sig Regt.

1995 R Signals Champion at Arms and Winner of the Goulding Bowl Best Class 'B' and Champions Tankard–**Sig Bharrat**–30 Sig Regt.

1995 R Signals Best Class 'A' Shot, Best Non Gurkha and winner of the Gurkha Kukri, Champion Shot Cup and Class A Tankard–**SSgt Johnston**–11 Sig Regt.



Corps Skill-at-Arms Champions
Back row: Sgt Yam, Capts Mansing, Gouinde, Cpls Ram, Nirmal
Front row: Sigs Bhola, Kumar, Fatchet, Bharat, Bond, Dhir, Cpl Gango

R SIGNALS TA SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING

The TA meeting was held over the weekend from 21-23 April but was unfortunately poorly attended and in fact only had two teams competing for the 1995 Championship. Both of these teams were from 32 Sig Regt (V) who ironically had the furthest to travel of all the TA units. Some personnel travelling for over 14 hours from Aberdeen to compete!

However this did not detract from a keen competition between the two teams with 32 Sig Regt 'A' beating 32 Sig Regt 'B'.

All winners received the splendid new Corps Skill-at-Arms Medal with engraved bars for each Match.

1995 TA SKILL-AT-ARMS PRIZE WINNERS

1995 R Signals TA Skill-at-Arms Champions and Winners of the Tate Cup–32 Sig Regt (V).

1995 R Signals TA Champion at Arms and Winner of the Champions Tankard–**Cpl McDonald**–32 Sig Regt (V).

Best Non R Signals (and highest overall score)–**LCpl McCartney REME**–32 Sig Regt (V).

Best Class B–**LCpl Moffat**–32 Sig Regt (V).



TA Corps Skill-at-Arms Champions
32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)
Back row: LCpls Blackmore, Moffat, Capt Strachen, Lt Patterson, Cpl McDonald
Front row: LCpl Gates, Sig McInally, Cpl McCartney, Sig Burnett

Mr Jeff Copely, formerly **Cpl Copely** and Metheun Team member, came to see his son, **Sgt Copely** of 7 Sig Regt following his example and also shoot for the Corps Methuen team. It was discovered that **Mr Copely** senior had never been presented with a Methuen medal which was corrected on the day when **Brig Neeve** presented him with the correct version with crossed SLRs.



Brig J. E. Neeve presenting Mr Jeff Copely with his Corps Methuen medal which he earned 10 years ago!

DATES FOR THE 1996 CORPS SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING

Dates for next years Corps SAAM have been set earlier than previous years which will hopefully avoid this year's clash with several District Competitions.

All Unit Shooting Officers should note that the dates for the 1996 Corps Skill-at-Arms Meeting are from Thursday 21 March-Friday 29 March 1996.

Should any Unit Shooting Officer require advice on competition Service Rifle or full bore Target Rifle shooting they should contact: **Maj J. Body** (Sec Corps Shooting). Phone ATN (Northumberland House) 780-84321, Fax 780-80736 or **WO1 (RSM) G. G. A. Reith** (Asst Sec Corps Shooting). Phone ATN (Glasgow) 756-5029, Fax 756-5041.

SKIING

SKIING

Sporting success at the Army Winter Sports Association Alpine Championships 1995 which were held in Aviemore during the period 6-11 March was achieved by 32 Sig Regt (V).

Winners: 32 Sig Regt (V), R Signals Individual Champion, **Capt Hinsley**–32 Sig Regt (V), R Signals Individual Runner Up–**Sgt McGoldrick.**

The 32 Sig Regt (V) team was ably led by the Team Captain, **Capt** 'Cammy' **Payne** (V), and included the Commanding Officer **Lt Col Iain Robertson** and the Adjutant **Capt Colin Hinsley**. Other members of the Regimental team, all TA, were **Lt Joe Meade**, **Sgt Frank McGoldrick**, **Sgt Dave Pollard**, **WO2 Jeff Jephcote**, **SSgt Helen Jephcote**, **Sig Craig Barry** and **Sig Allen McDonald**.

SWIMMING AND WATER POLO

ROYAL SIGNALS VERSUS RAF SIGNALS COLERNE 30 JUNE

In the swimming both teams won three individual events. For the Royal Signals; **Sig Andy Carneige** (50m fly), **Sig Jack Horner** (50m free) and **Sig Lance Barr** (200m IM) were all victors. The four relays started with both teams locked together on nine points each. We won the first two relays with both the 4 x 100m freestyle relay team of; **Sgts Pete Taylor, Paul Beattie, Cpl** 'Abbo' **Abbott** and **Sig Lance Barr** and the 4 x 50m freestyle relay team of; **Sgts Graham Weavers, Pete Taylor, Sigs Jack Horner** and **Andy Carneige** comfortable winners. We lost the 4 x 50m breaststroke on the final touch after an excellent race. The RAF again proved too strong in the 4 x 50m medley relay which meant that both teams were tied on 21 points. The RAF won the competition due to its victory in the medley relay. An exciting competition enjoyed by both teams.

In the water polo, Royal Signals were far too strong for the RAF. **Sgt Graham Weavers** and **LCpl Gus Thomson** scored the majority of the goals although the older members of the team, **WO2 Pete Griffiths** and **Capt Tim Langford**, managed the odd goal. The RAF goalie and the Woodwork kept the score down to a nearly respectable 13–2 in our favour.

A special thanks to **LCpl Gus Thomson** who leaves the Army shortly. His contribution to the Corps over the years has been outstanding. All the team wish him well in his new life and continuing playing polo for Dundee.

Wire
PHOTOGRAPHS

Please do not ask for photographs sent for publication in The Wire, to be returned, unless they are irreplaceable.

Contributors should be aware of the fact that although every care is taken with contributions, they should not risk losing a photographs that cannot be replaced.

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Association Office, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Tel Military System: London District 8424. STD 071 414 8424 Welfare Secretary (direct line) 071 630 0801. All contributions for *The Wire* should be addressed to the Editor and any queries referred to him on extensions 8428 or 8433.

The Association communicates with its branches and individual members through the pages of The Wire, *which contains accounts of Branch affairs as well as a forecast of Association events.*

Branch Secretaries are asked to check that their Branch members receive sufficient copies of The Wire. *Association HQ can arrange for copies to be delivered in bulk to Branch Secretaries for further distribution if this is convenient: it helps us save on postage.*

Dates of Branch events can always be published in The Wire *and should be submitted to the Editor. We also welcome letters, requests to contact old comrades and announcements of births, marriages and deaths. We hope that each Branch will contribute a short account of its activities, preferably with photographs, at least once a year.*

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

It may seem odd that the Royal Signals Association was formed shortly after the Corps was formed, in 1920. By definition, the Corps had few if any Old Comrades at that time, and it might be thought that there were other more pressing matters to be dealt with, in the early years of a new Corps. What does seem clear is that the urge to form an Association, which lies outside the Army and provides a forum and a benevolent organisation, is a strong one. There is a sense of duty, responsibility or indeed obligation to those in need, whether they are present or former comrades: the very number of ex-service associations shows how powerful that sense is. There is also a strong wish to keep in touch with those with whom a powerful experience has been shared. Any service in the past 75 years has certainly provided this experience; whether on the North West Frontier, in all the theatres of the Second World War, in Korea, the Falklands or Northern Ireland.

Much has changed in 75 years, in social conditions, in the nature of warfare and in the Army itself. But the two constants which seemed to motivate the formation of the Association remain present today. First, there can be no denying that despite the development of the Welfare State, there are still people in dire need and tragic circumstances. Secondly, there remains the desire for ex-members of the Corps to keep in touch, with each other and with the Corps.

The means of providing benevolent support have changed over the years. Time was when the Association attempted to give practical help with clothing and necessities, to those in need. In common with other charities, this practice has disappeared and the only help which is now given is financial. The Association also owned homes (the Corps' original World War Two memorial) which were allocated to the needy, but these were given up long ago in favour of more easily administered and more effective means of assistance.

The method of financing the Association has also changed over the years. The greatest single change, and by far the most significant, was the introduction of the One Day's Pay Scheme in the 1960s. This produced a guaranteed, regular income for benevolence: whilst by no means the sole income, it is by far the most important. In effect, the serving officer and soldier pays an annual premium whilst he is serving, and this entitles him to support, in the event of need, for the rest of his life.

How stands the Association today? As a consequence of wise provision by earlier generations it has investments which, together with income from the One Day's Pay Scheme, allows it to help some 700 cases of need in the average year. It depends heavily on the Army Benevolent Fund for help with individual cases, and on SSAFA and the Royal British Legion for investigation work. In short, the Association takes its place in the complex organisation of ex-service welfare; it has a well-respected place in that community.

At the same time, the Association has more branches than at any time in living memory. Very occasionally, a branch becomes moribund but such cases are far exceeded by new branches forming. The Association has well over 70 active branches.

In assessing the outlook for the future, it is interesting to ponder why there should be an increasing number of active branches at this time. After all, the Corps was at its largest in the Second World War and has been declining in size since then. The Second World War generation are declining through natural causes. They make an increasing demand on benevolent funds as age and infirmity take their toll–and the demand is forecast to continue for the next ten years. But they are inevitably less active as the years go by. Why, then, is the Association still expanding? There is no single answer to this question, since the statistics do not show that there is an upsurge of much younger people joining branches. But there is a steady inflow of those in late middle age, who have been out of the Corps for some years and who want to maintain or re-establish contact.

One of the trends of recent years has been the establishment of branches based on Regiments, Squadrons or Troops, after their geographic areas. It may be that this is the way ahead: such branches clearly cannot meet regularly, and cannot supply local welfare support such as hospital visiting, but the common interest which they share is a powerful force. The Association lives happily with branches of every type.

In taking stock at the 75th Anniversary it can be said that the Association is happy, healthy and with an outlook set fair. There will be changes ahead, as yet unanticipated, but the motivation to keep going remains strong.

A final thought: the Association runs with a tiny full-time staff of two. It relies wholly on the voluntary support of members: the Vice Chairmen, branch officials and other stalwarts, as well as the Chairmen of the Welfare Committees who do the critical work of making benevolent grants. It relies, too, on the other components of the ex-service community: mutual and voluntary support are critical to the present and future health of the Association.

THE INDIAN CONNECTION–A HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Our forebears, the Sappers and Miners recruited the first Indian Signals soldiers 85 years ago and for 40 years officers, Sappers, then Signals, served in India with British and Indian soldiers providing communications. Many of our veterans of all ranks did their early service in India, often a five year stint without home leave.

Colonel Queripel, whose son won a Victoria Cross at Arnhem, formed what is now called the Indian Signals Association of Great Britain–1911-1947 (India–Britain–Pakistan). After the partition of India and the creation of Pakistan Royal Signals provided assistance to both countries for a number of years. Some training on courses in England certainly continued into the 1960s. One such student went on to be the SOinC India and another became a Corps Commander before being appointed a Vice Chief of the Army Staff. Another, trained by us in the war time Cadet Company in Mhow, became an Army Commander. These are but three of many success stories.

The Indian experience has influenced our Corps too. It was only five years ago that a Master of Signals was appointed who had not served in India.

Indian officers holding 'King's Commissions', first awarded in the 1930s, held equal status with their British counterparts. The pace was slow at one officer per course, but perhaps because of this the quality was exceptionally high achieving first and second place, and winning the sword and the gold medal from two early graduates from the Indian Military Acadamy.

Relations remained good between ourselves and both the Indian and the newer Pakistan Signal Corps, but opportunities for the veterans of the countries to meet were few until **Lt Gen R. P. Singh**, SOinC India, took the initiative and invited us to send a delegation of those who had served in India to the 75th Anniversary of the formation of their Corps in February 1986. It was an immense success and laid the foundation for 'the family party' of serving and retired officers and their families which has resulted in valued personal friendships with the ladies making a big contribution to the programme. The evening entertainments complemented the large scale daytime military programme.

An invitation for our Veteran Association to visit Pakistan was received in 1988. This tremendous occasion was in the *Wire* magazine of January 1989.

With our own 75th Anniversary providing an opportunity to repay the hospitality we had received, we were determined to arrange a memorable programme for our visitors from India and Pakistan. Our first asset was a Georgian country house large enough to accommodate the eight Indian couples and the single representative from Pakistan, our three generation family of six, and four Corps supporters, three of them billeted out in the village. Sterling work by **Joe Crocker** and **Tom Bewsey** got all the guests to the house on the Saturday and Sunday 10/11 June for a stay of a week. Country houses today are commonly do-it-yourself affairs and everyone joined in with gusto. A tour through the Somerset countryside and a walk round the lake of Stourhead gardens in June's prime gave them a taste of the beauty which our island offers which is not seen on brief duty visits to our main cities. Thereafter, there were visits to Wells and Salisbury Cathedrals, the ruins of Glastonbury Abbey and the splendour of Wilton House, together with a day in Bath which upheld its reputation as one of the great cities of Europe. We even managed to fit in a garden party on one afternoon which was attended by many of those who had visited India and Pakistan.

On the Tuesday **Maj Gen John Badcock** led our guests to Corsham for a Ladies Guest Night put on by **Brig John Neeve** and **Jane**, who spent a Staff College year at Wellington in the Nilgirls and produced an evening's entertainment with a flair which those who know them can imagine. The 2 Signal Brigade surroundings are exceptionally fine and everything about it was quality. **Raj Batra** responded in kind with his recitation 'I'm Proud to be British' which brought the house down.

The next day was for Blandford and the Royal School of Signals. **Brig John Griffin** gave an excellent presentation on the Royal Corps of Signals in the Princess Mary Hall which taught me a lot and gave rise to much discussion on our return home. **Roger Pickard** took over for an expert tour of the Museum which received high praise in spite of the reorganisation and building which affect it. We all lunched in the Officers Mess with some of the silver from India given prominence for the occasion.

The week ended with a Southill House Colonel Commandant's Dinner, the twenty-second annual event that we have run. The Master of Signals had returned from Germany in time for the event and we were joined by the SOinC and our new Lieutenant General, **Lt Gen Sam Cowan**, and all their wives. We counted nine Colonel Commandants past and present in our number. This was very much a family affair. Friday morning saw the departure of our guests for York, under the leadership of our Courier extraordinaire, **Gen John Badcock** who reports:-

Having recovered from the regal dinner the night before all but **Brigadiers Suleman** and **Chukerbuti** who had to go elsewhere, were delighted to embark on a luxurious coach bound for Bramcote, not far from Nuneaton and the new home of 30 Sig Regt. Being half way to our final destination at York, it was a natural watering hole especially with the Gurkha Signal Squadron as an integral part of the Regiment. The party was welcomed by **Lt Col John Thomas** and by **WOI (RSM) Doherty** and taken to the Sergeants' Mess where an excellent curry lunch was consumed in the company of the Gurkha WOs and Sergeants. The CO then gave an enthralling brief of the widespread activities of the Regiment. Then back to the coach for the second half of the journey.

On arrival in York the party was welcomed by **Lt Col Jo Fletcher**, commanding 2 Sig Regt who explained that a large part of his Regiment was under orders to go to Bosnia. The party, having settled into their very comfortable Bed and Breakfast quarters adjoining the barracks, dined with the CO and officers of the Regiment and their wives. With their 'Kohima' battle honour and Museum, together with the Kohima memorial in the Minster precinct, it was important that the Regiment should meet the delegation from India.

On the Saturday the Infantry Training Centre at Catterick had generously agreed to put on a lunch for us in our old Headquarter Mess, known to a number of our Guests from courses or visits in earlier times. Several were amazed to see how a bleak Catterick landscape had been converted, during 70 years of Signals occupation, into a superb garden town with fine lawns, trees and flowerbeds, much appreciated by our successors. The Mess is in excellent shape, though lacking in the bustle and pressure of numbers which we remember. After a short tour the party watched the Trooping of the Colour on television.

The **Bradleys** were there to complete our quota of three Masters of Signals Past and Present, as was **Claude Fairweather**, one time CSO Special Forces in the Wingate era. A number of our local Indian Signals Association members attended as well as **Mrs Clare Howard**, the daughter of **Maj Gen Michael Whistler**, who, with her brother, is presenting the Indians with a Trophy in memory of their father.

After lunch **Frank Lovatt** took charge of the party on a tour of Richmond's Georgian Theatre, and across the cobbles to the Green Howards Museum. This was followed by tea in the Mayor's Parlour, with **Councillor Katherine Carr**, the Mayor of Richmond.

Another hectic day on a bright Sunday started with a journey to Scarborough to see how 'middle England' took their leisure at a seaside resort.

Monday was a 'rest day' in York, but all the guests were taken to the National Railway Museum and then to the Minster, after that they did as they pleased as there was plenty to see in this delightful city. A routine had been established of meeting at 1830hrs for a few 'chota pegs' before dining in the Mess where we received superb attention throughout our stay.

Our last day in the north was set aside for a visit to the Lake District with the main party joined by Batras, Horsfields and a number of Indian Signals Association 'locals'. The former Master had to be restrained from taking the party by boat to race the bus to Ambleside.

Thursday was the day of the Indian Signals Association annual lunch in London, where, happily, **Brigadier Suleman** and **Chukerbutis** were able to rejoin us. This had been arranged at the Army Museum which gave our guests the opportunity to visit the Royal Chelsea Hospital. We were delighted to be able to include **Brigadier Brij Bhagat** who some of our members would remember in charge of officer cadet training in Mhow.

Saturday was the final day and hosted by **Maj Gen Paul Alexander** and the Royal Signals Association. We were taken to the courtyard of Buckingham Palace to witness the impeccable hand over of the Coldstream 'Old Guard' to the Royal Signals 'New Guard'. We then moved to the Rubens Hotel for an excellent buffet lunch in relaxed surroundings before saying our farewells with promises of future meetings.

Much of the credit for these memorable events was due to the enthusiasm generated beween all participants. Everyone should take a bow.

OUR GUESTS

FROM INDIA
Lt Gen and **Mrs R. N. Batra**
Lt Gen and **Mrs K. Balaram**
Lt Gen and **Mrs V. C. Khanna**
Lt Gen and **Mrs R. P. Sapra**
Lt Gen and **Mrs M. S. Sodhi**
Maj Gen and **Mrs S. Ghosh**
Maj Gen and **Mrs S. Mohan**
Brig and **Mrs H. Chukerbuti**

FROM PAKISTAN
Brig Mohammed Suleman

ALDERSHOT BRANCH



Maj Gen Henry Hild, President of Aldershot Branch, presenting the 50 Year Badge to Lt Col Ian Ronald at the Aldershot Army Golf Club on the occasion of the Spring Luncheon and AGM

BRIGHTON BRANCH

We are pleased to welcome several new members. **Peter Waldon, Steve Buxton, Roland** (Bill) **Bailey, Fred** and **Ann Jeffreys, Iris Young, Fred** and **Connie Holmes, Rita Mills** and **Ken Clark** have all joined us. We hope to see you at some of our Branch social evenings and functions.

The cheese and wine evening was well attended. During the evening a presentation was made to **Brian** and **Trudie Eason** in recognition of their contribution to the Branch over the years. **Brian** has now relinquished his former role as PSI 884 Troop, but we hope that both he and **Trudie** will continue to join in the Branch activities.

CAMBRIDGE BRANCH

Approximately 25 members of the Cambridge Branch and friends attended a presentation recently by **Mr Eric Silk** and his wife **Pat** on 3D photography. After explaining the techniques of using a camera with two lenses side by side to produce the stereo images **Mr Silk** showed members a number of slides on various subjects to demonstrate the real life effects of three dimensional pictures. From slides of views in and around the city of Cambridge during the seasons of the year to a recruiting display for the Royal Marines, plus close ups of flowers, birds and insects, all extremely lifelike.

An excellent buffet was produced by our Treasurer, **Capt George Lile** and his wife **May** and all who attended had a very pleasant evening.

A number of organisations now regularly hold Burns Night Suppers but the members of the Cambridge Branch decided that this year they would hold a dinner to celebrate St George's Day so 20 members and their wives gathered in the TA Centre of 54 Sig Sqn (V) on the eve of St George's Day and had a very enjoyable traditional English dinner. The highlight of the evening was the announcement of the engagement of two of our longest serving branch members, **Maj Marion Lilley** and **Alex Lant**. Every member of the Branch wishes them both all the best for the future.

FROM ONE OF OUR OLDEST BRANCHES . . .

CATTERICK BRANCH

In this anniversary year we recall the origins of our Branch–one of the first to be formed soon after the war. From 1947 until 1949 retired and ex-members of the Corps met regularly on the third Friday of each month in the Sergeants' Messes of the Regiments then serving in Catterick.

The Branch eventually became the Catterick Branch RCA–now Catterick Branch. It still meets on the third Friday of each month, now in 19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209) Sergeants' Mess and boasts an average attendance at meetings of 45-50 persons from an approximate full membership of 180.

We are proud of our history but with an eye to the future continual prosperity of the Branch, we extend a 'welcome' to all Corps members now settled in the area to–COME AND JOIN US!

We append the minutes of the forming meeting. **Mr W. (Bill) Ward** is a founder member of the Corps and together with **Mr L. E. (Ted) Close** and **Mr Alf Wilkes** remain active members of the Branch.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF EX-MEMBERS OF ROYAL SIGNALS IN THE PAVILION OF PERONNE SPORTS FIELD, CATTERICK CAMP, YORKSHIRE, ON 7 JULY 1950

Intention
To form a local branch of the Old Comrades Association.

1. A committee was formed comprising the following:-

President & Chairman
Colonel L. R. Hall (Retd)

Vice Chairman
Mr Widgery

Secretary & Treasurer
Capt C. R. Child (Retd)

Committee Members
Maj Stainer (Retd)
Mr Ward
Mr Rigden
Mr Richardson

2. The following attended the meeting and signified their intention to become members of this Branch:-
Mr J. Nursaw, 2 Kemmel Lines, Catterick Camp.
Mr E. R. Frarey, 3 Somme Lines, Catterick Camp.
Mr R. Hayes, 78 St Quentin Lines, Catterick Camp.
Mr C. Whitfield, 8 Moorfield Bungalows, Scotton Village.
Mr C. Richardson, 51 Wensleydale Road, Catterick Camp.
Mr J. McDougall, 9 Brough Ave, Colburn Village.
Mr J. Lowday, 18 St Quentin Lines, Catterick Camp.
Mr W. Rigden, The Valet Service, Hilyard Row, Catterick Camp.
Maj (QM) J. Stainer (Retd), 43 Wensleydale Road, Catterick Camp.
Mr H. Perkins, 34 Beechfield Road, Richmond, Yorks.
Mr F. G. Allen, 37 St Quentin Lines, Catterick Camp.
Mr G. H. Moore, 37 Teesdale Road, Catterick Camp.
Mr C. Ransom, c/o WOs and Sergeants Mess, 7 Selection Regt, R Signals.
Mr J. Hunt, 'Woodside', Scotton Village, Yorks.
Mr R. Lucas, c/o Parnaby's Farm, Walkerville, Nr Catterick BRI.
Mr H. Pike, Sub Postmaster, Waitwith, Catterick Camp.
Mr L. Weaver.
Mr A. Wilkes.
Mr E. Close, The Orderly Room, R Signals Wing, S of Signals
Mr F. Stockton, 21 St Quentin Lines, Catterick Camp.
Mr L. W. McLaven, c/o WOs and Sergeants Mess, R Signals Wing, S of Signals.
Mr W. Ward, 14 Garden Crescent, Richmond, Yorks.
Mr J. F. Widgery, 'Wyside', Scotton Village, Yorks.
Maj C. C. Tucker (Retd), 'Glenesk', Scotton Village, Yorks.
Col L. R. Hall (Retd), The Lodge, Scorton, Yorks, Tel. Old Cat. 107.
Capt C. R. Child (Retd), 15 Field Grove, Catterick Camp.

3. It was agreed by all members present that the President and Chairman (**Col L. R. Hall**), express their thanks to the GOC, Catterick District for offering the use of the YMCA building for their meetings when it becomes available.

4. It was agreed, subject to approval by the committee, that the name of the Branch be designated 'The Catterick Camp & District Old Comrades Association'.

5. It was agreed that subject to the necessary permission being granted, that the next monthly meeting be held in the WOs and Sergeants Mess, 7 Selection Regt, R Signals, Bagdad Lines, on Friday 4 August 1950 at 8pm.

6. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2040hrs.

7 July 1950
Catterick Camp, Yorks — Branch Hon. Secretary & Treasurer

CHESTER BRANCH

On a fine dry evening on 15 June the Chester Branch members along with members of the Cheshire Yeomanry and the Royal British Legion set out from the Royal British Legion in Upton, Chester for a visit to a Stud Farm just outside the village of Tarporley in the heart of the Cheshire countryside. We came to the village where we picked up some more members together with our guide for the tour of the Stud. The expert on horses was **Mr David Pickering** whose family have bred horses for many years and he was also a partner of Mr McAlpine whose house and farm we were now visiting.

David Pickering began with a short history of the farm and the Stud and gave an account of how it functioned in today's racing world, he also showed us the magnificent cut-glass cup one of his horses had won for him the day before (just to prove that his horses were winners sometimes). We were shown round the back of the house (which was a 17th Century manor house in approximately 250 acres of land) the back garden was about the size of two tennis courts and of course there was a swimming pool with changing cabins and barbecue pit to complete the picture. The fields at the back were used to let the horses not yet in foal run free and those horses in foal or just foaled were in stables which were also visited.

David had each horse paraded for us to admire and gave a brief history of how it had fared during its racing days before being brought to stud. Altogether we saw about a dozen horses on the tour and each had a racing pedigree that any punter/racing man would know about. **David** gave us a few tips!

After the visit to the Stud it was time to return to the village for refreshments. **David** had very kindly laid on a buffet in a historic part of an Inn once used by the landed gentry as shown by the large portraits hanging on the walls and the names of all past hunt masters dating back to the 1600s and he said that it was now the only Hunt in the country not to own any hounds but was a Hunt in name only although the members still called themselves a Hunt.

FROM ONE OF OUR NEWEST BRANCHES . . .

EAST KENT BRANCH

We have indeed been fortunate with the weather for our last two events.

Sunday 9 April. 63 members found their way to the Headcorn Flower Centre and Vineyard by midday and few could not have been impressed by the enormous scale of operations which were pleasantly and enthusiastically explained to us by our guide. 40,000 perfect chrysanthemum sprays are sent to market every week of the year, whatever the weather outside the vast greenhouses. Inside the climate is continually monitored and automatically controlled so that every spray grows to the same height with the same bloom in the same amount of time. In other greenhouses a lesser number of South American Astroemera or orchid lillies are produced. We inspected the vineyards and then retired to a marquee where we had a wine tasting followed by a delicious ploughman's lunch. Even the Honorary Secretary, who bought three bottles of wine, only to leave them behind, thoroughly enjoyed his day.

Sunday 7 May. Despite the fact that every town and village seemed to have its own VE Day celebrations, over 30 members attended the Canterbury Cathedral Service and about half were on parade. Led by the Band of the Para Regt, **Keith Chambers** bore the Branch Standard for the first time and the marching contingent of all Arms and Regiments was led by the only two bowler hatted and rolled umbrella carrying members, our Chairman and **Col Mike Barratt**. The RSM instructed the 'rank and file' to obey the eyes right orders given by the 'two gentlemen' in the march past, another 'first' for the Branch.

Thereafter, over 50 gathered at the Hon. Sec's house for the Bring Your Own Picnic. They settled their chairs and hampers under the three blossom bearing apple trees, listened to a special recording of wartime messages and music arranged on a Hi-Fi by **Trevor Allison** and in due course went in search of 'treasure', played boules, croquet and darts, that is, when they were not being enticed to buy tickets for a magnificent raffle, indeed **John Raymond** could hardly believe his luck when he left bearing a Teasmade.

Such was the weather that nearly everyone stayed for a piece of **Doreen Allison**'s VE Day cake and a cup of tea. There were prizes for the winners of each of the 'sports'. The Hon. Sec. would like to thank everyone for coming and making it such fun; we were sorry **Mrs Gillian Badcock** was not present, but she did come home with her own prize from the Maidstone Dog Show–a best of Breed and a Reserve Best of Breed which meant her staying till the end. The Hon. Sec. has been set his own Treasure Hunt by the youngest member to attend the Picnic–where is the yellow croquet ball?

We are delighted to welcome eight new members: **Mr David Austin** of Canterbury, **Mr Archie Hull** of Tankerton, **Mr** and **Mrs Ken** and **Vi Smith** of Canterbury, **Mr** and **Mrs John** and **Doreen Jay** of Walmer and last, but not least, **Maj Ted** and **Mrs Joan Carne** of Eastry, recently moved from the Bristol Branch.

Ted Carne now becomes our oldest member beating the Hon. Treasurer **Maj Tommy Thomas** by a short head. He served as a regular from 1926 'yes 26' until 1965. The Branch goes from strength to strength–we now have a total membership of 176 at time of going to press.

GLASGOW BRANCH

The Branch held its AGM on Tuesday 16 May 1995 The Hon President **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson CB** presiding. 32 members attended, with several apologies due to illness or holidays.

In his address the President congratulated the office bearers and members on the efficient way the Branch is run and, the enthusiasm of the members in attending meetings and supporting the functions. He mentioned in particular how much he and **Mrs Anderson** had enjoyed the St Andrews Ball held by the Branch in November 1994.

The President also commented on the initiative of the drive for new members, by insertions in local and national newspapers, radio stations and Channel 4 Teletext page 676 Service Pals. Done with only the cost of postage and mentioning 1995 being the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Corps. Asking ex members including ATS/WRAC attached to units of the Corps, to phone the secretary or chairman. The result, 40 enquiries so far from far and wide, with six new members signing up at the AGM.

The CO **Lt Col Ian Robertson** and the RSM **WO1 G. G. A. Reith** of 32 Sig Regt (V) who had been invited to the meeting were thanked for their continued support to the Branch.

Thanks were expressed to **Mrs Cathy Leahy** who despite her own illness and attending to **Joe** her husband, also a Branch member, who is now recovering from a stroke, still managed to arrange functions as social convener. **Cathy** asked to be relieved of the post, having completed three years in the office. **Dominic Sheridan Jnr** was appointed social convener on a unanimous vote. His father, with the same name, also a Branch member, asked that 'Junior' be added to his son's name for the record. Wonder why?

Bill Taylor the Branch Chairman informed the members that the Sergeants' Mess at 32 Sig Regt (V) had given an open invitation to the Branch to attend a 40's night on 26 May with the big band sound and cabaret to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Corps. This was in lieu of a visit to Blandford this year. It had been suggested that one dressed in 40's style but us old timers would have found it difficult to find any gear and if we did would it fit? I can only find my AB64!

A motion to alter the date of future AGM's to an earlier date was passed unanimously. A vote of thanks, with applause, was given to the Hon President for his attendance in chairing the meeting.

Good to see our 'Wee Para' back after his sudden heart attack. Now he really is off the Capstan full strength, Doctor's orders. He maintains the Doc still allows him a little of the 'Cratur'. A little? If you believe that you'll believe anything!

21 Branch members and friends attended the VE/75th anniversary night with the members of the Sergeants' Mess. The air of nostalgia was evident with the band, cabaret singers and the comedian giving their all with sounds and songs of the 40's. A buffet of fish and chips wrapped in copies of the *Glasgow Evening Times* newspaper of May 1945 was also enjoyed. All remarked on how good the band was with the old tunes and the artists could not have been bettered, a very enjoyable event, well done the WOs and Sgts. Finally congratulations to **Cathy** and **Joe** (**Leahy**) on the birth of a bouncing baby boy on Monday 22 May, named **Joseph**.

GUERNSEY BRANCH

The Branch standard was paraded by member **Dave Bichard** at the Commemoration of VE Day Parade on 9 May, the 50th anniversary of Guernsey's liberation from occupation. The latter parade was inspected by HRH the Prince of Wales.

We were very happy to welcome visitors from West London, Reading, Southport and Blandford Branches, as well as to meet in person Southern Area (No 5) Representative, **Pat Lafferty**, who previously had been no more than a signature on pieces of paper.

Also with us was Guernseyman **Edward McCathie**, who recently retired after 29 years' service and now lives near Peterhead.

A day set aside for entertaining our visitors (they had been present at an official Guernsey reception on VE Day) began with an island-wide coach tour to see the military fortifications which were part of the occupying forces Atlantic Wall.

In the evening some 60 members and friends met at the Northern Royal British Legion centre for a social evening where visitors were each presented with a commemorative pack of five Guernsey stamps and a specially minted £2 coin.

The presentation was made by Chairman **John Rudkin**, who, in welcoming our guests, linked the 50th anniversary of Guernsey's liberation with the 75th Anniversary of the formation of the Corps.

MIDDLESBROUGH BRANCH

Our January meeting was as usual held in the Regimental Sergeants' Mess at Brambles Farm. However, various building works are in progress and as a result meetings since February and for the foreseeable future have been and are being held at the RAFA Club in Middlesbrough. The change of venue has not affected attendance and we are very grateful to our RAFA friends for providing these facilities at such short notice.

Maj Bill Barnes of the Catterick Branch did in fact attend our January meeting and gave us some insight into the transfer to Blandford. This was of course of particular interest to those of our members who hope to attend the Reunion. Thanks **Bill**! Our Annual Dinner was held at the Claxton Hotel in Redcar on 18 March and as usual we followed the meal with a disco and an excellent Raffle. The prizes seemed to be spread fairly well throughout the 50 members and friends who attended. It was incidentally on that date the wedding anniversary of **Billy Watson** who is one of our most dedicated members.

Our AGM was held on 27 April and the usual honorary hard working officers were elected. Actually it should be re-elected because once again **Colin Dadson** is our Chairman and **Margaret Dadson** is again Secretary. **Dick Grainge** is again Vice-Chairman and **Audrey Grainge** is Vice Secretary and Sick Visitor.

For the past four years **Albert Carter** has 'strutted his stuff' and carried our standards (both old and new). **Albert** now stands down and **John Grange** his relief takes over. Needless to say **John** has been particularly active recently attending VE day 50th Anniversary and Remembrance parades. His diary of events sounds like something out of Gullivers Travels. Sunday 30 April Battle of Imjim Korean Veterans' Association, 6 May VE Celebrations at Hartlepool, 7 June VE at Stockton, 8 June VE at Redcar both in the morning and the afternoon. To add to that date, a

Combined Service Association Dinner at the Marton Country Club to commemorate VE. It has been a case of have Standard will travel.

Later in the year we hope to return to Brambles Farm with the kind permission of the CO and the RSM of 34 (N) Sig Regt (V).

In the meantime Signallers or former Signallers who are interested in joining the Branch should contact Margaret on 01642 478347.

NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

It has been a busy year commencing with our very successful formal dinner dance in January. We met the SOinC in February which was arranged for us by **Lt Col R. W. Batho**, CO 40 Sig Regt (V) who has been most helpful to us in many ways. Our Hon Sec **Ian Wolfe** attended the Branch Representatives' meeting in April and gave us a full report. Also in April we had a very successful disco for the younger (TAVR) members. The VE celebrations in May saw the Branch represented at a service in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast and at Belfast Lord Mayor's banquet by our President **Maj Bill Douglas** and Vice President **Maj Noel Johnston**. Ten members, led by Chairman **Tom Maguire**, were at a reception at Hillsborough Castle. Fortunately **Norman Atkins**, who became ill at the latter function has now recovered. The three functions were attended by **HRH The Duke of York** and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland **Sir Patrick Mayhew**. Two members **Harry Stanley** (50 year badge holder) and **Billy Creery** graced Hyde Park with their presence.

Also in May, two members, Vice President **Maj Noel Johnston** and **Mr Fred Holmes** were presented with 50 year badges and certificates by **Lt Col R. W. Batho**. Eleven members attended the Blandford reunion in July.

Any serving or retired Corps members who would like to join us at Clonaver TAC on the third Wednesday of the month should contact Clonaver Park TAC.



Lt Col R. W. Batho (right) presented 50-year Badges and Certificates to Maj R. N. Johnston (second from right) and Mr F. C. Holmes (second from left). Also included are Maj J. W. Douglas, NI Branch President (centre) and RSM W. Ogden

SHEFFIELD BRANCH

The Branch held its annual dinner on 5 May, this was due to a fortunate accident in that the date had slipped from the usual date. However being the eve of the VE day celebrations this added additional relish to the occasion.

We are grateful to the 38 Sig Regt (V) for the use of its premises.

Our guests included **Col Leslie Wright TD DL**, and the CO of the Regiment, **Lt Col R. Davenport**, and **WO1 (RSM) J. Grandison**.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 50 year badge and certificate by **Col Wright** to **Col Toby Seymour**. This resulted in two very interesting speeches that were very much appreciated by all.

Throughout the year the Sheffield Branch attempts to support all the activities of the RSA, and in spite of the sad loss of the Catterick reunion we will be present at Blandford though in reduced numbers.

The reinstatement of a northern area event possibly in York would be a cause for celebration. (Anybody listening?)



Col Toby Seymour after receiving his Badge and Certificate from Col Wright

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH

The Annual Reunion Lunch was held on 30 April at the Avenue Hotel, Lodge Road, Southampton. Over 70 members, wives and guests attended. We were delighted to have our Chairman, **Maj N. T. Warren**, with us after his recent spell in hospital–his courage and cheerfulness are an example to us all. It was also a pleasure to welcome our new President, **Brig J. C. Clinch CBE**, on his first attendance at our Reunion Lunch. The Chairman proposed the toast to the Royal Corps of Signals and thanked the members for their support during his recent operation. The President replied and thanked the officials of the Branch. He looks forward to a happy association with the Southampton Branch.

Maj Peter Loveless has taken over the office of Chairman very efficiently during the temporary absence of **Maj Warren**. The success of the Reuion was due to the organisation of our Treasurer, **Capt Christine Cluett** and our secretary **Bill Green** and his new assistant **Tony Sear**.

A service was held at Winchester Cathedral on Sunday 7 May to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of VE Day. A number of members represented the Branch and a few attended a reception in the Great Hall, Winchester, which was hosted by the Chairman of the Hampshire County Council.



(L to R): Mrs John Collins, Brig J. C. Clinch, Maj N. T. Warren, Mrs Clinch, Mr W. Green, Mr J. Culliford, Mr Brian Burt, Mr Tony Sear

SOUTHPORT BRANCH

It was with great sadness that members of the Branch attended the funeral of the Chairman **Bill Hornby** on 16 June. Other ex-service Associations in the town joined the Signals in their tributes.

The Branch is active, with members taking part in the recent local VE Day activities. Secretary **R. Stanforth** joined the Guernsey Branch for the VE Day and Liberation Day celebrations on the island. Many functions were attended over the stay including 'Royal Signals Day' for which a coach trip was organised to visit the German Naval Headquarters Signal bunker and other bunkers around the island, followed by an evening social and presentations. Southport Branch extends its thanks to Guernsey Branch for looking after the visitors and looking after them so well.

Later Vice Chairman **J. Reaney** and Secretary **R. Stanforth** joined the Southport 1940 Dunkirk Veterans Association for their Pilgrimage to Dunkirk for the 50th Anniversary of its liberation. Parades, Services and social events were attended in Dunkirk and De Panne. As Southport is twinned with Mons and has a Memorial in Robecq, both towns gave receptions by the Mayors for ex-Combatants after the ceremonials. The Royal Signals' personnel were featured in the French regional press. Plaques and letters were exchanged from the Mayor of Sefton with the Mayors of Mons, Robecq and Bethune.



Guernsey Secretary Len Barbe on left
Southport Secretary on right
Royal Signal's Day reception and social on Guernsey during the VE Day and Liberation Day celebrations 10 May

WEST LONDON BRANCH

In May **Cliff Wood** organised a visit to Guernsey for a party of ex-Boys and their wives to take part in the Island's 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the Liberation. **Cliff**, **George Severs** and **Duggie Bower** were joined by three ex-Boys of other Branches, **Lt Col Don Herring**, **Ken Brown** and **Wally Brown**. They pay tribute to **Capt John Rudkin**, Guernsey Branch President and Secretary, **Len Barbe** for their organisation and to the hospitality of their members, all of which made this a visit to remember.

Our Annual Dinner and Dance was held in April at the Civic Centre in Hounslow. We were happy to welcome as our Guests of Honour **Brig Stan Gordon** and his wife **Gill**. As our new Area Vice Chairman, **Brig Gordon** presented **Mr Bill Hicks** with the 50 Year Badge.

On a fine June evening we visited the Tower of London. We were given a tour and a detailed, if gory, history of the Tower by Yeoman Warder **Ray Sanders-Crook**, ex-Royal Signals. The Ceremony of the Keys performed in the dark shadow of the Tower, on this occasion by the Grenadier Guards, seems never to lose its fascination. An excellent Buffet Supper in the Yeoman Warders' Club was produced for us by **Mrs Joy Hubble**.



Mr Bill Hicks receiving 50 Year Badge from Brig Gordon
W. London President, Maj John Daw, looks on

50TH ANNUAL REUNION DINNER

Glossop & District 50th Annual Reunion Dinner 7 October 1995. Master of Signals Guest of Honour; details from **George Colclough**, 37 Manor Park Road, SK13 9SQ. 01457 853743 before 25th September.

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

19 Air Formation Sig Regt Association is now over 200 strong and will be holding its third annual reunion at the Victory Services Club on 14 September. All past members of the Regiment who served in the Far East between 1944 and 1971 will be made very welcome and may obtain further details from the Membership Secretary, **Mr Fred Fordyce**, 10 Woodstock Place, Edinburgh EH16 6BE.

LANGELEBEN REUNION

From: **Frank Mitchell**, Secretary

The annual reunion and A.G.M. of the Langeleben Reunion Branch, took place in Konigslutter, Germany, on 19-22 May. There were 52 members and guests present.

On the Friday evening all the members and guests met at a local Gast Haus, 'Sport Klaus'. As a lot of members had not seen each other for 33 years or more, you can guess that there was plenty to talk about, this went on until the early hours of Saturday morning.

On the Saturday, the Burgermeister of Konigslutter kindly made a council chamber available to us for our A.G.M. Our President **Maj Gen Peter Baldwin** presided. After the election of the committee, and other business dealt with, the A.G.M. was closed, and our members then joined the locals in their Schutzen Feste which was taking place that weekend. A procession made its way from the Cathedral to the Market Place where some speeches were made. After this had finished the procession moved off to the Shutzen Feste tent where there were many youth bands, along with more bands from Konigslutter and the surrounding area. In the evening there was dancing in the tent, and of course German beer. This went on until the early hours of Sunday morning.

Sunday was left free for members to visit various local spots, some visited the Harz Mountains but myself and a few others went across to the old D.D.R., to visit Magdeburg where another festival was in full swing with an ox roast and more bands and even more beer tents.

On the Sunday evening, our last of the weekend, we all met at another Gast Haus, the Schutzenhof, where food was available for members.

Again this was another late, or should I say early morning. I do know the birds were singing, and the papers were being delivered.

To say goodbyes, we all met at street cafe in Western Strasse, some members were not returning home until the Tuesday, so this really was the end of a fantastic reunion.

I am enclosing a photo of some members taken outside of the old camp at Langeleben, from the left **Terry Wright**, **Frank Mitchell**, **Ron Lamph**, **Bill Pollard**, **Gerry Kane**, **Ian Johnstone** and **Dave Deacon**. The camp is now empty and falling into a state of disrepair. It seems such a pity after all the good times we spent there; the Guard room is on the right.



602 SIGNAL TROOP (SC) ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS

The 602 AOF, formed from ex-members of 602 Signal Troop (SC), is now over 120 strong. The annual dinner for 1995 was held on Saturday 22 April at the Royal York Hotel in York. We had a total of 87 sitting down to dinner in grand style. Apologies were received from Australia (due to work) and from New Zealand (due to emigrating). Readers of *The Wire* will know that 602 Signal Troop (SC) has now been disbanded. It is therefore more important than ever that the 602 AOF continues to flourish. However we have fought for and managed to maintain the Troop name, albeit now part of 1 Sqn (V) (SC). So although one regime comes to an end, another new one takes its place and we sincerely hope that the 602 AOF will continue to grow. In keeping with trying to please everyone, the committee have said that the 1996 reunion will be somewhere in the Midlands. If you are an ex-member of the old Troop and have not yet joined the AOF we strongly urge you to do so. Our Secretary is **Mr Jim Browne**, 'Stoneleigh', Harwell Close, Tuffley, Gloucester, GL4 0QE. On confirming your credentials, **Jim** will be pleased to give you all the details of our current members and their whereabouts. 'It's good to keep in touch, and the reunions are great fun', so let's hear from you.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND VETERANS' REUNION

A reunion for those ex-servicemen and civilians who served on Christmas Island during the nuclear weapons tests of 1956-60 will be held at Pontin's Sandy Bay Holiday Village, Weston-Super-Mare over the weekend 27-30 October. Full board £85 per person for the period including Friday night dinner to Monday breakfast. Full programme of entertainment including cabaret and dancing (ballroom and sequence). Further details from **Lt Col** (Retd) **P. F. Soward**, New Museum Project Office, Royal School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford, Dorset DT11 8RH.

6TH AIRBORNE DIVISIONAL SIGNALS

Anyone who served with the above Unit and was at the Chateau de Grangues on 6 June 1944 is asked to write to **Maj (N. V.) Ward** (Retd), Sledmere, 1 Elm Close, Green Park, Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire SN4 7HZ. He would be especially pleased to hear from **Cpl A. D. MacDonald, LCpl W. D. Ainsley, Sigs F. L. Howarth** and **F. W. Martin**.

7 FIELD FORCE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Ex Sig Paul John O'Neill would like to obtain a copy of a photograph of J Troop taken at Colchester in January 1980 when he was serving in the above named Squadron. Please contact him at 18 St Cuthbert's Park, Marley Hill, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE16 5ED.

FAR EAST PRISONERS OF WAR

A special Service of Remembrance to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the war in the Far East and to honour those who died in captivity in the Far East and since, was held in St Martin-in-the-Fields on Sunday 11 June. It was conducted by **Revd R. S. Rossitter** (ex FEPOW, 18th Divisional Signals).

A full congregation took part in a moving service. The Lloyd's of London choir, under the direction of **Mr Jacques Cohen** led the hymns and sang the Psalm 23 and the Anthem 'Russian Kantakion of the Dead'.

Standard Bearers were **Mr S. R. Pettitt**, Far East Prisoner of War Association and **Mr D. Wilson**, Lloyd's Royal British Legion.

SGT RONALD DAVID JARRETT

Sgt Ronald David Jarrett died on 20 January 1945 while a prisoner of war with the Japanese. He has no known grave and his family are anxious to hear from anyone who may remember him and can provide any information on the circumstances of his death. Details please to Assistant Regimental Secretary at RHQ.

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES–TUNISIA

During a recent holiday in Tunisia, **Mr** and **Mrs P. Durrant** visited the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Enfida. They have sent us a print of four graves and these are available to relatives.

Signalman R. Valentine, Signalman A. J. Hillman, LCpl R. W. Lewry M.M., LCpl H. J. Hunt. Enquiries to RHQ.

P. L. (Patrick) Ryan would like to hear from anyone who served in Egypt Command Signal Regiment (later 3 LofC Signal Regiment), also from anyone who was in Port Said in 1956. Please write to him at Mill Cottage, 2 Waterside, Wincanton, Somerset BA9 9BB.

Ex **Sgt (Sid) Phelps** or **Philps** who served in Egypt 1949-51 with 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment in Fayad and Ismailia friend of late ex **Sgt (Cyril) Evis** and ex **Cpl (Fred) Phyall** who served with ex **SQMS (Jack) Wilderspin** with 1 LofC Signal Regiment in El Ballah–please contact Tel: 01480 469509 of write to 8 Tythe Piece, Fenstanton, Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 9LR.

VETERAN IS PRESENTED WITH REPLACEMENT MEDALS



92 years old **George Worthy** who served as a wireless operator in the Second World War lost his medals when opportunist thieves stole them whilst he was out at a VE celebration event. He is seen here receiving a replacement set, a beret and a Corps badge from **Lt Col Martin Streth**. **George** holds the Africa Star, 8th Army medal, El Alamein medal and the France and Germany Star. *Photo courtesy of Middlesbrough Gazette*

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during May 1995

Mr A. Belshire (VE Day Street Party)	£114.00
Certa Cito Lodge	30.00
In memory of Mrs K. N. Smart	15.00
	£159.00

The following donations were gratefully received during June 1995

In memory of Mr H. E. Eglen	£256.91
Anonymous	150.00
In memory of Rosy Rogers	100.00
Major General A. A. G. Anderson CB	25.00
In memory of Mrs B. Werman	20.00
Mr K. N. Smartt	15.00
Mrs R. Barratt	10.00
Certa Cito Lodge	10.00
In memory of Pat Wilderspin	10.00
Mr J. J. Reaney	3.00
	£599.91



Jim Carruthers, Secretary Liverpool Branch, tried to borrow a pound from a Chelsea Pensioner but met his match–Pensioner A. J. Judge is also ex Corps!
Photo taken in King's Road, Chelsea

RHQ MOVES TO BLANDFORD IN SEPTEMBER

Contributions for the October issue of The Wire should be forwarded to 56 Regency Street, to arrive by 15 August 1995



Corps Goods Available from the Museum Shop, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH

Telephone enquiries to: Blandford Military ext 2248 STD (0258) 482248.
Price list with effect from 1 April 1995:

	PRICE £
Blazer Badge	13.95
Blazer Button Set: 6 Large, 6 Small–presentation boxed	22.20
Set: 4 Large, 6 Small–presentation boxed	18.40
Bookmark–Real Leather	0.65
Fine Marker pen/pencil set, boxed with Museum Crest	2.50
Ballpoint pen, assorted colours, Museum Crest	0.69
'Tubby' notepad 3½" x 3½", leatherette cover with Corps Crest	1.50
Cap Badge–pre 1947 style	3.15
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Brandy Glass–cut	19.50
Whisky Glass	9.95 ea
Whisky Glass–cut	16.00 ea
Wine Glass	7.75 ea
Spirit Decanter–cut	55.00
Ships Decanter–plain	45.95
Bud Vase	15.75
Crystal Tankard–1Pt	15.95
Gilt Cufflinks, die stamped with Corps Badge	15.25
Enamel Cufflinks, Corps colours & 'Jimmy'	6.50
Hipflask, captive top, leatherette finish	17.50
Keyrings– Leather with Museum Crest	0.50
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Ladies Brooch, 9 carat Gold	65.00
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Lapel Badge (Association Members only)	2.25
Ladies Lapel Badge	4.50
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Bon Bon Dish, gilt edged white china with Corps Badge	2.95
New–Gents Notecase/Wallet–Black leather with crest	11.25
New–Credit Card Holder, black leather with Corps Badge 8 PVC pockets	3.95
Postcards	0.20
Pendent, white enamelled with 17" chain	5.50

Prints:	Unsigned	Signed
Frontier Ambush	8.50	12.50
Smith, George Cross	8.50	12.50
Palace Guard	8.50	12.50
Dhofar Incident	8.50	12.50
Imphal Road	8.50	12.50
Catterick Parade	8.50	12.50

Photographic prints–20"x16" (approx) – Information Sheets available	15.00
Statuettes:	
5" Silver Plated Pewter Soldier with SA80 on Self Plinth	28.50
6½" Silver Plated Pewter 'Jimmy' on Teak Plinth	39.50
9" Royal Signals Officer in Full Dress (Bronze Resin)	79.50
9" Royal Signalls Soldier with SA80 Rifle (Bronze Resin)	79.50
11½" 'Jimmy' cast Bronze Resin	79.50
9" Signaller with SA80 Rifle and Manpack Radio (Bronze Resin)	65.00
Silver Plated Teaspoon with pre–1947 crest	2.50
Sticker, Corps Badge on Corps Colours, good quality – Large	0.50
– Medium	0.50
– Small	0.50
Stickpin, Sterling Silver Corps Badge, can be used as Brooch, Lapel Badge or Tie pin	24.95
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Sports/Leisure Wear, Excellent Quality, various sizes/colours:	
Sweat Shirts with embroidered Corps Badge	14.85
Sport Shirts, pique knit with embroidered Corps Badge	13.50
V/Neck Sweater with embroidered Corps Badge	17.50
Rugby Style Shirt, Corps Colours and embroidered Badge	21.25
Tablemat Set, six blue acrylic with Corps Badge	39.50
Tablemat, Large 15" x 11½", blue acrylic with Corps Badge	10.95
Cocktail Mat Set, six blue acrylic with Corps Badge	17.50
Tankard, 1pt, polished pewter, heavyweight, with *embossed* Badge	27.50
Tankard, 1pt, polished pewter, lightweight with *engraved* Badge	15.95
Teatowel Blue Signals Design on White Background	2.50
Teatowel, World War II vehicles	2.65
Teatowel, V.E. Day (two styles)	2.00
Thimble, Bone China with Corps Crest	2.50
Tie, Corps Colours in polyester, 3" width	5.75
Tie, Corps Colours in Pure Silk, 3" width	12.75
Umbrella, Golf Size, Corps Colours	15.75
Video/Audio Pack, presentation boxed "Songs That Won The War"–Original Artists	14.99
Wall plaque, 'Royal Corps of Signals' shield, 6" x 7"	15.95
Plaque, 6" x 4" with pewter SA80 and Signals Badge	14.25
Watch strap, Corps Colours, Nylon	1.45
Corps Christmas Cards, Pack of 5	3.00

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Produced by the Publishers, THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD (Telephone London District Mil ext 8428 STD 0171-414 8428)
Printed in Great Britain by Holbrooks Printers Ltd, Norway Road, Hilsea, Portsmouth, Hants PO3 5HX.
For advertising rates apply to: Combined Service Publications Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR (Telephone 01252 515891)



Picture 1 – The Captain of the Palace Guard, Maj David Proctor under the main archway of Buckingham Palace. – All is well.

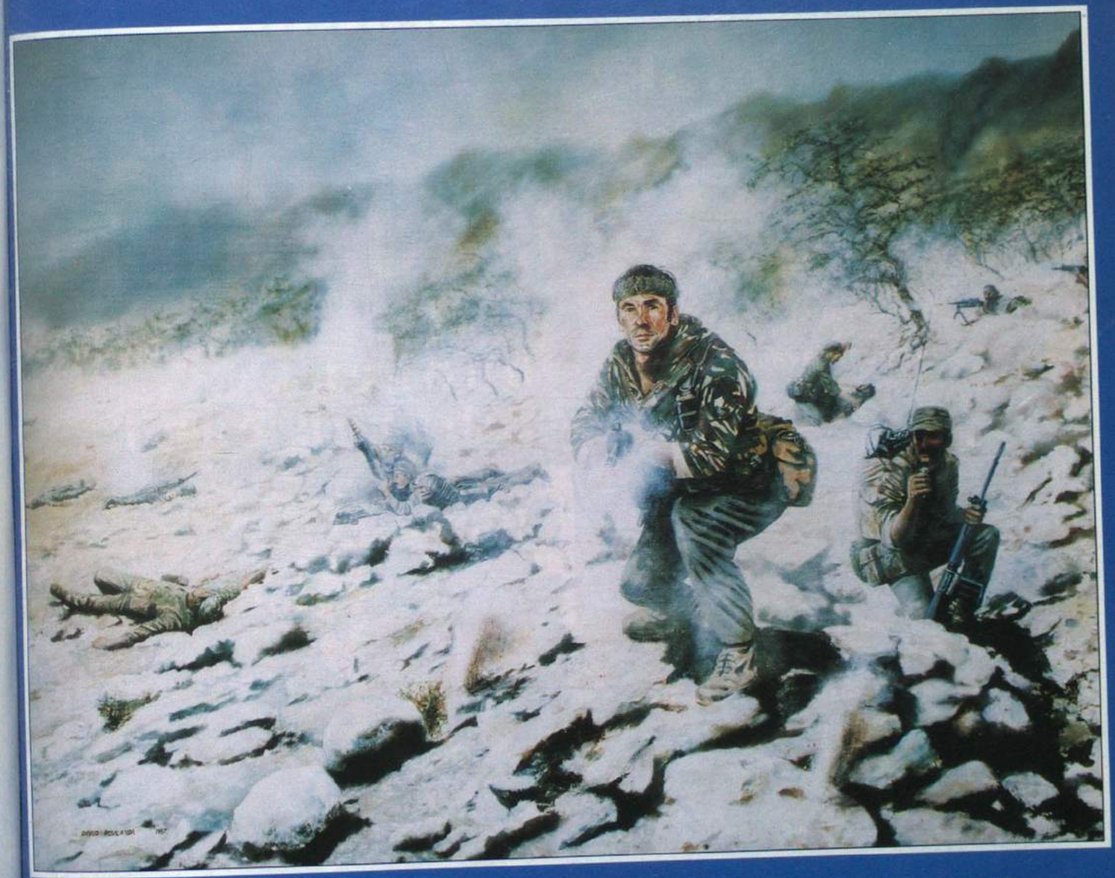
Picture 2 – Sig Simon McInnally, 2 Signal Squadron, ready for Guard at St James's Palace.

Picture 3 – Sig Bharat Rai on sentry duty outside the Jewel Room at the Tower of London.



THE Wire

October 1995



The Royal Corps of Signals 75th Anniversary

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The Royal Signals Magazine

October 1995 Vol. 49 No: 5

The Wire

All correspondence and matter for publication in **The Wire** should be addressed to **The Head of Publications, The Wire,** RHQ Royal Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, DT11 8RH Dorset. Tel No: Blandford mil 2079 STD 01258 48 2079

Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of February, April, June, August, October and 10th December for publication six weeks later.

All enquiries regarding subscriptions/despatch should be made to ext: 2087

Subscription rates 1995 (Bi-monthly) (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, and Dec). Individual: Yearly **£9.00**; Bi-monthly **£1.50**.

Remittances should be made payable to Royal Signals Corps Fund

Editor Lt Col M. Q. M. Greaves
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

The Wire is a member of the Association of Service Newspapers

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS ROYAL SIGNALS MOVED TO BLANDFORD ON 12 SEPTEMBER 1995

See Page 290 for telephone numbers and appointments

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Our front cover picture is taken from the Corps painting 'The Dhofar Incident' depicting LCpl M. E. L. Townsend during an action in the Dhofar in which he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal whilst serving with the Special Air Service.

Our back cover picture is taken from the Corps painting 'Contact, wait out' depicting Sgt J. G. Mather during the Falklands conflict, in which he was awarded the Military Medal whilst serving with the Special Air Service.

The opinions expressed in **The Wire** *are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of the Corps or the MOD. This publication contains official information. It should be treated with discretion by the recipient.*

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DINING OUT OF THE SENIOR WARRANT OFFICER OF THE CORPS

by WO1 Skelton

WO1 June Skelton enlisted in the Army in 1969. She was promoted to WO1 in 1986, this making **June** the senior WO1 in our Corps–sorry RSMs. **June** requested that she be dined out on completion of her Army service by friends and colleagues of 16 Sig Regt. **WO2 (SSM) Andy Fullwood** as usual jumped at the chance to organise this dinner, and with good reason. In 1988 whilst serving in 259 Sig Sqn in Cyprus his Squadron Commander was **Maj Lynn Relph**. Knowing that **June** knew, now **Lt Col Relph** it seemed a good idea that the senior female officer in the Corps be invited to the dining out of the senior female warrant officer, an invitation that **Lt Col L. A. Relph** was delighted to accept. The dinner was superb and **June** followed the speech by the RSM with a speech to be remembered and presented her very apt gifts to personalities of the mess. To name but a few: to **WO2 (QMSI) Helen Sleightholme, SSgt Eric Strefford** and **WO1 (RSM) Toms**.

Being of 'military bearing' and always encouraging her soldiers to move with the times **June** eventually completed her ATDs. The Regimental Training Warrant Officer presented **June** with a framed certificate of completion of ATDs and photographs to prove it. Training Officer of RSS–don't believe it!

The usual and, not so usual, after dinner games took place until light o'clock. **Lt Col Relph** had to leave at a more sensible hour to catch her flight back to the UK. Special thanks to **WO2 Fiona Nelson**, an old friend of **June**'s for dining with us and to **WO1 June Skelton** for being an excellent colleague and friend. She will be missed by all at 16 Sig Regt.



Lt Col L. A. Relph, WO1 J. Skelton and WO2 Nelson

TOTAL QUALITY

by SSgt (YofS) Darlington

Total Quality (TQ), is a managerial tool for the British Army and most certainly the Royal Signals. TQ is the civilian application of man management laid over our own man management techniques. The first question is, why should we have to change? Well the answer is we do not. TQ does not remove the way we go about our business, it merely looks at the process we adopt to get to the final product. Many of the principles will be familiar to us. Only the names have changed. A very good example of how TQ compares to military nomenclature can be seen in the following:

Meeting the requirement–Fitness for role
Design and conformance–SOPs
Statistical process and control–Reports and Returns

So for two days, the Signal Regiment hierarchy embarked on a TQ seminar. Subjects covered included Brain Storming, an open forum of ideas specifically aimed at one subject; Mind mapping, displaying the thought process on paper; old hat processes such as speed reading; Action Teams, involving key personnel and several TQ processes in solving specific areas and a subject close to my heart, Personal Quality, dealing with office organisation.

TQ is not law. I personally found several aspects interesting, some clear and a few others that I felt would not be of any use in my area. The first real time application of TQ came during the compilation of a Squadron SOI dealing with the movement on exercise of three Div HQs under command. The SOI required to address various activities running up to the HQs moving. Both the OC and myself agreed that we could apply some TQ principles in achieving the aim. A brain storm concerning all Troop OCs, Troop SSgts and SHQ personnel was held in Div Rear HQ during Ex Premier Link 1/95. The success of any brain storm lies on the audience voicing their ideas and not the chairperson, as people will tend to follow the boss's policy. The subsequent compilation was then tested over the next few days on several moves. Re-evaluation was carried out and the end product, as agreed by all, worked extremely well. It should be noted that the success of the SOI was down to the TQ processes applied.

Post exercise, back in the office, I then looked at office ergonomics. I moved the odd file and the odd bit of furniture, changed my things to do list into a task sheet format and generally took one step back with my newly acquired knowledge to ascertain which, if any, TQ time saving principles could benefit the way I do work. As in any Operations Office, office practice has to be very smooth. I perceive that a 5% improvement in time and efficiency will be achieved. In summary, I was initially attracted to TQ before the seminar, if only out of curiosity. In hindsight the principles do work if managers allow themselves to change.

Office automation elements of TQ are simply a logical methodology imposed in the peacetime environment. Management elements of TQ work well in the majority. However they do remove a certain amount of control from the empire builders. If the end product is, as in the SOI, a concise, accurate and effective procedure, then it has to be the way forward. Change will be hard for some. Those with an open mind and the ability to change will no doubt find TQ aspects very useful and that they make life that little easier. In the current climate of undermanning, with fewer soldiers to do the same job, any process that offers greater efficiency should at least be considered and not totally discarded as 'not invented here'.

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THE MAN FROM THE MINISTRY

by Maj Steve Turnbull, SO2(A), Directorate of Personal Services (Army)

Summer is over and the great and good are returning to their offices from holidays in the Caribbean, Cyprus or other far flung destinations (that doesn't include me I would hasten to add!). War is raging in the Balkans, nuclear testing is likely to begin again in the Pacific, famine threatens in Africa, as it does in most years. Meantime, here in the Ministry of Defence, all are burning the midnight oil, meeting at all hours, messengers dashing here and there, officers discussing plans in hushed voices in darkened corridors–what is it all about? The Bett or Independent Review (IR) of course! Well what did you expect this is PS10(A) not MI5.

THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW

Hopefully, some of you had the opportunity to attend the briefings and seminars that were held up and down the country earlier in the year. As I write this, I have the summary of all that went on in those briefings and the views and concerns which were expressed and taken back as the Army view on the IR. It is fair to say that the Forces in general and the Army in particular are a fairly conservative (with a little 'c') bunch. So it is not surprising to find that by and large radical change was opposed. Most seemed to support those aspects of the IR which were seen as good for Servicemen and oppose those which were seen as producing worse conditions of service–all very natural. But there is a problem. We have ignored one of the fundamental principles which will ultimately guide the decisions to accept, reject or amend the recommendations of the IR. This principle is cost! The MOD will not get any more money to fund its proposals (indeed many feel it is under a remit to find additional savings, 'you might think that, I couldn't possibly comment'). If the MOD is left to divide up the cake then the equipment programme will probably get priority–we do love our tanks, boats and planes. Therefore, the proposals the MOD adopts in relation to the IR will have, at the very best, to be cost neutral (ie to pay for good bits we also have to accept the bad bits to pay for it–watch out for your early pension). The main internal MOD studies are under way the subjects are: Job Evaluation, Pensions, Mobility/ Stability, Main Pay and others. These will begin to report in the autumn and then based on the finding we all move on to the next stage of trying to work out what to do about the assumptions and recommendations which fell out of these studies.

OVERSTRETCH

In my visits to various places with the AFPRB I have been struck by a common thread running through nearly all Army units. The subject comes up when we start to talk about working hours or lost leave, it is clear when we listen to Service Personnel in all trades, all units and all countries that what has the greatest impact on their time is the fact that there are not enough people to do the jobs. Overstretch is the term used to describe this. Now what is interesting is that the AFPRB don't consider overstretch to be something which they can solve with more pay. They believe that politicians must act to reduce commitments. However, as we all know the demands upon our shrinking Services continue to grow–Bosnia, Rwanda, Angola etc. So there is something of a miss-match here. No more money for what we are doing and no less to do in the future, the result must be continued long hours, lost leave and poor quality of life (for some at least).

REPRESENTATION

This brings me to the subject of representation. In many of the IR debates that have already taken place this issue has come up. **Bett** himself suggested an Ombudsman, a sort of final arbiter for when the Serviceman has exhausted the current redress system all the way to the Army Board. He could then appeal to an outside Ombudsman to adjudicate his case. Others have favoured the creation of an Armed Forces Federation–along the lines of the Police Federation. One has to consider the scope such an organisation may have. The anti-federation lobby, which is very influential, will tell you that we don't want strikes or shop stewards in the Army, that it would damage the military ethos (whatever that is!), that discipline would be undermined and soldiers would fail to obey orders in an operational situation. Well perhaps, that may or may not be true and to debate it would be a paper in its own right.

On the other hand a federation could provide a voice for personnel under increasing pressure to work longer and give up their leave because there are not enough soldiers to do the jobs. A federation could fight issues affecting the Armed Services in public. Issues like those surrounding homosexuals or compensation to pregnant servicewomen, instead of having the papers full of the one sided arguments such issues could be debated publicly by federation personnel unconstrained by Queen's Regulations and able to explain why the soldiers don't want homosexuals in the Army (if that is the case), and why it was wrong to pay pregnant servicewomen so much and service personnel wounded or injured on duty so little compensation.

There are dangers, none of us would like to see the public standing of the Armed Forces reduced. The ideal solution would probably be a balance, a good British compromise, the most likely solution is that the issue will be ignored and things will carry on business as usual.

OTHER MATTERS

FORCES' DISCOUNT BROCHURE

I can hear the groans from here! But it's true at last this publication is being distributed. Get your copy. Any ideas for discounts in the next brochure? Any good contacts we could exploit? Some of the things we do need to include: Sending flowers by post, Attractions–Alton Towers, Chessington World of Adventures, Thorpe Park etc, Shops selling CDs and records–and many others. If you've got a good idea or a good contact drop me a line and I'll follow it up.

AFPRB VISITS

Although the main visits for the year are over there remains one important visit which will be to the Reserves. The AFPRB will visit the 43 (Wessex) Brigade at its annual Brigade concentration at Sennybridge in Wales on 3 October 1995 (Wellies, umbrellas and waterproofs). If any R Signals personnel are likely to be there, then I look forward to hearing what you've got to say.

RAILCARD

The interviews and the postal survey go on, feedback is due in the autumn, then we shall see.

COACHCARD

The National Express Coachcard is due for renewal in March 1996 and negotiations will be opened soon over the extension of this scheme.

ROYAL SIGNALS WINNER IN ARMY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The Army Photographic Competition results have recently been released and **Capt Dave Chrystal BEM** has been selected as the Best Amateur Photographer. **Dave** who is currently serving as a Ground Liaison Officer with No IV RAF Harrier Sqn in southern Italy, currently on NATO Duty in Bosnia, submitted material for the competition period 1993-1995. The shots are all from Detachment Commander Courses Royal Signals taken during the last year of the BAOR Courses at 13 Sig Regt (V) where he served as OC Training Wing.

The portfolio of four shots demonstrating the versatility of his photography captured the £250 prize. The judging took place at Tedworth House and photographic personalities **Andy Kyle** the *Daily Mail* picture editor and **Edwin Appleton** President of the Royal Photographic Society selected the winners. Entries of over 300 prints from all ranks ranging from private soldier to senior officer were submitted.

The soldiers and officers came from as far afield as Germany, Gibraltar, Bosnia and Belize, with subject matters ranging from high powered ceremonial events to an Army breakfast.

The awards ceremony will be held later this year and it is hoped that the Chief of the General Staff will present the prizes.



Dawn Patrol
Taken at Haltern Training Area, Autumn 1994
Detachment Commanders Course 6/93

MOVEMENTS

OFFICERS
SEPTEMBER 1995

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col J. K. Ewbank	DMO
Lt Col H. A. R. Hancock	39 Sig Regt (V)
Lt Col J. G. Peck	DGCIS (A)
Lt Col B. J. Scott-Morton	36 Sig Regt (V)
Lt Col R. M. Thurston	35 Sig Regt (V)
Maj A. G. Brand	HQ ARRC
Maj N. H. Colville	36 Sig Regt (V)
Maj D. R. Davey	DLSA DG Log Sp (A)
Maj E. A. Davis	4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204)
Maj A. Duncan	HQ 2 (NC) Sig Bde
Maj P. H. Eaton	HQ 1 Sig Bde
Maj A. G. Hooley	HQ LAND
Maj S. J. Purser	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj A. P. R. Roberts	The Royal School of Signals
Maj M. A. Rough	RSM and RO
Maj P. Stephenson	JCUFI (AE)
Maj M. F. Tucker	CGS
Maj S. J. Turpin	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Capt D. Barnett	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt A. J. Duncan	HQ LAND
Capt R. P. Grist	259 Sig Sqn
Capt R. H. King	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Capt D. J. Kinnaird	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt P. Leach	241 Sig Sqn
Capt P. McCarter	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt A. J. Mould	30 Sig Regt
Capt R. C. Young	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Lt G. P. J. Buxton	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt R. J. Craig	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt D. W. Edwards	JCUFI (AE)
Lt M. J. Grierson	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt M. R. Purves	RMCS Shrivenham
2Lt O. J. H. Bryant	RMAS
2Lt R. A. J. Chisholm	RMCS Shrivenham
2Lt D. A. Cooper	RMCS Shrivenham
2Lt A. R. Fawcett	RMCS Shrivenham
2Lt B. J. Fitch	RMCS Shrivenham
2Lt L. W. Hendricks	RMCS Shrivenham
2Lt D. J. Noble	JCUFI (AE)
2Lt R. J. Sellwood	RMCS Shrivenham
2Lt A. J. Smith	RMCS Shrivenham

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For further information contact Blandford Military Ext 2524 (Civ 01258 482524).

DEATHS

Ball–WO2 E. T. Ball–served 1948-1968–died 20 August 1995.
Bevan–WO1 W. T. E. Bevan–served 1936-58–died 28 August 1995.
Bolton–WO1 C. E. Bolton–served from 1924–died 8 July 1995.
Corr–Lt M. J. H. Corr–served 1954-1959–died 17 July 1995.
Couzens–Sig K. H. C. Couzens–served 1941-1946–died July 1995.
Dunlop–Lt E. P. Dunlop–died 14 February 1995.
Ellis–Lt Col J. H. Ellis–served 1919-51–died 20 August 1995.
Groombridge–Cpl G. E. Groombridge–served 1952-56–died 9 August 1995.
Jones–Cpl A. M. Jones–served 1978-1995–died 18 August 1995.
Jones–Sig L. Jones–served 1933-47–died 30 June 1995.
Liversidge–F. J. Liversidge–died 29 July 1995.
Miller–Maj T. de B. Miller MBE–died 18 October 1995.
Packman–Capt P. C. Packman–died 30 July 1995.
Pocock–Lt Col N. E. I. Pocock–served 1928-1949–died 28 August 1995.
Schurer–Maj H. C. Schurer TD–served 1939-65–died 13 July 1995.
Shaw–K. G. Shaw–died 25 August 1995.
Shepherd–Capt G. W. Shepherd MBE–died 5 October 1994.
Trotter–Cpl J. Trotter–served 1940-1962–died August 1995.
Turner–Maj C. de Lyle Turner–died 7 May 1995.
Vernon–Maj S. Vernon MBE–served 1931-66–died 28 June 1995.
Walden–Lt Col D. L. Walden MBE–served 1961-1995–died 8 August 1995.
Willis–Capt J. L. Willis–died 25 May 1995.
Woodcock–Sig N. S. Woodcock–served 1993-1995–died 24 June 1995.

OBITUARIES

Adam–Capt J. Adam (Jim) died on 15 July 1995. He served in the Corps from 1960 until 1987 when he took up an appointment with 31 Sig Regt (V) as a PSAO (NRPS). His service took him to South Arabia and Northern Ireland. He will be sadly missed by his family and many friends.

Bolton–Mr C. E. (Ted) Bolton BEM. The death of **Ted Bolton**, President of the Cardiff Branch of the RSA occurred on 8 July 1995. **Ted Bolton** joined the Royal Signals TA in 1923 which became the 53rd (Welsh) Div Signals and at the outbreak of World War Two was Sergeant of 'L' Section. The Section had been embodied only a few weeks before being transferred 'en bloc' to the 5th Division then forming in France near Lille. Here the Section became the 17th Inf Bde Sig Section and as such went into action the following May. **Ted** was a real tower of strength throughout the weeks of fighting and during the very late evacuation from Dunkirk.

The following years saw **Ted** serving in Madagascar, India, Sicily, where he was wounded, and Italy, where, after Anzio, he finally left the 5th Division and was transferred to the Cheshire Yeomanry (R Signals) then went to Palestine.

After the war **Ted** promptly rejoined the 53rd Signals and renewed his involvement with the R Signals Association, becoming Branch Chairman, a post he filled with great distinction until his election to the Presidency in 1991.

Concurrently with his Association work **Ted**, with typical assiduousness, concerned himself with 'Help the Aged', and a tribute to his devotion to that cause was the award of the BEM.

Ted's service to the Corps was acknowledged by the award of a 'Jimmy', Four Bars to his TA Efficiency Medal and the 50 Year Service Badge.

It was entirely fitting that the final obsequies of this highly esteemed soldier were marked by a splendid turnout of the Cardiff Association with pall bearers drawn from his old comrades of 'L' Section. Four standard bearers marked the salute as the Branch Chairman read the exhortation and a trumpeter of the Royal Regiment of Wales sounded Last Post and Reveille.

Thus was a greatly loved comrade laid to rest.

Cross–Sgt Victoria Cross. (Vicky), aged 53, died on 28 June 1995.

Vicky served with 54 (EA) Signal Squadron (V), 755 Troop, Norwich. She was a very popular character within 36 Regiment (V) and will be sadly missed by all that knew her. She served with the Corps for 16 years and was always the life and soul of the party. Her illness was borne with great courage. She was indeed a credit to the Corps.

Dacre–Brig A. A. Dacre OBE. The death of **Brig** 'Able' **Dacre** occurred on 2 August 1995, aged 67 years. He served in the Corps from 1946 until 1982. **Brig Dacre** spent much of his service with the Gurkhas, in Borneo, Brunei, Malaya, Nepal and Singapore. He was appointed Commander, Brigade of Gurkhas, the first non-infantry officer to hold the post. He was also Commander of the British Advisory Team in Nigeria. He was appointed MBE in 1956 and OBE in 1970. Upon his retirement he moved to Perth, Western Australia and became administrator and State organisor to a Medical Research Group. **Brig Dacre** leaves a widow, **Elaine**, and a family who live in Perth.

A full obituary will be published in the Winter 1995 issue of the *RSI Journal*.

Farmer–Capt F. E. Farmer. Frank Farmer enlisted into the Corps in 1920, aged 17 years. He served in a mounted unit in Crowborough and in 1928 was posted to Jubbulpore, India where he became well known as a tennis player. In 1934 he returned to UK and Catterick Camp. He was commissioned as a Quartermaster at the outbreak of World War Two and joined Western Command at Prestatyn. He then joined 8th Army and was evacuated from Tobruk in 1942. He then returned to India and became part of 14th Army and saw service with the Chindits. He left the Far East in 1946 and retired from the Army in 1947. He then pursued a second career as a civil servant. He leaves a widow, **Gladys** and a son.

Hodgkinson–SSgt (FofS) Paul Hodgkinson. It is with deep regret and great sadness that 24 Airmobile Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron (210) announce the sudden death of **Paul Hodgkinson** whilst serving in support of the UN in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia on the morning of Tuesday 6 September 1995.

Paul enlisted into the Corps on 4 September 1979 and trained as a Terminal Equipment Technician at The Army Apprentices College, Harrogate. On completion of his training, **Paul** was posted to 30 Sig Regt as a Lance Corporal. Whilst with 30 Sig Regt, **Paul** saw service in Cyprus with the UN and completed a four month tour with 266 Sig Sqn (SA). After successfully completing his T1 **Paul** was posted to JCUNI, where his potential as a Foreman of Signals shone through. Subsequently **Paul** moved to Blandford and in June 1989 commenced his Foreman of Signals Course.

Paul's first posting as a Staff Sergeant Foreman of Signals was to 1 Military Intelligence Battalion in Germany where his blend of humour, esprit and compassion enabled him to forge a unique bond with his small team.

Paul brought that unique style with him when he joined the Airmobile Signal Squadron in July 1994. His relaxed, but thoroughly professional approach, allied to his thoughtfulness, enabled all ranks of the Brigade Headquarters as well as those of the Signal Squadron to 'pester' him for even the most trivial of problems, and he would give the time gladly.

Paul enjoyed sport to the full and throughout his career represented the various units in which he served at Hockey and Basketball. He has left an indelible mark on those he has served with within 24 Airmobile Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron (210). Our deepest sympathies go to his wife **Karen** and sons **Thomas** and **David**.

Irvine–Danny Irvine. It is with deep regret that Liverpool Branch report the recent death of our ex Chairman **Mr Danny Irvine**, who was a staunch supporter of the Corps and the Royal Signals Association. He passed away on Thursday 3 August 1995.

He was Chairman of the Liverpool Branch for some 15 years and retired from the appointment only through ill health; he attended most reunions at Catterick.

He joined the Corps in 1949 leaving after two years and then rejoining as a regular serving in Cyprus and Kenya as a lineman jointer, his last posting was to 33 Sig Regt (V) as SQMS 59 Sig Sqn (V), on completion of 22 years as a regular he then joined the TA and became Squadron Sergeant Major.

Danny was a true and loyal friend of all at the Liverpool Branch and his passing will be felt by all his friends, he leaves a wife **Betty** and son **Ken**.

Packman–Lt (A/Capt) QM P. C. Packman. Philip 'Pip' **Packman** was born at Acton on 6 June 1914. He was a member of a large family of eight brothers and seven sisters.

He joined Royal Signals on 17 June 1933 as a dispatch rider on an 8 + 4 basis. He had been a keen motor cyclist before joining the Army and soon became a member of the Royal Signals display team, which later became The White Helmets.

He competed in several time trials and was a member of the successful Eastern Command team, in 1938, and won a silver medal for the London to Edinburgh time trial in 1939.

He met his late wife **Grace** whilst stationed in Canterbury. They married in 1937 and spent 54 happy years together.

He steadily rose through the ranks and was commissioned to Lieutenant (QM), joining 3 Infantry Division when the Division was reforming in Ghent at the end of the European campaign, after serving with the Guards Armoured Division as RQMS.

The 3rd Infantry Division was at that time destined for the invasion of Japan, after training in Louisiana, USA, but with the Japanese surrender the Division was redirectéd to Egypt, and for the next two years he served under **Col Atthill** and **Col Moore** in Egypt and Palestine.

His wife joined him whilst he was in Egypt and was quartered in Ismailia. His second son was born in Sarafand Hospital.

He was demobilised in September 1948 in the rank of A/Capt after serving 16 years.

He then joined the PO Engineering Department in Canterbury and again rose through the ranks to become an Inspector on External Works Construction and completed 31 years of service with them as Transport Manager in 1979.

He leaves two sons, four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Strutt–WO2 E. A. Strutt. It is with deep regret that the Jersey Branch report the death on 10 July 1995 of ex **WO2 Edward Alan Strutt** at the age of 85 years. **Ted** served in the Corps from 1929-1965 with service in India and Burma. He was the Long Service recruiter in Guernsey from 1947-55 and in Jersey from 1956-65. On leaving the Army he joined the Jersey Customs, served for 10 years retiring in 1975. **Ted** was a founder member of Jersey Branch and was Honorary Secretary for 19 years. He kept himself very fit and was an excellent swimmer, unfortunately in later life illness restricted his activities. Branch members attended his funeral where our Standard was displayed and the Corps March was played.

The Branch expressed its deepest sympathy to his son **Gordon** from Tasmania and daughter **Lorna** from Los Angeles who attended the funeral.

Watts–Maj K. Watts. After several years of a most gallant fight against cancer **Keith Watts** died on 18 August 1995 at his home in Spain. He served in the Corps from 1944-73 and was Adjutant of 5TR and 2IC 19 Sig Regt in Singapore and Malaysian Signals. As his many friends in Malaysian Signals would say 'Salamat Jalan, **Keith**'.

NOTICES

CORPS DATES

12 October Master's Guest Night including Hon Colonels Briefing, Blandford
3 November Corps Scottish Dinner, Glasgow
9 November Field of Remembrance, Westminster
23 November Royal Signals Institution London Lecture, London
19 December Corps Carol Service, London

Regimental Headquarters Royal Signals has moved to Blandford

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Blandford Military 737 or STD 01258 48 (followed by extension)

Appointment	Name	Extension
Regimental Colonel	**Col C. J. Walters**	2076
Regimental Secretary	**Col (Retd) A. N. de Bretton-Gordon**	2081
Assistant Regimental Secretary	**Lt Col (Retd) I. J. Hamilton**	2082
Chief Clerk		2083
Corps Accountant	**Mr A. Wilkinson**	2086
Accounts		2087
Welfare Secretary	**Mrs J. Nicholson**	2089
Association Admin Offr	**Mr P. J. Cuckow**	2090
Head of Publications	**Lt Col (Retd) P. Valder**	2079
Admin Offr Publications	**Mrs J. Herring**	2085
Fax		2084

LETTER

From: Mr J. C. E. Prentice

Dear Sir,

In the June issue of *The Wire*, page 143, it shows the brass shoulder No. 3 dates from 1920 to 1929 as were the dates in the showcase in the Catterick museum for the same item. I joined man's service in May 1939 at Catterick and was issued with these brass titles, and the collar and cap badges, together with a leather cavalry bandolier and a cavalry whip with the 'Jimmy' insignia. We were fortunate in not being issued with riding breeches, puttees and spurs.

On page 145 you asked about the cable wagon at St Johns Wood which was originally a cavalry barracks with stables (which were bombed whilst I was with London District Signals). The wagon was found there after LDS moved into the barracks having been bombed out of the Duke of York's HQ Chelsea.

As a Corporal I was given a squad to lay lines in the London underground tunnels and stations which had been completed but the electrified rails had not been installed. I cannot remember the names of the stations but they led into the country. We attached the wagon to a GUY truck (which I was taught to drive, double declutching) to carry the cable whilst the squad travelled in the truck.

My headache was to see the cables attached to the tunnel walls connecting all the stations, which had been converted into mini factories. The factory machines were operated by women. Every time I went to inspect the work in the tunnels, I would come back to find Signalmen 'chatting up' the girls, instead of preparing the next tunnel cable length. The job took twice the time it should have taken!

Yours faithfully
Jim Prentice

7 Hilton Court,
Hilton Road, Bishopbriggs,
Glasgow G64 3EA



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
12 NOVEMBER 1995

THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS 75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE COLLECTABLES

- 10 inch Bone China Plate with full colour design with scroll listing all locations in which The Royal Signals have served. **£21.50**
- Bone China Tankard. 1 pint, decorated with the two Corps Badges and the words 'Seventy Five Years of Service – 1920-1995'. **£19.50**
- Set of 8 Model Soldiers, 2 inches high (54mm), depicting Royal Signals Uniforms during the last 75 years. Each one is hand painted and made by Bastion Models. **£46.50**
- '75 Years of Service', a History of The Royal Signals. Using the Corps Paintings and Corps Silver to help tell the story. **£ 5.00**
- A Commemorative Postal Cover. Hand stamped 'Blandford Camp 28 June 1995'. **£ 4.50**
- A Fine Porcelain Figurine, approximately 9 inches high, of a Royal Signals Officer in Number One Dress circa 1935. This figurine is made by the famous porcelain factory, 'Graefenthal' and is handmade and handpainted. There is a limited number of 250 produced and each figurine is individually numbered. **£175.00**

All the above items are available from the Museum Shop:

Telephone: **Blandford Mil 2248**
Blandford Civil 01258 482248

Address: **The Royal Signals Museum Shop**
Blandford Camp
Dorset DT11 8RH

Post and Packing is not included in the prices.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMEMORATIVE POSTAL COVERS

A series of Twenty Commemorative Postal Covers is being issued between November 1991 and June 1996 as part of the fund raising campaign for the Royal Signals Museum. The series depicts Army Signal Communications from the early 19th century to the present day.

	SUBJECT	ON SALE
1.	Peninsula Campaign 1811–The Gamble Radiated Cart	
2.	Crimea 1855–The Cable Plough	
3.	Indian Mutiny 1857–Semaphore on the Residency	Lucknow
4.	Zulu War 1879–Heliograph at Tugela River	NOW
5.	Boer War–Wheatstone Automatic Telegraph	
6.	WW1–First Battle of Ypres 1914–The Dispatch Rider	
7.	WW1–The Somme 1916–The Cable Wagon	
8.	WW1–Passchendaele 1917–RFC Wireless Receiver at Battery HQ, artillery spotting	
9.	WW1–Cambrai 1917–Tank wireless communication	NOW
10.	WW1–Taking the Hindenburg Line 1918–Message carrying by pigeons	
11.	The Quetta Earthquake 1935–Signals in India	
12.	WW2–Special/Clandestine Operations	
13.	WW2–The Battle of Alamein 1942–The ACV in the Western Desert	NOW
14.	WW2–Enigma and the Ultra Secret	
15.	The Korean War 1951–Gloucesters Rear Link	
16.	Malaya/Borneo–Radio re-broadcast station in the jungle	
17.	Air Formation Signals–Cable Jointing, Christmas Island, 1958	
19.	Radio Relay–AFV 439 in BAOR, 1970	
18.	Royal Signals Afloat–Visual signalling aboard LCT	
20.	Falklands War 1982–Satellite Communications	1996

The covers are available in three forms. Each has been flown, usually to the scene of the event, and each contains an insert describing the incident or theme.

Standard Envelope. £2.50 plus Post and Packing.
Flown Envelope. £3.50 plus Post and Packing.
Special Envelope. £5.00 plus Post and Packing. Signed by a VIP, often associated with the incident or theme depicted, and including a biography of the VIP on a second insert.

SPECIAL ENVELOPES

Special Envelopes have been signed by the VIPs named below:

1. The Peninsular War–**Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE DL MA**
2. The Crimean War–**Lord Raglan JP DL**
3. The Siege of Lucknow–**Sir Alan Outram Bt MA**
4. The Zulu War–**The Earl Kitchener of Khartoum**
5. The Boer War–**Commander Sir David Mackworth Bt RN**
6. The First Battle of Ypres–**David Smith-Dorrien**
7. The Battle of the Somme–**Sir Anthony Rawlinson Bt**
8. The Battle of Passchendaele–**Field Marshal The Lord Bramall KG GCB OBE MC**
9. The Battle of Cambrai–**Field Marshal The Lord Carver GCB CBE DSO MC**
10. The Hindenberg Line–**Major The Earl Haig OBE DL ARSA**
11. The Quetta Earthquake–**Maj Gen D. A. L. Wade CB OBE MC**
12. Special Operations–**Gen Sir Peter de la Billiere KCB KBE DSO MC**
13. The Battle of Alamein–**The Rt Hon The Viscount Montgomery of Alamein CBE**

ORDERING

Orders may be placed wth your usual supplier or with:

The New Museum Project Office
Royal School of Signals
Blandford Camp
BLANDFORD FORUM
Dorset D11 8RH

If ordered from the Project Office, cheques should be made payable to the 'Royal Signals Museum'. All profits go to the Royal Signals Museum Appeal Fund.

NEWS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

XV

HQNI and
15 Sig Regt
BFPO 801

CO	**Lt Col A. H. Johnstone**
Adjt	**Capt S. Gregory**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) D. A. Deegan**

COMMS OPS

Ops Offr	**Maj C. B. Keegan**

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Due to a large number of Comms Ops either leaving the Army or just on posting **Cpl Frank Baker** and **Cpl Mick Kilburn** decided to throw the party of the year.

Much to the annoyance of the Officer Corps a lot of money was collected culminating in a fantastic barbecue and some very expensive presentations. **Maj Barry Keegan** the Ops Offr, duly made some first class speeches bidding farewell after nine years to **Cpl Tim Ryan** and **LCpl Jacky Gorman**, the evening finished with a 'This is Your Life' for **Cpl Paddy Hoy** who leaves the Army after 22 years.

The Branch would also like to welcome **Capt Tim Dickensen** WFR who has just come off the Beige list, and **Cpl Pete Cherry** from 21 Sig Regt (AS).

Finally a well done to **Sgt Robinson** and **LCpl Clark** on achieving very good grades on their RSSC and RSDCC.

ROYAL SIGNALS 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
by WO2 (SSM) W. Gray

The Anniversary celebrations were held during the weekend of 1 and 2 July in Lisburn Station, organised by 233 Sig Sqn. They began with a families day and cricket competition with teams from all Royal Signals Units within the Province taking part. The final of the cricket was between 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (213) and 225 Sig Sqn. 39 Bde required four runs to win off the final ball, **WO2 (FofS) Bob Pullen** duly struck the ball to everyone's amazement clean through the boundary to win the match for 39 Bde. The medals were presented to the winning team by **Lt Col A. H. Johnstone**, Comd Comms and CO of HQNI and 15 Sig Regt.

The cricket was followed in the evening by an all-ranks function held in the Station Leisure Centre, which was attended by some 400 personnel from within the Province; a good night was had by all.

The weekend came to a close with a church service followed by a rather subdued buffet lunch held in the Summit Club.

A vote of thanks must be accorded to **Capt Chris Paterson** for the cricket, all members of 233 Sig Sqn who volunteered their time and a special mention to **SSgt (SQMS) Dave Inman** of the Squadron who must have lost a good few pounds but gained a few more grey hairs. Well done to all.



The Ant Hill Mob



39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (213)–Victorious at last



Some of the 'junior' Signallers enjoying the festivities

QUARTERMASTER

Shortly to abandon us, the Quartermaster, **Maj F. A. Bancroft**, is completing his 12 month cook's tour and will be leaving one Celtic land for another. We extend the 14 Sig Regt (EW) pre-advance party a fond farewell and wish **Chris** and yourself good fortune. We welcome **Maj John Aspinall MBE** and his golf clubs and wish them many happy hours working on each other's handicaps.

The RQMS, **WO2 (RQMS)** 'Stew' **Mullen** has once again topped up his tan in Cyprus and is busy, with **Cpl** 'Dingle' **Willis**, on the resettlement trail.

Sgt Paddy Elwood is now well established on the golf course and is a keen novice in the accounts office!

SSgt John Carpanini is posted at last, we wish **John** and **Fiona** and the parrot good luck in England.

Sgt 'Hanger' **Henry** is back from the Corps' rugby tour of Canada brandishing a rather attractive Access bill obtained at Manchester Airport and sporting some wicked bruises.

Cpl Alex Dack and **Kay** have (like the RQMS) just returned from their holidays (Newcastle) having christened their daughter, **Donna-Jo**. Almost forgot to mention that old sweat **Cpl Jamesie MacKay** who is well immersed in his work and is the Regimental back stroke champion.

ORIENTEERING

Following the success of winning the NI Orienteering Championships the Regiment competed in the Royal Signals Championships, held in the York area on 6/7 May 1995 and the Army (UK) Championships held in Catterick on 20/21 July 1995.

Of the two, the RSOC proved to be our better event with the Ladies team leading from the start and becoming overall Team Champions for 1995. Well done **Capt Deb Sunderland, SSgt Mandy Jordan** Int Corps, **Sgt Elaine Musgrave** and **Cpl Terry Lees**.

The male team faced stiff opposition from 11 Sig Regt and 1 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt. At the end of the individual event we were lying in third place with the Harris event to come. The Harris event produced good all-round team work resulting in us achieving the Runners-Up prize.

The Army Championship was more competitive, as expected, however good runs were recorded by **WO2 Garry Dale** RE who had only just returned after an operation and **WO1 Guy Benson** who also ran well on the B course.

The squad for both events consisted of: **Lt Col Phil McEvoy** AGC (ALS), **Maj Fred Bancroft, Capt Tim Dickinson** WFR, **WO1 Guy Benson, WO1** 'Gus' **Hartley, WO2 Garry Dale** RE, **SSgts Phil Cox, Tim Cheetham** RLC, **Jed Keane, Sgt Neil Fisher** and **Cpl Phil Stroudley**.

WELSH 1000m PEAK RACE

The Welsh 1000m Peak Race is a classic race starting at Abba on the North Wales coast, taking in five summits, all over 1000m, and culminating in the climb to the finish at the summit of Mount Snowden.

The team consisting of, **Maj Fred Bancroft, WO1 Guy Benson, SSgt Tim Cheetham** RLC, **Cpl Phil Stroudley** and ably managed by **SSgt Phil Cox** were in good spirits at the start of the race; however, this was soon to change.

It was ideal weather conditions at the start of the race, however, as the majority of the climb is in the initial stages of the race, the higher we went the worse the weather became, with bitterly cold winds and horizontal rain greeting the runners as they reached the first summit. Unseasonally heavy rain and the persistent wind resulted in one of the worst races for a long time with comments such as 'I'm getting too old for this game' escaping from the lips of **Maj Fred Bancroft** and **WO1 Guy Benson**.

Despite the atrocious conditions **SSgt Tim Cheetham**, our RLC veteran, recorded an excellent time of just over six hours. The remainder of the team were pleased just to finish and with the pain soon forgotten were eagerly discussing the tactics to be adopted in next year's race.

225 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj T. S. Wadey**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) B. D. Payne**

June saw the departure of the 2IC **Capt Deb Sunderland**. She did the work of two men and was in fact replaced by two, namely **Capts** 'Jetski' **Hayden** and **Bob Bunten**. **Capt John Carr** has at last found his way to 9 Sig Regt (R) and **Capt Dave Dolling** now fills the hot Ops Officers seat. The Squadron extends a warm welcome to all new arrivals and especially to their families.

Congratulations to the following who have recently been selected for promotion. **WO2 (SSM) Payne, Cpls Tes Lees, Eddie Palmer, Paula Neave** and **Paul Rowlands**.

Many events both social and sporting have taken place over the last two months. On 3 June **Cpl Jan Milford** organised a sponsored walk in aid of the Great Ormond Street Hospital which raised over £350. **Cpl Jane Richardson** walked the Pennine Way over the period 8-27 June and raised the sum of £600 for the British Bone Marrow Donor Appeal. During 'It's a Knockout' competition at the Station summer fete on 17 June the following were caught on camera dressed as the Ant Hill Mob–**Sgt Jane Fitz-Patrick, Cpls Tam Ewart,** 'Rocky' **Dickson, Andy Firth** and 'Taff' **Brown**. **SSgt Eddie Fisher** did an excellent job organising the final of the five-a-side football competition on 28 June, after returning from winning the Royal Signals individual and doubles tennis championships. The Squadron finished second in both the CO's Cup basketball on 21 June and the 75th Anniversary cricket match on 1 July. Wimbledon cracks were heard on 15 July, complete with strawberries and cream. Well done to **Cpl Jose Taylor** for organising the tennis competition which was won by **Cpl Boris Hunt**. **SSgt Mark Finch** competed in the Army Inter Corps windsurfing championships at Weymouth on 16 July and finished second. The Squadron volleyball team again won the CO's Cup on 17 July. In spite of July being a busy month we managed to assist the Northern Ireland Forces Youth Summer Camp. Help was provided by **Cpl Terry Lees, LCpl Tony Cherry, SSgt Keith Wilkinson** and **Sgt Gerry Barclay**.

Finally the Squadron congratulates **LCpl** 'Bambi' **Hildreth** for being selected to represent the Army in the Inter-Services fencing championships in July.

COMMCEN TROOP

We welcome **WO2 (YofS) Drummond, Cpl Montgomery, LCpl Sergeant, Sigs Davies, Keech** and **Perkins**. We say farewell to **WO2 (YofS) Walesby** who departs for the Royal School of Signals, we hope he enjoys his tour. Farewell to **Cpl Fitzpatrick**, who was promoted to Sergeant and posted all of a few feet away to 225 Sig Sqn, **LCpl Robertson** who leaves us for lovely Bulford, **Sig McMenamin** who leaves the Army to have a baby, and finally to **Sigs Tanner** and **McDowell** both off to Civvy Street.

Congratulations are in order for **Cpls Siddans, Montgomery** and **Livesey** who all came off the recent promotions board.

June proved to be a busy month for the members of the Troop with the long awaited move into the newly refurbished Commcen re-opened on 28 June by the CO 15 Sig Regt. The Commcen was decorated in Corps coloured bunting, balloons and ribbons and the Corps music played in the background (courtesy of **Sgt Al Chester**) whilst the CO cut the specially commissioned 'Royal Signals' cake, complete with marzipaned 'Jimmy's'. The CO was then presented with a brief history of the Commcen by **WO2 (YofS) Walesby**.

On the same day the Troop had a farewell bash for the 'old' Yeoman–**WO2 Walesby** by giving him what looked like a Regimental dinner until the food was served in newspapers by the drag queens of JCU. An excellent night was had by all.



WO2 (YofS) Walesby presenting the CO with a commemorative booklet of COMMCEN Lisburn

INDIA TROOP
HAILS AND FAREWELLS

We welcome to the Troop **Capt Jim Langley** from 7 Armd Bde Sig Sqn and **Cpl Steve Munroe** from 2 Div.

Sadly, we bid farewell to **Capt Chris Wood, SSgt Dave Inman, Sgt Ray Neal** is posted to pastures new and **LCpl Den Thompson, Sigs** 'Moff' **Moffett** and **Tags Parsons** who are all off to Civ Div. The best of luck to all of them.

233 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj M. P. Llewellyn**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) W. Gray**

The Squadron bids farewell to the entire SQMS department; **SSgt Smallman** on completion of 23 years service, and his business partner **LCpl Iles**. Ably filling their boots–at least the ones that are both on the books and the shelves–is **SSgt Dave Inman**.

TM TROOP

WO2 (FofS) Ken Dodd resumed command of the Troop in **Capt Morley**'s absence who was sunning himself on some distant beach. The TOT even managed to miss the announcement of his promotion to Major.

In true TM Tp tradition, we recently won the McKelvie Volleyball competition under the leadership of **SSgt Jed Keane**. This overshadowed our narrow defeat against Romeo Tp in the McKelvie Cricket competition which was mainly due to a demon bowler they had up their sleeve.

The Troop welcomes **Cpl Iain Belshaw** and **LCpl Stan Stanbury** who have recently arrived. We say farewell to **SSgt Tam Byrne** and his family along with **Sig Danny Rudd** who are all going back to the mainland.

We wish **Sgt Paul Lumb** all the best in Civvy Street, his tremendous enthusiasm for both his work and his socialising will be missed by all.

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (203)
BFPO 809

Sqn Comd — **Maj G. J. T. Rafferty**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) D. E. Hall**

VISIT BY BRIGADE COMMANDER

Comd 3 Inf Bde, **Brig Reddy Watt OBE** visited the Squadron.

The Brigadier visited the Forward Repair Team's accommodation in Portadown, the Squadron PRI and the MT and LAD in the newly refurbished Whynge Inn where, as a total surprise to him, **Pte Ben Middleton** received the GSM.

EXERCISE FRANCO FINN

Ex Franco Finn was a hill-walking and rock-climbing exercise undertaken by 12 members of the Squadron in the French Alps. It was led by **Lt Steve Goodwin** and **Sgt Nick Oldcroft**.

For the first week the expedition was based at a campsite on the Lac de Chalain near the small town of Doucier. With clear blue skies and temperatures topping 30°C the climate was ideal for practising and perfecting the rock-climbing and abseiling techniques which would be required. **Sig Alison Johnston** did exceptionally well completing every route set, despite her severe fear of heights. The training culminated with a testing hike through the Cascades du Herisson along a route which plunged the team into a deep valley and past a series of spectacular waterfalls; these 'intrepid adventurers' included **Pte Danny Flatley, Sgt Si Hodgson** and **SSgt (SQMS)** 'Ash' **Ashton**.

In the second week the expedition moved to Annecy, a picturesque location on the edge of the Alps with good access to the climbers' Mecca of Chamonix, but the weather took a turn for the worse. A series of thunderstorms and torrential rain hit the area and, with no improvement forecast, the planned mountain days were postponed in favour of white-water rafting, which took place at Centron. After a short safety brief, we were divided into two raft crews before being launched into the foaming river. The first set of rapids were soon conquered with no real problems only to be followed by a slightly more demanding set at which point **Cpl Jock Gray** and one of the instructors decided to take a quick dip into the icy alpine water. They were not the only victims–**Cpl Danny Steele** and **Sgt Nick Oldcroft** also took the plunge farther down the valley. Eventually both rafts, fortunately each with a full complement of rafters and a few wet ones, were hauled back on to dry land.

As the weather improved the programme was resumed and a day was spent walking up to one of the glaciers above Chamonix. Sadly, during the steep descent, thick mountain mist prevented the group seeing some of the splendid views of the Alps. However, occasional breaks in the cloud revealed snow-capped peaks giving an indication of the size of the larger mountains. The next day dawned bright and clear and we were able to climb to the summit of Mont Lachat de Chaillon. **Pte Fran McLaughlin** led us up a hard route along a steep ridge followed by an equally challenging route down. The final two days were spent on Ecole d'Escade north of Lac d'Annecy where everyone took the opportunity to improve their climbing skills on some excellent rock faces. After this marvellous break it was time for the long drive back to the amazingly sunny Portadown and Drumadd!



The intrepid adventurers on Ex Franco Finn
L to R: Lt Steve Goodwin, Sigs Alison Johnston, Claire Allsop, Ptes Fran McLaughlin, Danny Flatley, Cpl Danny Steele, Pte 'Mitch' Mitchell, Sgt Nick Oldcroft, Cpl 'Jock' Gray and LCpl Jan John

FAMILY WATERSPORTS DAY

On a lovely Sunday in July, the Comms Tp 'pads' and a few singlies set off to Lough Neagh for a day of wind surfing, jet skiing and other watersports. The 2IC, **Capt John Adams** did not have much luck with the windsurfing as there was no breeze all day. The rest of the group spent the time being terrorised on the inflatable banana which was being expertly towed by boat-masters **Sgt Brett Palmer** and **Cpl** 'Hoppy' **Hopkinson**. They thoroughly enjoyed hurling people off the banana by use of the speedboat, not even the small children were spared this fate. **Sgt Nick Oldcroft** spent the day posing at water-skiing, and **WO2 (YofS) Kev Fowler** spent all day on the jet ski trying to persuade his wife **Sue**, that it would be a good idea to purchase one. **Cpl Shaun Fardy** proved to be the 'Jonah' on the day, everything he touched either set on fire or broke. The excellent day was finished off by a fantastic barbecue cooked by gourmets **Cpls** 'Geordie' **Green** and **Shaun Fardy**, who, for once, did not burn anything.



Watersports: on the 'banana'
L to R: Sig Claire Allsop, Cpl Shaun Fardy, Sig Karen O'Keeffe, Sgt Fran Graham and LCpl Jan John

CHARITY EVENTS

The QM's Department has been in the forefront of the Squadron's charity raising efforts over the last few months. One event saw the RQMS, **WO2 (RQMS) Bob Stanton** and **Cpl John Hoskins** donning their cooking attire and heading off to the local old folks home (Lisanally House). Their mission, to cook and serve a barbecue to raise funds for the home. The RQMS also organised a raffle at the Squadron Summer Ball. Altogether the Squadron raised the princely sum of £700.



The Sqn Comd, Maj Gordon Rafferty and RQMS WO2 Bob Stanton presenting a cheque for £277.28 to the manageress of the home for the aged–Lisanally House

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218)
BFPO 807

Sqn Comd — **Maj S. D. Hodges**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) D. S. Toon**

DEATH OF WO2 (MTWO) PHIL PEART, ROYAL LOGISTICS CORPS

It is with great sadness that the Squadron must report the death of **WO2 (MTWO) Phil Peart** on 25 July 1995. As readers of *The Wire* will remember from the August issue **Phil** had been organising Ex Long Slog, a charity run from Lands End to John O'Groats, to raise funds in part for BLESMA and in part for a kidney dialysis machine for Altnagelvin Hospital, Londonderry. On the penultimate day of the charity run **Phil** was involved in a road traffic accident whilst riding a motorcycle as an outrider protecting the runners. He died on arrival at the hospital. The run was completed by all the runners and **Phil**'s two and a half year old son the following day, and in the process raised more than **Phil**'s goal of £15,000. **Phil** was a well loved character who will be sorely missed by everyone in the Squadron, and it is a great shame that such a selfless man was unable to see the realisation of his aim. Our condolences and sympathies lie with **Phil**'s wife **Diane** and son **James**.



Diane and James Peart, the Long Slog team at Lands End

SHQ TROOP

Tp Comd — **SSgt S. L. Standaloft**

There have been a few promotions, some sad farewells and one raucous welcome in the Troop over the past month. First of all the congratulations; **Pte** 'Chappie' **Chapman** AGC has won his long awaited first tape in his recent promotion to LCpl, **Sgt Dave Simons** has been posted on promotion to SSgt to the Pay Office of 30 Sig Regt, which must now make **Dave** an honorary member of the Royal Signals as this is his third consecutive tour with the Corps. To take his place but, hopefully not fill his shoes, as they could do with a clean, the Troop extends a warm welcome to **Sgt** 'Mickey' **Doherty** and hopes that she and her husband have a great tour here in Londonderry. Congratulations got to **Cpl Andy Robb** who has been selected for promotion to Sgt but must stay here for the time being. Finally, the Orderly Room is full to bursting now that the Squadron once again has a typist and a movements clerk and the Troop welcomes **Diane** and **Wendy** into the body of the kirk.

This small entry could only really finish this time with a huge pat on the back for the Troop for raising £160 for the Corps museum. It was raised in only one month through the use of a swear box! Thanks must go to **SSgt Stan Standaloft** who contributed most of the money but it should be noted that the rest of the Squadron paid up proportionately far more than SHQ Tp and so thanks must go to them as well.

TM TROOP

Tp Comd — **SSgt K. Simmons**

THE CAUSEWAY HALF MARATHON
by LCpl Jim Martin

After weeks of technical advice from friends, guess work on my behalf and endless counting of coppers to see if my personal fortunes had magically grown overnight, I bought new trainers and joined the other Troop members for the Causeway Half Marathon. The course of this marathon was designed to take the runners around the beautiful coastline of County Antrim including the Giants Causeway, hence creating the name 'The Causeway Half Marathon'.

On arrival at the Causeway I experienced the sort of eerie silence that is only known to other idiots who turn up two and a half hours early to these events. The moment was broken by a smiling youth who poked his head through the side window of my car and began demanding £3.00 for the car park. It was at this point that my Scottish heritage took over and quickly turning round (fortunately slow enough for the youth to remove his head from the window) I parked my car about quarter of a mile away. This was fine before the marathon but was an awful long way off at the end. The rest of our runners arrived not long afterwards and the sun grew hotter and hotter. We were all there, on time, and raring to go, and yet there was still not a giant in sight.

As we huddled on the start line, like lambs to the slaughter, we received a last pep talk from **SSgt Kev** 'don't sprint off at the start' **Simmons**. Of course that was the last anybody saw of him for the next 13 miles as he sprinted off in a cloud of dust. As I sit here two days later I can look back with pride in completing the half marathon and with some amusement too, imagining **LCpl Andy Dennis** still shuffling along the coast of Antrim because he hasn't been seen since. I'd like to thank everyone who took part for making it such a good day out but I won't because my legs still hurt. There must be an easier way to earn a living than this!

COMMS TROOP

Tp Comd — **SSgt J. Crabb**

Some of the members of the Unit decided that having a party and being sociable till the birds get up in the morning wasn't enough to tax their physical prowess so they decided to get up and travel up to the Giants Causeway to run what at the time seemed to be quite a straight forward half marathon. The ups and downs of the half marathon were quite unexpected and it was a very long run for the majority of people. But congratulations to everyone in the Troop who took part, they all completed it.

There have been a number of changes in the last few months in the Commcen in Londonderry. The first change was back in May when **LCpl Samski Bremner** departed for 16 Sig Regt. In her place a couple of 'likely lads' were posted in. The Troop welcomes **Sigs** 'Daz' **Morley** and **Kev Hellyer**. The Troop would like to congratulate **Sig Jon Prigent** on his recent marriage to **Allison** and we wish you both all the best. In the same vein we congratulate **LCpl** 'Caz' **Carrington** who married **Paula** on 11 August.

Sad farewells to **LCpl Kendra Cooper** who departs for 9 Sig Regt in sunny Cyprus, which was something of a surprise posting especially as she is marrying **Cpl Ian Hughes** in October, who is also serving in Cyprus. Is the Corps normally this thoughtful? Finally **Sig Karen Lamb** who leaves us, and the Army, to be with her husband in Gutersloh. All the very best from all of us.

MT TROOP

Tp Comd — **Sgt C. Blake**

The MT Tp has had an extremely busy month organising a Squadron sports day to celebrate the Corps Anniversary, starting with Ex Long Slog and carrying on with normal work and details. It has been rare over the past few weeks to see more than a third of the Troop in one place together. The sports day went to plan except for a last minute venue change. Despite this the MT set up at 0700hrs to get things ready for the onslaught of the Squadron, producing an assault course and numerous silly events entailing throwing lots of water which was ideal for such a hot day. The day's events went extremely well and fun and frolics were had by all, with the day culminating in a lunchtime barbecue for soldiers and their families.

Ex Long Slog started on 13 July and 27 male and female soldiers from an array of cap badges throughout the Province ran from John O'Groats to Lands End over a period of 12 days to raise money for BLESMA and a local hospital. They achieved their aim of raising £15,000+. The event was organised by **WO2 Phil Peart** who was tragically killed in a road traffic accident whilst riding the safety motorcycle. Our thoughts are with his wife **Diane** and baby son **James**. With **Diane**'s wishes the run was completed on schedule with all the runners and son **James** completing the last mile.

On the posting and promotion front, the Troop warmly welcomes **Pte Debby Quinn** and bids fond farewells to **Pte Andy Armstrong**, who went off to civvy Street on 3 August, and **LCpl Dave Shepherd** who is posted to 4 General Support Regt in Abingdon. Congratulations go to **LCpl Billy Pollock** who was recently selected for promotion to full Corporal on his next posting. And congratulations as well to **LCpl** 'H' **Hallam** who will marry **Miss Sharon Roulston** in September, our best wishes to you both.

39 INF BDE HQ AND SIG SQN (213)
BFPO 801

OPS TEAM

It has been a busy period for the Ops Team with **Capt Geoff Pullen** managing to take some well earned leave to Australia. This left the 'two Bobs' holding the fort for the 'action' at the beginning of July. As usual the team performed exceptionally well even if it did mean that the YofS **Bob Jonas** had to work that much harder and the FofS **Bob Pullan** missed his weekly sojourn to a recreational facility. Fortunately the Ops Offr returned safely in one piece after apparently experiencing the 'pleasure of a lifetime' whilst bungy jumping from a great height.

NI ROYAL SIGNALS JUNIOR NCO'S CADRE

Over the period 12 to 23 June the Squadron ran a cadre based around the subjects of RSTO 1F of which soldiers from 15 Sig Regt, the 3 and 8 Bdes and 40 Sig Regt (V) participated. Under the eager eye of **SSgt Steve Lockwood** 21 soldiers were put through their paces on the drill square, the ranges, in the classroom and under field conditions. The standards produced were exceptionally high and one or two are worth a mention. **Sig** 'Jonah' **Jones** who was top student, **LCpl Ricky Ayling** for his navigational skills, **Sig Rachael Bingham** for her Re-Org Drills, **Rfn Tony Hooper** and **Sig Lee Holden** for their smart and soldierly manner on the drill square. It would be wrong not to mention **Sgt Gaz Steel, Cpl** 'Deedee' **Watts** and **Mike Turnbull** who instructed along with **SSgt Steve Hodgson**, the Admin man for the course.



Northern Ireland Royal Signals JNCOs Cadre
Back Row (L to R): Sigs Ship, Bingham, LCpl Williams, Sigs Beddow, Pearce, LCpls Hodgkinson, Armstrong and Sig Jones
Middle Row (L to R): Cfn McCardle, Sigs Straw, Garner, Saunders, D'Or, Rfn Hooper, Sigs Street, Crawford, Richardson, LCpl Ayling and Sig Holden
Seated (L to R): Cpls Watts, Turnbull, SSgts Hodgson, Lockwood, Sgt Steel and LCpl Downes

COMMS TROOP
FAREWELLS

The Troop said farewell to the following stalwarts at the end of their tour: **Cpl** 'Smudger' **Smith** posted to 1 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt and **Cpl Pete Ward** posted to 23 Pioneer Regt. **LCpl** 'Ratts' **Ratcliffe** posted to 30 Sig Regt and **Sig** 'Chalkie' **White** posted to 7 Sig Regt.

We wish them all the very best of luck in the future.

ARRIVALS

The Troop wishes to welcome the following soldiers and hope they enjoy their tour: **Cpl** 'Nobby' **Clarke** and **Sig Ted Heath** who both move into Syscon.

CONGRATULATIONS

The members of Comms Tp would like to congratulate **LCpl** 'Freeway' **Lane** on tying the knot in July.

A big Well Done to **Sig** 'Jonah' **Jones** for his top spot on the recent Northern Ireland Royal Signals JNCO's Cadre Course.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please advise the Subscriptions Clerk, at RHQ, IN WRITING, of any change of address. This information should not be telephoned.

TM TROOP

The Troop has had an extremely busy time recently. Early July saw events which in turn led to many tasks. After a short respite in activities the glorious twelfth saw the majority of the Troop deployed to support tasks province wide.

We are now the proud recipients of a new Tp Comd, **Capt Andy White** and have only one new arrival to report, **Sig James Brown** from 11 Sig Regt.

SPORTS

Our athletes proved themselves and were worthy joint champions in the 39 Inf Bde and Belfast Garrison Athletics competition. The team gained seven first places and won the Relay.

Our swimmers have had a resounding season winning the Province Minor Units Competition. Fine performances by **Sgt Andy Roberts, Cpl** 'Buff' **Buffery** and **LCpl Dave Robins** backed by a strong Relay team eased them into first place. In the UK final they managed a credible third place.

The Waterpolo team beat HQNI and 15 Sig Regt in the Northern Ireland final and then went on to become runners up in the Army Finals beating many major units along the way. Worthy of note is **LCpl Dave Robins** who was selected to represent the Army at both Swimming and Waterpolo.



The Swimmers
Back Row (L to R): Pte Ridsel, LCpls Little, Robins, SSgt Dennis (40 Sig Regt (V)), SSgt Hodgson, Cpl Bachelor (40 Sig Regt (V))
Front Row (L to R): Cpl Patton, LCpl Thompson (40 Sig Regt (V)), Sgt Roberts, Cpl Wood (40 Sig Regt (V))



The Athletes
Back Row (L to R): Maj Robertshaw (RLC), Cpl Richardson, Brig S. H. R. H. Monro, Cpl McIntosh and Sig Beddow
Front Row (L to R): Capt Graham (RHA), Sgts Tindale and Young (RLC)

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

The Royal School of Signals
Blandford Camp

DATA AND SECURITY GROUP
47 YOFS COURSE

After months of hard work and sleepless nights, No 47 Yeoman of Signals Course ended on 7 July 1995 with a Ladies Dinner Night in the Headquarters Sergeants' Mess in Blandford. The evening was attended by the Senior Instructor Command and Trade Training School **Lt Col M. J. McKinlay**, a representative from Information Security Systems–**Mr Charlie Child** and a special guest of the course, **Maj M. J. R. Motum RGBW**. Relatives of the course had travelled from all over the country to attend.

During the evening presentations were made to students, their long suffering wives and other guests by **WO1 (RSM) G. Richards**.



No 47 Yeoman of Signals Course
Back Row (L to R): SSgts (YofS) Ruddock, Sutcliffe and Wood
Front Row (L to R): SSgts (YofS) Jackson, Jennings, CSgt (YofS) Keir, SSgt (YofS) Parsons

CONGRATULATIONS

On behalf of the Chief Instructor, we wish to congratulate students of No 47 YofS Course on passing the course, and express our thanks and praise for their hard work and excellent team spirit. May they and their families enjoy every success in the future.

Special congratulations to **SSgt (YofS) Keith Parsons** who came top of the course. Well done! **Keith** and his wife **Gail** have gone to 21 Sig Regt (AS) in Colerne, where he is working in the Regimental Ops Room whilst the hierarchy are in Bosnia. Nice move **Keith**!

Congratulations also go to **SSgt (YofS) Paul Ruddock** on his recent marriage to **Mel**. All the very best for the future.

No 47 (YofS) Course passed through all Groups in the Royal School of Signals. During their time in Command Support Group three students in particular will be remembered; **SSgt (YofS)** 'Jacko' **Jackson** who was ultimately disappointed he wasn't allowed to dig holes and carry heavy weights! Wrong Group mate but you weren't to know!

On the other hand, there was **SSgt (YofS) Nat Jennings** who dug several proverbial holes and just for good measure stuck both feet in! Best ask *him* for the details!

Then there was **SSgt (YofS) Nick Wood** who, up until reaching Command Support Group did not realise there were only two operational divisions remaining in the British Army. Never mind, at least the blinkers have been removed now!

Finally, we would like to say a fond farewell and many congratulations to **Lt Col M. Nicol MBE** on his promotion and posting to MoD. Good luck in your post.

We would also like to welcome his replacement **Maj R. C. Papworth** to the group.



SSgt (YofS) Parsons receiving the Trend Trophy

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EXERCISE VOLCANO DIAMOND

14 Sig Regt (EW) recently mounted a Sub-Aqua Adventure Training Expedition to the Ascension Island, with 12 personnel (10 Divers and 2 Admin) from Germany and UK based units being invited to attend. I, **Sgt Steve Wells** of CIS Trg Wing and an Advanced Diver with the Blandford Garrison Sub-Aqua Club was one of the chosen few, and on Monday 3 July, I made my may to RAF Brize Norton to meet the other members of the team, and to board the flight for Ascension.

Once on Ascension we were met by the resident RAF PTI, who assigned us the official duty transport, (a battered Ford transit minibus with no side windows, bald tyres and a failing handbrake) and then drove us to the RAF Expedition Centre at English Bay. Once we had unloaded our bags and had the obligatory Ascension Island brief, **SSgt Steve Roberts** (the exped SADS and i/c diving) went off to sign for the loaned diving equipment, whilst the rest of us went and collected the rations and signed for the local Ascension Island driving licences. The rest of that first morning was spent putting the boats together and launching them (a task achieved by balancing the hulls on the roof of the minibus while we drove the 300m to the beach we were to launch from), checking over the compressor and charging the cylinders.

The first dive of the exped took place on the first afternoon. It was a shallow (9m max) 'Shakedown' dive from shore to allow members to sort out their correct weighting and buoyancy, and to get used to any new equipment, and for each pair to get to know their 'Buddy's' style of diving.

We found the water a warm 26ºC, and the 'Vis' good at 30m+. There was so much to see even at such shallow depths that a couple of pairs (**LCpl Bob Wilson** and **Sig Mac Mcdonnald**, and **Capt Jeff Ashwell** and **Sgt Steve Wells**) were well on their way to Africa before they realised their time was up and to return to shore.

Ascension Island is made up of four basic communities. The RAF, the American Airforce, the BBC (World Service Atlantic Relay station), and a number of St Helanians or 'Saints' who made up much of the local labour force. Each community of course has its own bar, and it was to one of these the exped members would retire most evenings after dinner, and it was in one of these, the American 'Volcano Club', where we fostered relations with some American contract workers ('Tomcat', 'Bulldog', **Ken**, 'Cotton Eye Joe' and 'Pete the Pawlak') who were also into 'Scuba' diving and which led to us taking them diving, and to them showing us how to 'Shoot' Cray fish and 'Grouper' for the barbecue.

Our weeks were split into four day blocks, three days of diving followed by a day off, and each diving day consisted of two dives. There were three Advanced Divers in the party (**SSgt Steve Wells, Cpl Craig Mcgowan** and **LCpl Bob Wilson**), so it worked out quite conveniently for each of us to organise a day's diving in every three. **Bob Wilson** organised the first day's diving and let's just say it wasn't quite up to the standard **Steve Roberts** has come to expect, and caused him to dispatch the first of many 'Teddies' to the corner. The sites chosen were varied and ranged from shallow reefs, caves and gullies to deeper wrecks in 20-30m, as well as wall dives with drop offs to 50m or more, and drift dives in drifts of 3-4 miles an hour.

The days off were spent in either hill walking (well actually clearing the hill walk for the RAF runners to compete in the 'Dewpond' run), deep sea fishing (loosely speaking, as no fish were actually caught), sight seeing (didn't take long), or for a few of us (**Steve Wells, Craig Mcgowan** and **Bob Wilson**) completing the BS-AC Advanced Lifesaver award with some members of the local RAF diving club, and for **Jeff Ashwell, Steve Wells, Craig Mcgowan** and **Bob Wilson**, completing the BS-AC Diver Coxon award for five hours at the helm of the boats.

The underwater life around Ascension is again wide and varied with the fish being far too many in species to name here, but some sights worthy of a mention were the schools of dolphin who would shadow our boats on the drives out to and back from the dive sites. **Bob Wilson** and **Mac Macdonnald** both insisted on donning snorkel gear and jumping in with them whenever they were seen. The 'Grey Tip Reef Sharks' seen in particular around the eastern side of the island, and **Cpl Andy Staff** and **Mac Macdonnald** both thought it a great idea to 'Chum' the water in order to draw more sharks in, much to the horror of **Steve Roberts** whose only thoughts were for the safety of the other divers. The occasional large Green Turtles which were just at the end of their breeding season in the area. Special mention should go to **Sgt Steve Newton-Roberts** who was the only diver to see all these great sights, and was disappointed not to have seen a couple of mermaids and the Loch Ness Monster by the end.

As the expedition drew towards its end, we tried to think of a way to show our thanks and appreciation to all those who had helped us over the course of the two weeks. It was decided that we would hold a Regimental Style Dinner with all the trimmings ie sherry, wine, port, five courses, silver and candles etc and **Sgt** 'Blue' **Belew** and **Steve Roberts** the resident chef and mess manager were left to organise everything we would need with the RAF Officers Mess. As it happened only our American friends took up our invitation, but they all, to a man enjoyed themselves immensely and were somewhat overwhelmed by the hospitality they had received. We challenged them to a few traditional mess games after the meal, but were beaten in the Boat Race. We made up for it in the Tug-of-War, beating them hands down over three legs. It was a thoroughly enjoyable way to end a memorable expedition, and we now understand why lobster is expensive in restaurants.

The expedition was rounded off as we waited for our plane by the premier showing of a video record including underwater footage of our expedition shot by 'Pete the Pawlak' one of our American friends (he is making a documentary for the 'Discovery Channel'), and each exped member will receive a copy of this once enough have been made.

After a two hour delay our plane took off for the return journey, and we landed back at Brize Norton at midday on 20 July.



After the dinner
Photo shows most of the expedition members together with their guests

THE RETIREMENT OF LT COL R. F. HILLS

On 13 June **Lt Col Roger Hills** retired for the second time. He left the serving Corps in 1988 having completed over 35 years service which included the command of 32 Sig Regt (V). For the last seven years he has filled the post of RO3 (Trg) in CIS Trg Wing of the Royal School of Signals. During his time at the School he has processed every examination, maintained student records and arranged an endless stream of visiting lectures and visiting courses amongst many other tasks.

To say that **Roger** was popular and respected would be an understatement. He brought to even his most mundane work an eye for detail and determination that only the best would do. Nothing was ever too much trouble for him. He epitomised all the best qualities of a traditional Army Officer. He regularly represented the School at orienteering, frequently beating competitors well under half his age.

Some 50 members of the School, both past and present, said goodbye to him at a lunch where he was presented with three gifts associated with two of his interests, DIY and gardening.

We all wish **Roger** and **Dierdre** a very happy retirement. The School will be a poorer place without him.

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Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

Commandant **Col C. J. Walters**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) K. P. Humphrey** Coldm Gds

At the end of summer term on 28 July 1995 **Col C. J. Walters** handed over command of the College to **Lt Col P. Richards**, who has been Chief Instructor at the College since April 1994. **Col Walters** commanded the College for three and a half years and is posted to Blandford as Regimental Colonel.

PENNEY SQUADRON
THE LONG AWAITED SENIOR TERM
by AT McNally and AT Hobson

Life in Senior Term has been a lot more hectic than expected. Tradeboard has crept up on the operators, although the majority are passing. The technicians have finally finished all of their exams, so a little bit of pressure has been lifted from their shoulders.

One of the highlights of term was the Champion Troop Competition in the form of 'It's a Knockout' day. The event included a number of games including the Sumo Run, where we had to put on Sumo Wrestling Suits, run over an assault course, splat a member of permanent staff with a water balloon and come back in a wheel chair. There were also Bungee Runs, Three Legged Races over an assault course carrying a bucket of water, and lots of other crazy games. Everyone ended up soaking wet but thoroughly enjoying themselves. Rawson Team 3 eventually won the competition.



Slippery Bungee Run
It's a Knockout

The Donkey Derby has been the most recent event on the College Calendar. This consisted of several Donkey races and each Troop had to run a stall. Scott Tp's stall was 'the Stocks' where people could soak their favourite member of permanent staff for a small price. The most popular person turned out to be the Apprentices' favourite: PTI **Cpl Teeven**. Other stalls included the Treasure Island, run by **Sgt Hindson** and **Sgt Susan Patterson** from Tech Wing and Rawson Tp had a Human Fruit Machine. There was also a Welly Wanging Stall where you could wang your wellies all day if you wanted.



The Flying Balloon Burst
It's a Knockout

Rawson Tp won the Senior Drill Competition narrowly beating Scott Tp. Phillips Tp split into two squads and competed against each other in the Junior Drill Competition with **AT Sgt Belton**'s squad winning.

The next big event of the term was the final exercise, Ex Final Warrior, held at Sennebridge and consisted of a 50km tab over 36 hours followed by a 36 hour military exercise. This was followed by the Senior Term Party, and then, of course, Graduation Day.

We would like to congratulate **ATSSM Mears** on being promoted to ATRSM, **Cpl Lissemore** on selection for promotion to Sergeant, and not forgetting **Capt Churchill**, Scott Tp Comd, who passed P Coy.

EXERCISE SPRING DIP
SCUBA DIVING IN GIBRALTAR
by Sig Danielle Bryenton

OIC **Capt Andrew Churchill**

The Army Apprentices' College has, for the past 10 years, been running a very successful Scuba Diving Club. The club creates much interest, and has organised trips to Belize, Cyprus, Ascension Island and various dive sites around the UK. Ex Spring Dip was, however, to offer a return to an old destination–Gibraltar, offering many interesting wrecks and reefs to be explored.

The dive party consisted of **Capt Andrew Churchill** (OIC), **Mr Mike McHale** (Club President), **Sgt Graham Acott** REME (SADS), **Sgts Andy Strudwick, Willie Ryan, Ray Gough, Apprentice** (AT) **Cpl Ted O'Donnell, Sig Kevin Meek, AT Dave Chadwick, Sigs Alan Ryall** and **Danielle Bryenton**.

The expedition began with a rendezvous at Heathrow Airport (which almost went to plan) and the flight to Gibraltar. On arrival we were taken to our accommodation at Devils Tower Barracks belonging to the Gibraltar Regiment which, as it happened, was right next door to the airport.

On settling into our accommodation it was time for a visit to the docks at HMS *Rooke* where the GATC (Gibraltar Adventure Training Centre) was situated. The GATC provides various facilities and equipment for many of the visiting expeditions and it was with their kind cooperation that we were issued with diving kit for the expedition.

The wrecks explored included a Spanish fishing vessel, the Seven Sisters dive site, the SS *Excellent*, an iron built schooner which sank in 1888 and the SS *Rosslyn*, a steel cargo vessel built in 1902 and sunk in 1916, one of our particular favourites.

Our daily routine was basically the same and, in between dives, whilst 'fizzing off', there was time to have a look round Gibraltar itself. For an evening's entertainment–well for the nights we weren't preoccupied with hard studying for diving exams–we explored the Gibraltar night life.

Special thanks must go to all the staff whose hard work and patience enabled many of us to gain further valuable qualifications. Everyone worked well together and a good sense of team spirit was created–all in all Gibraltar proved to be an adventure not to forget!

BRADLEY SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj D. S. Smith**
E Tp Comd	**WO1 A. S. Dos Martyres**
F Tp Comd	**WO1 K. Hallett**
SSM	**WO2 (YofS) M. Dawson**

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

A warm welcome is extended to **WO1 Kev Hallett** on taking over as F Tp Comd, to the stand in SSM **WO2 (YofS) Mick Dawson** (now posted to Catterick), to **Cpl Finn** and his wife **Vanessa** and family and last, but not least, to **Mrs Tracey Boyle** our new Admin Officer/Aerobics Instructor.

ARMY TRIATHLON OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Sunday 8 June three girls competed in the Army Triathlon Open Championships 1995 and won the women's team prize. This is especially creditable as none of the following female **ATs Clare Waldron** (18), **Clare Burden** (18) and **Sig Nicky Burkitt** (21) had competed in a triathlon before!

The race started at 0800hrs with a one mile swim in open water followed by a 40km cycle ride and ended with a 10km road run. **AT Clare Waldron** was unfortunate to have a puncture for the last 3kms on the bike. **AT Clare Burden** and **Sig Nicky Burkitt** showed great spirit and determination and are looking forward to the next event. Well done!

LOOK AT LIFE

Five female **Sigs Angela Wright, Emma Turner, Angela Filson, Jodie Thorpe** and **Andrea Tabb** 'volunteered' to assist in a week's 'Look at Life' training at Nescliffe Camp in Shrewsbury. Their task was to act as ambassadors for the Army and accompany the civilian female students. Some of the activities included shooting, command tasks, assault courses, orienteering and adventure training. A 24 hour military training exercise was arranged by the Welsh Guards, here the highlight was a 'cabby' in a Warrior. A good time was had by all.

UGARMI BARMI

OTBR690 and 700 departed Harrogate at around 0930hrs to Lonsdale Scout Camp. The two day expedition was organised by **Mr Miles** and two other civilian instructors with **Cpl Beardall** in charge of the admin. 3km from out location we were debussed and given a brief about the situation, what lay ahead and information on the Ugarmi bird and the natives.

Our first task was to practise different lifting and carrying methods which always seemed to involve Granny knots and water. At meal times we were treated to a Ugarmi bird meal of different cooked meats which were found locally: wriggle, wriggle. We then retired to the camp fire to entertain the locals with a sing-song.

The following morning the final task was to supply the Ugarmi bird with water which, funnily enough, meant into the river again with a jerry can in a race format avoiding obstacles.

At the end of the two days we all agreed it had been a worth while exercise as we learnt new skills and more about each other. We would just like to say 'Thank you' to the staff for an excellent two days.

TECHNICIAN WING

OC **Maj Peter Shawyer**

The end of a long summer term saw farewell to **SSgt Dick Woodfine** and **Sgt Dave Glay** who are both leaving the Army. As two of the larger 'personalities' in the Wing they will be missed by the staff, but not, perhaps so much by the Apprentices. **SSgt Woodfine** is semi-retiring and is looking for a job which involves three days' golf and two days at the races! All Technician Wing wish them both the best of luck in the future.

This Graduation sees the departure of 93B to Blandford for the equipment phase of their course, we wish them all the best for the future.

With the planned closure of the College in August 1996 the OC is busy handing out tasks to a dwindling military staff, to produce plans for the closure and move to Blandford of the Wing. The remaining four Sergeants now await the arrival of 95B.

OPERATOR WING

OC **Maj P. M. Castle**

93B Tele Op Tg/Sys have sat their Tradeboards, along with the Single Entry Tele Op Tg's, so it has been a case of all hands to the pump (or should that be to the morse buzzer?).

The Wing has said goodbye to several members of staff. **Mr Bruce Graham** has left his post here as HIO Radio Group and taken up his new appointment in Blandford. **Cpls Les Donno** and **Dave Jowitt** leave to join Civ Div, after 22 years in the Corps, **Cpl Ron Clinton**, who is going on his A1 course and then off to 15 Sig Regt and finally **WO2 (YofS) Nick Dawson** who goes to Catterick (BBGT). A big thank you to them all for their hard work and professionalism during their time here.

We would like to welcome **Sgt Mal Moloney**, his wife **Joanna** and family and **Cpl Al Finn**, his wife **Vanessa** and family, both from Blandford. We hope you enjoy your tour at the College and with Op Wing.

Congratulations to **Sgt** 'Stretch' **Pearson** on passing his QTO's course, but still no posting yet . . .

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP TROOP

E1 Basic for 94C ran over five one week modules during May/June consisting of:

- In camp training, including Camp Craft, Navigation, Mountain Safety, clothing and equipment and a swimming test.
- Groups moved off to the Yorkshire Dales to put their knowledge learned in day one into practice. Also included was an overnight camp at a recognised campsite.
- During the evening of day two–aspects of the day are gone over and points for the day ahead are discussed.
- Climbing and canoeing activities. Climbing takes place at various local areas including Ilkley Quarry, Almscliffe Crags and Twistleton Scar.
- Canoeing took place on a stretch of the river Ure near Ripon.

The activities taught throughout the module were aimed at bringing out leadership and team skills. At the end of the week there were always smiling faces when they realised that the rock face wasn't so hard to climb after all or those hills weren't so steep to climb as they had looked–maybe a week out of the College has given them a different outlook on life.

This was achieved by an experienced crew of instructors, namely: **Sgt Andy Strudwick**-Chief Instructor, **SSgt Jeff Morris**–SQMS/Instructor, **Cpls Neil Kirpatrick, Mick Anderson** and **LCpl Matt Thomas**–Instructors.

GENERAL TRAINING WING

'THE MUSCLE FACTORY'

We have seen a number of new arrivals, including a Master-At-Arms, namely **Capt Dee Kerridge**.

Champion Troop Sports Competitions have run throughout the term with a special introduction of an 'It's a Knockout' competition on 17 June. Games were organised with fun and entertainment in mind and the following events were chosen:

Sumo-suit obstacle course and wheelchair race.
Egg and flour golf ball search.
Flying balloon burst.
Team ski shuffle.
Slippery bungee run.
Bedford Tug of War.
Three Legged Water Carry.
Golf Ball Shuttle Sprints.

The day was a huge success with both competitors and College spectators. No doubt we will be seeing a few more 'It's a Knockout' events before the close of the College.

Thanks go to the PT staff for managing to keep control of the events, as well as taking a real soaking on numerous occasions.

In late 1994, it was agreed that the College would host, organise and, run the British Red Cross 125th Anniversary Charity Assault Course Competition, which was to be sponsored by Asda and Somerfield.

The date was confirmed as 25 June 1995 and the gym staff set to work redesigning the small timid college assault course into a challenging course with over 14 obstacles.

Fifty teams competed over the day with the winning team blistering around in 4 min 08 secs (they had been in training since February).

Various standards of fitness and dress turned up to have a go and there were occasions when the PT staff could be heard coaxing members down off walls or even having to climb scramble nets to retrieve individuals.

The day was incomplete until the gym staff, plus the British Red Cross Organiser (**Miss Susan Helliwell**) put on an exhibition run which took well over 10 mins. This was due to members swimming the water ditches, performing handsprings and headsprings and a couple of members were seen walking on their hands around various parts of the course.

Well done to **Cpls Michelle Potter**, 'Gaz' **Teeven, Darren Wilcock, Dave Leask** and **Dave Moore**–the PT staff can always be relied upon to produce a party piece.



British Red Cross Charities
Assault Course Competition

College Open Day, went ahead on 8 July (yes, another Saturday). This was the visit of potential Apprentices and their families to see the type of things they would be expected to do during their Apprenticeship.

Once again the gym staff were on their best form with **WO2 (QMSI) John Guy** leading the show. After the welcoming introduction by **Capt Dee Kerridge**, the visitors saw Apprentices undergoing an arduous indoor obstacle course under the strict control of **SSgt (SSI) Ray Gough**, where lots of noise, heavy breathing and perspiration filled the gym.

The visitors moved to watch a gentler form of physical activity, where **QMSI John Guy** (the true father to all Apprentices whilst in his department) was outside with a group of them playing small sided team games, involving lots of water and balloons. Much activity with genuine smiling faces and happy cheers (or was it because the little man had a big stick in his hand?).

Before moving on–the parents and potential Apprentices had the opportunity to chat to the classes and the PT staff and overall they were impressed with the facilities and the insight into the progressive PT programme and the sporting activities within the College.

Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

OC **Capt C. Borneman RDG**
RSMI **WO1 (YofS) Gary Stratton**

The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst has an ever decreasing contingent of Royal Signals personnel. The plan from on high is for all the junior ranks of the Signal Wing (a total of seven) to eventually be replaced by Other Arms and Corps Signal qualified soldiers.

Just to inform readers who is currently at the Signal Wing with a Royal Signals' cap badge: (not many left now) **SSgts Angus Palmer,** 'Taff' **Thomas, Dave Little, Sgts Shaun Murray, Willy Loch, Cpls Les Lester, John Rowe, Tony Weaver, LCpls Zane Humphries, John Love, Sigs Darren Black** and **Alan Wardle**.

Royal Signals personnel employed elsewhere in the Academy are **Maj Mike Lithgow, Capts Gavin Grant, Huw Jenkins, Fiona Say** and **SSgt Harry Kemp**.

LANYARD TROPHY

Five weeks prior to the event **WO2 (YofS) Graham Pardew** came out with yet another 'good idea'; the Wing would enter a team in the Lanyard Trophy.

A simple training programme was published which, with exercise commitments, was best summed up as one 18 mile and one 20 mile tab. With all that preparation, off we went.

A sterling effort with the team saw seventh position in a time of 12 hours and 36 minutes. All who finished made the promise to only participate again as members of the admin team.

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

Goodbyes to **WO2 (YofS) Steve Holt** to 30 Sig Regt, **Sig** 'Stolly' **Stolarek** to 212 Sig Sqn, thank you for all your hard work. Welcome to **WO2 (YofS) Darlington, Sgt Willy Loch** and **Sgt Shaun Murray** . . . enjoy!

Have you got what it takes to be a Cadre Instructor at the Royal Military Academy? A report by **SSgt Harry Kemp**.

LIFE AS AN ASSISTANT INSTRUCTOR AT THE ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY SANDHURST

by ASSgt L. D. Kemp

Back in 1992 whilst serving in 244 Sig Sqn (AS) the Squadron 2IC summoned me to his office, '**Cpl Kemp** I believe you're the right sort of person to be an Instructor at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS). You'll obviously have to do a couple of courses, what do you think?'. And so the preparations began. I was posted to 238 Sig Sqn in March 1993 and I set myself the target of the Cadre course at Sandhurst in February 1995 as my goal. The courses soon began to roll in thick and fast, six weeks in Pirbright learning how to teach drill was soon followed by NBC and First Aid. Skill-at-Arms was next, six weeks in Warminster.

After that I went back to London to re-introduce myself to the Squadron Commander who handed me my joining instructions for Platoon Sergeants' Battle Course phase 1, another six weeks in Warminster. Phase 2 immediately followed, seven weeks down at the funny farm in Brecon. By now it was August 1994 and in the November I received confirmation that I was on the Cadre course in February.

The course is four weeks long and assesses you in a whole range of lessons; not whether you can teach them (that's what you do the courses for) but whether your character and temperment is set at the right level to teach Officer Cadets (they are a funny breed). The course itself is not a pass or fail course, it is a selection. It is designed to introduce you to the Academy and at the same time determine whether you are right for the job. Having said that, the Academy is not looking for clones of one type of person, the Cadre course urges you to relax, be yourself and show your own individual character–not always easy when you're being assessed but after a couple of weeks getting to know each other it does get easier.

Just over 50 started the Cadre and after losing a few along the way who decided the Academy wasn't for them, 32 of us were selected. Promotion the day the course finished was a good incentive for us all to stick at it and so now began the two year tour (six terms in all). Generally, you move around the Academy every two terms ranging from Skill-at-Arms Wing, Old College (the first 14 weeks of an Officer Cadet's time at Sandhurst) and New College (the remaining 28 weeks). The course for an Officer Cadet is split into three terms of 14 weeks each and it has certainly opened my eyes to what they go through. They are not 'given' their commission they have to earn every bit of it. Having said that, when they're working, so are you, when you're inspecting them, they're inspecting you and when you're instructing them on any subject be prepared for some unusual questions!

To be an Instructor at the RMAS is not everyone's 'cup of tea'. If you enjoy working from eight 'till five, having your weekends off and staying in camp, then it is definitely not for you. The hours can be long, your weekends can be few and far between and you sometimes think why am I here when I could be a Troop SSgt somewhere (not that they don't work just as hard!) but the pros do outweigh the cons. It can be demanding but also rewarding, with the thought that you can be teaching and imparting your experience and knowledge to future Squadron Commanders and even Commanding Officers. With the added incentive of over 10 weeks' leave each year to make up for the missed weekends and long hours.

I do recommend the job here and if anybody has been selected to come to Sandhurst as an Instructor and would like to know more then don't hesitate to write to me at the Sergeants' Mess, RMAS.



Watch out all you RD types–a Yeoman with a Pace stick!

NEWS FROM THE REGIMENTS

1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

This period has again been busy. Within the Regiment every Troop has conducted its own adventure training and sent people on the Regimental Summer Camp. Each Squadron has held its own Battle Camp and attended the Regimental Battle Camp that was based around Stage 5 live firing. In between, room was found to conduct the Staff College Visit 1995, support 7 Armd Bde HFT, Ex Able Condor and CCF Camp at Cultybraggan. Quiet? It was not. Enjoyable? Definitely.

REGIMENTAL BATTLE CAMP

201 and 208 Sig Sqns deployed to Haltern Ranges on Regimental Battle Camp over the period of 9-14 July 1995. 211 and 212 Sig Sqns had deployed the previous week. The move in for 201 Sig Sqn was swift, led expertly by the Nijmegen March Team; perhaps too swift in fact, for much to the delight of the unsympathetic men, the Squadron's illustrious leader fell foul of that debilitating disease, 'blisteritis of the lower heel'. Thankfully, he was not the only one to suffer from the elements. A big thanks needs to go to the Directing Staff from the Regiment who worked hard to ensure that there was an excellent balance between instruction, physical activity and live firing. On the subject of live firing, in the trenches there was excitement when **Sig Ash** (add a 'g' and take off the 'h') almost convinced his section that the Soldier '95 equipment included canister-less respirators. The particularly realistic gurgling and choking from the vicinity of his fire position said otherwise. Special mention goes to **Sgts Vince Tibbs** and **Adie Wilson** who spent 13 days executing the local wildlife on the Survival Stand, only to fall prey to a 'Giant' Beetle, on the final day which found shelter in **Adie**'s ear, necessitating hospital treatment and an operation.



L to R: SSgt Col Dawson, SSgt Bob Brehevy, SSgt (YofS) Sven Townsend, Range Staff 'Section in Defence'

All the lads and lasses enjoyed the River Crossing (a chance for a wash!) where they were expertly instructed by **Sgt Stu Ramsey** to cross a river with bergen and webbing remaining dry and intact only to get it all drenched on the opposite bank when we changed clothing in a torrential downpour. Special thanks goes to the MT from **Sig Colin Villiers, Maj Alf Brand** and **Lt Gareth Oliver** who all damaged or bogged in vehicles during an excellent driving stand. Rumour control has it that after the seventh injury on the motorbike familiarisation the Doctor wanted it closed. However, the indisputable climax of the week for 201 Sig Sqn occurred at this stand, **Maj** 'Truckie' **Brand** decided to test the submarine potential of a DAF and discovered that it would not emerge from submersion, luckily help was nearby. In a blinding flash of light 'Supertrigg' with his cloak of steel, spotty underpants and issue longjohns came to the rescue. With an inspiring cry of 'Out of my way, mere mortals,' he fearlessly leapt into the raging waters and singlehandedly pulled his leader and the vehicle to safety. Ignoring the whoops of adulation he then disappeared into the nearest Dixie. For security reasons his true identity cannot be revealed. There was a far more serious side to the exercise and the Stage 5 ranges were all superbly run with all the soldiers gaining a great deal of experience from them. The finale was a Stage 5 range that included vehicle anti ambush drills, patrolling, wood clearance, assault and withdrawal all on one range. All in all an excellent week out in the field apart from a decidedly dodgy last breakfast and the fact that **Maj Mike Shaw** was seen heading for Koln as the Squadrons returned to Herford.



Comd 201 Sig Sqn sinks in on the driving stand

REGIMENTAL SUMMER CAMP

Between 10 and 27 June, the Regiment held three six-day long summer camps based at the Mohnesee Sailing Club. There was a choice of activities that included wind surfing, canoeing, dinghy sailing, rock climbing, mountain biking and for one or two people even the odd game of Crazy Golf. The experienced hobbyists used the summer camp to improve their abilities and to teach others about their particular sport. The previously uncommitted either reached a reasonable standard in a particular sport, or tried their hand at all the activities.

Evenings provided time to relax with a barbecue and beer in the sun, with spectacular views over the lake until **Sgt John Driver** spoiled the calm by being volunteered to go for a birthday swim. By the end of the week, everyone had enjoyed themselves and everyone had either improved in their chosen sport or had learned a new one. Even the officers learned something, **Maj Alf Brand** discovered that a wetsuit fits better if you are not wearing it back-to-front.

201 SIGNAL SQUADRON
CHEETAH TROOP,
PARAGLIDING

Members of Cheetah Tp spent 10 days at the BFG Alpine Paragliding Centre in Kranzegg, Bavaria with the aim of attaining a Student Pilot Licence. Despite the first couple of days of inclement weather, by Day 3 with the theory marginally covered, the Troop were launching their paragliders. As the hills became gradually steeper, the landings became more interesting with **SSgt** 'King Cowpat' **Brown** and **LCpl** 'Loudmouth' **Botham** so nicknamed for their attempts. Initially soldiers were gliding with receivers attached to their helmet chin straps so that the instructors could talk them into the landing area. Soon however, the daredevils among them were on radio silence. A few more spectator-friendly landings were provided by **Sig** 'Benny' **Bennet** who crashed into a barbed wire fence and **LCpl** 'The Fish' **Fisher** who leapt into a pile of rocks jumping over a tree stump. The final launch was from a site 25 minutes walk up the mountain.

From there the budding gliders would be 1000ft over the valley floor after launching, with a flight time of up to three minutes. The walk was well worth it. The Troop had in fact broken the club record by making 135 flights in that one day. That night everyone sat the exam that was needed to qualify as student pilots. 19 out of 24 qualified with five falling by the wayside due to injury or a fear of heights. Paragliding is certainly not a sport for everyone. A final chance to jump for the 19 newly qualified pilots came the next day and the weather was superb. A nervous cable car ride to the top followed by a five minute climb to the launch site was rewarded by a fantastic 20 minute flight starting at 3000ft. **Sig** 'Baggers' **Bagley** screamed all the way to the bottom whilst **Sig Andy Campbell** caught the edge of a thermal as he was turning in flight, almost causing the glider to flip completely. The Troop would like to thank Chief Flying Instructor **Mick Maloney MBE, Kev** and **Ian** for their expert tuition and contribution towards a memorable week. Paragliding is an extremely exciting sport and is to be thoroughly recommended.

EXERCISE SOGGY DIAMOND

Ex Soggy Diamond was a two week adventurous training exercise around the coast of Denmark, aboard the Corps yacht *Quicksilver*. Skippered by the enduring **LCpl** 'Windy' **Gale**, and crewed by members of Lynx Tp headed by **2Lt Eamonn Driscoll**, the intrepid team departed from Kiel Yacht Club.

Initially, progress was slow and the weather poor, but with increasing winds and blue skies things became more eventful. The skipper amazed all with his 'curse of the spinnaker', being only able to fly it for no more than five minutes without a change in wind direction causing panic and mayhem throughout the crew. His reverse sailing technique with the spinnaker actually flying fully behind the yacht was particularly impressive.

For the leg north we were joined by a stowaway in the form of a cunning homing pigeon, which obviously tries to complete its journeys without any flying at all. Unfortunately, it managed to escape our attempts to catch and cook it. However, the crew did eat well, and with frugal fiscal management the CILOR was stretched to steaks and lobster.

The winds increased further in the second week to Force 6 and the sailing became even more exciting. Then with three days to go, and at the most northern point of the expedition, we woke up to Force 8 gales from the South. The only answer to this was a three day solid beat into the storm to return to Kiel. Progress was slow and tiring, but eventually an extremely wet and exhausted crew returned to Kiel. The training value of this was excellent, and all involved are now avid yachtsmen of the future.



L to R: Sig Buckle, Cpl O'Hara, LCpl Armitage and Sig Giddy Cpl O'Hara sailing *Quicksilver* to safer waters

212 SIGNAL SQUADRON SUPPORT TO CULTYBRAGGAN
CCF CENTRAL CAMP

Early in January I, **Lt Sophie Davies**, was warned off about a possible trip to Scotland in June as the Regiment were tasked with providing a Signals Training Team for the CCF Central Camp in Cultybraggan. Several months later we were on our way: we flew to Stansted and then drove to Edinburgh. After spending the weekend exploring the culture of Edinburgh, we collected the equipment and vehicles and headed off into the middle of nowhere to find Cultybraggan Camp. Despite being a World War Two PoW camp for fervent Nazis (several of whom are reputed to still roam around the camp), it is a very picturesque setting surrounded by mountains. After the initial briefing and setting up of our stands, we had some spare time before the schools arrived. We spent a day adventurous training; top roping and abseiling in the morning and canoeing and light hearted fun on the RE assault boats in the afternoon at the end of which we were thoroughly soaked. We also explored the nearby towns of Comrie, Crieff and Perth.

We were a little apprehensive when the first school arrived but it soon became apparent that they had little, if any, knowledge of signals. We then began two weeks of intensive teaching; on average we would have a group of 20 cadets each morning and afternoon. They would be divided into four groups and rotate around stands which included voice procedure (**LCpl Keeton** and **LCpl Lynn**), manpack radios (**Sig Kenyon** and **Sig Whitaker**), Line (**Cpl Quirke** and **Sig James**), FFR and vehicle radios (**Cpl Smith**). The cadets would then regroup for Ex Tartan Rhino–a short non tactical VHF exercise run by **Cpl Scott**. The cadets had to go to various checkpoints around camp and answer questions on the PRC 349. Most of the questions were on what they had been taught earlier but there were some general knowledge questions. The cadets always seemed to enjoy this as it was competitive–times ranged from 13 to 35 minutes for the course. At the end of the complete package the cadets could return in the evening for further tuition and attempt their classification tests.

Without a doubt the camp was enjoyed by all, we had not worked with the CCF before and it was a great insight. Generally the school children were lively and interested which made it more rewarding. In our spare time there was a lot going on–we were blessed with excellent weather and even managed a suntan in Scotland!–some of the boys helped out on the battle skills package: **Cpl** 'no cam' **Smith** and **LCpl** 'too much cam' **Keeton**. We also visited the local Glenturrit Distillery, Edinburgh Castle and saw the Tall Ships at Leith before their race.

212 SIGNAL SQUADRON BATTLECAMP

Organised and coordinated by **2Lt Tim Jeffery** the last week of the Squadron Battle Camp was spent revising and learning low level Infantry tactics, which included an exercise on Minden North training area in preparation for the Regimental Battle Camp the following week.

Highlights of the exercise included a night navex that was actually possible to complete within the given time, except for the likes of **Cpl** 'SJ' **Stanley-Jones**, who even with his wealth of experience was the only person to come out with the age old excuse of 'but sir, the map is wrong!' The final event was a section patrol competition around the outskirts of both the north and south training areas. Along the route each team answered questions on NBC, first aid, military knowledge and undertook two command tasks. Needless to say it had to involve water, **Cpl Allen** led from the front by going in up to his neck in a knee deep pool! The best scores and the fastest time all counted towards the final result that surprisingly was a draw. It was then decided that a land rover push would decide the winner. **Cpl** 'Wilf' **Wilford**'s section narrowly lost to **Cpl** 'SJ's which left **Cpl Wilford** to do some explaining to his section as to why an NBC instructor could get such a low score on the NBC test.

By the end of the week the Squadron left–tired, sunburnt, mosquito bitten and tick infested but feeling that they had learnt a great deal and that battle camps are not all that bad, to which many thanks must go to all the DS involved namely **2Lt Tim Jeffery, WO2 (SSM) Neil Coatsworth, SSgt (SQMS) Terry Hague, SSgt Colin Dennis, Sgts Rob Eden, Bob Inglesant BEM** and 'Geordie' **Wynn**.

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7 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

229 SIGNAL SQUADRON
SHQ TROOP

Another quiet period for SHQ Tp–relieved only by the excitement of RSIT which keeps the Techs busy, and makes a refreshing change! We wish farewell to **SSgt** (Jack of all trades) **Chris Smithson** and his wife **Hazel** on their departure to civvy street after 22 years of service. Good luck to you both for the future.

Congratulations go to **Sgt Jimmy Rock** on his marriage to **Jackie** and well done to **Sig Gordon Ogg** on his marriage to **Sig Jess Price**. Congratulations to **Cpl** 'Granny' **Groundsel** on his recent promotion.

TRUNK NODE 011

It is with a heavy heart and a sense of disbelief that the Troop announce the departure of **Mr Paul Prentice** who has been unleashed on to an unsuspecting civvy street.

Goodbye also to **Sig King** who has departed for Northern Ireland.

TRUNK NODE 012

After the chaos of RSIT and SOTAT training, the Troop has taken the opportunity to attend courses before adventure training begins.

We wish farewell to **Sig Bishop** who has gone to Special Comms Sqn in London–don't work too hard. **Sig Timmy Wardle** or according to his CV 'The Saint' is on his way to civvy street, all the best to both of you.

In return we welcome **Cpl McMinn** who joins us from 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt. We hope you and **Heike** enjoy your time here.

Finally, congratulations to **LCpl Gill Mcskeane** on her well deserved promotion and best wishes on her marriage to **Tim Ralley**.

TRUNK NODE 013

The end of April saw **Sig Gerry Hinton** finally convert to the state of marriage; congratulations and best wishes to you and **Judith**.

Despite being dragged to new levels of fear by the RSIT team, the Troop managed to come through May with a smile. Only to be hit with the 'are we or are we not going to Bosnia syndrome?'. The wives' jungle drums grapevine had us all on anything from 12 to 99 hours standby to move. As these notes are written leave is still being taken and exercises are still going ahead.

On a brighter note, congratulations to **Sig Liam Tosh** on his successful completion of the SHHH You Know Which Signal Squadron course. Welcome back to **LCpl Danny Castano** who has completed a year's detachment with the Green Howards in NI. It only remains to say goodbye and good luck to **Sig Nicholson** on his departure to civvy street.

231 SIGNAL SQUADRON

We congratulate **Capt Neil** 'Gus' **Colville** on his well deserved promotion and look forward to welcoming him back to the Regiment after his tour of duty with 36 Sig Regt (V).

Congratulations also to **Cpls Marty Miller** and **Chris Yin** on their recent promotions.

Welcome to **WO2 (SSM) Pellant**, his wife **Elizabeth** and family. He takes over as SSM from **WO2** (soon to be WO1 RSM) **Grant Pocock**. **Grant** and **Ann** will be sorely missed by many in the Squadron and we wish the family well in their new home in Colchester.

The Squadron has been busy preparing itself for the usual round of summer activities. Ex Fryhard I, the annual Squadron battlecamp was held on the Haltern training area, near Munster. The exercise gave everyone a chance to clear away some of the cobwebs and practise basic soldier skills. More interestingly it also provided a challenge and regular outbreaks of humour for all concerned.

JUO Louise Maliphant joined the Squadron for two weeks on attachment from Edinburgh UOTC and assisted greatly by putting her modelling and other talents to use.

The participating patrols are to be congratulated on their many and varied solutions to the water crossing. The special 'collapsible raft' for use in difficult terrain was a particular winner. Well done to 5/6 Section for their attempts to build a mini sub using only oil drums.

1 and 2 Section attempted an all new form of patrol harbour. The principle of disguising an entire Section as dead logs and avoiding the use of a sentry in case he gives the position away is certainly novel!

The exercise was rounded off by a barbecue and entertainments' evening where particular mention must go to; **Maj** 'Biggles' **Miller** and his aircrew, **2Lt** 'co-pilot' **Darren Saul, 2Lt** 'tail end junkie' **Kyle Barker** and **SSgt (SQMS)** 'fire engine' 'JR' **Ewing**, for their Lancaster Bomber sketch.

Well done to **Sig** 'Farmer' **Palmer** who claims never to have handled a shotgun before, and also for his uncannily 'Mr Bean' like impression of **Sig Higginson**'s morning activities.

A final mention must go to the press-ganged barman **Sgt Ritchie Morgan** and the gourmet chefs from SHQ.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Sqn Comd represented the Regiment in the Perth Scottish Rallying competition, doing very well and coming second overall in his class. He and his driver are noted for their victory roll during the performance. It's just a shame (say the LAD) that he forgot to take his undercarriage up first.

Sig Manson attended the Army canoe championships at Hildesheim in early August, coming ninth in the Grandprix event and 17th in the white water slalom event. Also in the scratch team he managed an excellent sixth place.

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to **LCpl Potter** and his wife **Karen** on the birth of their baby daughter.

Well done to **2Lts** (now Lts) **Daz Saul** and **Kyle Barker** on gaining their second pips this month.

SATCOM TROOP

Satcom Tp was formed in June this year and got off to a flying start on Ex Able Condor. After only a few weeks of arduous training with the USAF in Ramstein, the lads were soon teaching the Americans how to operate their own kit, which they had previously supplied for our use.

Armed only with a fleet of two Bedfords, three Landrovers and no HGV drivers except the Tp Comd, **Lt Daz Saul**, the Troop has been filling in leave and course applications to fill up the time between sports afternoons.

232 SIGNAL SQUADRON
SAN TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt O'Rourke**

After a hard working April/May in preparation for the revered RSIT team, the recently joined FSG and Forward Tps settled down to a well deserved break. Only the interruption of Op Grapple training and Ex Able Condor broke the monotony of countless Troop outings, barbecues and sports days.

We say farewell to **Capt Fred Hargreaves**, off to 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207), **2Lt Daz Saul** and **Sgt Rob Allen** to Sat Tp, **Cpl Eddie Palmer** to Northern Ireland and last but not least our favourite storeman **LCpl Rob Ingram** off to his dream posting of civvy street. Good luck to **Rob** and his wife on making the move.

We welcome straight from the factory **Sig King**, we wish him a successful tour.

Finally, congratulations to **Cpl Eddie Palmer** on promotion to Sergeant and also to **Sig** 'Rabs' **Raby** to LCpl.

RADIO TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Grierson**

We say farewell to the following people. **Lt M. J. Grierson** back to school at Shrivenham, **Sgt Todd** detached to JCUFI, **LCpl Cooper** and family to 1 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215), **LCpl Holland** and **Sig Ney** to 14 Sig Regt (EW) and **Sig Portch** to 1 (UK) Amd Div HQ and Sig Regt. We wish you all the best in the future.

We would also like to welcome the following: **2Lt Taylor** fresh from her Troop Commander's Course.

Congratulations go to **Gordon** and **Kathy Dunderdale** on the birth of their son **Louis**.

The Troop have recently returned from a week's adventure training in the Harz Mountains.

As well as the fun things in life we have also been involved in training at Sennelager and Ex Able Condor which was an ARRC exercise in the Munster area.

SCRA(T)
Tp Comd **2Lt Parfitt**

The month started with the mayhem better known as RSIT. The Troop had worked extremely hard in the build up to the big day and was rewarded with the OC RSIT's recommendation as the best SCRA(T) he has seen!

We lose and say goodbye to **Cpls Stu Lovely** and **Jim Coombs, LCpls Mo Pay** and **Jinty McTurk** and **Sigs** 'Lav' **Lavender** and **Mat Grix**. Hello and welcome to **LCpl Ray Till** and his wife **Rita**.

Congratulations to **Brian** and **Kerry Rawlings** on the birth of their daughter.

79TH NIJMEGEN MARCHES

The Regiment has been participating in these marches for the last 16 years and we continue to do so.

As always, the Regimental team trained extremely hard. A feature of this year's training was to undergo a series of weekly marches matched up with the competitive events of the Berne Marches in Switzerland and the Diekirch Marches in Luxembourg. As always the weather ranged from pouring rain to the most awesome heat, few could remember such temperatures for the marches.

The team was led by **2Lt Daz Saul**, the other members were **Sgt Mic Hodds, Cpls** 'Bucks' **Buchanan** and **Gaz Hayhurst, LCpl Nick Holden** along with **Sigs** 'Taff' **Langley, Archie Illman, Ben Battey, Denzel Rolph** and **Lee Scrafton**. A special mention for **Sgt Hodds** who completed the march for the first time.



The Nijmegen Marches Team

Wire PHOTOGRAPHS

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9 Sig Regt (R)
BFPO 59

ROYAL SIGNALS 75TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

On Friday 30 June, 9 Sig Regt (R) Sergeants' Mess was the venue for the auspicious occasion of the Island-wide Royal Signals 75th Anniversary Dinner Night. There were many guests on this occasion, principally the Commander British Forces (Cyprus) Air Vice Marshall **P. Millar** and **Mrs Millar, Col Comdt Maj Gen P. R. Davies, Col** and **Mrs S. G. Adlington, Wing Commander** and **Mrs J. I. Kane, Lt Col M. L. Martin** and **WO1** and **Mrs R. Bilous**. The guests were hosted by the CO, **Lt Col** and **Mrs P. B. Neale**, and other Officers of the Regiment.

The main events of the evening began at 1930hrs with the five minute call, followed by the call to dinner, sounded by the excellent buglers from The Band of the Prince of Wales' Division (Clive). A lone piper led the 'top table diners' to their seats.

When all of the guests were seated the Padre, the **Revd Aston**, said grace and the 50 waiters and waitresses, made up from Junior NCOs from the Regiment, served the succulent five course meal. Throughout the meal guests continued to be entertained by the Clive Band with some excellent music. The dinner was concluded with three toasts, to **HM The Queen, HRH The Princess Royal** and the Corps. **Maj Gen Davies** then spoke on the history of the Corps, from the very early days of the Telegraph and Wire Service to the challenges of running a Trunk Node in Germany. Many promises were made to renew acquaintances at the Corps 100th Anniversary in 2020.

The Anniversary Dinner was greatly enjoyed by all members of the Corps present and their guests, a memorable occasion.



Members of the merry band of 'Volunteers' (crouching for some reason?)

THE STATIC UNIT GETS MOBILE

The Regiment has just completed the first phase of its annual training called Ex Mercury Break. Organised by the Regimental Training Officer, **Capt Mick Campbell**, it involved over 300 members of the Regiment over a four week period, each week involving new personnel. It took place in the training areas of Melanda and Paralimni with the base camp sited 100m from the sea. This proved an excellent setting, even if under usual circumstances, but carrying a log the setting becomes irrelevant.

Each week was split into three phases. The first phase was when all basic military skills were completed and tested such as first aid and map reading. The map reading did prove to be a little problem for some participants, not returning until several hours after the finish time. The second phase involved a patrol competition where each team had to complete various stands over a set course in the quickest possible time. Team work was an absolute must and was much in evidence throughout the whole day. The last phase involved a three day platoon level tactical exercise involving deliberate attacks, ambushes and patrolling. Many members of the Regiment had never before lived in the field so this was a new and exciting experience for them.

Fitness and stamina was an important element. Problems with the heat, temperatures were in the high thirties, required firm leadership and teamwork to get the job done. Owing to the strenuous nature of the exercise, injuries were common, but with the outstanding medical attention personnel available those injured were soon back on the road thus enabling them to finish the exercise.

Other members of the Regiment look forward to the second phase of the exercise, which will take place in October. Team spirit and a sense of humour are the important factors.

BRAVO TROOP
24 HOUR CHARITY SWIM

What a challenge! Three months to come up with a team to swim for 24 hours. Who could cope with such a task? **Sgt John Mcconnon** that's who. Never before has the phrase 'Fancy coming for a quick dip' been so misinterpreted.

After 'jiffing' . . . er selecting his elite team, **John** set about the task of raising funds for the big day. With Wordperfect 5.1 in hand, all Premier and League division one football teams were approached to part with signed photos, footballs, posters, pennants and just about anything else you can scribble on. Record companies, famous personalities, sports stars and even **Richard Branson** were approached and asked to donate something that could be sold to enhance our funds.

With a post bag bigger than Santa's, **John** and his team waded (no pun intended) through the replies. A good response ensured the fundraising got off to a good start. Now serious training could begin. So after three months of severely pruned fingers and toes the day had arrived.

Start time was 1000hrs; 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, off! All 14 swimmers entered the water for the first 50m, **JTW Ruth Matherson** clocked up the first two laps on the marker board and the rest was down to **Cpl Benson** to complete the rest of the 20 minute stint. So the pattern had been set at 20 minutes in a couple of hours out, easy! So why did the couple of hours seem to take just a few fleeting seconds.

Out of the water there was a lot of activity. The local stalls had a steady stream of people around them. **Cpl Si Prince** on the 'pigs' stand was doing a roaring trade. **Gilly** and the disco kept their customers entertained (24 hour swims do not make for good spectator sport) with some music and the charity auction. Popular items were an Aston Villa signed football and a Republic of Ireland Jersey.

Day turned into night, the temperature dropped and the swimmers continued in earnest throughout the night. 0900hrs arrived along with the Sqn Comd, **Maj Alan McComb**, to watch the final few minutes. **JTW Vikki Shead** was the last swimmer in the water at 0940hrs, just 20 minutes left. As **Vikki** started her last lap, the rest of the Squad joined in to help finish the 24 hours on a big note.

So that was it. 24 hours, 2400 laps, some very tired limbs and c£1700 pounds raised. An outstanding success and it was all done for Charity.



L to R: Cpl Shotton, JT Whittey, Cpls Prince, Smith Mrs McConnon, Sgt McConnon, Cpl Edwards, JTW Richardson, JTW Matheson, Cpl Bourne, LCpl Hill, Cpl Benson, JT Bellis, JTW Bellis, JTW Shead, Sgt Smith, LCpl Whatmough and LCpl Spencer

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS
ROYAL SIGNALS
MOVED TO BLANDFORD ON
12 SEPTEMBER 1995

See Page 290 for telephone numbers and appointments



11 Sig Regt
Blandford

75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The weekend 7-9 July saw the masses converge on Blandford Camp to witness the opening of the Corps new Museum and to attend the annual reunion of the Royal Signals Association which was attended by **HRH The Princess Royal**. The Sergeants' Mess needless to say saw a very busy couple of days. A lot of old faces appeared and many a war story was heard, with plenty of sandbags and swinging lamps. The weekend was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

LS & GC MEDAL PRESENTATION

On 12 July the Comd Blandford Garrison, **Brig J. H. Griffin** presented LS & GC Medals to **SSgt Carver, Sgts Bennett, Hamilton** and **Cpl Kirkup**, which was followed with a celebratory lunch in the Sergeants' Mess.



LS & GC Presentation
Back Row (L to R): SSgt Carver, Sgt Bennett, WO1 (RSM) Richards, Sgt Hamilton, Cpl Kirkup
Front Row (L to R): Mrs Carver, Mrs Bennett, Brig Griffin, Lt Col Relph, Mrs Hamilton, Mrs Kirkup, with the children



The SOinC presents the LS & GC to Cpl Wolfendale, Royal Signals Band in Wellington Barracks on 2 August 1995

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON
ARRIVALS

The Squadron wish to welcome the following new arrivals: **WO1 Martin George, SSgt (FofS) Steve Hutchinson, Sgt Titus Reene, Cpls Rob Jennings** and **Andy Mileham**. Welcome to the building site one and all.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations on his recent promotion from Cfn, to **LCpl Neil Barker** of the newly formed LAD.

DEPARTURES

We are sorry to say farewell to the following Squadron members and their families who are 'escaping': **WO2 (YofS) Martin Swiffen, WO2 (AWMS) Grant Bruce, WO2 (RQMS) Steve Simpson, Cpl** 'BJ' **Jacobs** and **LCpl** 'Archie' **Archibald**. Beware! Someone, somewhere is receiving these.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations on his recent promotion from Cfn, to **LCpl Neil Barker** of the newly formed LAD

1 SQUADRON
WIMBLEDON 1995

WO1 Millie Jeffery, SSgt Gary Smurthwaite, Sigs Bonney, Brock, Edment, Hatcher, Livesey, Parke, Offord, Richard, Rowe, Slade, Smith, Taylor and **Wells**.

Every year for the past six, 11 Sig Regt has sent soldiers to provide the court cover on Number One Court at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships. This year, it was the turn of 13 soldiers from Charlie Tp, 1 Sqn, who all recently passed out of ATR Bassingbourn and were awaiting the start of their trade training.

In charge was **WO1 Millie Jeffery** and **SSgt Gary Smurthwaite** and our task was to be on standby throughout the two weeks of the tournament to cover Number One Court should it rain. Unfortunately–for those who wanted to become TV stars–there was nothing but glorious sunshine. As a result, we were left to asborb the sights and atmosphere of the world's premiere tennis event.



The Wimbledon team from C Tp 1 Sqn

Strawberries and cream were devoured with relish and many new friends were made with other service personnel and of course with the local population who were more than friendly.

Issued with Wimbledon passes we could go nearly anywhere, many envious looks were directed our way when we walked past queues and straight into the grounds of the Club. In most cases the queues stretched for at least a mile and a half and hundreds of people resorted to setting up tents on the pavement and sleeping there every night to ensure they got in each day. The streets of Wimbledon looked like a refugee camp for tennis fans as tennis fever took over.

Sig Ian Wells became something of a worry to the harassed Wimbledon Security Guards. He seemed to be expert at ruining their hard work to shield players, by calmly reaching over to pat them on the back whilst congratulating them on their wins as if they were old friends.

Players such as **Steffi Graf, Pete Sampras, Boris Becker** and **Martina Navratilova** fell prey to him. **Sig Mike Parke** achieved a lifetime ambition when he got close enough to **Steffi Graf** to declare his affection for her, and was rewarded with a laugh and a smile.

For those of us who are tennis fans it was a once in a lifetime opportunity to watch practically the whole championships for free. The groundsmen with whom we worked made us feel very welcome and often helped to get us seats so we could watch matches. All the other people working there, be they civilian or military were very friendly and always ready for a laugh and a joke, a strong holiday atmosphere prevailed.

THE JOINT SERVICES CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 1995

by Sigs Mark Milne and Shaun Brock

The Joint Services Cycling Championships for which myself and several others had to officiate for was quite an interesting job.

Our essential duties during this time were as timekeepers, markers on roundabouts, push starters and in the case of an emergency, first aiders for any of the competitors.

We all changed jobs during the competition so that we could get a better overall view of what was happening in the competition, and could see the methods the competitors used to maintain the speed, endurance and an amazing standard of physical and mental fitness required for the events.

During the trials, competition was fierce and it was interesting to see what tactics the teams and individuals used to either make their individual or team scores better.

All in all the competition was intense and the friendly rivalry between riders was both competitive and good natured and the whole event was a great success.

As timekeepers we had to make sure that there was no interference with results on the route/scoreboard at the HQ near the start and to give accurate start/finish times. Another duty was to keep in contact with particular positions such as the finish and places where the route was not clear and the markers could get in contact if a rider went the wrong way or was injured. Fortunately there were few accidents during the competition and our use as first aiders was not required.

The job of push starters was one of the more important jobs in the competition, especially on the short distance time trials. Basically you hold the rear wheel of the frame and make sure the rider gets a good start for the race.

The competition was good and as marshals for the competition it was an interesting and enjoyable experience.

TRAINING SUPPORT SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Capt T. M. Jones**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) H. R. Griffin**

The Squadron is currently going through a turbulent time with lots of changes going on. Not least of all of these is the change of SSM. After finally prising **WO2 (SSM) John Smith** from his chair after 31 years' service and numerous farewell functions he has been replaced by **WO2 (SSM) Harry Griffin** and his spider. We wish **John** and **Elsie** all the best for the future.

Things are hotting up, not least the weather, here in Blandford. Soldier training is now being planned for the new year, while interim training for those caught up in the move is going ahead. Amidst all the hustle there have been some bright moments and congratulations are in order for **Cpl** 'Jock' **Reid** on selection for promotion to Sergeant. We must bid a sad farewell to **LCpls** 'Shakey' **Beard** and 'Piddles' **Haigh**, good luck to both of you in civvy street.

Even though we are so busy we still manage to get in the mandatory Summer Camp. This year with the usual imaginary flair we set off for the hustle and bustle of that well known exotic resort–Capel Curig. Everyone was issued with copious amounts of adventure training equipment for the daytime activities of, you guessed it, hill walking, canoeing and rock climbing. In addition to this we took windsurfers, topper dinghies and for some, water-skiing/water-dragging.

The activities were enjoyed by all with everyone having a go at each. Several moments of concern are worthy of note. **Sgt** 'Bru' **Baker**, our intrepid climber, got stuck in the chimney and was rescued by one of his students.

All in all the camp went well and despite the 0600hrs reveille and early morning PT a good time was had by all and it proved a great break from routine. Maybe next year Newquay!

SKIN TREATMENT AND RESEARCH TRUST (START) CHARITY WALK LONDON TO BRIGHTON

On Saturday, 20 May 1995, seven members of Training Support Squadron, 11 Sig Regt, set off for Mill Hill. A luxurious location to stay prior to the walk from Streatham Common to Brighton sea front. The team met up in the bar for some pre-walk preparation and to discuss the tactics for the following day. On the return journey to the accommodation, **Cpl** 'Bri' **Shepley** demonstrated various methods of walking, none of which constituted forward movement in a straight line. This was much to the amusement of the remainder of the team.

At 0430hrs, after a good night's sleep, **LCpl** 'Johno' **Johnson** drove the team to the start at Streatham Common. The aim of the day was to walk the 50 miles from London to Brighton; it seemed easy enough at the time. Wearing the scarlet 'Start' T-shirts that had to display the sponsor's name, we set off south through the early Sunday morning traffic. The streets seemed very busy even so, and a number of passers-by looked on in wonderment.



As the walk progressed we did not see too many other gold walkers, and just continued along our way admiring the countryside. The pain had already started as we crossed the M25 and continued in a southerly direction. The water stops were separated by about five miles and were a welcomed sight upon arrival. The walk was supported by a cheerful bunch of St John's Ambulance staff who were very encouraging and ready with their blister support kits when needed. The casualties started to drop due to foot injuries and dehydration, but the hard core maintained the pace and stayed on course for the full 50 miles.

Despite the marked lack of training, there was general resolution within the group to complete the distance, however, by the time we reached the 35 mile point, people were beginning to change their minds. As luck would have it, two Royal Marine auxiliaries, dressed in the full walking kit, had just dropped out. This strengthened our resolve and we set off for the final, and most painful, 15 miles. **Sig** 'Taff' **Richards** and **Cpl** 'Bri' **Shepley** had now stopped running and were concentrating more on keeping up. **Sig** 'Nobby' **Noble**, a support walker was beginning to feel the pain and retired to the support vehicle. **Capt Tim Jones** and **Sgt Andy Jones** were amusing the team 'body popping', exaggerated arm movements to get the legs moving. Only **LCpl** 'Randy' **Randerson** was maintaining the pace with comparative ease.

The final five miles seemed to be the longest, and it was an anti-climax as we walked into Brighton to find that we were the only gold walkers that had finished, and all the banners had been taken down. Just one man remained to present the team with their medals. Fifty miles and 50 blisters later.

On 26 June, **Dr Martin Coomer** of the Royal College of Surgeons visited Blandford to collect the cheque from the team. Altogether, the team raised £160.00 for the Skin Treatment and Research Trust. There must be an easier way!

SERGEANTS' MESS ST LEONARD'S SCHOOL TUG OF WAR

On 17 June, six warriors from the Sergeants' Mess took up the challenge from several other tug of war giants from the Blandford area, when they entered the annual St Leonard's School open day tug of war competition. Although a little apprehensive to start with, our brave warriors overcame all challenges under the expert coaching of **WO2 (SSM)** 'Bud' **Abbott** to lift the winner's trophy. The team line up was **WO2 (SSM)** 'Bud' **Abbott, WO2 (SSM) Harry** 'The Bear' **Griffing, WO2 (RQMS) Dave Fraser, SSgt Paul Gorman, Sgts Bob Stenhouse** and **Jase Barsley**.

75TH ANNIVERSARY PRESENTATION

On Friday 7 July 1995, **Col J. C. Gordon AM**, Director, the Royal Australian Corps of Signals presented a bronze of a Royal Australian Signaller mounted on a piece of Gallipoli rock, coloured to represent the blood of Australian soldiers who died there in the First World War, to the HQ Sergeants' Mess to mark the 75th Anniversary of our Corps. The gift was received by the Regimental Sergeant Major, **WO1 (RSM) G. Richards** on behalf of all the Corps' SNCOs, past and present.

Col Gordon was presented with a photograph to remind him of England's victory over the Wallabies. He promised it would be given pride of place in a 'little boys' room'.

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 36

CO	**Lt Col A. W. Russ**
2IC	**Maj S. I. Andrews**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Stachini**

MOVE TO RAF BRAWDY

Preparations for the move to RAF Brawdy have been going ahead steadily, with **Maj Steve Andrews** at the helm. The Regiment will be moving at the end of the year, some families have gone ahead in order to settle their children into schools at the beginning of the school year in September. **Capt Jeff Ashwell** is spearheading the 'Brawdy Development Project' with the assistance of **Sgt Al Evans** and **Cpl Andy Biddle**. This merry little team has done an excellent job in ensuring that camp facilities and Married Quarter Areas are ready for the arrival of the Regiment. The team have just reported that the construction of 153 new quarters in Brawdy is still on schedule. Another bit of good news is that the Corps Trust Fund has provided a subsidy to enable the Regiment to purchase the Brawdy Bowling Alley. This now means that families and 'singles' will be able to enjoy this unique leisure facility throughout the year.

REGIMENTAL OPEN DAY

The Regiment held its annual Open Day on 15 June; sadly for the last time in Germany. Organised by **Maj Peter Whitehead**, it aimed to offer families and members of the Regiment and our guests an opportunity to enjoy themselves, and to raise money for service and civilian charities. Although the weather was not perfect, the White Helmets provided the main focus for the event, and performed a complicated programme of stunts to perfection. The Corps Band also provided entertaining music, as approximately 700 people browsed around the stalls, which provided entertainment and liquid refreshments for our visitors. Profits from the day helped to raise DM9,000. It was an enjoyable occasion, which was applauded by the local Mayor and was reported on by the German press as being a local success story for Anglo-German relations.

SPORTSMANS DINNER

Capt Gigg Plumb organised the annual Sportsmans Dinner which was held on 12 July this year and coincided with the end of the winter sports season. The dinner provides a rare opportunity for sports 'persons' to wine and dine together, and meet with others who represent the Regiment in a particular sport. After the evening meal, the CO presented Regimental colours to sportsmen and women, with **SSgt (YofS) Andy Dobson** being awarded the best sportsman of the year and **Lt Jane Appleby** the best sportswoman.

OSNABRUCK JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

The Regiment hosted a children's activities weekend for members of the football club on 8/9 July. The event was organised by **WO2 (RQMS) Geoff Hawkins**. The children were aged 6-13 years and participated in a football competition, assault course race and a trip to a Dutch holiday theme park. The children had an enjoyable weekend, which culminated in a barbecue and disco.



The photo shows Tim (son of WO Alex Harrison, Royal Australian Corps of Signals) presenting a cheque for leukaemia research to Phil Neal (Liverpool)

ALL CHANGE

There have been changes in appointments for Warrant Officers created by the departure of **WO2 (RQMS) Fisher, WO2 (SSM) Sear** and **WO2 (SSM) Waclawek**. **WO2 (RQMS) Harvey** has now taken over as RQMS (Tech), **WO2 (SSM) McLachlan** is now SSM 245 Sig Sqn, **WO2 (SSM) Heelan** has moved to 226 Sig Sqn and **WO2 (MTWO) Gaston** arrives in the Regiment to take over as MTWO.

TM TROOP

TM Tp would like to extend its sincere thanks to **Sgt Ken Snell** of 4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204) for his assistance during a recent range day. The Troop was put through its paces, not only taking the APWT, but also firing on the section fire and manoeuvre range. The range day gave a welcome break from circuit boards, wiring diagrams and TOTY's PT lessons. It was organised by **SSgt Al Aimer**.



The photo shows Ken Snell's new method of–no rounds, empty cases or dirty finger nails . . . Sir!



16 Sig Regt
BFPO 40

EXERCISE MOHNE CHALLENGE–NOT FOR THE FAINT HEARTED

Capsizing boats, 'Baywatch' style rescues and crossing assault courses blindfolded were only a few of the tasks expected of members of 253 Sig Sqn on Friday 14 July at the Mohnesee Sailing Club.

Located at the southern bank of the Mohne Lake (of Dambusters fame), the club is a well appointed amenity offering all manner of water based activities, as well as cycling. After agreement with the Manager **Sgt Griffin** and his wife **Lorraine** and from the idea of **Capt Ade Clewlow**, the Sqn 2IC, the club was chosen to host the inaugural event to compete for the Mohne Challenge Trophy. With such a large range of equipment to hire and the level of facilities very high, it seemed the obvious choice to test the Squadron personnel both physically and mentally throughout a hot and sunny day.

After a month of planning, the day saw six teams of five arrive to complete six tasks of varying difficulty, not only requiring physical brawn, but some selective delegation of team ability. The teams began the rotation through the day's timetable mid-morning with three tasks before and three tasks after lunch. Looking at the day's events the teams were faced with a physically demanding set of 'treasure hunt' type clues which saw them travelling over six miles in under 30 minutes including time to solve the mystery. This may seem easy but a combination of hire bikes and orienteering skills combined to fox the wiliest of competitors. Next involved an 'on foot' orienteering relay challenge requiring each team member to complete their respective leg of the task before the team could progress and finish in time. Set within 10 minutes of the club, the series of orienteering sites set up in the locality certainly tested the skill and stamina of the teams. The blindfold test was a little light relief to the team members as long as the one unhooded leader was able to give accurate commands on the right direction to walk in! This did not always happen, much to the annoyance of the team and the amusement of the DS (the 2IC). The 'Baywatch' rescue involved taking a fit and healthy member of each team into the middle of the lake with the assistance of the safety boat, and throwing them overboard. The remaining fit competitors then paddled out to help on surfboards and bring the casualty back safely between the rest of the team. Straight forward but time-consuming and even more difficult when there is a Force 4 gale blowing.

The task requiring the latest technique, and providing the greatest photo opportunities came when a Bosun (sailing boat) was paddled through a course on the lake, then capsized and swum back to shore simulating the major failure of the hull in rough seas. It was easier for some, however, the task was completed by each team and a great deal of determination was shown throughout. And so, finally, to the skill and balance of the canoeing task, needing the team to carry a series of objects across part of the lake on three canoes (with five people). Penalty points were awarded liberally for this task and in most cases dragged down the overall points achieved by the teams at the end of the competition to a minus figure–thanks to the keen vigilance of **Sgt Bruce Ibbotson**.

With a barbecue to follow and the prize giving ceremony attended by the Squadron Commander, the day ended on a high. The winning team came from SHQ, although the exercise proved once again the flexibility, stamina and appetite for a challenge of all members of 253 Sig Sqn.



EXERCISE TRIAD BACKSTOP

Ex Triad Backstop was the Regiment's challenge pursuit camp for 1995. It was based in Haus Magnus, situated in Wertach in Bavaria. The camp itself was a three week extravaganza of kayaking, rock climbing, trekking and klettersteiging with some white water rafting, water skiing and mountain biking thrown in for the R&R days.

The camp was organised into three, one week packages, with each week sponsored by one of the Regiment's Squadrons. The three weeks were run by **Capt Rich Spencer** with an admin team consisting of **Sgt** 'Hutch' **Hutchings** and **LCpl Baz Darbyshire**. The Instructors were coordinated by **Capt David Robson** and **SSgt Steve Reeve**, leading the climbers, **Sgt Mal Pavier** as the kayaking guru and **SSgt Les North** as chief rambler. Also to be mentioned are **WO1 Norman Coe** and his wife **Karin** who run the lodge and kept a hawk-like watch over **Sgt Hutch** and his admin antics!

KAYAKING

Three weeks' good paddling with a few highlights along the way, firstly the scenery on the shore of the beginners lake, the Grosse Alpsee, which was so breathtaking at times it put **Sgt Mal Pavier** and **Cpl Rob Ash** off their instruction. Another stumbling block was Duggies Weir, the final obstacle of the second and third days' paddling where the instructors sent **Capt Rich Spencer** off to check the depth of the rapids with his head! The final lowlight was the intervention of a new triathlon by the instructors and **LCpl Charlie Chester** which involved kayaking, climbing and trekking and must not finish before 0200hrs.

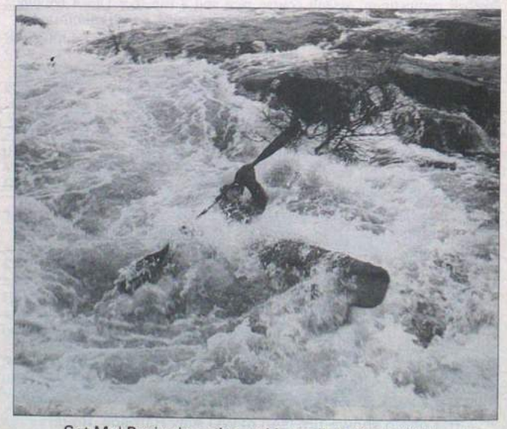
CLIMBING

The climbing proved to be just as eventful with **Capt David Robson** setting a 'test piece' at the end of each day which was usually more akin to a slab of greased glass than a rock face! **Lt Andy Harrison** also provided some entertainment with his own version of fast roping much to everyone's surprise, including himself. By the time the third week came along, the climbing had become too easy so whilst on the BAC(B) climbing wall, **Capt Robson** decided that sight was much overrated and embarked the group on a spot of blindfold climbing. This was a successful venture with the students learning a lot about balance or their lack of it, though at times it did look more like Mothercare with the ropes doing their baby bouncer impressions.

CANOEING, THE SEASON

The season has finished for the Regimental Wild Water Racing team and it has definitely been a successful one–UKSC(G) Champions. Three members represented the Army at the Inter-Service Championships in Scotland and one member who was part of the Combined Services Team (G) who completed at the Golden Cup International Wild Water Race in Prague, Czech Republic. Also coming second in the BFG Down River Racing League (we actually came joint first with RAF Laarbruch but were relegated to second as on count-back they had a better fourth result (we actually didn't have a fourth result!)).

The season started with us organising and running the UKSC(G) Championships on the River Erft near Dusseldorf, last December. The



Sgt Mal Pavier in action at Llangollen, North Wales Army Wildwater Racing Championships 1995

open team won this race and so did the novice team, and we used this as a training platform to start preparation for the Army Championships in January. Christmas came and went, then the team, after many 'phone calls and letters, managed to get accommodation at Capel Curig Adventure Training Camp in Wales, so that we could spend a week prior to the competition training on some of the quality rivers in the area.

The journey to Wales, however, was a monumental one as we had to pick up some new canoes for Yeoman **Andy Dobson** at the Perception factory south of London. Then swap some boats at Pyranah near Manchester and then drive to Capel Curig, a journey of some 24 hours in a Land Rover Safari and trailer with some 24 boats on it! Training started in earnest with much time spent on the Trweryn in Bala North Wales, the Welsh Watersports Centre; a really good river, but you do have to pay a fiver to use it!

The weekend came with us winning the Army Championships and some good individual placings in the top ten. Then three of us were selected for the Army team at the Inter-Services in February; these were **Sgt Mal Pavier, Cpl Rob Ash** and **LCpl Charlie Chester**.

These were to be in a month's time so we had a four week period in which to do some serious training, an hour in the gym in the mornings and dinner times on the lake plus Wednesday afternoons on the river (track suit time!). February came with two more down river races behind us as well so we were in 'fine fettle' for the Championships in Scotland. We managed to secure some transit accommodation in Nottingham for an overnight stop en route so we managed to spend a morning playing on the National Watersports Centre slalom course at Holme Pierrepont. What's more, when we passed the River Tees, near Barnard Castle, it was in flood, huge water conditions, temptation got the better of us and back on the water we went (we did manage to get to Scotland that day!). The week there was spent training on the River Nith learning the fastest lines and 'honing' our fitness, also some time playing too. This gave our driver **Sig Al Mackay** a chance to do some paddling as well.

The competition came with the RAF winning with a clear 240 points, Army second with 143 and Navy third with 119. The results were:

Sgt Pavier	20th, fifth placed Army
LCpl Chester	21st, sixth placed Army
Cpl Ash	27th, seventh placed Army

Not bad for a Regimental team as we were only 15 seconds within each other. Now the fun begins, the ferries are on strike! We managed to change our ticket to Felixstowe and an eight hour trip overnight, time to catch up on some sleep.

Back to Germany and the next race on the BFG calendar, sprints on the River Oker in the Hartz Mountains followed by a down river race on the River Inerste in Hildesheim. A good weekend with us winning this race and some good individual results as well, plus some great playing done too.

Just one final race of the season to go and once more we are on the Erft near Dusseldorf. We didn't win this one but came second to RAF Laarbruch. Shame. This race was double points as a final to the season and we also had our prizes for the season.

16 Sig Regt	Second Open Team
LCpl Chester	First Intermediate
LCpl Brown	Third Novice

And just one final note, thanks to the Regiment for their support and **Lt A. R. Harrison** for his admin help and Yeoman **Andy Dobson** (14 Sig Regt (EW)) who organised and ran the league.

The team consisted of:

Sgt Mal Pavier	
Cpl Rob Ash	OPEN TEAM
LCpl Charlie Chester	
WO2 (QMSI) Tug Wilson	
Cpl Wayne Ballard	NOVICE TEAM
LCpl Dunc Chamberlain	
LCpl Gill Brown	
Sig Al Mackay	NOVICES

TREKKING/KLETTERSTEIG

The activity to separate the men from the boys–would you be happy trekking or would you have the courage to clip in and klettersteig with **SSgt Steve** 'Altitude' **Reeve**? If you took the trekking option then there were some tough walks ahead with day walks in the HockPlatter area and if you clipped in with **SSgt Reeve** then you needed to have a head for heights as the café at the top of Neblehorn has quite a view. The two groups married up for an overnight expedition for the last two days of each week. They explored the Mintleheimer area, roughing it in one of the German mountain huts where once again courage was needed, especially in the second week when the hut was in the middle of a large Alpine storm. Throughout this all they had for comfort was the hut's restaurant and bar. Now that's real adventure training.

Finally, a few words of thanks to **Sgt** 'Wes' **Western**, the lodge's chief instructor for his assistance with the training even when he was hobbling around with an injured ankle.

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21 Sig Regt (AS)
Colerne



As with many other Signal Units, the last few months have been very hectic for the Regiment. It started with the announcement of the impending deployment of 24 Air Mob Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210) and culminated with its eventual deployment at the end of July and early August. You may ask at this point 'what has the deployment of 24 Air Mob Bde HQ and Sig Regt (210) to do with 21 Sig Regt (AS)'. Well, for those that do not know the Regiment provides the Command and Control Communications for the RAF Support Helicopter Force and it is us (the Force) that put the Air Mobility into 24 Bde.

To make matters even more difficult for the Regiment, during this period, there was the change of Command between **Lt Col D. A. Lynam MBE** and **Lt Col D. Steele MBE**. The photograph shows **Lt Col D. A. Lynam** handing over a 'Sky Hook' to **Lt Col D. M. Steele** as a symbol of command. For information we are not sure of its relevance except that with his very short time in command before deploying to theatre the new CO was definitely flying by the seat of his pants.



The symbolic 'sky hook' is handed to Lt Col Don Steele
Photo courtesy of Peter Daly

Once the actual deployment took place, after numerous changes in dates and requirements, things started to settle back to some form of normality.

Despite a block on PR during the deployment phase, **Cpl King** did manage to assure the local population, covered by HTV, that the boys were well trained and eager. **WO2 (SSM) Cox** managed to get on National TV as he disembarked at Split.

220 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Mark Edwards**

Rumours that '220' has disbanded are unfounded and we continue to serve on in Germany. The Squadron sends its best wishes to all the old faces and welcomes all the new ones who have come and gone recently.

Along with the rest of the Corps the Squadron celebrated the 75th Anniversary with some style. A visit by the Master of Signals, the Corps Band and the White Helmets made for a superb afternoon when the Squadron congregated at SHQ.

Life is busy with both Airfield Tps managing minor miracles with manpower and still finding time to take holidays in the Falklands. As Oscar Tp prepares for deployment to Bosnia the Squadron is achieving a number of firsts–the 'specialist' Mobile Air Operations Teams deployed without any form of rates or hotels and **Sig** 'Gunner' **Birt** confirmed his marksmanship potential. The inauguration of the H Tp Superstars competition by **Sgt Jones** saw **Sig Andy Powell** winning by the smallest of margins (unlucky **Mark Aplin**). Most surprising of all L Tp lost the inter-Troop trophy to SHQ after getting the wrong idea about dog baiting.

Rallying, the motor sport for soldiers. The chance to take a Squadron Land Rover and abuse it with the consent of the Sqn Comd does not come along very often so two teams drove at the opportunity. A combination of speed, map reading and sheer luck are required for success. Congratulations to the best beginners **Capt Tomkins** and **Lt Joth Heywood** and to the less successful pairing of the MT Sgt and **Cpl Kemp** who failed to appreciate their location whilst travelling past **Cpl Kemp**'s quarter.

244 SIGNAL SQUADRON
ZULU TROOP

The newly formed Zulu Tp waved goodbye to the members of the two former Troops of India and Juliet, as they left for the sunny shores of Ploce in Croatia. The last two months has seen the Squadron plan for three options for the deployment, which has involved several crafty re-fits by the amazing FofS–**SSgt (FofS)** 'Solly' **Solomons**. 'Solly' arrived from the Foreman's course, believing that he was due to go to a normal, busy Unit–how wrong he was! He has been the busiest man in the Squadron, closely followed by the 2IC, **Capt Graham Fletcher**, who worked on five deployment plans until the wee small hours.

The old India Tp managed to get away on an adventurous training expedition to Colorado, led by **Capt Louise Tomkins**, who was ably assisted by **SSgt Fluck**. 24 members of the Troop with a few additions from the Regiment (namely the LAD) made the intrepid voyage to America. It was **Cpl** 'Mac' **McKenna**'s duty to ensure that all 20 arrived sober and in one piece, to meet up with the advance party. He was able to keep half of the bargain.

The Troop conducted top rope and abseiling, high level trekking in the Rockies, skiing, horse trekking and white water rafting. A few minor social events were also included.

We would like to congratulate **Cpl Mick Toes** on his outstanding grade and report from his EFP1.



Trekking up the Crags Trail
Ex Indian Springs

A warm welcome to **Cpl Kevin Wyatt** and his wife **Debbie, Cpl** 'Stan' **Winstanley** and his wife **Jane** and **Cpl Kevin Swallow** and his wife **Joanne**. **Cpl Swallow** has been thrown in at the deep end with the unenviable task of Troop Sergeant during a particularly hectic and frustrating time. Meanwhile, **Cpl** 'Stan' **Winstanley** was left with rearranging the Troop stores during the refits. Finally, congratulations to **YofS Herbert** and **Jackie** on the birth of their baby daughter **Ellie**.

The Squadron prepares for Ex Cold Grouse, the vast deployment to Denmark in September/October. **Cpl Swallow** continues to carry out CES checks, **Sig Stoves** continues to change his mind daily about his career and **Sgt Mark Payne** changes the nominal roll daily as the new arrivals pour in from training. Hello to **Sigs Coates** and **Bradbury**.

Finally, a hello to all Squadron personnel in Ploce, filling sand bags.

ALPHA TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt M. J. Hanby**

PROMOTIONS

The Troop congratulates **Sigs John Brennan** and 'Scouse' **Parry** on their recent promotions to LCpl.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

The Troop says a farewell to **SSgt Steve Davison**, who has been at the helm for the past four years. 43 Sig Sqn (V) in Bridgewater, watchout! Also goodbyes to **Sigs** 'Scouse' **Parry** onto 14 Sig Regt (EW) and **Mick Bulman** who moves to JCUNI. Keep the 'Red Hand' flying guys.

On a happier note the Troop welcomes **2Lt Cheung-Leen** who moves into the new slot of 2IC, **Cpl Billy Bremner** and **LCpl Sean Hutson** who join us on inter-Troop postings, **Sig Matt Lavender** on arrival from 7 Sig Regt and a hearty hello to the new Signallers straight from training; **Sigs Chris Bradshaw, Lee Crook, Simon Garrett, Danny Glasspool, Bob Lindley, John Marlborough, Dave Marlor, Bob Morton** and last but by no means least **Richard Simpson**.

30 Sig Regt
Bramcote

EXERCISE VANADIUM MERCURY IN SWAZILAND

This year's annual contingency communications exercise was held in Swaziland. Swaziland is an independent kingdom located in southern Africa. It is a landlocked country bounded by Mozambique on the east and South Africa on the south, west and north. Swaziland occupies an area of 6704 square miles, roughly the same size as Wales. The aim of the exercise was to practise the establishment of communications circuits over satellite and HF. This was a truly purple exercise with elements of 30 Sig Regt, Tactical Communications Wing RAF and Flag Officer's Surface Flotilla deploying to the two main locations in Swaziland, led by 30 Sig Regt, and Zimbabwe, led by TCW. The Swaziland detachment was 100 strong and included 10 members of the French Army who were conducting joint satellite interoperability trials. A small party from 30 Sig Regt established in Dakar, Senegal and communicated, eventually, to Swaziland. This was the first time that a sizeable body of UK troops had set foot in Swaziland since independence was attained in 1968.

The exercise started with the long 18 hour flight to Swaziland via Dakar and the Ascension Islands. The flight will be long remembered for the fine service given by the RAF stewards. Just when you were about to fall asleep, they would come around and offer you another meal, orange juice, tea or coffee. So much food was consumed it was a wonder that the aircraft was able to take off. Upon landing the main body was met by the advance party of the OC, **Maj Simon Renfrey**, and the SSM, **WO2 (SSM) Chris McGinley**, who escorted us to the main exercise location–the Malkerns Agricultural Research Station. The site had only been opened two weeks before we arrived and we were the first to inhabit. The accommodation was described as the third best in Swaziland. The best being the King's palace and the second best the hotels. We later saw how the Swazi populace were accommodated and wholeheartedly agreed. The setup phase and activation of circuits went very smoothly and **SSgt (YofS) Jeff Love** soon became agitated as there were no major problems for him to sort out. The daily routine was soon established, starting with PT at 0630hrs, followed by cold showers, and life settled down. At least it settled down when the site was not invaded by dignitaries and VIPs who were very interested in the first British communications exercise to be held in Swaziland. The Sqn Comd, SSM and 2IC soon relinquished their normal roles and started wearing Butlins jackets as they guided round visits by the British High Commissioner, the Army Commander, Government Ministers and Army HQ Staff, CO 30 Sig Regt, ACOS(CIS), CINCFLEET, SO1 JPS, MOD UK CIS(Ops) and King Mswati III of Swaziland. The head chef, **Cpl Priest**,.was pushed to his limits catering for all these visitors and their dietary preferences.

The King's visit was a major event. The exercise would not have taken place were it not for his kind invitation. The date of the King's visit changed constantly and there were more than a few days spent waiting for him to turn up. When he did visit he was accompanied by his entourage which numbered close to the cast of El Cid. The 2IC and SSM were kept busy shepherding the throng and keeping them together and out of trouble. During a previous audience the King had hinted that he would like to speak to troops involved in UN operations. Frantic phone calls to Bosnia followed, with even more subsequent phone calls assuring Bosnia that it was not a wind up and yes, the King of Swaziland will be on the end of the telephone.



WO2 (YofS) Chris Rogan tells the King how well the Swazi soldiers are doing on the communications cadre

In addition to the exercise and the visits, **WO2 (YofS) Chris Rogan** and his team of **Cpl Smith** and **LCpl Rose** 5RRF ran a communications training course for the Umbutfo Swaziland Defence Force Signals Squadron. **WO2 (FofS) Mick Hardy** kept his merry bunch of technicians busy on the repair programme to cannibalise the USDF non taskworthy radios. The social side of the exercise was not neglected. **SSgt (SQMS) Mick O'Brien** was the landlord of the 'Jokers Bar', ably assisted by **Cpl Barnard** and **Cpl Smith**. His theme nights were a regular attraction and guaranteed an entertaining evening. In-theatre leave included visits to Game Parks, Rourkes Drift, Durban and the obligatory souvenir and craft shops. The ex-patriate community were very hospitable and welcomed us with open arms and genuine warmth. This was most appreciated, especially when Rugby World Cup matches were being screened on South African TV.

Swaziland reminded most people of Wales, but with less sheep and Welshmen. The terrain is similar to Sennybridge and the Brecons. At the time of the exercise Swaziland was in its Winter season but days were hot and dry with cold nights. The news that UK was experiencing a heatwave was irritating, particularly when on recovery the Bramcote personnel had better tans and the exercise troops looked pale by comparison.

Overall, the exercise went extremely well. Communications were good throughout but more importantly the impression made on the Swazi people left a warm feeling of goodwill. Once again 30 Sig Regt had flown the flag and displayed the high standards that have come to be expected. A major factor in the success of the exercise was the assistance given by the British Army Training Team. Our thanks go to **Lt Col Philip Russell** PARA and **Maj Ilke Bunting** RLC.



Maj Simon Renfrey relates an old fisherman's tale to the King

OPERATION CHANTRESS–ANGOLA
13 APRIL–9 AUGUST 1995
by Lt Pillar, Sgt Barker and LCpl Croft

258 Sig Sqn were tasked to supply comms to Op Chantress deploying with 9 Supply Regt RLC in support of UNAVEM III (United Nations Angola Verification Mission). The operation was to see a number of foreign Infantry Battalions into Angola to oversee the cease-fire and demobilisation of rebel forces. After a month of 'on the bus, off the bus' and numerous zeroing and APWT ranges at Copehill Down, a 17 strong Activation Party deployed through Ascension Island on 15 April 1995.

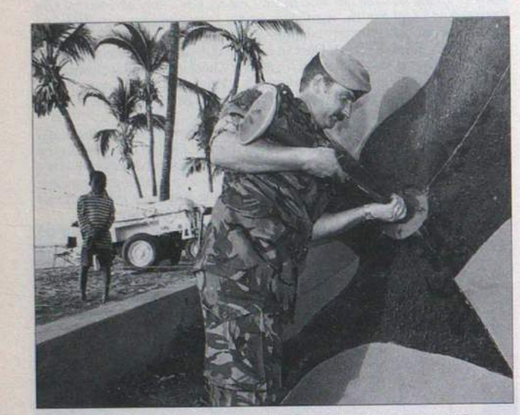
A four strong team consisting of **Capt Mike Wood** (FSO), **WO2 (YofS) Rab McCombe, Cpl Al Worthing** and **LCpl Steve Croft** flew on the first flight to set up the initial communications. A Tac HQ was then set up in a weevil infested grain warehouse in the outskirts of Lobito and comms were quickly established. Guard duties were dished out with everyone mucking in; even **WO2 (YofS) Rab McCombe**.

After a very humid couple of nights fighting off vicious attacks from mosquitoes and removing weevils from places you never thought weevils could get, the rest of the 502 Detachment arrived and the remainder of the Activation Party from Ascension Island. On arrival the 502 was set up by all and comms were established very rapidly; congratulations coming from the Staff on a job well done.

The Advance Party arrived a week later and the grain warehouse, known as the 'AMI site' expanded to a tented city. Det routine was quickly established with PT at 'Oh my god it's early' conducted by **SSgt Ian Carter** and **Cpl Tony McAleese**.

After the initial set-up **WO2 (YofS) Rab McCombe, SSgt (FofS) Adey Knight, Sgt Jagdish, LCpl Sudeep** and **Sgt Don Anderson** flew back to the UK. The latter arrived back in the nick of time to see a healthy son being born, many congratulations to **Don** and **Dee** from all on Op Chantress.

Once the comms plan was set up and running the Det became involved in a number of exploratory recces 'up country'. **Cpl Nesbitt, LCpl McMillan** and **Sig Coope** all undertook a number of perilous journeys through terrorist and mine country to Luanda and Huambo. **Sigs Williams** and 'Smudge' **Smith** ventured down to Namibe, one of the few towns untouched by the ravages of war. Although no incidents occurred they were quite an eye-opener for those who ventured out of the 'safe haven' of Lobito.



Sgt Anderson on the beach at the Hotel Terminus HQ

Cpl Tony McAleese, LCpls John Inglis and **Paul Annetts** became honorary members of the RAF working continually with the UKMAMS personnel enjoying long and fruitless waits at Catumbela airfield for 'planes that were figments of someone's imagination in HQ UNAVEM–oh the joys of working with the other services.

On the sporting front the Detachment played a major part in the Force's sports teams. **SSgt Ian Carter, Cpl Bruce Findlay** and **Sig Douglas** took on the Indians, Uruguayans and Angolans in matches that varied greatly in style, expertise and downright violence. The hockey teams did exceptionally well, fighting their way up the league–quite literally in **Sgt** 'Cossie' **Calabrese**'s case.

The Detachment celebrated a number of well deserved promotions and congratulations must go to **Sgt Buddhi, LCpls** 'Alex' **Alexander, Paul Strong, Paul Annetts** and **Rob Keep**. The whole Detachment wish **LCpl Paul Annetts** well in his forthcoming marriage to **Miss Liz Mason**. The Det has returned from Angola after a successful operation and is now looking forward to some well deserved leave.



Sig 'Scouse' Lloyd meets the locals

ORIENTEERING

The Regimental Orienteering season drew to a close with the Inter Squadron Competition which was held at Cannock Chase in June. The course was set by the Orienteering Officer, **Capt P. Doherty**, whose exploits in setting out the controls by means of a dilapidated mountain bike are now legendary. The overall event was won by Support Sqn with the individual honours going to **Cpl Max Hurd**, Male Champion and **2Lt Gillian Greenhill**, Female Champion.

It has been a somewhat mixed season in terms of success. Having won the 5 Division Championships earlier in the year the team were quietly confident of achieving a high degree of distinction in this year's Corps Championship. Much hard training and effort was to be undone by the deployment of three key runners to Op Chantress (Angola) for a six months tour with the UN. Nonetheless with the CO, **Lt Col J. E. Thomas MBE** picking up first in the 40+ class, **2Lt Gili Greenhill** First Lady (D Course), and the women's team runners-up in the Female competition, it was not all doom and gloom.

The Army Championships were held at Catterick in May and, as expected, the competition was extremely fierce. Again we were hard pressed to field a team and after seconding a couple of 'willing hands' from the soccer, several valuable lessons and experience were gained for next year.



2Lt Gillian Greenhill and Cpl Max Hurd display their trophies

MORRISON CUP TUG OF WAR

After an intense period of training, and having been dogged by operational deployment and overseas exercises, the Regimental Tug of War team marched onto the field of battle to face The Royal School of Signals in the Morrison Cup Major Units Final. Despite the lack of comparative experience in the side a great contest took place with a second pull off lasting an eternity until the School used its obvious skill to overpower the strong 30 Sigs team. The Regiment narrowly lost by two ends.



Front Row (L to R): Cpls 'Taff' O'Connor, Keith Betts, LCpl Farmer, Sigs Curliss and Skull
Back Row (L to R): Sgt Mark Evans, Sig 'Wills' Williams, Capt Pete Drew, Cpls 'Taff' Richards and Dave Taylor

The Queen's Gurkha Signals
Hong Kong

Comd	**Lt Col R. J. J. Ellis**
GM	**Maj (QGO) Silajit Gurung MVO**
Adjt	**Capt C. A. Ford**
RSM	**WO1 Omprakash Gurung**

This has been an exceptionally busy couple of months for the Regiment. The Comd QG Signals has changed over (which involved numerous farewell parties), the QM(T), **Maj Mike Stevenson**, organised a truly memorable Princess Royal Day, HKGSS ran an excellent adventurous training camp at Lantau Island, numerous personalities have come and left the Regiment and all this in the traditional quiet season of Hong Kong!

HANDOVER/TAKEOVER COMD

It was with great sadness that QG Signals bade farewell to **Lt Col Dick Crombie** after two and a half years as Comd QG Signals. He guided the Regiment through some busy and troubled times; as we moved from Sek Kong to the Prince of Wales Barracks and the Gurkha redundancies gained momentum. Throughout it all he remained cheerful and will be remembered as an officer who cared deeply for his men and their families. The Comd was dined out by both messes, the Chinese, the Squadrons and numerous others.

One of the highlights was the Regimental Farewell Picnic held at Borneo Lines Sek Kong. Despite the 33°C, there was the traditional 'rock throwing', which was won by **Sig Pratabahadur Darji**, the ladies sports, bhart and the ever present Tiger beer. **Maj Terry Canham**, the QM **Maj (QGO) Silajit Gurung**, with their ladies, customarily garlanded and presented a Kothimara to the Comd and his wife **Sue**.

A very colourful Comd was finally towed out on 27 July, appropriately on a rickshaw pulled by members of his tri-national, tri-service Regiment, including two 'coolies', **WO2 (SSM) Dhankaji Ale** and **Sgt Steve Berry**. **Lt Col Dick Crombie** was replaced by **Lt Col Jeremy Ellis**, who is returning to the Regiment after a two year absence. We wish him, **Fiona, Rebecca** and **Hannah** a warm welcome back.



Lt Col Dick Crombie handing over Command

PRINCESS ROYAL DAY/75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The day commenced with a parade of all members of QG Signals including Royal Navy and RAF personnel. The Presenting Officer was the CBF Hong Kong, **Maj Gen B. H. Dutton CBE**. The parade consisted of the ceremony of Kasam Karne, where young recruits swear allegiance to the Crown, followed by presentations of the LS & GC medal to nine recipients and a UN Commander's Commendation to **LCpl Tulasiraj Rai** for his work in Bosnia. Finally, the parade gave a resounding three cheers to our Colonel in Chief, **HRH The Princess Royal**.

A Regimental Breakfast followed the parade and Old Comrades of the Corps residing in Hong Kong were given the opportunity to swap stories with one and all. The oldest 'Old Comrade', **Mr Jack Edwards MBE**, was a PoW in a Japanese labour camp during World War Two and he gave several harrowing accounts of what happened during that time.

The remainder of the day was taken up with a barbecue and sports held on Stone Cutters Island. Up until now the weather had been very kind to us but it was soon to revert to the rainy season. Just as the Gurkha Ladies 'Egg and Spoon' race was due to start the heavens opened and all dashed for shelter. Luckily it didn't last long and the race was duly run plus games of football, softball and tug of war. The final part of the celebrations was the cutting of the Anniversary cake by our Commander, **Lt Col R. Crombie**, with sufficient for all to get a piece.



Presentation of UN Commander's Commendation to LCpl Tulasiraj Rai



Recipients of the LS & GC Medal (Navy & Army)



Lt Col Crombie cuts the Anniversary cake

OC — **Maj (GCO) Lilbahadur Gurung**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Dhankaji Ale**

SQUADRON ANNUAL CAMP

This year **Lt (QGO) Hitman Gurung** organised an excellent and varied adventurous training camp at Pui O beach on Lantau Island. He was very ably assisted throughout by **SSgt Dilip Rai** as the camp SSM and **SSgt Nekbahadur Pun** as the SQMS. Activities varied from wind surfing, to abseiling, to cycling and climbing the Lantau Peak. Most of the Regiment seemed to find time to visit/join in the training area and even the COS HQBF, **Capt (RN) Peter Melson CBE** enjoyed a day on a windsurfer and sampling the field cuisine. There was an embarrassing moment when the Adjutant had to be rescued at sea, he has yet to learn how to turn a windsurfer, and a couple of anonymous SNCOs have a bit of explaining to do about a missing face mask!

FAREWELLS/WELCOMES

There have been a number of changes in personalities within the Squadron. The Traffic Officer/J Tp Comd–**Capt Dave Turner** left Hong Kong (and the grieving Wanchie) for sunny Blandford. We wish him, **Anne**, and the two boys all the very best for the future. In his place we welcome **Capt Paul Ferris** and **Rosemary** and hope their stay in Hong Kong is rewarding in all respects. We also welcome **SSgt** 'Bod' **McDonald** to M Tp and **SSgt** 'Jacko' **Jackson** to J Tp. Both of them are no strangers to Gurkhas as they have served with 30 Sig Regt. **Lt (QGO) Hitman Gurung** has handed over A Tp to **Lt (QGO) Kulbahadur Bura** and went on to Nepal leave prior to attending his Troop Commanders course in Blandford in October.

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(2) Young officers are eligible for honorary membership (free) for three years after receiving their commissions.
(3) Membership rules have been relaxed for close relations of members.
(4) Subscriptions may be paid by quarterly or half-yearly instalments. There are reduced rates over weekends.

Should you wish for a leaflet or an introductory tour, please call the Club Secretary, Major David Taylor, on 0171 930 9721 or fax 0171 930 9720.

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj S. P. Davies MBE LD**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) P. L. Baker AGC** (MPS)

We welcome **Maj Peter Parish AGC** (SPS) who took over as RAO in the early part of June from **Capt Mary Birch** who has gone to the greener fields of JDSC. We wish her well but will miss her enthusiasm and example at the morning circuit sessions! We also welcome **Sgt Lilbahadur Gurung** from BG Pokhara who takes over as Master Chef. Sadly this means a farewell to **CSgt Bhuwansing Rana**, who leaves on pension with his family to Nepal. **Bhuwans'** bhats were rightly famous but more than that we will miss his cheery manner and ever ready smile. We wish him and his family all the best. The final farewell is to the Sqn SQGO, a colourful **Capt Bikram Gurung** who is off to 2 Sig Regt in York, Bosnia and then we understand the Falklands! His cheery manner, distinctive laugh and flamboyant footballing skills will all be missed.



Capt (QGO) Bikramjang Gurung, Capt Tom Sandman, Maj Steve Davies LD and (*seated*) Capt Mary Birch

32 Sig Regt (V) Glasgow

CO — **Lt Col I. O. Robertson**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) G. G. A. Reith**

The Regiment was stood down in July which coincided nicely with one of the best summers on record. Most permanent staff took leave over that period.

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON
DEPARTURES

The Regiment said farewell to the following. We wish them and their families all the best.

The QM, **Capt Andy McBain** left the Regiment and the Army in June. He is now working as a PSAO of a TA Transport Regiment in Scotland.

WO2 (RQMS) Tam Tulloch left the Corps after 22 years' service and is going to work as an MOD civilian in Cyprus. It is quite appropriate that he is going back to Cyprus as he has already had four tours there with the Army!

WO2 Davie Frazer finally left the TA after 32 years' service. **Davie** joined as a chef in 1962 and was appointed master chef in 1984. He remained in this appointment until 1994. He is one of the few people to have the TA efficiency medal with three clasps.

SSgt John Dalzeal (REME) left the Regiment in July. He served in the REME for 22 years and hopes to continues with his military service as an NRPS.

Sgt Ian Marshall left the Regiment after 15 years' service. He held a number of post in the Regiment both within his trade and in the Regimental Recruit Training Team.

51 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) OPEN DAY

51 Sig Sqn (V) held an open day at Prince Charles Barracks on Sunday 19 March to keep the Royal Signals in the public eye–in opposition to the Gordon Highlanders (now demised) who are large in the area.

The demonstrations were very professional and displayed the enthusiasm that exists in the Highland Sig Sqn–many thanks to OC LAD **Capt Willie Cunningham** and **Capt John McCall** (V) for their help and support. **Willie**'s wrecker rides were very popular with children, both young and old.



To round off a perfect day
Lord Provost James Wyness MA JP, The Lord Lieutenant for the City of Aberdeen, presented TA Efficiency Medals to Sgt Mike Wills, Sgt Russ Lindsay and Cpl Bob Burr
Sigs Dale Unwin and Hazel Dinnie received the Allied Dunbar Trophy (Best young soldiers)
Cpl Ian Grant was the recipient of the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate. With the Lord Lieutenant is Sqn Comd, Maj W. A. Barron (V) and Col Man RAMC

Photo courtesy of Aberdeen District Council

Sig Urwin was so taken with his award that he immediately went out and got married to **LCpl Pat Miller**–many congratulations to you both.

The next item on the agenda was the VE Commemoration display in the Bon Accord Shopping Centre which is just a way of thanking them for letting us put up our recruiting stand whenever we want to do so.

Thanks go to Sqn 2IC **Capt John Mackie** and ex PSI **Ken Mitchell** for their efforts.

At the time of writing–the sun beats down and Aberdeen is basking in glorious sunshine and the PSI **Ray Ramsay** is really glad to be here.

52 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd — **Maj F. Farquarson** (V)
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Keith Anderson**

Maj Fiona Farquharson said, 'Let there be light', and lo' there was a flare! This was the advent of the Squadron attack on the skills house at Garelochhead, otherwise known as 'little Govan'. As a change from the usual Squadron routine, **Capt Roderick Sutherland**, ably assisted by **SSM Keith Anderson**, arranged an infantry training weekend at the Garelochhead Training Area. The culmination of the weekend was the savage firefight and storming of the skills house, where **Sgt Steve McVey** showed that he had forgotten more about house clearance than most of us will ever learn!

The highlight of the weekend was when **Sgt Dave MacKay** used his various voices and personalities during the radio phase of the exercise to act as several Unit Commanders. **Cpl Dougie MacDonald** expressed concern over the ease with which **Sgt MacKay** slipped in and out of his multiple personalities.

Congratulations to **Sgt Jean Thomson** for passing her PTI course in July. She has promised not to 'beast' the Regiment too much on training weekends.

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JNCO CADRE COURSE

The Regiment ran a JNCO cadre course over the weekend 11-13 August at Castlelaw Training Area near Edinburgh. The weekend involved a day of military training, patrolling at night and a day of testing for soldiers up to and including the rank of Corporal. There were a total of 35 students broken into five sections. The training period included Ranges, Section Attacks, Section Defence, Orders, LAW 90 and Grenades, First Aid, Fieldcraft and Cam and Concealment.

Once all the sections had completed the seven instructional stands, they then moved on foot carrying all their equipment to a Platoon Harbour Area. Sections then carried out routine admin while Section Commanders were given Patrol Orders.

Section Commanders then prepared their own orders which were assessed by members of the DS. Each Section carried out a patrol to recce and observe the enemy at given locations.

The Cadre was concluded on the Sunday morning with a test Phase followed by an assault course competition. The whole exercise was run and organised by the Regiment's Junior Officers.

The Cadre was an extremely worthwhile exercise for all concerned and forms part of the Regiment's preparation for Camp.

SERGEANTS' MESS

The newly refurbished HQ and 52 Sig Sqn (V) Sergeants' Mess which was officially opened on Friday 23 June by the Secretary of Lowland TAVRA, **Col** (Retd) **R. Watson**. The refurbishment included a new purpose built corner bar with draught beer and lager, the opening of an adjoining anti-room via a passageway with fitted display cabinets, and complete redecoration throughout. The whole refurbishment was paid for by Lowland TAVRA and has given the Warrant Officers and SNCOs a social facility they can be justly proud of.

The Glasgow Branch of the Royal Signals Association also have the full use of the HQ and 52 Sqn Sergeants' Mess on its Association nights.

EXERCISE ARRAN PILOT

The Regimental 2IC, **Maj A. C. W. MacGilivary** (V) kindly provided his 36ft ketch for an adventure sail training week for permanent staff of the Regiment.

The crew consisted of **Maj MacGilivary** (V), **WO1 (RSM) Reith, SSgt Sam Shaw** and **Cpl Chris Warren** both PSIs from 61 Sqn (V).

The first leg was from Rhu north of Helensburgh on the Gare Loch down Firth of Clyde to Kilchatten Bay on the Island of Bute. As we sailed out of the Gare Loch we passed within a couple of hundred metres of a Nuclear Submarine returning to Faslane. The wind picked up as we sailed down the Firth of Clyde and we had an excellent sail to Bute. We moored up in Kilchatten Bay, had something to eat and ventured ashore for some refreshments at the local hotel. By this time, there was a strong wind blowing offshore which made rowing the small rubber tender ashore challenging to say the least. As all four could not get into the tender at the same time, it was decided that the RSM would row **SSgt Sam Shaw** and **Cpl Chris Warren** ashore and **Cpl Warren** would return for the 2IC. **Cpl Warren** found out that rowing back in a strong wind was not as easy as it seemed and at one point we thought he was heading for Ireland.

The next day we set off up the Kyles of Bute on a glorious day with a good Force 4. The scenery was breathtaking and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day's sail. We moored up at Tignabruaich and watched the *Waverley* which is the last working steam driven paddle steamer in Europe pass by. We then motored up the Kyles of Bute just as the sun was setting.

It was a beautiful evening and again the scenery was outstanding. We then went back to Tignabruaich and held the alternate 75th Anniversary All Ranks Corps Dinner. The spaghetti bolognese meal we had was perhaps not as splendid as the one being eaten in the London Hilton, but the clean Scottish air and the glorious setting more than made up for any shortfalls in food or dress. Anyway the 75th Anniversary of the Corps was formally toasted on board the Ketch *Beija Flor* in Tignabruaich Bay on Tuesday 4 July 1995.

We went ashore just before a small basking shark circled the yacht but in time to meet swarms of midges. The row back some time after midnight, was accompanied with the theme from Jaws which miraculously improved **Cpl Warren**'s rowing.

On Wednesday the wind picked up to Force 7 gusting 8 and we motored across to Largs marina where we moored for the night. We had a night sail back up the Gare Loch to Rhu on Thursday. An excellent week's sailing which will, hopefully, be repeated next year.



The alternative 75th Anniversary Corps Dinner
L to R: Cpl Warren, SSgt Shaw, Maj MacGilivary and WO1 (RSM) Reith

51 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) OPEN DAY

Our photo shows **LCpl James Douglas** (on left) and **Sig Karen Bremner** (on right) giving young **Danny Sutherland** a lesson on the 320–he can then go home and show his dad **Cpl Ivan Sutherland** how it should be operated.



L to R: LCpl Douglas, Danny Sutherland, Sig Bremner
Photo courtesy of Aberdeen Journals Ltd

34 Sig Regt (V) Middlesbrough

CO — **Lt Col W. P. Crowley**
Adjt — **Capt P. M. Kelly**

ADIEU–LT COL M. K. STRETCH

Sudden telephone calls from 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde and LANDCOM brought **Lt Col Stretch**'s tenure in command to an abrupt halt one Friday afternoon (it's always a Friday!). **Col Stretch**'s successor would arrive on the Tuesday and the handover would be complete by close of play Wednesday. A total of 30 hours to hand over a Ptarmigan Regiment of over 500 soldiers and all equipment was a tight order. However it went exceedingly well with a lot of goodwill exhibited by all involved.

The Regiment wishes him well and congratulates him on his promotion to Colonel.

However, 34 Sig Regt (V) gives a hearty Maple Leaf welcome, all the way from Blandford, to **Lt Col W. P. Crowley** and **Mrs Crowley** and wish them a very good tour in Middlesbrough.



Lt Col W. P. Crowley (*left*) takes over command from Lt Col M. K. Stretch (*right*) on a very hot day in the building site that is Brambles Farm TA Centre

THE BIRTWISTLE TROPHY

The third weekend of June saw a concentration of teams formed within the Regiment to compete in the annual Birtwistle Trophy. The Trophy, presented to the Regiment by the Master of Signals when he was our Honorary Colonel, is given to the team that scores the most points over a two-day event. Day 1 is devoted to an 18km course with 10 military skill stands dotted along its length. Day 2 is the competition's annual March and Shoot. This year's winners were 745 Access Tp based in Hull. Team leader **Lt Bret Appleby**, received the Trophy from the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE DL**.



The winners of the Birtwistle Trophy 1995 are 745 Access Tp–Hull
Standing (L to R): Sig Mounsey, Lt Bret Appleby, The Master of Signals, Lt Col W. P. Crowley and Sig Lutkin
In front (L to R): Sig Oxley, LCpl Parrish, Sgt Tulley, Cpl Openshaw and Sgt Rowarth

RED CROSS BEACON

This year marks the 125th anniversary of the British Red Cross Society. In the north of England this was marked by the erection of 125 beacons spread along the length of the country which provided a medieval and memorable sight when lit. The LAD, led by **SSgt Fitzmaurice**, constructed one of the beacons to help mark the occasion and the Regiment's appreciation of the Society's work.



LAD Red Cross Beacon construction crew
Shown standing in front of the beacon built to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the British Red Cross Society
L to R: Mr Brian Jowett, Cpl Frederick Oakes, Sgt Geoff Weller, SSgt Paul Fitzmaurice and Mr Geoff Rawlings

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"To Caroline and Steve Congratulations on your wedding from Bob and Jane"

RED CROSS SPORTS COMPETITION

The Regiment entered a keen team of over-achievers to compete against military and civilian teams in an obstacle course organised to support the Red Cross. 34 Sig Regt (V) struck gold yet again with the team led by **2Lt Smith** and comprising, **WO2 (RQMS) Sykes, LCpl OBrian** taking the trophy for best overall team!

FOND FAREWELLS

We bid a great big Moose farewell to our Adjt, **Capt Paul Kelly** who is off to RCMS Shrivenham via Wilton and congratulate him on his promotion to Major. Our new Adjutant **Capt Pete Turner** will have to get his pen moving on the *Wire* notes.

SSgt Andy Maxted is jetting his way to 7 Sig Regt. We understand that **Andy** will be away soon after joining the Regiment. Welcome to the Army **Mrs Maxted**.

Also leaving us is **Sgt Shelmerdine** who is going to the big Bos with 24 (Airmob) Bde on promotion to SSgt.

Lastly **Sgt Dave Currie** and family move to HQ AFCENT where he will be able to buy a new television set with all that extra LOA.

50 SIGNAL SQUADRON–DARLINGTON

Sqn Comd	**Maj A. M. Grindrod TD**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Appleby**

The go-getters from 50 Sig Sqn (V) competed in a 300 mile cycle ride around the North-East, 26/27 August to raise money for the North of England Children's Cancer Research Fund. The donations were kicked off with a cheque for £200 presented by **Maj Allan Grindrod** and **SSgt Steve Tinkler** raised during the Nijmegen Marches.

NIJMEGEN 1995

by LCpl Carol 'Never Again!' **Tinkler**

Once again, 50 Sig Sqn (V) successfully completed the Nijmegen Marches, winning an overall Team Medal and individual medals for its efforts.

The journey across the water went smoothly and it gave us a chance to get to know each other a little more (very little choice when you have 12 people crammed in one minibus). I would also like to say that we should have won the medal for the most outstanding roof rack which was very kindly provided by **Sgt Bill Scarlet** of the Band. I think we must have invented the very first double decker minibus.

Although we had trained as a team for several months nothing could have prepared the newcomers (including myself) for what was ahead. The huge size of the camp and numbers of people were awesome, and the heat was unbearable, however, we managed to settle in very well. We had a great day out on the Sunday (I think we were lulled into a false sense of security) and then it was down to business.

Out came the zinc oxide tape and the 1000 mile socks (guaranteed no blisters . . . they lied) and that was just to prepare ourselves for the breakfast queue. The first morning, at 0430hrs, we found ourselves in the longest queue we have ever seen. An hour later, laden with ham, cheese and bread, **LCpl Kipling** and I made our way to the lads' accommodation ready for the line up at 0630hrs.

We were very lucky with the weather on the first day and the team finished in excellent spirits. We achieved a good time and with only a few blisters, helped by singing all the way. The second day began at 0530hrs but we still managed to get breakfast.

We did have a few injuries by the second day and some of us were soon getting to know the medics on a first name basis. Our spirits were still good. We were really working well as a team which is a must in such an event.

Each day we started a little earlier and the weather just got hotter and hotter. The only reprieve was being hosed down by the local people which was a godsend. The atmosphere was absolutely amazing, the streets were lined with people cheering us on. There were street parties everywhere and everyone was so kind giving us water, fruit and sweets.

The last day was the hardest. That's when we lost a member of our team who ended up on a drip. **Cpl Brack** worked hard and we were and are very proud of him. This did hit a few of us to start with because we knew that we all had to get through now to qualify for the team medal. **Sig Andy Vasarhelyi**, who had to have his heels rebuilt twice by the doctor, persevered. He spent most of the second and third day away with the fairies.

It was a very proud moment when we did the march past through to Nijmegen, somehow we gained some inner strength to drag us through. There were people on the roofs and they had lined the streets with seats for the crowds. People were handing us flowers. I now know how celebrities must feel. Finally we boarded the bus with one thing in mind . . . lots and lots of liquid refreshment, after all we had been warned about dehydration.

Thanks go to **Sigs Tony Hotchen** and 'Robbo' **Robinson** who joined the team in the last two weeks before departure because of cancellations, they did an excellent job.

I must mention the rest of the team: **SSgt Steve Tinkler** (Team Leader), **Sigs Braithwaite, Gibbons, Cpl Howes, LCpl Melenie Kipling, Cpl Nelson** and **Sig** 'Tommo' **Thompson**. We also want to thank everyone who helped us get there especially, **Capt J. J. Wilson**, thank you, Sir, I hope your nerves are better now.

Last but not least; on a serious note I can honestly say that Nijmegen marches were one of the hardest things I have ever done. I think that everyone who completes it deserves their medal and if there are people out there reading this who are saying 'What does she mean, 100 miles in four days sounds easy to me' (just like I did) then be my guest. You will probably meet a team from 50 Sig Sqn (V) . . . unfortunately I think I'm washing my hair round about that time next year.



SSgt Steve Tinkler's award winning marching team photographed in Holland
L to R: SSgt Steve Tinkler, Sigs Hotchen, Robinson, Braithwaite, Gibbons, Cpls Nelson, Howes, Sig Thompson, LCpls Kipling, Tinkler, Sig Vasarhelyi and Cpl Brack

ROYAL SIGNALS 75TH ANNIVERSARY RED WINE

11 Sig Regt has commissioned a Red Wine in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Royal Signals. The label is painted on to the bottle. The wine, which can only be purchased via the PRI 11 Sig Regt at a cost of £7.50 per Btl (750ml), or £84.50 per case, is either good to drink now or to lay down until the 100th anniversary or even to keep as a memento. It is sure to attract collector status just as the 50th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings bottle has done.

For further details and order forms contact either: The PRI on Blandford Mil 2236, Civil 01258 48 2236 or the RSM on Blandford Mil 2240 Civil 01258 48 2240.

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

XXXV

ALL QUIET ON THE WEST MIDLAND FRONT

During the traditional quiet mid-summer period items for publication in the Corps Magazine became quite sparse. This is because most reportable activities either precede or follow the now firmly established Permanent Staff Block leave period fondly known as the Regimental summer recess. It is however a quiet period used to its full advantage by the Regimental PSAOs who usually form the rear party. As expected they used this stress free and invigorating time productively. They reviewed and re-published Squadron Standing Orders, Contingency Plans and other instructions that keep the unit ticking over administratively and carried out essential stores and maintenance checks. However, an unexpected and somewhat bizarre incident interrupted this largely tranquil period as one unnamed PSAO would swear–well he did at the time. On a quiet but feverishly hot Wednesday afternoon (yes Wednesday) on securing his garages he heard a strange scratching and cooing noise emanating from the rafters! Horrified, he suspected a pigeon or dove had infiltrated the secure garage area and therefore he couldn't set the alarm. He then mustered a team of reluctant helpers together with scaffolding to root out the unwelcome intruder. The team, led by a stout TA SSgt, actually found a long deserted nest complete with broken egg shells–needless to say the bird had flown at least two years before!

The PSAO in question denies he was suffering from sunstroke. He is now trying to live down his new title of Sylvester and unscramble the mystery of the missing bird! A Civilian Admin Officer, who wishes to remain anonymous, also caught a touch of the sun during this extremely hot recess when she actually preferred a charge against a TA soldier who failed to return his Identity Card. The response from the TA soldier was understandably muted! Finally, a special mention to **SSgt (FofS) John Whitty, Sgts Daz Evans, Greg Sharp** and 'Robbo' **Robinson** and **Cpls Adrian Dear**, 'Curly' **Treadwell** and **Daz Cowley**. This group of Regimental stalwarts had to man the Ptarmigan Hub at Corsham during July and August. Their leave, unfortunately, was placed on hold so regrettably they missed some of the benefits of the hot weather and had to endure baking temperatures indoors.-Happily, they were all granted leave following their shift change on Monday 14 August delighted to find the heatwave had not subsided.

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL MILITARY RECEPTION

Shortly before the summer break, the Regiment found itself firmly in the driving seat for the West Midlands Regional Military Reception. The elegant surrounds of the Council House in Birmingham provided the ideal venue for this special function held during the evening of Tuesday 18 July.

The purpose of the reception was to raise the profile of the Territorial Army, to thank our supporters amongst the local community and, in particular, to bring together as many employers of serving TA officers and soldiers as possible to thank them personally for the support and the encouragement they give to those employees who are active members of the TA.



Comd 143 Bde, Lady Mayoress, Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Hon Col and CO

Guests at the function were greeted by Comd 143 Bde, **Brig J. P. Weller** and the CO, **Lt Col John Ewbank**. Guests entertained by Regimental officers and other officers drawn from units throughout the 143 Bde area, included the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, **Councillor David Roy**, the Hon Col of 35 Sig Regt, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB MBE**, the Chairman of the West Midland TAVRA, **Brig C. M. J. Barnes**, various Captains of Industry, local employers and many other guests. This special evening concluded with the Band and Bugles of the Light Division playing a Sounding Retreat ceremony in Victoria Square. The salute at the ceremony was taken by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham.

EXERCISE ROUGH RIDER 1995

Ex Rough Rider 1995 was the HQ 5 Div Safe and Skilled Driving Competition which was held at Copthorne Barracks, Shrewsbury over the weekend 8/9 July. Many teams from the 5 Div area competed, which this year once again included two teams from the Regiment–a team from 58 Sig Sqn (V) and a team from 89 Sig Sqn (V).

MOVEMENTS

A few movements in and out of the Regiment have taken place during the last couple of months and we have said farewell to a number of prominent personalities and characters and welcomed their replacements. In June, 48 Sig Sqn (V) bade farewell to their outgoing Sqn Comd, **Maj Chris Fidler** (V), at a special dinner which also welcomed his replacement **Maj Pat Bannigan** (V) fresh from his tour of duty as Regimental Ops Offr. **Chris** leaves the Regiment on a TA posting to 33 Sig Regt (V) and will be fondly remembered for his frankness, sincerity and dry sense of humour.

The Dinner was organised by **Capt George Cairns** (V) who was accompanied by 'Jimmy the Cad' but now wishes he wasn't! Next we said farewell to **WO2 (YofS) Nick Hawley** who leaves us on posting to 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt. We also welcomed his replacement **WO2 (YofS) Chris Rogan**, his wife **Elizabeth** and their four children. We also bade a sad farewell to **SSgt Keith Stewart**, our stouthearted stalwart in the Regimental Training Wing and welcomed his replacement **SSgt Mark Giles**. Finally a special welcome is extended to **SSgt John Middler**, our new NRPS Regimental Accountant. We wish all our new arrivals a long, happy and rewarding tour.



Maj Chris Fidler (V) receiving his farewell gift from WO2 (SSM) Kalinski

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are extended to **Capt Jeremy Tod** (V) our esteemed Adjutant on his marriage to **Jenny**. **Jeremy** actually took a break from a Regimental exercise to get married–but whatever happened to the cake? Rumours abound that it is still stuck under the sideboard! And finally a belated congratulations and apology to **SSgt Dave Arnot** our Orienteering Team Capt who received the TA Minor Unit Trophy back in May. **Dave** unfortunately did not get a mention in the last Regimental Notes which covered the event–due to a typing error!

36 Sig Regt (V)
Ilford

On 24 June 1995 the Regiment exercised its right to the Freedom of the Borough of Redbridge. The day started with all out-lying Squadrons arriving at Ilford TAC, which is a feat in itself. We then embarked on an intense rehearsal period, with the careful use of the words of command, 'left wheel', 'right wheel', the Regiment was just about able, along with the band from 34 Sig Regt (V) to weave its way around the TA Centre. The parade itself went very well apart from the ambulance slotting in just after the band with blue lights flashing. The salute was taken by the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE DL** and the Mayor of Redbridge, **Councillor Ronnie Bardon**. The parade was followed by a families' day in the TA Centre.



The Regiment leaves the TAC led by the 2IC, Maj R. Wilkinson closely followed by the Adjt, Capt P. Harlow and the RSM, WO1 (RSM) B. Palmer



The CO, Lt Col J. Henderson handing what appears to be a blank cheque to the Master of Signals

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON
EXERCISE GRAND SLAM

HQ Sqn personnel took part in an arduous military skills weekend on Aldershot Training Areas 2-4 June 1995. The aim, required every individual to command a section of 'unwitting infantiers' while operating within a fully tactical environment. Living in the field with no creature comforts, permanent staff keeping a watchful eye on all participants throughout every phase, ensuring no one missed out on the hardships.

Now, to briefly set the scene! An unknown number of foreign students all having undergone military training and active service in defence of their homeland, and in their final year at Welbeck College, under orders and supporting political activities at home, have taken two Porton Down scientists hostage. The students, armed and highly motivated have taken refuge somewhere in the 'Rushmoor Area'. Their purpose? To reap havoc and despondency within 'The home of the British Army' or the nearby Royal Aircraft Establishment. Why? (I hear you ask yourself) British Forces have been sent in support of the neighbouring adversaries and apart from that, I said so! (MTWO Ex co-ord). HQ Sqn's mission 'To seek/destroy the enemy, of course! Oh . . . and to release hostages.

After de-bussing late Friday night on the wrong side of 'long valley' a 5km approach march for disorientation purposes followed. Hasty harbour drills, clearing patrol and patrol base set-up in defensive positions flowed nicely under command of DS. Ten minutes after basha erection, **Cpl Drew** led the sect to the DZ (nicely set up by the enemy) to secure and retrieve pre-dropped C Sups. **LCpl Tarling** works out how to move the water, compo and ammo 3km back to the patrol base. Meanwhile **LCpl Porter** makes contact with and gleans information from duty friendly agents.

Having moved the mountain of stores back to base, over Basingstoke Canal, the dreaded Bailey Bridge, and the nature trail, that only training areas such as this can provide, time to sleep (wrong) and defend the location. Enter enemy patrol, stage left, only noticed by **Sig** 'Hawkeye' **Stalley** after much loud coughing provided by **WO2 Dick Brooksbank** (IC Enemy).

Dawn breaks, everyone in non-tac mode. Instruction commences from 0700-1930hrs varying from revision on 'the 24hr death pack', camouflage, concealment, basha building, patrolling techniques (including formations, recce, CTR and fighting patrols). Duties of a sentry, living off the land. Minor infantry tactics, use of pyrotechnics, location defense, map reading and practical use of the silva compass and like all good field exercises plenty of rain. **Sgts** 'Brummie' **Taylor, Steve Behan** and **Martin Stebbing** 'digging deep' to provide worthwhile instruction during monsoon time. 2000hrs enemy patrol stumbles (literally) on patrol base location on cue. **LCpl Jenkins** in cold pursuit after a switched on sentry sees them off with a full magazine.

Recce patrols were duly despatched to locate possible enemy location. **Sig Mulcahy** heading patrol off in wrong direction with **SSgt Warwick** bewildered but in tow anyway. **CWO Parrish** leading his patrol to the correct enemy site.

CTRs being the next logical step, led under command of **LCpl** 'Stealth' **Stalley** (AGC) and **Cpl** 'Rambo' **Drew** providing a wealth of enemy encampment information on patrol completion.

0200hrs on Sunday morning and the fighting patrols begin with a briefing from **Sgt Stevie Behan** now promoted to Sect Comd and **Sgt** 'Brummie' **Taylor**, Sect 2IC. At 0400hrs the enemy encampment awaken to the sound of Armageddon. All tactics and skills put into practice in a manner any Warminster SI would be proud of. A superb left flanking manoeuvre putting paid to all resistance.

All in all, a very enjoyable and informative weekend, providing revision and an insight into other soldierly skills, culminating in realistic practice, enthusiastic leadership and teamwork shown by all participants. The aims of the weekend and the mission were successfully achieved–Well done!



MTWO supervises LCpl Tarling as she disarms a trip flare before Sgt Taylor nods off

45 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Sig Hoy joined 45 Sig Sqn (V) in July 1995. Here are some of his thoughts after his first exercise. **Sig Hoy** works as a care assistant for SCOPE (previously the Spastic's Society).

EXERCISE SUMMER EAGLE

Packed equipment in vehicles and at 2300hrs we were told we could get our heads down. Great, I thought, a good six hours sleep to start the day . . . not . . . alarms ringing, doors slamming, fans humming in the ceiling and one hour's guard from 0200-0300hrs, not my idea of getting my head down.

Well, up at 0400hrs, wash, shave and nicely refreshed for the day ahead. Left the TAC at 0530hrs half way stop at the Bermuda Inn or was it Sloppy Jo's? It all tastes the same at that time of the morning! We finally made it to the RV point and were escorted on site.

Great I made it. Poles flying, cam net drifting and stakes banging. Me, two hours' guard. By the time my guard finished, the Triffids were up, shots were in and the CP tent was up and running. I was detailed to **Sig Mills**' Triffid and everything was done, 'Hey, this is more like it!' But not for long, we lost the shot, turned it that way, turned it this, up a section and down again but after a while we were back on line.

Kettle on, feet up, actually learning something about bands and frequencies. Finally, I did not feel like a dogsbody. The Troop Sgt, **Sgt Joiner** came around to see if everything was OK. Time to hide the chocolate chip cookies–too late they were gone. **Sig Mills** said that he was going to his guard and I would have to look after the Triffid. Arhhhh! What if someone phones? What do I say? What if I lost the shot, what do I do? My panic stricken face said it all. He went, I bit my nails, he came back, I was saved.

1930hrs, grub up, some very nice spaghetti bolognaise, courtesy of **Sgt Semmence**. 0030hrs my shift on guard again. I returned to the Triffid at 0130hrs and **Sig Mills** was doing a sleeping watch. I thought I would get some zzzzzz's. I crashed in the bivi. At 0530hrs I was rudely awoken by **Sig Mills**, and yes, you guessed it–guard again!

We started the morning with a first works on the vehicle. **Sig Mills** and a technician went over the more technical side, and I did some greasing. The phone rang and we were to close down one of the shots. So **Sig Mills** stayed by the set and I started to pull down the mast, stakes out, guys rolled up and the head off. Soon we stopped for a lovely lunch of stewed steak. We finished packing up and then were off back to the TAC where we filled up and washed the vehicles down. I was detailed to clean the weapons, then we went in to the Troop office where we were congratulated on a good exercise by **Lt O'Brien**. I went home. While soaking in the bath I thought thank goodness I'm not a regular, but then, after thinking about it, I had a very rewarding weekend.

54 (EA) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

The CO of 36 (E) Sig Regt (V) **Lt Col J. S. A. Henderson** presented The Territorial Efficiency Medal to two serving members of 54 (EA) Sig Sqn (V)–**SSgt Glen Baker** and **Sgt Andy Letts** at Bedford TAC on 22 June. An ex member of the Squadron, **Mr Paul Middleton**, who served with SHQ until he retired in 1993 received the Efficiency Medal.

After the presentations friends and family of the recipients joined the two Bedford Tps at a buffet held in the Unit Bar.



From L to R: SSgt Glen Baker, Sgt Andy Letts, Mr Paul Middleton and Lt Col J. S. A. Henderson

LAND FORCES UK & TA ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to **SSgt Louise Walker** of 45 (Essex) Sig Sqn (V), who won the Women's TA Individual Event, and who together with **LCpl Rose Prince** and **Sig Debbie Bentley** won the Women's TA Team Event; a great achievement. All agreed this was a better way to spend an exercise weekend. It was thoroughly enjoyable, although **Sig Bentley** did manage to find a lost swamp to swim in. A big thank you to **SSgt Geoff Backhouse** the Regular PSI, who kindly chauffeured us to our venue, ensuring we were at the right place at the right time. We hope we have enough time to defend our title and trophy in 1996.



SSgt Louise Walker, LCpl Rose Prince and Sig Debbie Bentley

THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS 75TH ANNIVERSARY GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS 26/27 APRIL 1995

After many months of training, the Permanent Staff put together a team to send to Blandford to participate in the Championships. The selection of the team was a tough one for **Sgt Andy Harriott**, that was until the CO decided to drop out of the team. After agreeing that the team would all meet at the Sergeants' Mess, we all set off.

On arrival at Blandford, the four man team was down to three because **SSgt (FofS) Warwick** had too much work on; 'Get a Life'. On Tuesday the rest of the team consisting of **Sgt Andy Harriott, SSgts Geoff Backhouse** and **Geoff Chadwick**, set off for a practice round. That afternoon **SSgt Chadwick** was told it was 36 holes a day and not 36 holes in total, at this he went very quiet.

The morning of the competition arrived and the team got off to a great start, ending the day in joint first place with two other teams. That evening, we all went back to the Mess to tell the tall tales of the 40ft putts we all sank.

Day two arrived, but again the team managed to put in three good scores to win the team trophy. Other prizes won were **Sgt Andy Harriott**, Division 1 winner, who lost the 'scratch' on count back. **SSgt Geoff Backhouse** came second in Division 2 and, **Cpl Allan Lane** won the Greensomes Cup.



SSgt Geoff Backhouse, Sgt Andy Harriott and SSgt Geoff Chadwick

37 Sig Regt (V)
Redditch

CO **Lt Col Stamford Cartwright** (V)
RSM **WO1 (RSM) John Riley**

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We welcome **SSgt** 'Biddy' **Baxter** as PSI at 96 Sig Sqn (V) in Coventry. Congratulations go to **Maj Ross Parsell** on promotion to take over 93 Sig Sqn (V) at Blackburn from **Maj Alan Whittle**. He goes to the other side as SO2 Comms at 42 (North West) Bde in Preston after a long and distinguished career in virtually every rank in 93 Sig Sqn (V). Congratulations also to newly-commissioned **2Lt Tony Lysak** at 96 Sig Sqn (V).

EXERCISE SUMMER SOLSTICE

The annual Regimental Military Skills competition has fluctuated between Salisbury Plain and Sennybridge PTAs. This year it was home advantage for 53 Sig Sqn (V). Trg Maj, **Maj Tony Shaw** delegated the whole event to **WO1 (RSM) John Riley** at an early stage. The result was a challenging competition for teams of eight, generally two teams from each Squadron. Meanwhile the Trg Maj took 'spare' people on his own special survival course. After a short night's sleep on arrival at Sennybridge's latest FIBUA village, the teams were quickly submerged in the mud of the village sewers. Then it was out on the hoof to a series of stands lasting until midnight. REME PSI **SSgt** 'Daz' **Stubbins** and **Cpl Ron Wright** had constructed a rope bridge in early remembrance of VJ-Day. Teams who survived this then struggled with an aerial ropeway, uphill at the end. 96 Sig Sqn's PSIs **SSgts Chris Taylor** and 'Biddy' **Baxter** forced teams through more mud into a night obstacle course including a baffling maze of tunnels. One 53 Sig Sqn (V) team proved that home advantage is not everything and spent a frustrating half-hour in the plastic pipes. **SSgt Jill Summers, WO2 (RQMS) Charlie Dubique** and **Sgt Keith Harrison** probed teams' mental ability and co-ordination with an observation test followed by a blind walk along a rope-guided confidence course.



SSgt Jill Summers, WO2 Charlie Dubique and Sgt Keith Harrison await their next victims on the observation test

Both mental and physical powers came to the fore on **SSgt (FofS) Mick Cowie**'s tactical map reading stand. **Lt Kevin** 'Simon' **Barker**'s 67 Sig Sqn (V) A team began to lose its way heavily at this point and kept this consistent form for the rest of the day. RMO **Maj Jim Greaves** and **Sgt Sarah Cull**'s gang of medics had some convincing casualties made up for first aid treatment on the next stand; 93 Sig Sqn (V)'s YofS **SSgt Marcus Cosgrove** gets the BAFTA award as a shock casualty. **Sgts Matt Duff** and **Graham Low** made the teams sweat in the hot sun with a casevac task under fire from a sniper. 67's PSI **SSgt Pete Lamont** and **Maj John Turquand** from the specialist training team took the teams into a recce patrol task in a UN scenario. A chance to rest aching limbs was provided by 93 Sig Sqn (V)'s military knowledge stand. Run by PSI **SSgt Dan Locker, WO2 Jeff Dolan** and **SSgt Diane Feest**, the teams had to grope in dark boxes to identify foreign objects and recognise vehicles and aircraft. Finally 53 Sig Sqn (V)'s **SSgts Rob Warren** and **Carl Walker** supervised a session in the FIBUA village. Yet another maze, this time underground, was filled with smoke and teams were invited to shin up an extremely dodgy rope ladder to clear a house.

After another short night, Sunday morning was spent on the notorious assault course. Most survived the initial rope crossing without getting wet but for the first time the course included the 12ft drop into the well-known stream at the end. Hardly surprising, therefore, that a number of Regimental personalities were unceremoniously dragged in afterwards; how did the RSM escape?

After a chance to dry out for the journey home, the Trg Maj presented the results. HQ Sqn were delighted to regain the trophy and congratulations go to its team of **Cpl Steve Bowman** (IC), **Sgts Paul Skelton, Phil Hall** and **Nigel Haldron, Cpls John McCarthy** and **Matthew Bellamy, LCpl Dave Ashbury** and **Sig Barry Fitzpatrick**. 96 Sig Sqn (V) won the Assault Course competition and congratulations went to all the teams who put everything into the competition.



OCdt Liz Hodges grits her teeth on the rope crossing at the start of the assault course



L to R: RSM John Riley and Maj Tony Shaw present the assault course prizes to 96 Sqn's 2Lt Tony Lysak and Sig Roy Alton

With the Regiment assembled, the Trg Maj took the opportunity to announce the results of the Best NCO of the Year competition. **LCpl Ewan Lake** of 96 Sig Sqn (V) clinched it by a short head from **Cpl Lucy Pennington** (67 Sig Sqn (V)) and **LCpl Cindy Meller** (93 Sig Sqn (V)). **LCpl Lake** looks forward to a visit to Toronto, on exchange. Finally the RSM announced the results of his Grand Regimental Draw in aid of the Corps Museum. **Sig Barrie** of 96 Sig Sqn (V) won the star prize of the mountain bike, to be ridden home to Coventry, 53 Sig Sqn (V), as a body, took the second prize Hi-Fi and **Sgt Maher** of 93 Sig Sqn (V) took home a largely alcoholic 'food' hamper.



A 93 Sig Sqn (V) team is delighted to get some water

67 (QOWWY) SIGNAL SQUADRON–STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

Sqn Comd **Maj Roy Naylor** (V)
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Ray Campbell** (V)

The Squadron welcomes **Capt Steve Orr-Cooper**, who joins us from HQ 30 Engr Bde as 2IC. The Squadron also welcomes our new Officer Cadets, **Alan White** and **Elizabeth Hodges**, who join 871 and 901 Tps respectively.

Officers of the Squadron said a sad farewell to **Lt Paul Amer** at the Subalterns' Dinner on 5 August. **Paul**, who joins the unposted list due to work pressures, will be sorely missed and we wish him well for the future.

SKILL-AT-ARMS MATCH

The Squadron SAAM was held this year at Kingsbury Ranges, near Tamworth. Saturday was devoted to firing the APWT, where as well as shooting for their bounty qualification Squadron members also competed for the title of Squadron Champion Shot. This was won by **Lt Andy Fletcher**, with the trophy for Female Champion Shot going to **Cpl Lucy Pennington**. Sunday was spent firing for Champion Pistol Shot, won by **WO2 Brian Smart**, and the team events, with the LSW Pairs won by **LCpl Pete Buka** and **Sig Paul Davies**, and the Falling Plate competition won by 901 Tp. The Honorary Colonel, **Brig W. H. Backhouse**, was on hand to present the prizes and join the Squadron for a curry lunch, prepared by our chefs **Sgt Tony Perry** and **Cpl Tracey Fleming**. And for the less successful firers–the next range day for your APWT is in November!

EXERCISE ROUGH RIDER

'67's' team of **Sgt Monty Walker** and **LCpls Mike** 'Nobby' **Clarke, Viktor Jonins** and **Ian Lyall**, equipped with a 110 Land Rover and DAF 4-ton cargo, arrived at Copthorne Barracks, Shrewsbury, to take part in Ex Rough Rider, driving competition for all arms, Regular and TA. At Control we were given 12 sealed envelopes, various maps and a timetable. After having both vehicles scrutineered to check for any faults, we were given a briefing, told to open our first envelope and we were off. Each stand was to be visited according to the instructions and a command task carried out. The next envelope could only be opened when instructed to at each stand. The tasks ranged from vehicle manoeuvring through fork lifts, cranes, hazmat and first aid to FMT 3–2 (accident report) and highway code. The stands were spread over a wide area from Preston to Redditch, Wrexham to Bolton, meaning some 450-500 miles covered over the 24 hours, 10 command tasks undertaken and having to reach each stand within a half-hour time slot. Needless to say, very little sleep was possible and what does food mean?

Anyway we completed the course and arrived back at Shrewsbury around midday Sunday. Eight teams failed to complete the course and when the scores were added up we were placed equal ninth overall. We did get one prize; **Monty Walker** got the runners-up tankard for the team captain on the First Aid stand. Other notable performances included 'Nobby' and **Monty** second overall in the Forklift; 'Nobby' third overall in the HGV manoeuvring and the whole team third overall in the First Aid. Everyone had vital parts to play and it is down to the team effort and team spirit that we did so well. A great effort from all.

One point worth a mention. The stand in Bolton was run by a **Lt Wedgebury** ACF who served as a Worcestershire Yeoman during the 1960s, based at Bromsgrove; indeed it's a small world. So came the end of Ex Rough Rider. We had all enjoyed it and hope that next year we can go back and do even better.

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

CO **Lt Col R. Davenport** (V)
Adjt **Capt J. A. Compston**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) J. Grandison**

THE VISIT OF THE GOC 2ND DIVISION AND MEDALS PRESENTATION

On the evening of Tuesday 20 June 1995 the Regiment was visited by the GOC 2nd Division, **Maj Gen P. A. J. Cordingley DSO**. On his arrival at Regimental Headquarters he was met by the CO, **Lt Col Roger Davenport TD**, the Adjt, **Capt Jamie Compston**, and **WO1 (SVWO) Derek Wilkinson**. It was then on to the CO's office for an update by the CO on current issues over the customary coffee and biscuits. The GOC was then escorted to 64 Sig Sqn (V) by the Sqn Comd, **Maj Stan Fitzgerald**. During his brief tour of the Squadron the GOC met many of the soldiers undergoing static commcen training. After this, the GOC then met **Maj Mike Wright TD**, who escorted him to the Officers' Mess where Officers, WOs/SNCOs and their families were gathered for the following medal presentations:

Lt Col R. Davenport Territorial Decoration (TD)
Maj W. F. Evans (V) Territorial Decoration (TD)



Back Row (L to R): WO2 (RQMS) Bob Ingham, Capt Jamie Compston, SSgt (SPSI) Stevie Bolton, WO1 (SVWO) Derek Wilkinson, SSgt (FofS) Mark Cotton and SSgt (SPSI) Mark Richmond
Front Row (L to R): Mrs Pat Ingham, Lt Col Roger Davenport (V), Maj Gen P. A. J. Cordingly, Maj Bill Evans (V), Mrs Karen Clark and Mrs Tamara Richmond

WO2 (RQMS) Ingham LS & GC
SSgt (FofS) Cotton Territorial Efficiency Medal (TEM)
SSgt (SPSI) Richmond LS & GC
SSgt (SPSI) Bolton LS & GC

46 (DERBY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
A WEEKEND IN WALES

The end of June saw the Squadron deploy on adventure training to Kinmel Park in Wales. The Sqn Comd, **Maj Peter Williams**, had decided Mount Snowdon was nice for a weekend stroll and so the die was cast.

Friday night, this motley crew gathered at the TA Centre for our deployment to Wales, minibuses at the ready. The SSM, **WO2 (SSM) Al Whittaker**, gathered his band of SNCOs around him and gave them the good news, they were to take over the admin for the weekend, releasing the soldiers to enjoy themselves. The chief cook was to be our NRPS SQMS, **Alan Landsborough**, ably supported by **Sgt Pete Turner,** 'Fletch' **Fletcher** and **Cpl Paul Willmer**, who in the end 'pan bashed'.

Saturday dawned early and we arrived at the car park at the bottom of the hill (Snowdon), even at 0700hrs it was full, obviously a popular sport! We then split into two groups, one group led by **WO2 Carl Richards**, on loan from AYT at Wrexham, who took the hard route. The second team was led by **Lt Bob Ward**, who took the easy route. Some six hours later back at Kinmel Park, over a cool drink, the war stories appeared. **Sig Sabia Begum** was overheard to say transversing the ridge of the summit some 1500ft up, 'Has anyone been killed up here?' at the time the other eight crossing the ridge froze and it took us 20 minutes to coax them across. I'm sure the Sqn Comd said not to go this route, still he was not with us. **Sgt Terry Freeman** (our pay clerk) excelled herself by completing the route (and I don't mean the railway), even if it meant her going on her hands and knees. The weekend culminated in attending a practice orienteering course and swimming on the Sunday. All in all a good weekend.

903 SIGNAL TROOP (V)

After many changes of mind 903 Sig Tp (V) held its annual Troop weekend at Blackpool, based at Blackburn TAC.

Saturday started fairly early with breakfast prepared by **Sgt Kavanagh** and **Cpl Young**, serving it on time.

On arrival at Blackpool, the Troop divided into two teams (male and female team) for the Troop competition in the crystal maze.

Next on the agenda was the 'Pepsi Max' ride at the pleasure beach. This is the world's highest and fastest roller coaster, attaining speeds of 85mph and exerting forces in excess of 3½Gs. As the Troop approached the ride our fearless PTI started to lead from the rear. Eventually, we all made it to the ride and off we went.

Sunday was a very relaxed day, with the main emphasis on cleaning the TAC and returning to Derby. The ladies were served tea and toast in bed by **Sgt Pratt**–the one and only time this will happen.

64 (CITY OF SHEFFIELD) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Stan Fitzgerald**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) J. Mees**

SAILING–ASA REGATTA

64 Sig Sqn (V), in the guise of 38 (City of Sheffield) Sig Regt, flush from our achievements of last year, entered the ASA Regatta for the second year in succession.

Because of the varied sailing experience and the numbers wishing to sail, the crews were divided into two categories.

The first contingent comprising **Maj Colin Slaughter** (V), **Lt Maria Hawksworth** (V), **Sgt Gill Whitehouse, Sgt Alex Groves** and **Cpl Trevor Croxon** set off and arrived in Gosport in excellent weather. Having taken delivery of the Corps yacht, *Petasus III*, the following morning we were in racing trim and looking forward to the forthcoming events. Having been left stranded at the start in 1994, this year we crossed the line in a good position. The various races were affected by weather conditions and in the third race only one yacht finished in our Division due to lack of wind. The same conditions prevailed during the passage race and at one stage we were actually overtaken by a shoal of cuttlefish.

A 70s tape of Rock and Roll music accompanied by very loud and probably out of tune singing helped pass the time during the doldrums and in addition helped keep the other 'Victoria Class' yachts at bay. At the end of the day we finished a very creditable fifth out of a total Division entry of 15 yachts.



Back Row (L to R): Sgt Alex Groves (Bosun) and Maj Colin Slaughter
Front Row (L to R): Cpl Trevor Coxon, Sgt Gill Whitehouse and Lt Marie Hawksworth

On the conclusion of the racing we said goodbye to **Lt Marie Hawksworth** (V) and welcomed **SSgt Chris Brown** (SPSI), **LCpl Karen Smith** and **Kath House**, the Squadron Civilian Admin Officer, to complete the cruising stage. We decided to set sail for the Channel Islands and called at Alderney and Guernsey spending a couple of days ashore on each island. On the return leg we visited France and berthed overnight in the port of Cherbourg.

All in all everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable time both during the racing and cruising stages and we look forward to doing it all over again next year.

WELCOME AND FAREWELL

Due to the general re-shuffle of Regimental Officers it is with regret that we say farewell to **Capt Kevan Flanagan** (V) and **Lt Andy Smith** (V) to 87 Sig Sqn (V) and 46 Sig Sqn (V) respectively. On the plus side we welcome ex-Regular Corps, **Capt Lawrence McCourt** (V) by way of Sheffield University.

We welcome and congratulate **WO2 Jimmy Mees** on his appointment as SSM and thank the outgoing SSM, **WO2 Pete Hodges**, for all his endeavours on our behalf.

87 (NOTTINGHAM) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd **Maj Tom McCappin** (V)
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Kev Gator**

The Squadron has been going through great changes with the imminent delivery of the NCRS equipment to the Regiment.

The Squadron has had to totally re-form into four new Troops and a support Troop, with the sad loss of MST Tp.

Tp Comds and SNCOs are having to re-sign, re-distribute, re-allocate and re-evaluate all that has been stable over the last five years. It is proving to be a most testing time because the future effectiveness of the Squadron depends on what we achieve, the precedences set and the development of totally new SOPs in the coming months.

It is a sad farewell to **Kath** and **Sarah** from the Squadron office who were made redundant from the civil service. Life just isn't the same without **Sarah**'s 'posh' car and **Kath**'s smiling face around the TAC. We wish both of them all the very best for the future.

Ex Paper Folly was an exercise to test the new 'first stab' SOPs for the deployment of the NMC HQ in the field. Warning Orders, Op Orders, CEIs and Admin Orders were promulgated in good time and everything was ready for the Friday night 'Loading and Tp Comd's pre-deployment inspection' early (very) Saturday deployment to the field (with NO advance party!).

Early one Friday evening the SPSI had a phone call from **SSgt** 'Chef' **Huckerby** (who was in the middle of a deserted wood).

'What are you doing in the middle of a deserted wood, when we're not deploying there for 18 hours?' asked the SPSI.

'The advance party's always here at 1400hrs, and the Squadron's always here by 2000hrs,' came the reply.

This could have been a very long exercise.

As it was the exercise was a huge success. **SSgt Pete Cooper** and the NMC HQ in position, fully cammed in an incredibly short period of time. The Squadron members managed to build the admin support concurrently which really did throw a spanner in the DS timetable. On the construction side, one person deserves a mention more than any other and that is **WO2 Nige Caldicott** for the most amazing feat of engineering the Squadron has ever constructed. The idea was to construct a camouflage garage to contain the QRF Rover and sure enough it happened! It did, however, consist of 400m of green string, an overhead walkway (reminiscent of those in the film 'Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves') and a pulley and lever system that makes the rigging on HMS *Victory* look like a reef knot. Well done sir!

The Squadron hierarchy was caught short and had time on their hands so it was decided to test everyone on their reactions to civil rights protesters. Slipping into civilian clothing the Sqn Comd, SPSI, **WO2 Nigel Caldicott, Sgts Roy Broughton** and **Phil Jones** started to act the parts.

They reacted very well, being firm and forceful, with the majority of the soldiers carrying out the correct procedures upon discovering civilians walking through a camouflaged HQ. The exercise was a huge success and SOPs are being constantly developed.

The Wire

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39 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

47 (MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON

HARROW BUT, ALMOST UXBRIDGE!

Sqn Comd **Maj Paul Willmott TD**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Chris Gillespie**

The last six months have seen considerable changes within the Squadron and on 1 April we transferred from 31 Sig Regt (V) to 39 Sig Regt (V) under the TA reorganisation. With reorganisation came a new Sqn Comd and a large influx of people from the old 39 Sig Regt's HQ Sqn and yet another change of role. Not surprisingly, we are still coming to terms with a new operational, administrative and training philosophy but we are making our mark on the new organisation.

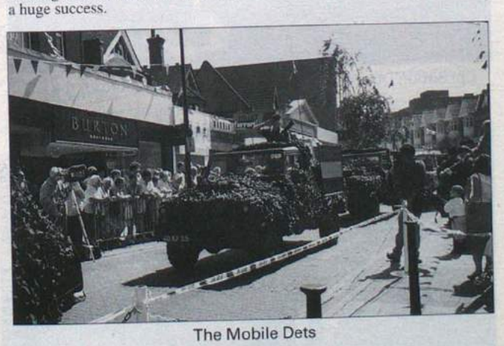
Our departure from 31 Sig Regt (V) was marked by a rugby match at Napier Barracks, Folkestone where the Squadron team, captained by **Lt Andrew Beckett** and ably assisted by our own Jonah Lumo, sorry **LCpl Dave Valentine** who scored two trys, overcame a team representing the rest of '31' to win, in a style reminiscent of the All Blacks 29–7. Now that we're on a winning streak, the gauntlet was thrown down to 5 and 57 Sig Sqns (V) for Annual Camp, in September.

Since April, we seem to have been committed to some form of training, or other, virtually every other weekend. Whether it's been Regimental Trade, Bounty or Squadron Training, the Squadron has participated to the full and has even managed to throw in some C1 Adventure Training to Wales.

CAVALRY MEMORIAL AND HARROW FREEDOM PARADES

As a Yeomanry unit, the Squadron tends to be involved in a wide number of ceremonial events over the course of the year. In May, our Old Comrades Association and ourselves joined the Household Division and other Yeomanry units at Hyde Park for the Cavalry Memorial Parade where we formed up to march past HM The Queen, before joining in the memorial service at the bandstand. With over 100 serving and former Middlesex Yeoman on parade we were one of the major contingents and were led by our own Band.

More recently, the Squadron was invited by the Mayor of the London Borough of Harrow to exercise its rights to March through the Borough. After extensive weapon training from **WO1 (RSM) Bray** and **SSMs Chris Gillespie** and **Stan Gane** (from 57 Sig Sqn (V)), the Squadron with bayonets fixed, marched through Harrow Town Centre accompanied by the Band of the Royal Engineers, 131 Ind Cdo Sqn RE (V) and 257 Gen Hosp RAMC (V). In blistering heat over 95% of the Squadron turned out to join either the marching or mobile contingents. As the parade organiser was an ex Sqn Comd we also provided Lance bearers, in the form of **LCpl Jo Francis** and **Cpl Gary Cheshire** (showing of his 'new' medals) at the saluting dais. All the hard work was definitely worth it and the parade was a huge success.



The Mobile Dets

EXERCISE LIVELY LYNX

Report by SSgt Brent Copsey

Ex Lively Lynx is the annual inter-Squadron military skills competition with a variety of stands from the assault course, vehicle recovery and command tasks, to name but a few. The Squadron fielded two teams commanded by **Cpls Lee Giles** and **Gary Cheshire**. Tp Comds had the privilege of participating as team members and invariably ended up with the LSW or other such heavy kit. In torrential rain and boggy terrain the teams trudged from one stand to another. In the spirit of sportsmanship, the Squadron unreservedly agreed to offer the Lafone Cup, which commemorates **Maj A. M. Lafone** (of the Middlesex Yeomanry) who won the VC in Palestine in 1917, as the Trophy awarded to the best aggregate Squadron. Unfortunately, despite some excellent scores on the various stands and, coming first and second in the Assault Course, we were pipped at the post by 57 Sig Sqn (V) . . . next year will be different!



Exercise Lively Lynx
Cpl Lee Giles's crew successful on one of the command tasks

EXERCISE DOGGER BANK

Report by LCpl Paula Goddard

To an onlooker we were just another TA unit embarking on yet another weekend but, little did they know that we were in fact units of the 2nd British Army off to re-fight the Battle for Normandy through to the liberation of Paris in July/August 1944. Starting with heavy casualties–most of the Squadron, including the majority of the SNCOs and experienced Troops having gone off to a wedding–Ex Dogger Bank was the first communication exercise of the new Regiment and the first time using some of the new kit.

Deploying via Rollestone Camp, the YofS gave some quick instruction in DUST and MOULD, we moved into the field to establish the Comd Posts for XXX, XII and VII Corps and their associated Divs. HQ 2 Brit Army (aka the SCP) established itself in an extremely cosy water tower, whilst the Field Dets deployed to the woods. As usual it didn't matter how much preparation and checking had been done beforehand, came the time for comms and there were problems at the outset. With **Sgt Pete Reeve** and **Sgt** 'Biddy' **Baxter** our PSIs attempting to troubleshoot on equipment even they weren't sure of. The realisation that the SCP was in a communications hole did not take long in coming. Having relocated half of their equipment things eventually sorted themselves out and we were up and running. After that, it was only the teething problems that needed sorting out and the spread of duties to organise, given the shortage of numbers.

In all it was a very educational and fun weekend, especially as it was non-tac, passing Corps and Divisional Sitreps and scenario orders via Batco resulted in good practice for even the most junior operators. Realism in the scenario was generated by having the 1 RTR Battle Group deployed around us as we re-fought the armoured battles of July 1944, but it must be said that they weren't very friendly as none offered us a cabbie–that's tankies for you!



Exercise Dogger Bank
XXX Corps in the guise of LCpl Jo Francis and Sig Luke Holdom

PEN-Y-FAN REVISITED
Report by SSgt Steve Prance

The weekend of 15/16 July saw the male members of the Squadron 'deploying' for adventure training to the Brecon's which, ironically, coincided with ex-**Sgt Chris Hurst**'s stag do which was also taking place here. Having survived the Friday night traffic on the M25 and M4 Saturday was spent with a not so gentle stroll up Pen-y-Fan. Our return to base camp led to an important element of the weekend–the extra-curricular activities but only after a quick game of rugby. By the time we had finished, the camp fire was raging, the barbecue was ready and, the beers sufficiently cooled.

We followed this with yet another game of rugby before we made the long trek back to London. An excellent weekend all round, ably organised by **Cpl Lee Giles**, the females are now planning their own version.

THE FUTURE

As this *Wire* goes to press major changes are afoot in the Squadron. The delivery of the new National Communications Radio System is taking place and in September the Squadron moves to a £4.5m new-build TA Centre in Uxbridge, returning to the town which raised the unit almost 200 years ago in 1797. Both events will see major improvements for the Squadron with the new Training Centre providing facilities that one normally only dreams about.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following on the various awards which were presented by **Brig J. Neeve**, Comd 2 (NI) Sig Bde, on 2 July 1995:

Gulf 1990-91 – **Cpl Gary Cheshire** (on an 'S' Type with 1 Armd Div)
TD – **Maj Paul Willmott**
LS & GC – **Sgt** 'Biddy' **Baxter**
Sgt Pete Reeve
TEM – **WO2 (RQMS) Derek Ellen**
Cpl Gary Cheshire
Warrant – **WO2 (SSM) Chris Gillespie**

Also, congratulations to **Cpl Dave Lambert** and wife, **Jean**, on the birth of their daughter. A few farewells: to **Lts Sinead Leng**, to Hong Kong, **Rachel Jones**, who has been head hunted for the prison service and **Andrew Beckett** to other things. Also to **SSgt Kathy Bassey** who has 'retired' after more than 10 years' service.

LANYARD TROPHY
by Capt J. L. Smart, Adjutant

'But it's a Regimental tradition!' said the CO, 'The Adjutant has always led the Regiment's Lanyard Trophy team'. Like all great traditions, this one was another recently acquired habit, especially conspicuous in that the Regiment had previously only ever competed in one Lanyard Trophy before; last year when my predecessor **Capt Matt Fensom** had got a bee in his caubeen about taking part and so 40 Sig Regt (V) were the only TA team to attempt the course in 1994. They had done so well that it was decided to instigate a prize for the best TA team for this year's event; the 1995 Lanyard Trophy competition to be held in Weymouth.

The Lanyard Trophy is 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para)'s contribution to the Corps cerebral activity for the year; not as much that it requires much thought to complete the course but in that it requires a lot of mental agility to avoid being pinged for it in the first place and in the face of other such pearls of overwhelming reasoning as was presented to me; 'get on with it', 'Well of course your feet hurt, that's only to be expected after walking 40 odd miles with a Bergen in one day!'. The team consisted of a select band of stalwarts; select only that everyone else had managed to think of a suitable and eminently sensible reason for not doing it such as the CO's 'I'll be too busy cheering you on from the roadside' or the RSM's mother's note otherwise known as the Corsp RSMs' Dinner. Yomping alongside me were **Capt Frazer-Benchley, SSgt Brotherstone, SSgt (YofS) Dennis, Sgts Fettus, McClusky, Cpl Patton** (REME), **LCpls Thompson, Jones** and **Sig Hannah**. I was later informed by a kind gentleman in a maroon hat that had we been 'tabbing' instead of 'yomping', we might have got there a little faster!

Still, 15 hours and 29 minutes is not unreasonable time to cover 45 miles, and the only other TA unit in front of us was 63 (SAS) Sig Sqn (V). That time could have been faster had we not decided to stay together as a team to bring the injured members to the following checkpoints. In all, six members of the team made it across the finish line in a not inconsiderable effort. I am looking forward to next year as I'm sure by then I will have thought of a new tradition that elects the QM to lead the team!



The Adjt, Capt Smart leads the six successful team members into the finish, Blackthorn in hand. SSgt Brotherstone points the way

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

DEPARTURES

Fond farewells are extended to **WO1 (FofS) Dave Taylor, SSgt Nev Wilson** and **Cpl Dupree** who left the Regiment on posting in June. We wish them all the best in their new posts.



Cpl Simon Dupree receives his farewell present from the CO during the happy hour



SSgt Nev Wilson receives his farewell present from the CO

71 (Yeo) Sig Regt
Bexleyheath

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

Headquarter Sqn with **Maj Brenda Traylen** (V) and SSM **WO2 (SSM) David Taylor** at the helm has been busy this year earning contributions for some very worthy causes.

SSgt Peter (now WO2) **Gribble** is a Judge Advocate in civvy life. He swapped his Judge's Gavel for an Auctioneer's Hammer for two Squadron auctions. Everything had to be sold, sold as seen. Nothing was guaranteed. If it works, it's a bonus. All proceeds in aid of a wheelchair fund for a local disabled child. The star attractions were a video (sold as seen, not guaranteed to work), a camera with film (bidding for the rights to develop the film were contested) and the prize attraction was the Sqn Comd's trainers. The grand sum of £125 was raised for this worthy cause.

We had another auction to find a home for unwanted Christmas presents where we raised £152.70 in aid of the Royal Signals New Museum Fund.

18 June is a Sunday that **WO2 (SSM) Peter Gribble** and **Sgt Dougie Arterton** will not forget in a hurry. Not only was it a very hot day, but these two intrepid soulds got on their bikes and completed the London to Brighton Bike Ride. They raised £75 in aid of the British Heart Foundation as a result of their efforts.

As his final act before leaving the Territorial Army to join the Fire Brigade, **LCpl John Farthing** joined the Regimental team for the Lanyard Trophy.

70 (EY) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Jonathan Pyman** (V)

The Squadron left 38 Sig Regt (V) with much regret but are overjoyed to be 'back in the fold' with 71 (Yeo) Sig Regt. One advantage is that we no longer have to train in the less hospitable northern climes, but can now bask in sunny Longmoor and other salubrious spots!

Other events of note are manifold:

Certain personnel in the guise of **WO2 (YofS) Bell** were so in demand at 38 Sig Regt (V) that they only released him several months after the bulk of the Squadron.

Our illustrious MT Sergeant was ignominiously passed by the complete Squadron on return from a recent exercise. **Sgt** 'Faulty Fuel Gauge' **McCready** had mysteriously exhausted his fuel supply. Rumour has it that his passenger, Sqn Comd **Maj Jonathon Pyman** (V) said something to the effect of 'we are not amused'.

We have a new addition to the Squadron's variety of soldiers, **Cpl** 'We took the scenic route' **Palmer** suffered from a distinctly confused sense of direction on not one, but two recent exercises! Thankfully practice makes perfect.

The recent range and bounty weekend went well, all those who attended firing the new APWT only three weeks after it was introduced and all this after an 0400hrs start to the day. The Sunday BFT was also the first run under the new/old system with a squadded run. The general feeling on the extremely hot day was aptly summed up by **Cpl** 'I'm just resting in the shade' **Nick Wilks**.

We welcome **Sgt Humphries** into the Squadron from 57 Sig Sqn (V), no doubt he will eventually get used to our way of doing things.



Sgt McCready explaining just how accurate a fuel gauge is
L to R: Sig Johnston, Sgt McCready, Sigs Wilson and Glover

265 (KCLY) SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Squadron welcomes **2Lt Penny Woods** (V), formerly of 30 Sig Regt, who rejoins the Army after 11 years. Much has changed but we hope that her civilian skills as a recruitment consultant will prove valuable in her role as recruiting officer.

The Squadron's executive stretch style charity weekend on 6-7 May was organised by **Sgt Alison Moulton-Treadwell** and **WO2 (YofS) Pam Suddens**. Fifty-four local civilians took part in events including drill, trailer reversing, vehicle recovery, tracked vehicle driving, first aid, trailer race and a command task. Vital help with accommodation, stores and APCs was provided by 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt **WO2 (RQMS) Frank Evans. WO1 (RSM) Dave Wilson** hosted participants in the Sergeants' Mess where 265's own 'karaoke king' **Sgt Martin Feather** entertained everyone. The weather was excellent and an excellent Sunday lunch in the main cookhouse completed a very successful weekend which was enjoyed by all.

After a successful civic parade in Bexleyheath on VE Day, 265 Sig Sqn held a street party at the TA Centre for children of Squadron members. Our picture shows the children enjoying themselves although sadly no pictures are available of the evening barbecue (maybe this is a good thing!).



The children tuck in at the VE Day street party

Later in June members of KCLY Sqns accompanied old comrades of 385 (CDO) Battery of the Kent Yeomanry on a visit to the French port of St Valery to commemorate the Battery's escape in 1940. The Battery was part of 51st (Highland) Division which was cornered and forced to surrender at the port. The Kents however escaped and made their way, under fire, along the coast until rescued by the Royal Navy. They later served in Iraq, North Africa and Italy. One member **Maj Rae** (V) was captured at St Valery, but soon escaped and rejoined the Kents after three months on the run in France and North Africa.



Maj Traylen (V) of HQ (KCLY) Sqn with Maj Keith Rae (V) of 385 Battery at the St Valery Dinner

NEWS FROM SQUADRONS

4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204)
BFPO 36

On Saturday 10 June 1995 the Squadron formed the Guard of Honour to celebrate the Freedom of the City of Osnabruck.

After an intensive week of preparation at the hands of the Coldstream Guards Drill Instructors and, a few early morning rehearsals, the big day arrived. **SSgt Frank Roberts** handed over the Guard to Sqn Comd **Maj J. K. McKee** who then led the march through the main streets to Osnabruck Cathedral.

The band of the Hussars and Light Dragoons led the marching Troops past the cheering spectators who had turned out in large numbers for the event. The Lady Mayoress of Osnabruck, **Frau Zumstrull**, thanked the British Troops for their contribution to 50 years of peace in Europe. Special mention was made to those members of the Garrison who have provided support for the UN mission in the former Yugoslavia.

For those present, the parade was a tremendous success, and the words of one German spectator summed up the performance 'The British do this so well'.



The Sqn Comd escorts the Lady Mayoress of Osnabruck, Frau Zumstrall, on her inspection

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
(216 Para)
Aldershot

ARRIVALS AND FAREWELLS

There have been many recent farewells in the headshed department. **Maj John Aspinall MBE** was given a surprise 'This is Your Life' before departing for 15 Sig Regt, whilst **Lt** 'son of the Sqn Comd' **Stu Gillespie** was given a Troop farewell, between Corps rugby in Canada and a posting to 16 Sig Regt as a newly-wed. **SSgt Stu Couszins** has gone to 21 Sig Regt's AMF(L) Tp–(good luck in the arctic), whilst **Sgt** (now SSgt) 'Scouse' **Walsh** went to 14 Sig Regt (EW) straight on exercise. **Sgt Dave Tweddle** has migrated back to Northern England having escaped any more talk of the burning truck. For each of the departures, a new man has come into the Squadron, all of whom are warmly welcomed.

ACTIVITIES

There was a unique opportunity to deploy on exercise with the French Airborne Forces in the South of France, and this was soon followed by the Brigade FTX in a less glamorous Otterburn Training Area. In between this, the Squadron won the Lanyard Trophy and has been presented with the Birtwistle Recruiting Pennant. It also had the top student on two successive Detachment Commanders Courses. Well done to all involved!

MIKE TROOP

FofS Bob Morris returns to the Squadron after six months' detachment to South Africa, to hand over to **FofS Steve Basson**. **FofS Morris** managed to sneak in a little rugby in between the barbecues, and had time to gain a few pounds–financially as well as around the waist. The boys in the Troop wish him and **Mary** all the best in his officer career.

Congratulations to **Cpl Colin** 'Gimp' **Forrester** on his continuing interest in HAM radio. Any other serious call signs, please get in touch–no frequency teasers please! The Troop had elements on Winged Crusader, an LPBG exercise in the South of France and fully deployed on the most recent exercise in North England–Pegasus Fury.

LANYARD TROPHY
by Cpl Blakeley

This year saw another victory for the Squadron in the Lanyard Trophy. The whole Squadron deployed to the Weymouth area either to organise the event or to compete in it. The team arrived in a good frame of mind, and led for most of the 40-mile route. 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt showed some good competition near Hardy's Monument, and 249 AMF(L) Sig Sqn were close behind. The team finished in a good state, except for **Capt Andy Fallows**, with his exorcist impression! All 10 members of the team were in good spirits when they celebrated that evening.



Lanyard Trophy–Winners–1995

P COMPANY
by 2Lt Merry

Having left RMAS in April, I was posted to 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para) on a six month attachment prior to my Troop Commander's course. The first task was to pass P Coy. To prepare, I attended the Squadron pre-para, which lasts for three weeks. The course began on 6 May with a few press-ups. **SSgt Archer** undoubtedly has his own style about everything and any misdemeanour, 'lack of 100% effort', or for any other reason, resulted in a few additional exercises . . . but it was certainly getting us fit! The pre-para course is very well structured and designed to prepare you for the journey north to P Coy. Several volunteers received early bus tickets home through injury or lack of preparation. Some will try again whereas others will be content to have had a go . . . and never hear the 'OA AOOO AO' again.

Of those who started the pre-para, 15 journeyed up the A1 to Catterick for P Coy 3/95. The course is surrounded by myths and rumours but undoubtedly hard work and effort pays off. Focusing on the Squadron's performance, 11 passed the course comprising four officers, one LCpl, five Sigs, and 1 Cfn . . . **Cfn Allcock**'s father is now happy to allow him through his front door satisfied that his son has joined the 'brotherhood'! Airborne Forces' Day saw **Sig Martin** with a Grade 1 haircut. **LCpl Page**, a visitor from 14 Sig Regt (EW), deserves a special mention for winning the overall Top Student award. Well done!

Thanks to **SSgt Archer, Sgt Duncan, LCpls Anderson** and **Howe** for preparing us so well. Pre-para, D/95, runs from 13 November-1 December with a P Coy to follow immediately afterwards. Stop–volunteers urgently required–stop.

NORMANDY VETERANS ASSOCIATION
by WO1 (RSM) Fairbairn (5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para))

The Normandy Veterans Association (NVA) held a Ceremony of Commemoration for the fallen of the Normandy Campaign of 1944. The Service was held on Horseguards Parade and at the Cenotaph in Whitehall on Sunday 25 June 1995.

The Parade Marshal for the event was **WO1 (RSM) Joe Fairbairn** and to assist him from the Squadron as Company Commanders were **SSgts Vince McNaught, Andy Young, Sgts Clive Smith** and **Mark Sowerby**.

It was not possible to carry out rehearsals. Therefore the RSM briefed the Parade Commanders on Horseguards at 1100hrs on the day. The weather was at its best, and as the RSM and Parade Commanders passed through a crowded Hyde Park prior to the parade, they drew attention from everyone. The parade took the format of parading the National Standards in front of the Companies (approximate strength of each Company was 300) followed by a simple Service prior to marching through Guards Arch to the Cenotaph in Whitehall. Then there was the laying of the wreaths and a return to Horseguards for the remainder of the Parade. At the conclusion of the Service both Band Masters and the Parade Marshal were presented with an NVA Plaque. A question to the Corps–'Was this a first for Royal Signals taking a Parade on Horse Guards and at the Cenotaph?' An amusing moment was when **SSgt Andy Young** lost a button at Wellington Barracks. However, he improvised with a Guards button. Was this another first, a Guards button and Royal Signals buttons on the same uniform?



L to R: Sgt Mark Sowerby, SSgt Andy Young, WO1 (RSM) Joe Fairbairn, Sgt Clive Smith and SSgt Vince McNaught with the Normandy Veterans

EXERCISE WINGED CRUSADER
by LCpl Goddard

At the beginning of June the majority of the Squadron deployed on Ex Winged Crusader, a joint Anglo-French Airborne exercise mainly in the South of France. It was the first time that the Lead Parachute Battalion Group element had practised its normal role in a long time–albeit in an unorthodox fashion.

Meanwhile, back on the pax DZ the '216' contingent emerged unscathed out of the dozen or so serious injuries, to link up with our French partners who had set up in a sort of huge DPM carrier bag. We also met up with **Sig Jase Wing** (Comds' Op), who had jumped out of the only French aircraft which flew with the British stream, thereby earning his French Wings for his efforts. These were considerable as the French don't mind sitting with 20lbs of equipment strapped on to their legs but British Paratroopers jump with anything from 80-120lbs on their containers.

The exercise ended with an exchange programme which saw quite a few members earning their French Wings and the rest of us doing the 5 AB Bde equivalent of the Gumball Rally all the way back to the port of St Malo to return to Aldershot just in time for ABF Weekend.



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19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209)
Catterick

Sqn Comd **Maj Paul Towers**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Pete Woodward**

The most recent exercise took place in and around Catterick training area supporting the staff on the Brigade and Battle Group Trainer, the first time that the staff and Squadron have been in the same place for more than a day in over a year. Not surprisingly, this warranted a good three weeks block leave afterwards.

Welcome to the new Foreman of Signals, **WO2 (FofS) Mark Edwards**, the latest addition to the ops team.

UAO

AO **Maj Ron Hails**

With the imminent arrival of UNICOM (good riddance PAMPAS) to the Squadron many in the UAO have been busy on training courses recently. The Squadron exercises have at least given the clerks some much needed time to catch up on the admin side of life, without the distraction of 100 plus MMA claims to process.

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd **SSgt Gary Smith**

Leading the way as Tp Comd is **SSgt Gary Smith**, who is still beaming from an excellent position gained in the recent inter-services triathlon meeting held at South Cerney. Scoring a personal best in swimming helped him to a commendable 18th place from a field of 150. This time he wasn't disqualified for running a red light on his 'go faster' cycle.

The legacy of Bosnia has shown the way to a number of the Troop who missed their other halves too much to let them escape a life together. Either that or they have given into the nagging! Best wishes then to **Sig Gildert** and **Elaine**, and **LCpl Wilkinson** and **Leandra**.

Congratulations also to the new promotions. **Dougie Icke** gets his first tape, and **Tim Vanandal** and **George Cowan** get their sub Corporal up. New boys (and girl) are **Sigs Bob Palmer**, 'Scotty' **Scott, Jamie Butler, Colin Welch** and **LCpl Steve Birchall**. Outgoing are **LCpl Luke Venni** (The Royal School of Signals) and **Cpl** 'Smudge' **Smith** (5 Civ Div).

BRAVO TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Andy Knott**

Routine these last few months has been exercise and barracks, week on, week off, blasting off the cobwebs ready for the staff. Amazingly the weather in Catterick has been kind, and this has made our few weeks in the field pretty enjoyable. However, the weather in the Pyrenees promises to be in a class of its own, and for those going on expedition there the day after BBGT, the time just could not come too quickly.

The Troop has seen some notable new arrivals including one to **Heather** and 'Geordie' **McPhee** on the birth of their baby daughter **Bethany**. The normally 'Jack the Lad' 'Geordie' has been reduced to jelly by the new addition to his family, which just goes to show that it was probably just all an act before. Our congratulations to them both.

On the manning side, we welcome **Cpl John Broughton** from 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207), **Cpl John Chamberlain** from 259 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) complete with PT beasting kit, **Sigs** 'GB' **Greatbatch** and **Stuart Paton**. The Troop has also received its first pop star, **Sig** 'Tom' **Pettie**, straight from training.



Sig Jay Carty and Cpl John Broughton practise AFV recognition–yes, it plans

24 Airmob Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210)
Colchester

Sqn Comd **Maj D. P. Meyer**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) S. Morgan**

With Troops deployed to Bosnia the Squadron is quieter than normal, but as always there are things to be done before the rest of the Squadron deploy. The move to Marchwood provided all packet commanders with an opportunity to display a variety of navigational abilities, ranging from the genius of **Pte Elaine Little** to the **'Cpl Topps** Route-Card School of Navigation' methods used by others.

Still, amongst all the hustle and bustle there is still time for lightheartedness here in Colchester. Taking a well earned break, the Squadron hit the beach for an afternoon of barbecuing and volleyball. **Cpl** 'Tel' **Terret** impressed everyone with his professional approach and outstanding skills as his 'Dream Team' managed to lose both of their matches, and **2Lt Tom Hawley** provided amusement for all by running into the barbecue.

On to more serious matters. Romance has again blossomed in SHQ, so congratulations to the 2IC, **Capt Jim** 'Sharky' **Forrest**, whose blossoming relationship with 'Cuz' didn't let anyone else get a word in edgeways.

So now it's time to head off to sunnier climes, so good luck to the Squadron and all its members already in Bosnia.

ALPHA TROOP
PREPARING FOR BOSNIA

Tp Comd **Capt Cullen**

'Good morning Men', 'Good morning Staff' and it's business as usual. As preparations for Bosnia are all but complete, having found that CES for a BIC ball point pen, we have now compiled the requisite 4 tonnes of UN paperwork and are just waiting for the signal to go, spirits are high and the hair is short!

It seems an age ago when that jam sandwich turned up to cancel our adventurous training, canoeing from Devizes to Westminster, something that only the Tp Comd was looking forward to. As cheers rose, we got back on the bus. As events progressed, others followed the same course, Lanyard (which **Cpl Wringe** assures everyone, he would have won), Nijmegen, (which according to **Cpl Churchward** was going to be a stag party to remember) and block leave (which would have been weak and un-military to take anyway).

Training down at Longmoor went very well and the stands put on for us proved to be a great help. **Capt Cullen** did not seem impressed with the medical stand and watching **Sgt Bates** being hooked up to his drip was kindly re-assured by **Pte Little** 'Don't worry Sir, I was standing behind you in case you fell'.

Congratulations to **Cpl Wringe** on his well deserved promotion. Welcome to the chaps from 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt who have joined the Troop for what lies ahead and don't worry **Sig** 'Left turn' **Foster**, we won't mention your driving, but congratulate you on your engagement to **Tracy**.

BRAVO TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt D. Worden**

Life in Bravo Tp has slowly come to a halt. We have had a very hectic month and a half, which has seen the whole Troop complete their ATDs and the Longmoor package. All the vehicles and stores are being shipped into theatre as we write.

Elements of the Troop are already in Bosnia, while others are enjoying a 10 day cruise escorting the vehicles. **Cpl Tim Shears** tried to 'unvolunteer' himself as I/C of the ship party when he found out (much to his dismay) he was on a dry ship–life is hard!

We say goodbye to **Lt John Evans** who goes back to school to complete his education. We wish him all the best in the future. We also say hello to **2Lt Dave Worden** the new Troop Comd, Mr *Wire*-notes, OC Sailing, UPO etc etc, and to the 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt bunch joining us for our tour.

The final note is for all the families being left behind. We hope you all take care and that time will pass as quickly for you as we hope it will for us.

223 Sig Sqn (399 SU RAF)
RAF Digby

Sqn Comd **Maj Charles Turner**

NEW MUSEUM PROJECT

Even the Corps' only serving outpost in RAF Lincolnshire cannot escape the requirement to raise money for the New Museum Project and being a career soldier, **WO2 Paul Meadows** immediately 'volunteered' to take on this task. Through his ingenuity, 'silver tongue' and cheek, the Signallers at Digby and the members of the Lincoln Branch RSA have raised a total of £3,075, £1,105 in cash and £1,940 from 'new' convertees to the One Day's Pay Scheme. The bulk of the money was generated by a Grand Raffle which was drawn at the RSA's monthly meeting in Lincoln with the youngest member of the Corps present, **LCpl Zoe Wainwright** (19), helping the eldest, **Capt Charles Goodsir** (77) to make the draw. A fun night was had by all and a very big thank you to **WO2 Meadows** for all his excellent work.



Another RSA Winner!
L to R: WO2 Paul Meadows, Capt Charles Goodsir, Mr Dick Fox and LCpl Zoe Wainwright

75TH CELEBRATIONS

This year the annual RAF Digby Summer Fete had a star attraction; the Royal Signals 'hospitality' tent! **WO2 Steve Shannon** and the Signallers from C Flt very much expanded an original idea for a small Corps display and organised an excellent Corps tent complete with balloons in Corps colours, the Corps march and a 75th birthday cake for 'Jimmy'.



L to R: LCpls Phil Berry, 'Vinny' Vincent and 'Poggy' Pogson and WO2 Stu Shannon

SUPPORT FLIGHT

Sqn Comd **Maj Charles Turner**

Well it's finally happened. It's been on the cards since time began and bears have been going into woods . . . **Jim Dodds** is a Major! Many, many congratulations to the Senior Radio Officer and to **Carol**, wife of **Maj W. J. Dodds BEM** Royal Signals. Support Flt also welcomes **WO John Anderson** fresh from the JCUFFI health farm and **WO1 Jock Douglas** and his family from Cyprus. The Ops Support Summer Ball took place in June in the form of a boat trip. An enjoyable time was had by all, although the 'singing' by the **WO1 Steve Young, WO1 Chas Facer** and **Cpl Brian Hands** trio was musically somewhere between The Three Degrees and the Muppets. To this day we still do not know if **Lt Simon Meadowcroft**'s guest was over 16, but he did ask for a half fare on the boat. Thanks to **JT Michelle Gwynn-Jones** for organising an excellent function and congratulations to her on joining that elite, but growing, band of JTs who have passed the Army BFT.

A FLIGHT

OC **Lt Adam Hillary**

FLIGHT UPDATE

Firstly we would like to wish a warm welcome to our new arrivals, **Lt Adam Hillary, SSgt Frank Dalton** and his wife **Helen, Cpls Angie** and **John Bellis, Johnny Akesson** and **LCpls Matty Duckering, Carla Gilligan** and **Kirsty Pentland**. Also **JTs Neil Sutton, Martin Webster, Daz Walker** and **Will Spencer**. We hope they enjoy their stay on A Flt. Congratulations to **LCpl Shane Hodgeson** and his wife **Michelle** and **Nicky Jefferson**, now **Dawson**, and her husband **Andy** on their recent weddings. We wish the two happy couples all the best for the future.

AMATEUR RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

Since its formation, RAF Digby Rugby League Club has gone from strength to strength. Although still only in its infancy the Club has played a number of games against a very high standard of opposition. Team Manager, **WO2 (SupvrR) Steve Prowse**, for his sins, has taken the team into the civi league and has been rewarded with some excellent results. The team can be proud of its achievements in its first season and we have a number of players selected to represent their Service sides namely **Cpl** 'Brain' **Hands, Cpl** Mac 'Good Ears' **Macdonald** and **LCpl** 'Prawn' **Doherty**. Keep your clothes on boys!

ORIENTEERING

Orienteering, the competitive sport of finding one's way on foot across rough country with map and compass, has finally arrived at RAF Digby through the medium of 399 SU (Army Element) and the team has played an active and lead role in the E District Orienteering League (EDSOL). In the league, consisting of 32 teams, RAF Digby after 10 events have been placed in second position and congratulations to **Capt Eric Doughty, WO2 Steve Phelps** and **SSgt Peter Ridlington** being placed in the top 10. Good individual performances throughout the season resulted in **Capt Eric Doughty, SSgt Peter Ridlington** and **Sgt Ted Whichello** being selected to represent the Corps. The Team has worked hard throughout the year, which is well supported by our more notable successes.

Eastern District Championships	1st place
R Signals Orienteering Championships	1st place
Eastern Districts 'O' League	2nd place
RAF Logistic Command Championships	2nd place
RAF Inter Station Championships	2nd place
Army Championships	5th place

Aspirations for next season are to strengthen the team, increase participation, form a ladies team and win even more silver than this year!



The Team
Front Row (L to R): WO2 Harry Butland, Capt Eric Doughty (Team Capt)
Back Row (L to R): WO2 Dave Pearson, SSgt Pete Ridlington, WO2 Steve Phelps, Cpl Brian Flynn

243 Sig Sqn
Bulford Camp

LANYARD TROPHY 1995–OUR STORY
by Cpl Tuck

The Volunteers: **Capt Percy** 'The Boss' **Beynon, Sgt Mark Wigmore, Cpls Robyn Smart, Teri Bennett, LCpl Michelle Jackson, Sig Kev Daw, Cpls Graeme Keith, Fran Geddes, Andy Tuck, Marcia Oldale, Sigs Andrea Appleton** and **Helen McGeachie**.

In April, the idea of entering the Lanyard Trophy raised its ugly head. With only eight weeks to go till the big day, many in the Squadron thought we'd taken on more than we could handle, especially when the training programme appeared. But, undaunted, the team got stuck into the task ahead.

With a six day a week training schedule worked out, after Week 1, we were already up to the minimum weight of 40lbs. With another seven weeks to look forward to, we were to become very close friends with our bergans, especially **LCpl Michelle Jackson**, whose bergan was wider than she is tall.

The second week the bodies were starting to ache. We were now going round the CFT route in 1 hr 25 mins with full Lanyard weight! We can thank **Cpl Oldale** and **Sig Appleton** for that as they'd decided to see if our PTI, **Cpl Bennett**, could break into a sweat.

Weeks 3, 4, 5 and 6 seemed to go by in a blur. By now we knew every hill in the Bulford area, intimately. Our backs ached and legs were sore (everyone packed a teddy, tucked away in the bergan but within easy reach–just in case we needed to throw it in the corner!). On more than one occasion on these hills, **Capt Beynon** was not our favourite person!

Finally the big day arrived. With a 0200hrs reveille, we just managed to arrive at the start in time for the 0400hr weigh in, thanks to our driver **Sgt Paul** '20mph' **Bartlett**. The klaxon blew at 0500hrs and off we went.

The weather that morning was warm and the first 20 miles up to Hardy's Point, in Dorset, went without any major difficulties. The team strategy was to plod on at a steady pace (which pleased everyone) and morale was high. By mid afternoon the temperature was in the high 20's and the breeze from the sea was very welcome indeed as we hit the coast for the last 12 miles.

The last five miles were definitely the longest. We had aches where we didn't even know we had muscles. With only 100 metres to go, the finish loomed and, finally, it was all over. Even now we still feel the warm glow of success, especially having finished the course as a complete team, with no drop-outs.

Thanks must definitely go to **Cpl Vicki Baggaley** and **Mrs Gil Nixon** for the help during the training, the Sqn Comd and 2IC for the support at the checkpoints and to **Jas** and friends from 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para) who provided the necessary encouragement towards the end. Many thanks fellas.

As for next year–well, we'll see!



The successful Lanyard Trophy Team at the finish
Back Row (L to R): Cpl Graeme Keith, Capt Percy Beynon, Sgt Mark Wigmore, Cpl Marcia Oldale, Cpl Andy Tuck and LCpl Michelle Jackson
Kneeling (L to R): Cpl Teri Bennett (AGC), Cpl Fran Geddes, Cpl Robyn Smart and Sig Andrea Appleton

UNIFORM TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Paul Blake**

Why not start at the top. First of all we say a big hello to the new Tp Comd, **2Lt Paul Blake** who has come to us from Herford. We also say a fond farewell to the old, but young, **Capt Morcom**, off to a better life in civvy street.

SQUADRON SUMMER CAMP

The Squadron has recently enjoyed two weeks at the Engineers Training Camp, Costa del Chickerell, just five minutes away from the seaside resort of Weymouth. On arrival for the second week of the camp we were greeted by somewhat exhausted looking instructors and briefed on what was to be a programme of adventurous activities. The programme was to include the usual climbing, mountain biking, hill walking and canoeing, together with some more interesting activities such as helicopter 'rides', sailing and diving.

The week began with the helicopter jollies, courtesy of 772 Sqn RNAS. After the lighthearted '101 disasters that can happen to you in a helicopter' from the air dispatcher, we embarked at Portland Naval Base. Once airborne, we were treated to some breathtaking views of the South Coast at some very unusual angles! We also experienced some 'belly churning' acrobatics which either left the occupants with huge grins or green complexions! The whole 'Top Gun' experience was rounded off by being winched from the helicopter 50ft to the ground.

Canoeing was the activity of day two, and with the weather on our side we set off to Portland with our 'rent an instructor' from the Monmouth Engineers TA Unit. **Mike** the instructor gave 'larger than life' canoeing tips to what turned out to be an enjoyable day. However, **Sig Bowers**' fears of capsizing were soon gone after everyone had a good dunking in turn.

The following day held the joys of mountain biking under the watchful leadership of **SSgt** 'Geordie' **Merrie**. Yet again the weather was on our side. To watch the stretch of completed cycle track disappear behind you is quite satisfying, but to look up at the next hills to be conquered only brings a sigh! The cycle would rapidly turn into a hill walk for some as the day progressed and later on in the evening a few tender bottoms chose to drink standing.

Saturday and the group became remarkably quiet at the thought of abseiling 130ft over the coastal cliffs of Portland. Rockside humour provided by the Tp Comd and **Sgt Geoff** 'the human fly' **Croudace**, such as 'abseiling is easy, it's like falling off a rock' and 'did you tie off the rope?' did little to calm the nerves. Credit must go to **LCpl Jefferies** who managed to go down the rock face anyway the rope allowed. First prize in the acting category must go to **LCpl** 'Wailer' **Cavanagh** who re-enacted the whole of the restaurant scene from 'When Harry met Sally' before descending groundwards! Other notable descents during the two weeks have to include **Sgt** 'Rab C' **Meadows** 'now you see me, now you don't, damn I'm stuck half way down' attempt and **Sgt Danni** 'I didn't mean what I said about you last night **Sgt Croudace**' **Thwaite**.

The evening activities were started by lecturettes given by the Signallers and JNCOs. Some of these will prove extremely memorable. **LCpl Ben** 'welcome to planet earth' **Jefferies** brought a tear of laughter to most people's eyes with his description of the football or 'ball foot' as the Romans used to call it.

Day five saw the start of the Hill Walking. As the walk progressed the 'catalogue syndrome' crept in–you can look down at the refreshing clear water but you cannot touch it, just carry on upwards under the watchful eye of 243's PTI, **Cpl** 'just another, one more hill to go' **Bennett**. The evening saw a chance to relax at the barbecue.

After an eventful evening, the next day we took to the open waters for a relaxing day's sailing. **Sig Miller** desperately tried to make his crew 'huey' but failed. Later during the day **Sig Miller** and the Sqn Comd visited the divers at the wreck of HMS *Hood*. The visit was marred by the Sqn Comd getting his anchor snagged not only in the rocks, but also around a lobster pot. After a couple of attempts by **2Lt Blake** to free the anchor, he had to step in and lead by example and free it himself. Congratulations must also go to **Sgt Gaz** 'sea dog' **Hinton** for scuttling the dinghy bringing the sailors ashore in Portland Harbour.

All in all, returning to Bulford brought a tear to everybody's eye. We were only glad the rain began on our journey home.

NOVICE DIVER COURSE

Over the duration of summer camp, two groups undertook the Novice Diver Course under the guidance of **LCpl Trev Legg** and **Mr Scott Ballentyne**. The course was a week long and involved lectures, pool training and open water dives. After some initial trepidation everyone buckled down to the theory and practical lessons and soon discovered just how tiring diving can be.

After the pool and theory tests it was time for the budding groups of Jacques Cousteaus to take to the sea for their first open water dive. The waters off Portland Harbour seemed slightly less hospitable than the warm clear waters of the swimming pool, not to mention the possibility of man-eating crabs, moray eels around every corner and swarms of barracuda and great white sharks that tend to hang out in Portland Harbour at this time of year!

There were some problems with ears and the fear of vicious man-eating kelp but everyone eventually got some form of a dive in. The culmination of the week for both groups was to dive the wreck of HMS *Hood* which was scuttled to block to harbour in World War Two. The visibility was good on the dives and proved to be a fascinating ending to each week.

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

KIWI DAY 1995

The Squadron's annual Kiwi Day celebrates its connection with the New Zealand Army. The Kiwi link dates back to when the Squadron took responsibility for the maintenance of the chalk Kiwi, dug into the hillside overlooking Bulford Camp after the Second World War, just before the resident New Zealand Division went home. This year the celebration coincided with the Corps 75th Anniversary and, to mark the occasion, the day was attended by **Mr Collinge**, the High Commissioner for New Zealand and the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE DL**.

The weather was glorious, but unfortunately too hot and humid to hold the summer 20km biathlon, which is normally held on Kiwi Day. The members of the Squadron who were at the start, receiving the 10 second count down, described the experience as being akin to awaiting a death sentence. They will be pleased to know that they will have the chance to win the coveted trophy later in the year! Well done to **Cpl Page** who set the fastest time on the previous day out of the 37 personnel who completed the course, so that they could administer the competition on the day. They were all delighted to learn of the cancellation of the competition and that they would be running for a second time later in the year!

Kiwi Day included a wreath laying ceremony at Tidworth Military Cemetery to honour the dead. A shooting competition, Squadron presentations and a family barbecue completed the day.

Congratulations to **SSgt Rutland** and **Sgt Hampton** who both received the LS & GC Medal on this day from the Master of Signals.



LS & GC Awards
Recipients–SSgt Rutland and Sgt Hampton photographed with their families. The Master of Signals presented the medals in the presence of Mr Collinge, High Commissioner for New Zealand on Kiwi Day

LANYARD TROPHY COMPETITION

The Squadron's Lanyard Trophy team had been training hard since the unit's return from Battle Camp in May. Late additions to the team included **YofS Nixon** and the SSM (the old boys) and **LCpl Pay** who was new to the unit, what a start to a posting!

The full squad consisted of: **Capt Mannings** (IC), **Sgt Johnson** (2IC), **WO2 (YofS) Nixon, WO2 (SSM) Barnes, Cpls Dickinson, Wilson, LCpl Pay, Sigs Bound, Doyle** and **Hastings**.

Lanyard Trophy day began with the least enjoyable aspect of the competition, the seemingly, now traditional, 0400hrs reveille. After an interesting trip to the start during which our team bus became geographically misplaced on Bovington ranges, we finally arrived safely and began final preparations for the competition. **Sgt** 'Johno' **Johnson** (team pace setter) briefed us on race tactics. Newcomers to the Squadron's team were surprised at just how brief it was, in his words 'We'll Just Bang It Out'. Having completed three consecutive Lanyard competitions with **Sgt Johnson** this was what we expected, however there were anxious looks on the faces of some of the newer team members. The competition started with a short sharp climb away from Bovington ranges, just what you need to get your breath! During the early stages of the competition we battled against 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt for second place. After the Regiment dropped a slower team member they soon began to gain ground on us, however we remained unchallenged in third place for the remainder of the march. Unfortunately **WO2 (SSM) Barnes** became injured and was forced to withdraw at the checkpoint, located at Hardy's Monument. After a further 15km **Capt Mannings** also sustained an injury and he too was forced to retire. Now reduced to eight men everybody remaining had to finish the competition in order for us to gain a team placing. Fortunately the remainder of the march was completed without mishap, although at least one team member was heard to mumble under his breath for the last 20km 'never again' (until next year). The team was pleased to finish the competition in third place taking 10 hours and 20 minutes, less than one hour behind the winning team. Congratulations go to 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para) for finishing the competition in first place. Maybe next year . . .?



Lanyard Trophy Team 1995
L to R: Sig Doyle, WO2 (YofS) Nixon, Sig Bound, Sgt Johnson, Cpl Dickenson, LCpl Pay, Cpl Wilson and Sig Hastings

MAIN TROOP SUMMER CAMP

Main Tp spent a week adventurous training in Fairbourne, North Wales. The activities consisted of hill walking (tabbing in civvies), climbing and abseiling.

The first day started with rain, quite surprising since it is supposed to be the driest summer on record! **Sgt O'Neill** prepared for the occasion in his normal working dress! Although the local hospitality was welcoming, most people retired to bed early after a long day's walk–perhaps this had something to do with PT the next morning! Although **LCpl** 'Uncle' **Gordon** was found giving drill lessons to some children on holiday.

After PT the Troop was joined by its new Tp Comd, **Capt A. E. Talbot**. He managed to assist a 'civi' in distress who was lost at the top of Cadir Idris. Unfortunately he was not able to help the Sqn Comd or the SSM who were supposed to meet up with them on the way back. The next day was spent in the Pen-y-Pass youth hostel for safety, after being turned away from Snowdon by the Park Wardens, due to a prolonged lightning storm.

The only injury sustained on the trip was **Sig Doyle**, who managed to trip on a flat piece of ground 10 minutes from the pick up point. This was a shame since he had just walked about 25km and successfully completed the Grib Goch Ridge. After a whirlwind 20 minutes in casualty he was x-rayed, strapped up and released with a diagnosis of a hair-line fracture.

Overall the summer camp was hard work but a great success and enjoyed by all who took part.

251 Sig Sqn
Aldershot

Sqn Comd **Maj John Gerrard**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Kev Jenkins**

With the change in 4 Division boundary we now have responsibility for the Colchester/Essex area. That coupled with the closure of the ACE High Station Cold Blown Lane has generated a lot of work. Despite this the Squadron has managed to fit in two weeks' Summer Camp in Weymouth as well as a trip to Belgium.

HAIL AND FAREWELL

Farewell to **Capt Michelle Vincent** posted to Worthy Down, **Sgt Thwaite** to 243 Sig Sqn, **Sgt Mackay** detached to the Falklands and **Cpl Lawrence** to Op Grapple.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **WO2 Roach, Sgt Williams** and **Cpl Wright** on being selected for promotion. Also to **WO2 (SSM) Jenkins** and his wife **Christina** on the birth of a baby girl **Sarah Kate** on 5 July.

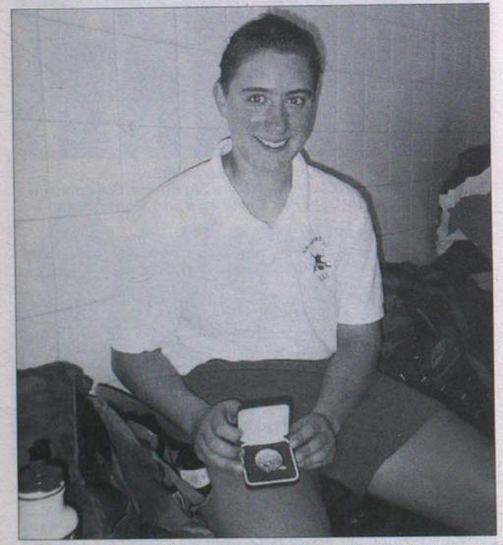
SPORTING EVENTS

The Squadron entered a female team into the 4 Division Athletics Championships in May coming a creditable sixth; the team spirit and individual effort was excellent and everyone enjoyed competing. A male and female team entered the Army Swimming Championships and as a result of a lot of training and effort, the men came second in the freestyle relay and the women came second in the individual medley relay and freestyle relay.

INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES

Cpls Lee and **Wright** entered the High Wycombe Half Marathon. Running together they produced a good time of 2hrs 2mins. Other keen runners **Cpls Mitchell** and **Cooper** are joining up to enter a four person team in the Burnham Beaches Half Marathon.

LCpl Mason won the 100m backstroke and 100m individual medley in the Army Individual Swimming Championship 17 July. After two weeks' training with the Army Team she retained her Inter Services Gold and went on to represent the Combined Services at RAF Cranwell competing against the Police and Civil Service where she came second.



LCpl Lucy Mason displays one of the medals that she won at the Army Individual Swimming Championship

EXERCISE CHATURANGA 1995
by SSgt Pat Millar

The Great International Assault Course is a competition held annually at the Belgian Army Logistic Camp, in the small town of Tournai. The competition is an endurance assault course incorporating a shooting event using four different weapons. Teams of four compete for the fastest time over the assault course–combined with the most accurate shooting.

'Chaturanga' derives from the name given to a group of four warriors from India in the 3rd Century AD. This year, the 11th year of the competition, the Squadron took the plunge and entered three teams. A total of 15 personnel, six male and nine female led by **SSgt Pat Millar**, travelled to Belgium on 23 June.

Prior to the competition, two entrance tests had to be passed. First, the Cat Crawl–a 26m rope traverse over a valley 10m high. Second, the Death Slide–climbing a rope ladder 15m, followed by a 100m aerial slide. All competitors successfully completed the entrance test–in fact, a few even learnt a few choice French words during the tests!

The competition tested everyone's physical ability, stamina, endurance as well as balance and agility. There were 32 obstacles–wall climbing, abseiling, water crossing, scramble net, tarzan rope, plus more. The shooting section included the Crossbow, Uzi at 50m and Pistol at 25m. At the beginning of the competition, each team selected one member as the Sniper. The sniper shoot consisted of three shots, each at a separate target–at 100m range. **Cpl Sue Donaughy** scored three bullseyes in under 17 seconds, winning the sniper competition outright. The teams were:

Mixed Team:
Capt 'Tommy' **Baldwin, SSgt (FofS) Sideras** (600 Sig Tp), **Cpl Sue Donaughy, Sig** 'Ches' **McChesney**

Female Team:
Cpl Pam Mitchell, LCpls Lucy Mason, Emma Lowe, Sig 'Finchy' **Finch**

Male Team:
Sgt John Martin, Cpl Glen Cooper, Sigs 'Keechy' **Keech, Sig John Liddell**

Admin Support:
SSgt Pat Millar, Cpls Maggie Jordon, Sharon Wright.

A total of 54 teams entered the competition–our male team had a time of 27 mins, the mixed team 38 mins and the female team 41 mins. This compared with a time of 18 mins for the winning team and 43 mins for the team placed in last position.

251 Sig Sqn were the first unit ever to enter a female or a mixed team; and consequently **Cpl Donaughy** was the first female to win the Sniper Challenge. An excellent performance by all competitors, the Squadron came away with two large trophies as well as immense goodwill.



The happy group having earned their medals



Mixed team (Post event)
L to R: Sig McChesney, Cpl 'Top Shot' Donaghy, Capt Baldwin, SSgt (FofS) Sideras

280 (UK) Sig Sqn
BFPO 35

MT TROOP

We congratulate **Paul Anderson** on his recent promotion to Sergeant on posting to Bassingbourn. Also farewell to **LCpl Andy Lay**, who has gone to 1 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt for a rest after all the hard work and dedication on the vehicle park. Congratulations also to **LCpl Howard Pugh** and his wife **Jane**, who has just introduced a new member into their family, a little girl they have named **Sarah-Jane**. Congratulations to **LCpl** 'Taff' **Lean** on his marriage to **LCpl Helen McGarry** from 7 Sig Regt; best wishes to you both.



MT Troop

ATHLETICS–MORRISON CUP WINNERS

The Morrison Cup took place on 14 June at Grenzland Stadium, Mönchengladbach and comprised the 20 Squadrons based in Germany. The event was a credit to the organisers (16 Sig Regt) as the competition and associated administration ran smoothly. Missing were 200 Sig Sqn (1994 winners), away in Bosnia and therefore 280 (UK) Sig Sqn were expected to do fairly well. The outcome was not decided until the final event–the 4 x 400m relay–which '280' won and were declared Morrison Cup Winners 1995.

The Squadron has had a good season, coming fifth in the Army and stocking up the trophy cabinet somewhat. Thanks to the Sqn Comd for allowing the team time to train and thanks also to the PRI for support in the provision of tracksuits, running kit and entry fees. 200 Sig Sqn–watch out next year! Notable individuals PBs throughout the season were:

WO2 (FofS) Lee Keily–800m, 3000m steeplechase.
LCpl Graham Stanforth–High Jump.
LCpl Smith–Hammer, discus.
Sig Craig Dunford–200m and Army Colours versus Mönchengladbach on 6 July.
Sig Si Cartwright–Javelin.
Sig 'Jock' **Wells**–Triple Jump.



WO2 (YofS) Keily leading in the Steeplechase

ALPHA TROOP
EXERCISE MUDDY TRACK

Alpha Tp's Ex Muddy Track started bright and early one Monday morning. The reason for this was to catch the sun in the correct position for a Troop photograph and take advantage of the unusual 95% turnout. The exercise was a shakedown for the newly arrived **SSgt Melotte**, in the absence of **Lt Caddy** currently sunning himself with UNPROFOR.

We deployed with most of the Troop vehicles and trailers to Arsbeck Training Area and set up a Node complex and two smaller detachments. Strangely enough Staff was impressed with our efforts and I think most members of the Troop were quite shocked at how slick things went. Just as everything was rolling along nicely and we were wondering what the well guarded secret of Phase Two could be, the athletes in the Troop were called away for Army Finals training. Just one of the many pitfalls of being part of a superfit and talented Squadron.

At 0600hrs, when the shouting started, we discovered that Phase Two was a 'bug-out'. Being limited in our exercise area we circled round to simulate a move. This confused the RSM and his driver somewhat, as they ended up in the wrong location (or was it because we were so well cammed up?). After going through all our hastily set-up lessons someone noticed that **LCpl Whitehead** was still running around trying to rig up the Troop field telephones, just as we were planning to tear things down and head for home.

CADET CAMP

On 14 July, four intrepid members of the Squadron under the watchful eye of **Sgt** 'Al' **Ironside** boldly went where no-one dared to get involved, on a mission to teach various schools from around the UK on their CCF Camp, Basic Signalling Skills. Before leaving for the sunny climate of 'Costa d'Wales' we had to borrow equipment from 16 Sig Regt and our Dutch friends from 1 (NL) Sig Sqn as our Squadron does not hold the equipment we were going to need. (Thanks very much!)

After an uneventful journey, 'til we had to fork out £10 of our own money to cross the Severn Bridge, things started to go wrong. We drove past the camp we were supposed to be staying in, in Crickhowell, and on an extra 20 miles to Sennybridge, courtesy of our admin order. Driving back in a much darker mood, we finally arrived at Crickhowell.

On Friday morning we began setting up the equipment and the classroom ready for the cadets on Sunday. At two schools a day, morale plummeted as we worked out that we would be teaching the same tasks over 26 times but peaked again when we discovered we were stood down Saturday. On Sunday, after an initial brief by **Sgt** 'Al' **Ironside, Sig Lawrence** began with teaching 'voice procedure'. **Cpl Allmark** followed with a brief on Clansman 351 and 349.

After boring the cadets in a classroom for more than an hour, we set up an orienteering exercise for them to practise their VP and PRC 349. **Sigs** 'Tex' **Avery** and **Lawrence** discovered 'say again, over' was the only VP that had stuck, as they tried to control the exercise.

Lastly the cadets were given a brief on the role of the Royal Signals and an introduction to field telephones, D10 cable and obstacle crossing by **Sig Rickard**.

INTER-CORPS FOOTBALL FINAL GERMANY

The Inter-Corps Football Cup Final was held in brilliant weather on Wednesday 28 June at St Tonis. The Royal Signals, the holder of the Cup, and the RE (Inter-Corps League Champions) produced an exciting and high scoring game. The game started with the usual sparring and trying to find the other team's weakness. The first breakthrough came and the Sappers took the lead with a well worked goal. This seemed to spur the Signals team on and a couple of minutes later they equalised, but immediately went to sleep as the Engineers went straight up the field and scored to regain the lead.

The Signals equalised and then seemed to take control of the game, going into a 5–2 lead. At this time the Signals team was playing some excellent football. To the Engineers' credit they kept going and the Signals goalkeeper **SSgt Bob Breheney** had to come to the Signals rescue a couple of times. Just before the final whistle the Engineers pulled one back to make it a final score of 5–3. To a man the Signals produced an excellent team performance against very good and difficult opposition. The outstanding individual performance of the day was that of the Signals' striker **Cpl Mark Johnson** who scored four goals, his third good enough to win any Cup Final.



Winners

1 Sig Sqn (SC) (V)
Bletchley

Sqn Comd — **Maj Gordon Duncan**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Willy Ironside**

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW!

31 March 1995 effectively saw the end of a 47 year old Troop whose proud history will be remembered with pride by all who served in it.



The original 602 Signal Troop

To mark this auspicious occasion, on 21 March 1995, **Brig N. F. Wood ADC** was invited to attend the lowering of the 602 Sig Tp pennant for the last time at Bicester. Following the lowering ceremony **Brig Wood** presented the pennant to **LCpl** 'Vinny' **Hill**, who was the first of an eight man relay team, running from Bicester to Bletchley, a distance of some 30 miles. The pennant was delivered to the Mayor of Milton Keynes at the TAC. It is now housed in the Squadron display cabinet. The run also raised £250 for a local scanner appeal and a further £250 will go towards the Corps Museum. The relay team included regular and TA members of the newly formed 1 Sig Sqn (SC) (V). They were: **LCpl** 'Vinny' **Hill, LCpl Shaun** 'Albert' **Avis, Sgts Nick Kimber**, 'Respond' **Heaton, Cpls** 'Chip Dog' **Lang, Mark** 'Smiler' **Bentley, Caroline Loots** and **Sig** 'Radge' **Lee**. MT support was provided by **Cpl Steven Ellis**.



The last 602 Signal Troop (SC) 'The Not So Old Boys'



Maj Gordon Duncan presenting £250 cheque to Dash Scanner Appeal

Photograph courtesy of Maureen Pruskin Press & Public Relations, Milton Keynes

THE NEW US!

The new Signal Squadron is based in Bletchley, Nr Milton Keynes and has a compliment of 105. We are housed in a new buliding complex, offering an excellent working environment, with first class facilities. A far cry from the cramped Bicester days!

RECRUITMENT

Although 1 Sig Sqn (SC) (V) is a TA unit, there are still opportunities for regular soldiers, in particular Tele Op (TG), both male and female of all ranks to use and further develop their trade skills in an important operational area. Job satisfaction is guaranteed, along with excellent prospects for variety and travel. A few of the countries to be visited this year are: Denmark, Kuwait, Swaziland, Jordan, Belgium, Canada, Morocco, Gibraltar, Cyprus, Norway and Zimbabwe.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go to **Sgt Steve Russell** for being awarded Top Student on 602 Sig Tp's last special comms course. He was also successful on the recent promotion board and has been posted on promotion to 1 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt. We wish him well!

Congratulations also go to our self-taught, and self-coached volleyball team on becoming runners up in the Southern District volleyball championships, held at the beginning of April.

The team was beaten in the end by the Gurkhas. The team consists of: 'Ginge' **Willimont**, 'Gaz' **Bateman, Nick Kimber, Jim Seager, Stu Wilby** and **Dave Hughes**.



Sgt Steve Russell receiving his Top Student award

ADVENTURE TRAINING
by Cpl Libby McKerrow

Hosted by HMS *Osprey*, the location offered excellent facilities for indoor and outdoor pursuits, allowing these soldiers to work together to develop team skills and challenge personal limitations. The week consisted of rock-climing, abseiling, canoeing, clay-pigeon shooting and mountain-bike riding.

Funding was organised by **Capt Bobby Scott** and the week was planned to military precision by **Sgt Jon Heaton**. The final weekend saw the addition of a generous loan by the Royal Air Force of a Puma helicopter and crew. 1 Sig Sqn offered its own novice pilots **Sgt Jon Heaton** and **WO2 (YofS)** 'Ginge' (just call me Wing Commander) **Willimont** who both got some unconventional training at take off and landing (the author of this piece preferring terra firma during this time). The addition of the Puma allowed us to practise fast roping descents on to dry land and 'swarming' the wetter sea option.

The Puma also took some 1 Sig Sqn members on a routine sortie to recce the outlying islands but had an unscheduled refuelling stop on Guernsey. All in a weekend's work for this TA soldier.

2 Sig Sqn (V)
Dundee

Sqn Comd — **Maj Bryan Gilfether MBE** (V)
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Max McGillivray**

The Squadron has had a period of re-role training incorporating both static trade training and three weekend deployments on field comms exercises to practise the all important hands on aspects of tactical HF radio dets.

To lay the foundations for these deployments a joint exercise was run with 56 Sig Sqn (V) for a week in May, based around Browndown Camp in Hampshire. This proved to be a highlight of the recent programme with many valuable lessons learned by both Squadrons, once the language barrier had been breached!



L to R: Sig Heather Lawrie (56 Sig Sqn (V)), LCpl David Garland and Sgt Jocelyn Lindsay (2 Sig Sqn (V))
Joint exercise with 2 Sig Sqn (V)/56 Sig Sqn (V)– Browndown Camp

Whilst the det comds and crews were pounding the airwaves in the South of England the Squadron entered a team from the remainder into 32 Sig Regt (V)'s Military Skills competition and achieved second place. Well done to **Lt Vic Cavin** (V) and his team: the gauntlet is down.

In July the Squadron held an arduous training weekend in the Ardgaren forest area of Scotland which gave all ranks a chance to let off steam after a fairly intensive period of comms fever. Assistance was given by instructors from the RAF Leuchars mountain rescue team in rock climbing and abseiling and from 225 Fd Amb (V) in canoeing instructors. Contrary to popular opinion **Cpl Ronnie Thomson** only demonstrated his disco leg on the rock face once, however, **LCpl Tracey Bruce** had a lot of trouble practising capsize drills on the loch.

The weekend was rounded off with a barbecue party attendance which was swollen by the inclusion of 25 million jack-booted midges. The sight of **SSgt Bob Davidson** breakdancing with the swarm has been written into Squadron folklore.



LCpl Tracey Bruce gaining practical experience of a Ratt circuit

A warm welcome back is extended to a key member of the permanent staff team, **Capt Bill Naismith** (V), the PSAO, after a full recovery from his recent illness.

Congratulations to **Cpl Bob Murray** and his wife **Aileen** on the birth of their son **Keiran**.

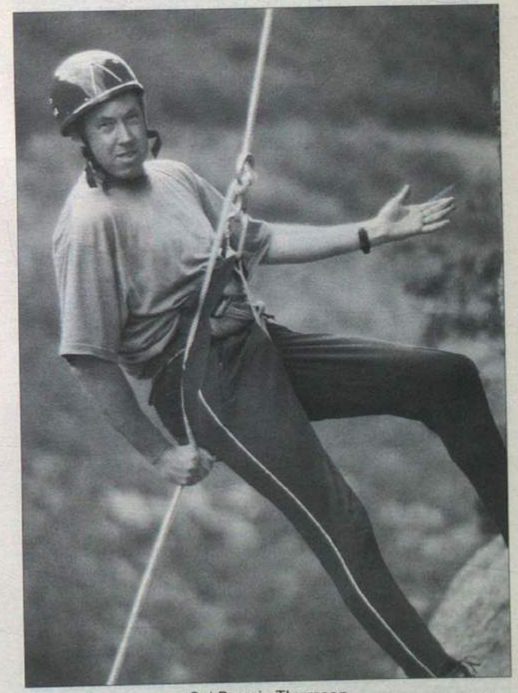
It is with regret that the last month has seen the departure to 32 Sig Regt (V) of **Lt Jackie Lockhart** (V), we wish her the very best of luck in her new venture. Every cloud has a silver lining though and July saw the arrival of **Lt Andrew Thompson** from 51 Sig Sqn (V) in Aberdeen who assumes the mantle of Alpha Tp Comd; welcome into the team.

The formation of the unit as an independent Squadron has led to the requirement for a new design of the Squadron plaque. A contest was held at which several very original designs were entered. The winning entry was designed by **SSgt Bob Tasker**, the prize of a meal in the town for two was donated by the Sqn Comd.

On the sports and social front, a popular outing by 21 members of the Squadron was organised by **Lt Vic Cavin** (V) to the Dundee Bowling and Zapp Zone entertainment complex. **Capt Naismith** (V) was declared the outright bowling champion and **Sgt Bruce Singers** led the intrepid ex-parachutists to victory over allcomers in the laser zapp zone.

These are exciting times for the Squadron with so many new activities on the horizon and for all, the discovery that training can be fun. The smell of progress is in the air, with even the latest intake of recruits queueing up for morse practice tapes in readiness for future trade training.

The crews are now established and taking on the challenges of the new role with a vigour and sense of humour typical of the Dundee Signallers.



Cpl Ronnie Thomson
Adventure Training in Ardgarten Forest

55 Sig Sqn (V)
Liverpool

ANNUAL CAMP

This year, annual camp took us to Germany, which most of us were pleased about.

Camp fever began at 0700hrs on Saturday 17 June, when we all paraded and lined up the vehicles.

Deployment from the TAC Liverpool to Hull went smoothly, as did the crossing to Europort (thanks to MT section!) and compared to the previous year, travelling time was cut considerably.

Due to convoy restrictions over the weekend, we just had to spend the day at Oirschot Camp–a Dutch Army Base–where we were extremely well looked after.

Our Dutch Police escort got us safely to the BXP at Venlo and we met up with the rest of the Brigade at Leuth Training Area.

Detachments and support vehicles were deployed to various locations and the exercise warm up began. Comms 'boomed through' (as always!) and no major problems were encountered.

Everyone worked well and the rebros were well used, the exercise plan gradually moved us north, with some rebros moving several times, whilst other remained static. Echelon had one move, as did Radcon.

Scorching weather stayed with us for the fortnight, which meant everyone was in a 'PHS'–permanent happy state–except of course when we were fully TAC! The midday sun even drove a few people to having a dip in the water bowser, naming no names–**Sgt Denise Halewood** and **LCpl Sue Jones** spring to mind though. Although an excellent camp was had by all, Endex was welcomed, as R&R was looming.

We finished the clean up Wednesday evening and settled down in JHQ Rheindahlen.

Friday meant 'home time' and thankfully the journey back to Europort wasn't too arduous.

It was an excellent camp.



Sgt Denise Halewood and LCpl Sue Bonesy take a dip in the water bowser

268 MILES AND EIGHT MARS BARS A DAY

It had been two years since the Squadron had last walked a Long Distance Path (LDP) in aid of charity. Being keen fell walkers **Cpl Fred Bates** and **Sig Alan Pinnington** approached the SSM **(WO2) John Lloyd** with their idea of walking the Pennine Way for charity. The SSM agreed saying, 'Have a look at the calendar and find a weekend when you're free!'. Now it didn't seem to be clear to the SSM that the Pennine Way was 268 miles long and to do it in a weekend would be 135 miles a day. The fastest time the PW had ever been completed was by a fell runner who ran non-stop in three and a half days with guides. Now we may be good, but not that good, so we explained this to the SSM, who promptly agreed that it would take longer than a weekend. Our intention was to complete the LDP as a four man team, four out and four in. In order to do this a strong team with experience had to be formed and a manageable mileage per day agreed.

THE TEAM

The team included **Sgt Colin McCallum** (UEL), a marathon and fell runner, **Cpl Fred Bates**, rock climber and fellwalker. The amazing **LCpl John Bell** (Medic and MLTB) and his furry friends and **Sig Alan Pinnington**, a canoeing instructor, rock climber and fell walker. All having the experience and pain of Lanyard Trophy events and the many excursions for its training.

THE ROUTE

It was decided that the LDP would be challenged over 14 days during Easter, this being 20 miles per day. Now 20 miles per day is easy to say over a few pints and even some naive people suggested that we should be doing 50 miles a day!. However, the team knew that injuries would occur at 20 miles every day for 14 days. Which means being on the path for 0800hrs and sometimes finishing at 2100hrs, terrain depending. The traditional PW marked on OS maps, is not only very boggy but is overcrowded especially during the holidays. In fact, it may even be possible to complete the PW without any navigational aides due to the number of walkers and signposts along the route. With this in view the Sqn Comd suggested an alternative route which would be navigationally more challenging and not so crowded. This route, 'The Alternative Pennine Way' (APW) starting further south than the PW in Ashbourne on the Tissington Trail and finishing across the Scottish border in Jedburgh in Roxburghshire being 268 miles (431.3km) in total. The route covering the true length of the Pennines and split into 21 stages which was described in the guide as a stage a day, however we had only 14 days to do it.

ASHBOURNE (DERBYSHIRE) TO HAWES (WENSLEYDALE)

The first day and full of energy we broke the sound barrier, this being the easiest day due to the bridleways. The next day was not so fortunate, heading up to Stanage Edge (rock climbing territory) both **Sgt Colin McCallum** and **Cpl Fred Bates** sustained injuries to the knees and tendons. These injuries just don't go away. **LCpl John Bell** and **Sig Alan Pinnington** not being left out, incurred blisters of such a magnitude that the world's supply of zinc oxide tape was in danger. We plodded on passing through many familiar places, such as that farm on the M62 or should that be 'in' the M62, as the motorway parts only for the farm. The farmer came down and showed us the way, a friendly soul with a long beard. After walking half way (135 miles) a seat to rest those weary feet whilst enjoying a hard earned pint didn't seem much to ask, did it?

KIRBY STEPHEN (APPLEBY-IN-WESTMORELAND) TO JEDBURGH (ROXBURGHSHIRE, SCOTLAND)

The weather had been good in the first week and continued, the only drawback being that we were heading North and so the back of our necks became burnt instead of our faces. Then the rain came which gave the team a chance to try out their yeti gortex gaiters. Snow followed the rain, we knew now we were getting closer to Scotland, wondering how the Romans ever got there in their sandals. Passing through the Kielder Forest was relaxing due to the lack of wind. It was here that spirits were high, we had picked up enough stamina from the previous days that we seemed able to walk for ever. It seemed harder at the beginning and easier at the end of the whole route, however it was not like that during the day's walk. Starting in the morning with a spring in our step and full of spirit and finishing with nagging pains in the shoulders, knees and feet, just as the sun is setting. The four team members coped well, stopping regularly every hour for water and chocolate, changing tops for ascents, descents and changes in weather. From start to finish it was discipline and determination that enabled the team to reach the finish in Jedburgh in Roxburghshire. At the finish we celebrated and suggested that, next time we'll do a sponsored 'landrover pull' like any other unit does, I think not!



The End–Saturday 22 April 1995
The team at Jedburgh Abbey after 268 long miles
L to R: Cpl Bates, LCpl Bell, Sig Pinnington, Sgt McCallum

56 Sig Sqn (V)
Eastbourne

Sqn Comd **Maj Ray Wilkinson TD**

SQUADRON EVENTS

The Squadron continues towards becoming part of 31 Sig Regt (V) with the renaming of Support Tp to 857 Tp. We have just emerged from a very busy period with training practically every other weekend. Two cadre weekends produced a great opportunity for all to brush up on military skills.

From all accounts, the week at Browndown Camp training 2 Sig Sqn (V) for its new role was enjoyed by all. It's a real shame that 2 Sig Sqn (V) couldn't provide its own vehicles but never mind, 56 Sig Sqn (V) is always ready for action!

Ex Polaplod proved to be a roaring success with our main aim to complete as a team achieved with a stunning time of 9hrs and 20mins. Well done **Capts Murray, Howe, 2Lts Blake, Pearson, Whitworth, Sgt Geoff Murray, LCpls Sam Shrewsbury, Lawrie** and **Sig Avril Tough** (Tough by name and tough by nature!). No doubt the 'old hats', **Capts Murray** and **Howe** could have taken 20 minutes off last year's individual effort easily but, we stuck to our aim and returned as a team, much to the amazement of the Polaroid hierarchy. Obviously on realising 56 Sig Sqn (V) had won everything, leaving no prizes to be presented to their employees, Polaroid had a quick rethink and decided to award us second place on the grounds that we were semi-professional and therefore the other teams were at some disadvantage. We're still not quite sure what was worse, being awarded second place or classed as semi-professional! Nevertheless, it was an excellent weekend with the challenge now set to make a new team record next year–nine hours–get those running shoes on! Special thanks go to **LCpl Holder** for providing the 'meals-on-wheels' service and, in general, to all involved who contributed to the smooth running of the event.

The APWT training weekend was well attended and included a visit by the Sqn Comd, 2IC, Trg Maj and ARSM of 31 Sig Regt (V). The barbecue and games evening proved entertaining and it was reassuring to hear the CO of 31 Sig Regt (V) say that the Regiment was looking forward to joining 56 Sig Sqn (V).

During one of the training nights a navigation exercise was organised in which all who competed did extremely well, especially all those for whom orienteering was new. It is hoped to continue this on a more regular basis so that we can put together a competitive team as this is not only regarded as a sport, but one of the most important skills required in TA training. A last minute decision to enter as a guest team for the Colonel's Cup competition proved to be a roaring success. Well done to all team members, **2Lt Pearson, Cpl Crick, LCpls Lawrie, North, Mitchell** and **Sig Buckingham** for their exeellent effort and admirable team work which resulted in our gaining second place. During the evening social, 56 Sig Sqn (V) had great joy in showing all those within the Regiment how we enjoy ourselves by consuming enough fuel to help us take home the impressive CO's Families Day Challenge Shield for winning the raft race which will no doubt remain with the Squadron for many years to come.

Ex Scrap Iron was unfortunately poorly attended by the Squadron, however, for those who did attend it proved most certainly to be a weekend to remember! During the Saturday the best Det competition produced a winner, so congratulations to **Cpl Maginnis, LCpls Warren, North** and **SSgt Hylands** (ACF) although it is not a surprising result when they had a member of 857 Tp to support them! To our great relief **Professor A. Weight** was rescued and his rocket was launched. It was a busy weekend and it cannot go without saying that the effort contributed by all involved helped the weekend to be the success it was. A last word of thanks to the cadets without whom our weekend would not have run so smoothly. The only regret was not having a camera as many a classic shot was missed.

857 TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Jill Pearson**

NEW TITLE, NEW MOTTO

'Where we lead, the others (858, 859) will follow'. A warm welcome to **Sig Joy** on his transfer to 857 Tp and **Sig Grieve** our new Driver Lineman on his transfer from 2 Sig Sqn (V). Success has been plentiful with **Sig Moore, LCpls North** and **Hannan** passing their driving course and even better, **LCpl North** deciding to go one step further by passing his HGV 1. And, there's more, **Sgt Baker** passed his TA SSgt's course so, hearty congratulations to all those who have obviously put much effort into their well deserved achievements. All the hard work that **Sgt Lambert** and his team, **Sgt Odam, LCpls Lawrie, North, Sigs Berry Griffin, Greenhill** and **Recruit Mercer** put in proved its worth when they gained third prize for their float in the carnival during the Eastbourne Festival. Well done. Farewell to **Sgt Stewart Ryder** whose valuable input to the Technical Section will be greatly missed and every success on his new posting to 9 Sig Regt. Also, farewell to **SSgt Wooller** whose dedication to the Squadron will be greatly missed and **LCpl Gell** who has left us to concentrate on his new career within the police force. Good luck. And finally, congratulations to **Cfn** (now LCpl) **North** on his recent promotion.

858 TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Jackie Blake**

The Troop has been well represented of late and it is good to see the majority of the Troop members now sporting our impressive Troop T-shirts. An excellent effort was made by **LCpl Lorraine** 'Hot Shot' **Holder** who achieved not only best female shot but also best Squadron shot. Well done.

Another Troop highpoint came in the Squadron's Best Detachment competition with the winning team being led by **Cpl Maginnis**. Let us keep this winning streak up!

We welcome some new faces into the Troop:- **Sigs Blackiston, Cuddihy, Greenhill** and **McCarthy** who have recently completed their TA Recruits' course. We say farewell to **Cpl Tracey Reed** who is leaving us to concentrate on her studies at Kent University. Good luck. Finally, many congratulations go to **Sgt** (now SSgt) **Tony Potter**. Also to **Sigs** 'Bunny' **Warren** and **Colin Teo** on their recent promotion to LCpl.

859 TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Sarah Streete**

Jocomex is still proving to be a popular training event. **Sig Sawyer** had the opportunity to spend a five day attachment on HMS *Quorn* as part of Jocomex sailing from Rosythe to Eastbourne. A warm welcome into the Troop to **Sig Butler** who recently attended and passed her recruits' course. Last but not least, congratulations to **Sigs Heather Lawrie** and **Andy Mitchell** on their recent promotion to LCpl.

RECRUIT TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Robert Whitworth**

The selection of the current intake of recruits to the Squadron, although small in terms of numbers, have managed to achieve a good level of proficiency. **Sigs Hill, King** and **Mercer** have performed well on most tasks and all should go on to become valuable members of the Squadron. Congratulations go to **2Lt Robert Whitworth** on passing his TA Commissioning course and to **Sgt** (now SSgt) **Kevin Godden** on his recent promotion.

NEWS FROM THE TROOPS

Royal Signals Maintenance Team
Sp Bn HQ ARRC
BFPO 40

RSMT
by SSgt (FofS) A. G. Jenkins



Back Row (L to R): Cpl Watson, LCpl Brown, Sig Jackson, Cpl Cator and LCpl Smith
Front Row (L to R): Cpl Longson, Sgt Patterson, SSgt (FofS) Jenkins, Sgt Smith and Cpl Monks
Absent–Leave/Duty: Sgt Garratt, Cpl Freeman, Cpl Findlay and Cpl Barr

FofS cse No 64 was waiting expectantly. 'Gentlemen, your postings are in, I shall read them out in alphabetical order . . . **Jenkins**–Royal Signals Maintenance Team, Support Battalion, HQ ARRC.' 'Who, where?' was the general chorus, not even the epicentre of Corps knowledge at Blandford could help me.

Having now been in post for three months, this then, is RSMTs first ever *Wire* entry with the purpose of, firstly, letting all readers know of our whereabouts and secondly, to inform you of our role and tasking within the wider scheme of things.

The Royal Signals Maintenance Team (RSMT) is situated at JHQ Rheindahlen and is a part of the Support Battalion HQ ARRC. To paint the full picture we are a 14 man and woman strong Troop headed by myself. There are three Sgts, Tele tech (sys), eight LCpl-Cpl Tele tech (sys), one Cpl Tele Op (TG), and finally, one Dvr (lineman). The Support Battalion is a multi-capbadge organisation. We have a Sqn Comd who is a Guards officer, an RSM who is Royal Artillery and an SSM who is Light Infantry, making life 'interesting' with the differing opinions and standards of all the Arms. There is also the liberal spreading of Engineers, REME and RLC personnel to keep things ticking along.

Our primary role is to support all ARRC Headquarters, that being, Main, Rear, TAC and shortly the newly formed Step-Up. The vast majority of the much maligned 'B staff' vehicle fleet comprises the Main HQ and the maintenance of this fleet takes up the majority of our time. Rear HQ is mainly tented and TAC HQ is ably supported by 232 Sig Sqn, 7 Sig Regt, although the BSVs used in this HQ are maintained by RSMT. There are moves afoot to install TAC HQ into Land Rovers thus improving the HQ's mobility and flexibility and also releasing the BSVs for use in the Main complex.

The Sp Bn deploys on all of the ARRC sponsored exercises, generally three a year. We also deploy on an annual NATO sponsored exercise to some sunny shore although this year's 'Turkish Experience' has, unfortunately, been cancelled.

The support of all of the HQ involves all aspects of the SLIM computer system, both in barracks and on exercise. The implementation of IARRCIS will see the Troop broadening its CIS responsibilities and giving us more variation in our daily routine. Let's not forget, also, those miscellaneous tasks we all know and love! (Many thanks to Comms Branch!)

Life is busy but we still manage our fair share of extra-mural activities, (the Yard-of-ale record currently stands at 2 min 52 secs, set by my predecessor **Steve Bason**) not to mention various adventure training weekends. We are, at time of writing, about to embark on a week's training involving trekking, climbing, canoeing, and para-gliding in Bavaria.

So as you can see life in RSMT is nothing but varied and with the usual turnover of personnel there are always opportunities to join the team.

EXERCISE THREE MOUNTAINS CHALLENGE
by Cpl Gaz Longson

On 22 June three members of RSMT together with three members from the rest of the Battalion embarked on Ex Three Mountains Challenge. The Challenge is a sponsored event for Charity. The event takes place over two days, climbing the three highest peaks in UK, Ben Nevis, Scarfell Pike and Snowdon. All the proceeds going to the Hesley Foundation and British Heart Foundation.

The team, consisting of **Sgt** 'Patto' **Patterson, Cpls Gaz Longson, Mark Miskelly** (REME), **Sig** 'Jacko Jack' **Jackson, Pte Hunter** (RLC) and the Driver **Pte Harris** (RLC) set out for Fort William with an overnight stop at the Apprentices' College Harrogate, where everyone took time to sample the great Yorkshire hospitality.

After a late start the next morning we set our sights on Fort William. We arrived in Fort William, the driver not quite sure where the camp site was until we spied 'Vango City'. After tasting the hospitality of yet another town, we set off to climb Ben Nevis at 0730hrs Saturday morning. The weather couldn't have been better, glorious sunshine. However there was still snow on top of 'The Ben'. Approximately 4½ hours later we hobbled into the finish. One down two to go.

Arriving at Wasdale head camp site in the Lake District at 2330hrs Saturday night we were told our start time was 0330hrs Sunday morning. Ben Nevis is a steep climb . . . wrong answer Scarfell is steeper. We completed Scarfell in approx 3½ hours. No hanging around, into the minibus and off to Snowdon. Around this time things were pretty silent in the bus, everyone was contemplating the last climb (or their feet). Two down one to go.

We arrived at Snowdon to a warm welcome. 'Glad you made it, now get up that mountain, the event finishes at 1800hrs.' So off we trot. The going wasn't as bad as the last two but still steep. The one memorable thing about Snowdon is that when you get to the top you find out you could have taken the train up. The Team finished Snowdon in a time of approx 3¾ hours, an excellent effort all round. The team raised £1000 for Charity and everyone agreed to go back next year and do it all over again . . . maybe!



L to R: Cpl Mark Miskelly, Pte Harris, Sgt Patterson, Cpl Longson and Sig Jackson

THE DISBANDMENT OF HQ 30 ENGINEER BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL TROOP (V)
by Capt (Retd) B. J. Podmore

'Options for Change' has resulted not only in the closure of Regular Army Units, lesser known Royal Signals Volunteer Army Units have also been disbanded and as a result their histories are being lost. This is a brief history of HQ 30 Engr Bde HQ and Sig Tp (V) which was formed on 1 April 1967 at Stafford, when the TAVR came into existence, and was disbanded on 31 March 1995 having been in existence for 28 years. The Engr Bde, with support Regiments under its command, spent the majority of its life covering special responsibilities for engineering tasks within 1 (BR) Corps Rear Area, BAOR. The Signal Troop provided all the communications for the Brigade.

The role meant that each year Annual Summer Camp usually coincided with Ex Summer Sales in Germany; when not on that exercise, the Brigade HQ was based at Hameln with Royal Engineer Units affiliated to them in time of war.

The Brigade was commanded by a Brigadier, with a small HQ staff drawn from the Royal Engineers. The Signal Troop's structure and manpower was divided equally between Royal Signals and Royal Engineer personnel. The Brigade Signals Officer (Capt/Major) and Troop Commander (Lt/Capt) were initially supported by a regular Royal Signals PSI Radio Technician and a PSI Data Telegraphist. The TA personnel consisted of Yeoman of Signals, Data Telegraphists, Linemen, Drivers Electrician, Combat Radiomen and Drivers. The post of SSM had the unique distinction that it could be held by either a Royal Signals or Royal Engineers WO2. The total compliment of the Brigade HQ at one time reached 120 all ranks.

Initially, the bulk of the volunteer manpower, including Royal Signals, came from a disbanded TA unit, based in Stafford, and AER personnel. The Troop also carried on strength one REME fitter, and the Brigade was supported by a REME workshop which was a TAVR sponsored unit based in South Wales.

The communications equipment consisted of D11 and C13(HP), with C13s(LP) and C42s housed in landrovers (FFR). The Troop also had the usual compliment of line, field telephone, battery charging and lighting equipment, while 1 (BR) Corps Signals Units provided Bruin (later Ptarmigan) communications when the Brigade was deployed on exercise in Germany. In the mid 1980s the Troop lost its D11 HF radio equipment and the regular PSIs were withdrawn.

As the international climate improved so the role of the unit changed with the responsibilities and function of the Troop becoming very 'low key'. Fortunately, on disbandment the personnel have transferred to other units, the majority have been re-badged Royal Engineers, while others have been posted to local volunteer Royal Signals units. The TA Centre is now the home of a new unit which forms part of 75 Engr Regt (V).

Although HQ 30 Engr Bde HQ and Sig Tp (V) had a relatively short history, compared with other Volunteer units, it nevertheless made an important contribution to the NATO Order of Battle. A Royal Signals presence in Staffordshire is maintained by 58 (Staffordshire) Sig Sqn (V), at Newcastle-under-Lyme, which forms part of 35 (South Midlands) Sig Regt (V).

University of London OTC

SHEEP, RAIN AND FOG–WELCOME TO WALES!

Despite the pressure of exams attendance was high within the Signals sub-unit enabling us to train efficiently during the Summer Term.

In July we embarked on our Summer Camp in Sennybridge, where the terrain is as treacherous as the sheep. The first week was devoted to consolidating our knowledge of Infantry Skills. Each member of the sub-unit received command appointments at either Section or Platoon level. The sub-unit survived relatively unscathed apart from **OCdt Adam Jones'** torn ankle ligaments post an enthusiastic deliberate attack! We wish him a speedy recovery.

During the second week of camp the sub-unit was called to put its training into practice providing communications for the all-arms exercise. To this end we manned Battalion HQ, TAC, a Rebro outpost and Echelon as well as assisting the RA Tp by providing two Signallers, **OCdt Gareth Lambert** and **OCdt David Brooks**, for their OPs. The exercise was hard work and this was not improved by the atrocious weather this notorious part of the country experienced at the time. Whilst everyone else in Britain basked in the beginnings of a heat wave we sat in rain and fog so thick you could hardly see your compo rations! **OCdt** 'Nobby' **Clarke** and his Rebro detachment were so well hidden it was only **OCdt Jo Kimbell**'s loud contented munching sounds that eventually led their relief to discover their location.

During Camp we said goodbye to our OC **Capt Jonathan Manley** who leaves us for an appointment in London District. We thank him for his work for the sub-unit and wish him all the best. Our new OC **Lt Jane Dodd** joins us from the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry.

We also say farewell to all those who have graduated and are leaving the sub-unit including our **JUO Catherine Brodie** who is shortly to attend TA Sandhurst.



BLACKBURN DETACHMENT CADETS ATTEND ANNUAL CAMP

Royal Signals badged cadets Blackburn Detachment of Lancashire Army Cadet Force attended a 14 day camp at Cultybraggan in Scotland, in August.

Whilst there they met with over 200 other Army cadets from the Lancashire area and together took part in outdoor exercises that included climbing, abseiling, canoeing, and map and compass tests.

Our photograph shows Blackburn cadets taking part in a midweek exercise that included other cadet detachments.

Now returned to their Headquarters in Blackburn the cadets are now looking forward to their Autumn training schedule.



Blackburn Cadets on exercise at Annual Camp, Cultybraggan, August 1995

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please advise the Subscriptions Clerk, at RHQ, IN WRITING, of any change of address. This information should not be telephoned.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

Admiral	Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander CB OBE
Commodore	Col J. E. F. Kirby OBE
Vice Commodore	Lt Col J. Grierson

Rear Commodores: Offshore, Lt Col J. R. S. Amberton;
Dinghies, Lt Col M. J. McKinlay; Windsurfing, Maj D. I. Gilchrist.

CONTACTS

Yachtmasters:	**UK: Capt N. A. Walker, Blandford Mil 2256**
	BAOR: Capt R. K. Orr, Birgelen Mil 286
Secretaries:	**General Capt G. Neal, Blandford Mil 2664**
	Dinghy Racing UK: Capt D. C. A. Ellis, Blandford Mil 2340
	Dinghy BAOR:Maj S. I. Andrews, Osnabruk Mil 5247
	Windsurfing UK: Lt M. C. Wadsley, Hullavington Mil 8815
	Windsurfing BAOR: Maj M. W. Edwards, RAF Laarbruch Mil 5711
	Retired Members Rep: Lt Col (Retd) C. K. Powell, Blandford Mil 2437
Soldier Reps:	**Sgt Finnigan: Thorney Island 8263 Sgt P. Downie: Bulford Mil 2837**

The Royal Signals Yacht Club communicates with its members through the medium of* The Wire*, which regularly prints a forecast of events, accounts of activities and contains details for club officials.

Any member of the Corps who subscribes to Corps funds is automatically a member of the Yacht Club: this membership is activated simply by registering with one of the Club secretaries.

QUEST FOR GOLD

Our Soling class keelboat *Seaquency* has now finished all her training regattas around Europe, and by the time you read this will have also completed the UK selection trials.

The trials are being held in Weymouth over the period 26 August to 3 September for all of the Olympic sailing classes except the Star keelboat. We are expecting to see 14 boats turn up for the Solings, with a view to selecting just one to represent UK in Savannah, USA, next year.

We have had an eventful seven months sailing this boat, in countries as far apart as America, south of France, Holland, north of Germany and of course UK. We have had positions in regattas from being the UK National Champions to finishing last at Hyeres. I don't think that any of the three of us on board have experienced last overall in a regatta before, but this is simply indicative of the strength and depth of talent that this class attracts on an International basis.

It has been an uphill struggle for us all the way, with the boat that we were recommended to buy not turning out to have been quite such a wonderful investment after all. We have had to carry out a lot of fairly major maintenance on her, which has included having a new keel section designed for us by **Ian Howlett**, and then implemented by **Steve Etheridge** in the New Forest.

While this has undoubtedly reduced our speed deficit, it has done nothing for the balance of payments, and when we eventually come to sell the boat it will be at an (overall) considerable net loss. But this is Olympic sailing, and if you are not prepared to give it your all, then there is little point in doing it at all.

So how do we rate our chances? On a straight statistical level, at 1 in 14. Realistically we are up against some of the UK's top small keelboat and match racing experts. Amongst those who have entered are **Chris Law, Eddie Warden-Owen, David Bedford, Ian Budgen, Andy Beadsworth, Stuart Childerly, Ian Pinnel** and **Graham Baily** to name just a few. Match racing is a funny old game, though, and if we get our act together on the day there is no reason why we should not surprise quite a few people.

I look forward to giving you an update as to how we fared in the next issue of *The Wire*.

DINGHY NEWS

The Corps Enterprises are now firmly established at Spinnaker Sailing Club, on the outskirts of Ringwood. The use of these is restricted to those persons who become members of Blandford Camp Sailing Club, but this is open to all Corps personnel, not just those on the Camp.

Spinnaker SC is an extremely friendly club,who have made us very welcome this year. They are always keen to see our club members turn out to participate in their club racing, and we have recently run a dependant's sailing course there.

At Blandford we also have a fleet of 6 Topper one man dinghies, which are available for Corps units to hire for adventure training and summer camps etc. These are kept at the Camp on a 6-berth road trailer, fitted with a civilian towing eye.

With the lease growth of the Single Centre it is hoped that both sets of dinghies will have a heavy usage by Blandford personnel, but outside units and individuals are urged to take advantage of these Corps assets. The contact for both membership and boats booking is **SSgt Steve Bungay**, on Blandford Mil 2409.

SPORT

CRICKET

1995 SEASON

'Good, pretty good . . .' A series of phrases and quotes from an obscure Australian Comedian brought the season to life almost before it began. Team spirit was high and the team keen to build on last season's success. An aggressive approach to cricket and a will to win mean that the drive to win sometimes leaves the team vulnerable to defeat if things go against you. We approached each match with the firm idea that we would do what was necessary to win. The general idea being that it was better to lose trying to win, than to be boring going for the draw. We were not boring this summer!

Our Corps' 75th anniversary this year gave us the opportunity to spread our wings slightly and compete against some sides of better quality than we normally face in the inter-Corps Merit Table competition. We started our campaign against the Stragglers of Asia CC at Corsham. Notable performances by **Sig Marcus Johnson** taking five wickets, and by **Sgt Roger Thompson** saw us cruise to victory by three wickets.

The next match was our traditional season opener against Sandhurst. This match was notable for the bowlers' lack of success, but the batsmen had a rare day. We were asked by the opposition to field and they set us what looked like a difficult 218 to beat; not, as it turned out. The opening pair of **Capt Philip Harlow** and **SSgt Terry Gigg** started off at a fast canter with an opening partnership of 124 and once that had been broken **SSgt Paul Gardner** (52 NO) came in to finish off the gallop to the end. Won by eight wickets.

Well, so much for the warm-up games. From then on it was into the Merit Table competition. Week one did not start so well. At Woolwich, the Gunners set us 200 to win and we were well on course. That is, until a couple of umpiring decisions occurred which meant that we were two runs short of victory at the end of the day's play. Draw.

Next day we travelled to Deepcut to face the might of the RLC. We performed well with the ball, most notably by **LCpl Brian** 'Lambie' **Lamb** who took six RLC scalps home with him, and they were skittled for a mere 197. The batsmen failed to capitalise on the bowlers' successes and we were soon reeling at 26 for five wickets. 'Loose Cannon' **Thompson** and 'Lambie' then came together and a spirited comeback was on. Just as we were starting to get a little optimistic 'Loose Cannon' was caught in the deep for 71 and 'Lambie' (39) followed shortly after, effectively ending all chance of a win. Lost by 36 runs.

REME was next. They bowled well, restricting us to 245 (**LCpl Mart** 'Chappie' **Chapman** scoring 63). Thinking we had enough to attack their batsmen, they proceeded to slog us to all corners of the park. We did not help ourselves by dropping their openers several times, and they beat us with half an hour to spare. Lost by eight wickets.

Week two brought more success. The Infantry was first. Confidently electing to bat on an easy paced wicket at Tidworth they scored 200 for seven wickets and declared ('Lambie' five for 63). We got on with the job at a steady pace, but it wasn't until 'Lambie' got to the crease at a time when things could have gone pear-shaped quite easily, that the game tipped in our favour. Scoring 73 in a partnership of over 100 with **LCpl Tim Jones** to win the game quite convincingly against one of the strongest teams on the circuit, 'Lambie' effortlessly dispatched the Infantry bowlers, scoring nine boundaries for his 73 not out; won by two wickets.

The following day at the same ground saw us lock horns with the AGC. We won the toss and put them in to bat. Good decision, too. **Jones** took five for 23 runs in a controlled spell of pace bowling on a variable track and they were soon all back in the pavilion for a sorry 95 runs all out. A couple of quick wickets saw us back on our heels for a while at 13 for two wickets before **Chapman** and **Harlow** put the game safe, **Harlow** ending unbeaten on 55. Won by seven wickets.

The annual friendly against Shrivenham saw the first century by a Corps' batsman for four years. Opening the batting, **Gigg** carried his bat for an unbeaten 131 from a total of 265 for four wickets. The only other significant batting contribution was from **Cpl** 'Daz' **Winfield** who shouldered arms to both balls he faced, the second removing his off stump. (This led to the dubbing of the now famous '**Winfield** Leave'). Super effort Daz! Unfortunately, the efforts of our batsmen didn't lead to the crushing victory we had hoped for. The benign Shrivenham wicket making it easy for the Shrivenham batters to hold out; match drawn.

Week 3. The ground at Chatham, home of the Royal Engineers, is an excellent batting track. Electing to bat, the Sappers made us field in the heat for 61 overs while scoring a very respectable total of 324 for three wickets. Although it was a large total to chase we set about the task manfully. This was one of those games where going for the win lost us the game. We went for the runs from the word go, and at the end of the day we weren't far off. Eventually bowled out for 256 (**Harlow** 105) we put up a damned good effort. Unfortunately the loss shown on paper does not reflect an enjoyable, though tough, day's cricket; lost by 68 runs.

We travelled to Woolwich, our favourite venue. The opponents were the AMS, and we were looking forward to it. Still stinging from the huge total put up against us the day before by the Sappers, we set about carting the AMS bowlers to all corners of the universe reaching lunch at 220 for no wicket, both openers having reached the century mark. Soon after lunch **Gigg** played down the wrong line while looking at long off and was bowled for 106. The rest of the team continued in the same vein with **Harlow** finishing on 142 and **Winfield** on a quickfire 41. Declaring on a massive 329 for six the AMS prepared themselves for battle. **Jones** took it to them. In a devastating spell of 11 hostile and at times lightning fast overs he demolished the heart of the AMS batting with seven for 28. **LCpl Marcus Johnson** chipped in with three for 20 to mop up the tail. Jolly good show; Won by 243 runs.

Bovington and the RAC proved to be a much more evenly matched tie. The game was in the balance until almost the last over. Batting first the RAC put up a respectable 212 all out, **Johnson** with four for 74 and **Gardner** with three for 34 were the most significant contributions. It was our own batting which made the game interesting. We stuttered along at a moderate pace until 'Lambie' came to the crease with 'Chappie', and put up 43 runs for the sixth wicket. From there at 141 for six, **Sig Ross Thubron** with **Chapman** put on a further 61 runs, reaching 202 at the fall of the seventh wicket. Jones lasted one ball leaving the game well balanced. **Chapman**, having been the mainstay of the innings and our steadying influence, then fell caught behind for a well deserved century (101) leaving **Sig** 'Taff' **Wilson** and **Johnson** as the last pair with still six runs needed with two overs to go. Four byes and a couple of singles saw us level, while **Wilson** coolly bided his time, and we sweated ours. **Jeremy Carr-Smith** was up to bowl the last over of the day with the scores level. **Wilson** let the first three balls pass to the wicket keeper, while the rest of us on the sideline could do nothing but wait, mentally hitting each ball to the boundary. Suddenly **Carr-Smith** strayed from his usual tight line and bowled **Wilson** a half volley. With little ceremony the ball was belted to the boundary and the game was ours. What a relief. The RAC, having beaten the Infantry and the RLC earlier in the season were graceful, as ever, in defeat and complemented **Chapman** on his winning century; won by one wicket. So at the end of our Merit Table Matches our record reads:

Played eight
Won four
Drawn one
Lost three

Batting Averages (Merit Table matches only):

Position	Name	Inn	NO	Runs	High Score	Ave	100	50
1	**Capt Philip Harlow**	7	1	389	142	64.83	2	1
2	**LCpl Brian Lamb**	5	1	154	73*	38.5	0	1
3	**SSgt Terry Gigg**	8	0	218	106	27.25	1	0
4	**Cpl Mark Chapman**	8	0	216	101	26.75	1	1

(Qualifications: min 4 matches, min 4 innings, min 100 runs)

Bowling Averages (Merit Table matches only):

Position	Name	Overs	M	Runs	Wkts	Ave	Best	5 Wkts
1	**LCpl Brian Lamb**	94	20	334	17	19.65	6-36	2
2	**LCpl Tim Jones**	105	10	424	17	24.94	7-28	2
3	**LCpl Marcus Johnson**	65	3	304	12	25.33	4-74	0
4	**Sig Ross Thubron**	61.4	9	211	7	30.14	3-16	0

(Qualifications: min 5 matches, min 50 overs, min 5 wickets)

Our season was not yet over. Two matches in two days at Corsham followed, the first against an invitation XI set up by **Brig Norman Butler** and a **Mr Don Cutler** as part of the 75th anniversary celebrations. The following day against the RAF Signals. The Norman Butler XI saw us lose a very enjoyable match by three wickets against a team comprising ex county and minor county players and a few young county second XI players. Notable contributions were from **Winfield** (52), and **Harlow** (41).

WO2 Steven O'Dare made a welcome guest appearance and took five wickets from RAF Signals as they took most of the day to reach 234 for nine wickets. An aggressive start by **Gigg** (42) and **Harlow** (63) got the Corps off to a good start with a 109 opening partnership. From there the team slumped to 161 all out to lose the game by 73 runs. We were not too pleased with ourselves after that one, I can tell you.

Chapman with an exciting 71 led the team to 190 in a 45 over game against Hatherley and Redding CC from Cheltenham. During our fielding spell only **Sgt Tony Rowell** seemed to have the measure of the opposition. In a tidy spell of 10 overs he took four for 45 runs. The rest of this game was pretty unremarkable; won by 23 runs.

Lt Col Steve Coltman was dragged from retirement for the two day match at Worthy Down versus the AGC. He alone (with 40 runs) managed to control the AGC bowlers on an unpredictable track while we were bowled out for 149. **Lamb**, with a lengthy 20 over spell of bowling took five wickets for 65 runs as they were returned to the pavilion for 179. With a first innings deficit of 30 to make up we were soon in trouble and never recovered from the bad start. We were eventually bowled out for 76, leaving the AGC to score 47 to win. This they managed with eight wickets to spare.

Our last match of the season was against Dunstable CC at Bovington. We won the toss and chose to bat. It was a blasting hot day and the team was glad to be able to sit in the shade of the pavilion for a few hours first. We had 40 overs to bat and steadily progressed to 169 for nine at the end of our overs. **Lamb** with 42 and **Greenwood** with 38 the only notable performances. As with the batting the bowling steadily produced results, without exceptional incident and the game remained quite evenly balanced. As we were just getting a little edgy as the Dunstable batsmen seemed to be settled and pushing towards the winning runs, enter **Johnson**. A hat trick from the last three balls of his fifth over finally put paid to all resistance. **Clayton** mopped the tail with the last two wickets in two balls; won by 45 runs.

So , our final record for the 1995 season looks like this:

Played 16
Won eight
Drawn two
Lost six

Our batting averages look like this:

Position	Name	Inn	NO	Runs	High Score	Ave	100	50
1	**Capt Philip Harlow**	16	1	666	142	44.4	2	3
2	**SSgt Terry Gigg**	14	1	496	131*	38.15	2	1
3	**LCpl Brian Lamb**	8	1	215	73	30.71	0	1
4	**Cpl Mark Chapman**	16	1	371	101	24.73	1	2

(Qualifications: min 10 matches, min 8 innings, min 100 runs)

And our bowling averages look like this:

Bowling Averages (All matches):

Position	Name	Overs	M	Runs	Wkts	Ave	Best	5 Wkts
1	**LCpl Brian Lamb**	158.4	33	581	30	19.37	6-36	3
2	**LCpl Marcus Johnson**	147	18	614	26	23.62	5-70	1
3	**LCpl Tim Jones**	182	28	700	26	26.92	7-28	2
4	**Sig Taff Wilson**	76	12	316	10	31.6	3-46	0

(Qualifications: min 10 matches, min 50 overs, min 10 wickets)

Finally, our top fielders were:

Position	Name	Catches
1	**SSgt Terry Gigg**	17
2	**Capt Philip Harlow**	11
3	**LCpl Tim Jones**	7
4	**Sig Ross Thubron**	7

To round off the season, the Club held a dinner in Bath to award the season's awards.

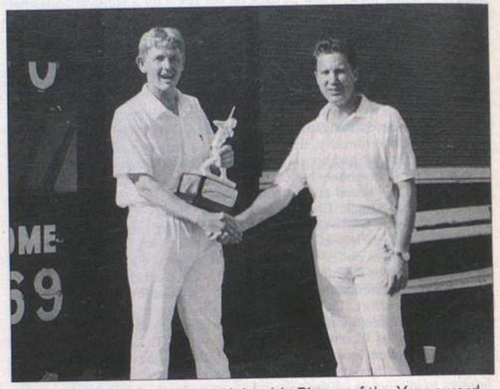


The 1995 Royal Signals Cricket Team
Back row: (*L to R*) Sig Kev Reeve, Cpl Mark Chapman, Sigs Marcus Johnson, 'Hoops' Hooper, LCpl Brian Lamb, WO2 Steve O'Dare, Sigs Ross Thubron, Taff Wilson
Seated: (*L to R*) Sig Tim Jones, SSgt Terry Gigg (Secretary), Capt Philip Harlow (Captain), SSgt Paul Gardner, Cpl Daz Winfield

Award winners were: Batsman of the Year: **Capt Philip Harlow**; Bowler of the Year: **LCpl Tim Jones**; Player of the Year: **LCpl Brian Lamb**

In addition, Corps Colours are to be awarded to: **Cpl Mark Chapman, LCpl Brian Lamb** and **LCpl Tim Jones**

Next season's plans include a pre-season tour to Barbados. Three weeks of sunshine and cricket, I cannot think of anything I'd rather do. Three weeks in February next to prepare us for the 1996 cricket season, and we are looking forward to building on our very successful season and to challenge hopefully for the inter-Corps Championship. We keep getting close, but never seem to make it. Next season it is then!



LCpl Brian Lamb (left) receiving his Player of the Year award from the Skipper Capt Philip Harlow

RUGBY

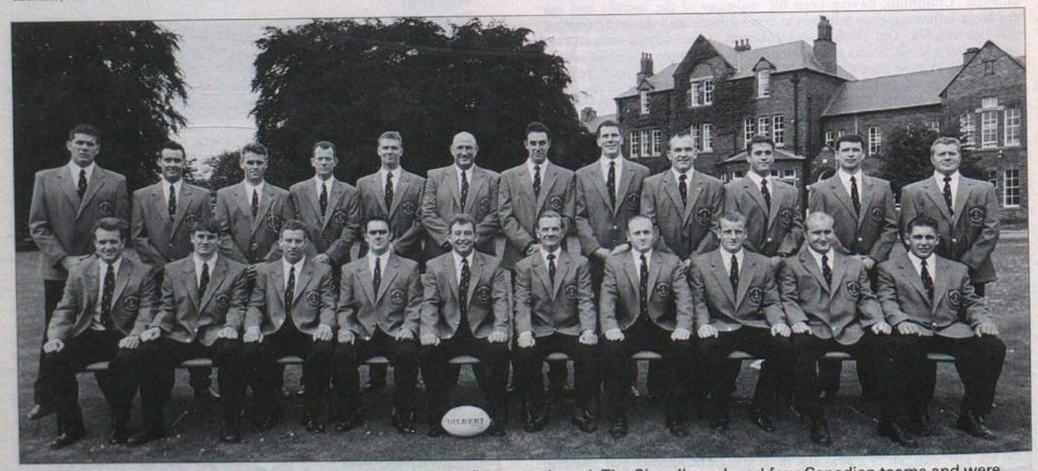
75TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR RUGBY TOUR OF CANADA

A representative Corps team, drawn from units in the United Kingdom and Belgium, travelled to Canada to play four Canadian sides. The tour was organised by **Lt Col T. R. Gainford**, the team manager, and this will be his last major rugby tour as he leaves the Army in February next year. The team was coached by **Ian Cairns** from Taunton, Devon, an ex Corps player.

The team were led by **WO2 Bobby Snow**, the tour captain, in their games against the Kingston Panthers, the Bellville Bulldogs, Ottawa Indians, and the Toronto Nomads.

The team had an emphatic win when it played the Kingston Panthers 60–5 points. However, the game against the Bellville Bulldogs was a struggle, played on a very humid night, but it resulted in a 29–17 point win.

Against the Ottawa Indians the team played its best rugby, before an appreciative group of spectators, the result was a 39–3 point victory. The final game was played against the Toronto Nomads, a team of ex-patriots, and despite a six hour journey that day the team's determination helped them win by 18–3 points.



Pictured at Imphal Barracks, York, is the team before its first tour abroad. The Signallers played four Canadian teams and were victorious in all four matches

SHOOTING

THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION SERVICE WEAPONS COMPETITION 1995

The Royal Corps of Signals entered three Service Weapons teams to compete at the 126th annual meeting of the National Rifle Association at Bisley during the period 1-8 July 1995. This competition ran concurrently with the Regular Army Queen's Medal competition, which was held at the same venue on 5 July.

The Royal Signals Team comprised a wide selection of units throughout the Corps. All individuals were chosen either by their achievements or by qualifying at their respective District Meeting for the Queen's Medal.

Team Composition

Lt Kell	2 Sig Regt (Team Captain)
SSgt Rideut	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt Johnston	11 Sig Regt
Sgt Copley	7 Sig Regt
Sgt Yam	11 Sig Regt
Cpl Bell	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Cpl Brotherston	3 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Cpl Nirmal	30 Sig Regt
Cpl Sergeant	11 Sig Regt
Cpl Webber	3 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
LCpl Surje	30 Sig Regt
Sig Bharat	30 Sig Regt
Sig Smillie	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

Cpl 'Dinga' **Bell** gained no performance from his rifle as his SUSAT snapped from its guide, 24 hours prior to the competition. However, he still produced the goods. 'On form' was the phrase used throughout the week, especially to **Cpl Andy Sergeant**, best progressed shot.

THE QUEEN'S MEDAL COMPETITION

Sgt Dave Copley started the season off once again with the standard of shooting unbecoming to the Royal Corps of Signals.

In the eyes of his shooting team, whatever the standard, there were always points to perfect, as standards and precision were set at such a high level. Although there is no interest in marksmanship or shooting within 7 Sig Regt, **Sgt Copley** endeavoured to show without any assistance that competition shooting is still alive in the Corps.

Sgt Copley has already set the standards within the Corps and Army as an Army 100 shootist and proved to be once again simply the best. He achieved the following points:

Match 2	136/60
Match 3	140/160
Match 17	149/200
Match 14	124/150
Total	549/670

Although **Sgt Copley** had a weapon failure during the competition, the Corps does hope to see another Royal Corps of Signals Queen's Medalist and with his admiration for the sport 7 Sig Regt and the Corps hope he achieves his ultimate aim, to be the Queen's Medal Winner. 'Good Luck'.

Firstly congratulations to the following R Signals and QG Signals individuals for qualifying at their various districts for the Queen's Medal Competition held at Bisley on Wednesday 5 July 1995.

Sgt D. Copley	7 Sig Regt
Sgt Yam	11 Sig Regt
Cpl Bell	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Cpl Nirmal	30 Sig Regt
LCpl Surje	30 Sig Regt
Sig Bharat	30 Sig Regt
Sig Smillie	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

The training ran concurrently with the National Rifle Association Service Weapons Competition from 1-8 July 1995. There was also one day's rehearsal on 4 July, during the morning, for those not involved in the NRA meeting. The above individuals achieved and maintained their pride whilst competing with such high standards as the top 75 shootists within the British Army, two of whom qualified for the Queen's Medal Competition.

The competition and scores were as follows:

	OofM	MATCH 2	MATCH 3	MATCH 17	MATCH 14	TOTALS
Sgt Yam	(15)	144	140	175	125	587
Sgt Copley	(33)	136	140	149	124	549
Cpl Nirmal	(39)	124	120	168	123	535
Sig Bharat	(40)	120	140	152	123	535
LCpl Surje	(53)	132	128	167	76	503
Cpl Bell	(60)	120	100	142	101	463
Sig Smillie	(73)	68	76	136	85	365

The cut off for the Army 100 badge was 493pts so well done again to those who qualified and welcome to **LCpl Surje**.

SWIMMING AND WATERPOLO

ARMY SWIMMING AND WATERPOLO CHAMPIONSHIPS 1995

7 Sig Regt swimming and waterpolo team has had an excellent season this year culminating in the Army Finals which took place at RMAS on 18-19 July 1995. The results are as follows:

MAJOR UNIT SWIMMING

1st	7 Sig Regt	65pts
2nd	RMAS	64pts
3rd	7 RHA	51pts
4th	32 Engr Regt	48pts
5th	1 Gren Gds	42pts
6th	2 Para	20pts

LADIES UNIT SWIMMING

1st	RMAS	46pts
2nd	7 Sig Regt	39pts
3rd	HQ NI	28pts
4th	3 CS Regt RLC	28pts
5th	Camp Comdt RA	20pts

WATERPOLO FINALS

36 Engr Regt	25	v	36 Engr Regt 5
7 Sig Regt	22	v	39 Inf Bde 23
			HQ & Sig Sqn (213)

(The above game lasted 80 minutes and ended after extra time and 'sudden death'.)

32 Engr Regt	6	v	7 Sig Regt 21
32 Engr Regt	23	v	39 Inf Bde 5
			HQ & Sig Sqn (213)

Congratulations to all those involved in the above results as it is the first time a Royal Signals Major Unit has ever won the Army Championship.

SWIMMING CUP

A special mention goes to **Sig Andy Carneige** who broke the Army 66yd butterfly record when he won his race during the competition. Congratulations also go to **Lt Vikki Norman, Sgts Pete Taylor, Graham Weavers, Cpls Baz Ward, Robbie Love, Roger Bradley, LCpl Humphries, Sigs Lance Barr** and **Andy Carneige** for being selected for the Army squad.

Thanks to everyone involved in the running and training of the squad and to those who gave the squad members time off to train.

ROYAL SIGNALS
SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS 1995

Venue–Blandford
Dates–21-24 November 1995

Competitions–Three Man Team Event, Open, Over 35, Vets, Ladies, Plate, Super Plate.

Contact–**Maj Miles**: Colerne Mil 738 Ext 5302

(Entry forms will be with Unit Squash Officers from 1 October 1995)

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

President: The Master of Signals

Chairman and Treasurer: Major General A. Yeoman CB

Vice Chairmen: Brig C. T. Garton Area 1; Brig W. H. Backhouse Area 2; Brig S. G. M. Gordon Area 3; Brig T. H. Wheawell Area 4; Brig A. M. Willcox Area 5; Brig G. J. Curl CBE DL Wales

General Secretary: Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon — **Assistant General Secretary: Lt Col I. J. Hamilton**
Welfare Secretary: Mrs J. Nicholson — **Administrative Officer: Mr. P. J. Cuckow**

Association Office, RHQ Royal Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8RH. Telephone: Military System 737 2090 or 01258 48 2090. Welfare Secretary Telephone: Military System 737 2089 or 01258 48 2089.
All contributions for *The Wire* should be addressed to the Editor and any queries referred to him on extensions 2079 or 2085.

The Association communicates with its branches and individual members through the pages of The Wire, *which contains accounts of Branch affairs as well as a forecast of Association events.*

Branch Secretaries are asked to check that their Branch members receive sufficient copies of The Wire. *Association HQ can arrange for copies to be delivered in bulk to Branch Secretaries for further distribution if this is convenient: it helps us save on postage.*

Dates of Branch events can always be published in The Wire *and should be submitted to the Editor. We also welcome letters, requests to contact old comrades and announcements of births, marriages and deaths. We hope that each Branch will contribute a short account of its activities, preferably with photographs, at least once a year.*

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

The Branch has had a very good summer. In July we watched the Mounting of the Queen's Guard by the Corps on the Forecourt of Buckingham Palace. We were impressed, although not surprised, by the performance of our Corps and of the Corps Band directed by **Maj David Wall**. It was an occasion to be remembered.

In August, **Col** 'Paddy' **Verdon** arranged for the Branch to attend the Final Rehearsal of the Sovereign's Parade at the RMA Sandhurst. This was a great occasion as we were joined by more than 20 Members of the West London and Reading Branches and after the Parade we retired to the lakeside to picnic. Here we took advantage of the special Royal Signals bar which **Maj Hank Langford** had set up for us and where we had the added pleasure of meeting the RSM(I) and Royal Signals NCOs who had got the message!

Our Standard was paraded at the Blandford Reunion by a very smart soldier, **Cpl Brendon Randerson** of 11 Sig Regt.

The photo shows **Cpl Brendon Randerson** with member 'Dodger' **Green** on his right.



BEDFORD BRANCH

Bedfordshire held a VJ Day parade on 20 August 1995. The parade marched off from outside St Paul's Church, Bedford along the beautiful setting of the river embankment and carried on past the war memorial where the Lord Lieutenant for Bedfordshire, **Mr Sam Whitbread** laid a wreath and took the salute. He was accompanied by the Mayor of Bedford, **Councillor Malcolm Evans** (who served in the Corps, in Cyprus, as a National Serviceman). Moving into Russell Park, an estimated 5,000 gathered for a drum-head service followed by an arena display and static displays where earlier four Harrier jets had passed over. The arena and static displays were by various bands including Bedfordshire Fire Service and 201 Battery RA(V) from Luton TA.

More than 600 veterans and others from all services, ranks and corps marched through rapturous applause and cheers from the public lining the route.

A steering working group was set up in February 1995, led by **Brig** (Rtd) **Peter Dally CBE**. Members included RBL, Bedfordshire Chairman, County and Borough Council Representatives, **Col** (Rtd) **Brian Prophet**. **Mr Eric Watson** representing SSAFA and **Trevor Holyoake** for the Association. **Mr Ralf Callingridge** was asked to be a section parade marshal–all are ex Corps. Our Branch Standard was carried by **Mr Den Wenman** and the brother of an RBL standard bearer came over from Coventry and, to our joy, was carrying the Coventry Branch Royal Signals Standard.

Our veterans and members were well represented. Everyone can be proud, especially in our anniversary year that the Royal Signals in Bedfordshire were part of a memorial day to those who should be 'not forgotten'.

COTSWOLDS BRANCH

The Branch was well represented at the 75th Anniversary Celebrations at Blandford in July, when some eight members, wives and guests were present, including our Branch President–**Col Freddy Worth** who was probably the only founder member present.

He joined the Royal Engineers Signals Service in 1919 and served some 40 years and was among the first to receive the '50' Year Badge. Our Branch Standard borne by **Mr Alan Wingate** was among the many Standards on parade. Our Standard Bearer for many years until his recent retirement from the position, **Mr Len Flanagan** was presented to **HRH The Princess Royal**.

Our May Social was, as usual, well supported and enjoyed.

EAST KENT BRANCH

Although one or two fell by the wayside, there was a magnificent turnout for the trip up the Medway on Sunday 11 June. Lunch at the Malta Inn, a stroll in the rain, round Aylesford Priory. Our visit coincided with the Priory's annual reunion, an overflow of buses and no shortage of Irish brogue to be heard, added to the interest even if some did have to fight for a cup of tea. From what we have heard since it was a successful outing.

Over 70 of our members attended the Blandford Reunion to mark the Corps 75th Anniversary. Our two representatives presented to **HRH The Princess Royal** at the reception were, Chairman **Roy Andrews** and Hon Treasurer **Maj Tommy Thomas**. No strangers to the occasion as they had both been presented to the late **Princess Royal**, in the 1950s.

Considering the limitations of finance, the move from Catterick and the vast building project, it was a worthy celebration for the 75th Anniversary, and a heartfelt vote of thanks must go out to all the organisers, with special thanks to The Royal School of Signals, well done.

Bob Mitchell, who served in Crete during World War Two, has been awarded the Greek Medal 1940/41 which he will no doubt wear at Branch Parades.

Members will recall that **Charles Skingle** played his composition of the Branch March based upon the morse code at our AGM last January. It was submitted to the Director of Music, **Maj David Wall** who has arranged it for a military band to be played at the Blandford Reunion but, unfortunately there was insufficient time for it to be included in the programme. We are assured that it will be played by the Corps Band in the future. Well done **Charles**.

Sadly **Ric** and **Mary Davidge** are selling up their home in Smarden, Kent and moving West to be nearer their family. We have greatly enjoyed their company and hope to see them from time to time. We wish them every happiness.

HULL BRANCH

To celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the formation of the Corps 34 members, TA colleagues and guests attended a dinner at the Halifax Barracks on Saturday 1 July.

The Branch is indebted to **Lt Bret Appleby** for the use of the barracks, and to **WO2 Alan James**, a stalwart member of the Branch, **Sgt Lesley Rowarth** and colleagues for all the arrangements.

The display of the Regimental Silver provided much comment by our members and was greatly appreciated.

An excellent dinner was followed by a sing-song led by **Roland Stephenson**, recalling years gone by. Our members are extremely grateful for a most enjoyable evening.

The Blandford Reunion was attended by 11 members of the Branch and the Branch Chairman **Jim Brown** and **Roland Stephenson**, a founder member of the Branch, had the honour of being presented to the Colonel in Chief **HRH The Princess Royal**. A memorable day for all concerned.

LINCOLN BRANCH

It is with much regret that we report the passing of a very charming and respected lady **Ruth Clarke**, who died on 10 August 1995. Our deepest sympathy was conveyed to **Maj Vic Clarke** and family at their great loss. **Ruth** will be sadly missed by us all.

The Royal Signals 75th Anniversary Cabaret and Dance held at the Sobroan Barracks on Saturday 22 July 1995 was a great success. Guests and members were greeted by **Cpl Dave Marrs** and **LCpl Eric Henning** from 223 Sig Sqn (399 SU RAF), Digby. The buffet was a great success thanks to **Dave Metcalfe** and staff. Our wholehearted thanks go to **Maj Vic Clarke** for his marvellous organisation of the night's entertainment, well done **Vic**.

Blandford Reunion 1995

The reunion was very much enjoyed by the 18 members who went, it being the first reunion that we have attended at Blandford Camp. It was a great day.

NORFOLK BRANCH

Eleven members of the Branch attended the Blandford reunion, together with our Standard. It was a great weekend and thoroughly enjoyed by all of us. Our Chairman, **Gordon Royall**, and Secretary, **Brian C. Gibbs**, were presented to **HRH The Princess Royal**. We would like to extend our thanks to all who made it such a memorable occasion.

The parade of the Standard bearers was very impressive, and it was gratifying to see that they had not forgotten their parade ground drill. Our new Deputy Standard Bearer, **Peter Basted**, came up to all our expectations.

The Branch continues to grow and our monthly meetings are very well attended, the social side is very important and our bi-monthly 'Jimmy News' letter is eagerly awaited by members, the Editor, **Colin Spencer**, does a grand job.

On Saturday 22 July 755 Tp, 36 Regt (V), and the Branch held an open day at the TA Centre, Norwich. It was a very impressive and successful day, well attended by the public and ex service personnel. We were to have with us our President, **Maj Gen D. A. L. Wade CB OBE MC**, **Mrs Wade**, and **Col S. Dicker CBE TD DCL**. The radio and line link up was organised by members: **Derrick Carr, Dick** 'Dodger' **Green, Len Starkey** and **Dick Phelan**.

PETERBOROUGH BRANCH

The Branch was formed in August 1976 and this is our first contribution to *The Wire*! We have about 30 members and 20 associate members on our books, and membership is continuing to increase slowly. We meet in alternate months and have a number of social events each year.

Our President is **Col K. R. (Ken) Smith OBE TD**, who commanded 35 Sig Regt (V) from December 1977 to July 1980. **Ken** has clocked-up 42 years' service; commencing as a National Serviceman in the Royal Horse Artillery, and followed by TA and TAVR service in RA, RAPC, and Royal Signals units for 27 years. Since February 1982 he has been Commandant of Staffordshire and West Midland Sector Army Cadet Forces.

Our Chairman since 1977 is **Maj Bob Rowland** who has also been acting as Branch Secretary since September 1994 when our Secretary of 17 years, **Maj Ken Ward** sadly died.

Two events in 1995 have helped to put our Branch properly on the Association map:

Organised by SSAFA Peterborough and a committee of local ex-service organisations on which we had two representatives, the Branch took part in three days of a VE Day/Celebration of Peace held on the Embankment in Peterborough during the weekend of 6/7/8 May 1995. We set up a stall aimed at publicising the Corps 75th Anniversary and attracting new members. We ran a raffle and tombola, and also sold many items; everything having been donated by members and friends. The stall was a great success and we raised almost £300 for SSAFA and Branch funds.



The Branch stall 6/7/8 May
The tent was donated and was sold at the end of proceedings.
On the left Chairman Bob Rowland with
George (Hoppy) Hopkinson

Secondly; a kind and generous friend of the Branch funded the purchase of a Branch Standard which was dedicated during the service at the Blandford Reunion on Sunday 9 July 1995 in the presence of our Colonel in Chief. Our Standard Bearer is **Reg Briggs**, one of our very active committee members who is also closely involved with the Korean Veterans Association, in connection with which he attended a memorial dedication in Washington DC during the summer. He placed a Corps wreath at the memorial in memory of those who lost their lives during the war in Korea.

Anyone interested in knowing more about this Branch or in joining us, is invited to contact **Bob Rowland** on 01733-223054, or **Reg Briggs** on 01733-315263.

READING BRANCH

Members of the Branch filled a minibus on Sunday 9 July and 'trooped' off to Blandford to enjoy a day of spectacular displays and to meet up with old pals. It was also the occasion when several of our members were presented to HRH The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief.

Wow! The informal (dinner) meeting took place on one of the hottest days of the year in one of the coolest restaurants resulting in a very upbeat evening. Speakers were **Maj Gen** 'Mac' **Macfarlane** who gave a very interesting talk about 'Treking in Kashmir'; and **Jane Knight**, who told an amusing story of her gift carpet that still hasn't arrived home.

Members of the branch travelled to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, to witness, together with members of the Aldershot and West London branches (who we must thank for the invitation) the final rehearsal of the Sovereign's parade. It was hot military stuff, and there were some passings-out too. One wonders what the RSM was whispering into the Cadet's ear . . .? Some of us may know! Corps members from the Signal Wing joined us for a drink at lunchtime.

The summer activities culminated in the annual barbecue at the Chairman's home, on 12 August. Great food, fun and games were enjoyed by everyone present. It goes without saying that the Branch supported the VJ activities.

31 SIGNAL REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

The Association goes from strength to strength with our outside visits being the popular attraction; our visit to Arnhem battlefields in April being top of the list. Our 'in house' functions saw a well attended Annual Dinner in March. The photo shows a fatigue party (Dinner committee) of **Sally Bentley, Geoff Voller, Chrissy Mills** and 'Dusty' **Miller** in front of the newly 'boxed' Kensington colours.

Another popular meeting was the AGM at Southfields TAC followed by a fish and chip supper organised by **George Brown**. Our Treasurer **Jim Mill** continues to worry about our money and our leader **Donald Crawford** worries about it all!



The fatigue party

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during July 1995

Anonymous	£100.00
St Albans Church, Army Apprentices' College	75.00
Certa Cito Lodge	10.00
Mr D. R. Kelly	6.00
Mr F. S. Griffiths	1.00
	£192.00

REUNIONS

12TH, 15TH AND 18TH AFS REUNION DINNER

Pratt's Hotel at Bath hosted, once again, this year the reunion dinner for the 12th, 15th and 18th Air Formation Signals Regiment Association on Friday 21 July. The reunion, a very special one commemorating the 50th Victory Anniversary, had been arranged to precede, and coincide with, an ambitious Open Day at 21 Sig Regt (AS) at Colerne on 22 July, thus enabling ex-service members to attend both functions.

This, regretfully, was not to be as the Regiment found itself on operational duty. However, the flag was kept flying by the indomitable **Dennis K. Egan**, assisted by 'Hasso' **Eesemann**, who successfully manned an Amateur Radio Station at Colerne for four days, with a call sign of GB4 AFS, making more than 430 clear contacts on a worldwide basis.

We were privileged to have **Maj N. W. Gill** and **Mrs Gill** with us and he gave us an update on the Regiment. Another important guest was **Lt Col** (Retd) **P. F. Soward**, accompanied by his wife, who informed a fascinated audience of the recent developments and ambitious future plans for the Royal Signals Museum at Blandford Forum, of which he is the project co-ordinator.

The evening surpassed even last year's event. That occasion presented, for many, the first opportunity to seek out and identify old friends and comrades of nearly half a century ago. This year recognition was already there and the pleasure and warmth of meeting again re-established friends was clearly unmistakeable, while precious time was also allowed for nostalgia to take over as everyone pored over old photographs, beautifully laid out in the adjoining room.

Members, happily including wives, who had travelled from as far afield as Plymouth, Chester and Bolton, all expressed their delight with the evening and their pleasurable anticipation of the next reunion.

So, here's to 1996 and perhaps, hopefully, a few more may emerge to join our growing, enthusiastic–if ageing–band.

THE JAPANESE LABOUR CAMP SURVIVORS' ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN

The above named Association arranges commemorative pilgrimages with Northenden Travel. Six visits are planned for 1996. For details contact **J. A. Leah Esq**, Rayner House, 23 Higher Hillgate, Stockport, Cheshire SK1 3ER, Tel: 0161 480 9811.

USER TRIALS SQUADRON JULY 1952/DECEMBER 1953

Alex Young (mighty 'Joe Young') would like to hear from former comrades who served with him in the above named unit. He would be especially pleased to hear from **Sgt Rodrequez, SQMS Sprage, Sgt Posten, LCpl Bird** and **Sig Del Strickland**. Please write to him: 4 Market Square, Coldstream, Berwickshire TD12 4BD or Tel: 01890 882623.

BRIAN THOMAS GIBBS

The above named's widow would be very pleased to hear from anyone who remembers her husband. He served as a National Serviceman (1952) and was stationed in Woolwich, working from Northumberland House. He then worked at RMAS, in Camberley for many years and died in 1984.

Please write to **Mrs Gibbs** at 28 Highview Crescent, Camberley, Surrey GU15 4BB.

Ex **Cpl A. F. Metson**, 10 Toft Avenue, Grays, Essex, would like to hear from former colleagues who served with him during World War Two in Europe, India and Burma.

WO2 KENNETH RICHARDSON

Ex member of the Corps, **WO2 Kenneth Richardson** and his wife **Carol**, are now running a rest home for the elderly in Southend-on-Sea and would be pleased to hear from any of their friends at 23 Windermere Road, Southend-on-Sea SS1 2RF.

2ND STC PRESTATYN–1939

Mrs Doreen M. Hill (nee **Durose**) was serving with 1st Company (Glamorgan) ATS at the time and arrived at Prestatyn on 3 October 1939. Her first job was assisting the QM to put away all the lovely White Helmets used by the holidaymakers, for we had taken over a huge holiday camp and many hundreds of Royal Signals recruits had already started their training.

Shortly afterwards **Mrs Hill** attended a clerical course at 2nd GT Bn with **WO Kent** and learned how to amend Kings Regs!

Thus started a career of more than six years with the Corps. Her husband, **Wilfred**, and she are members of the Association and have just celebrated their Golden Wedding.

She wonders where are **Nick, Bill** and **Arthur** now?

IRAQ–1927

Mr G. G. Richards, whose father was in the Corps, has sent us this photograph which was taken in Iraq in 1927. It is of the Band, Iraq Signals. From the look of their boots they kicked up a bit of dust whilst engaging in a popular past-time of stomping.



The Band–Iraq Signals 1927

LETTERS

From: Mrs M. L. Jackson

Dear Sir,

I am helping to research the history of Astle Hall, Astle Park, Chelford, Cheshire, which is being restored.

I believe that a Unit of the Royal Signals was stationed there during the 1939-45 War, and one of the large attic rooms has been left painted in the Corps Colours.

Could I ask if any readers, who might either have been there or know anything about the place, would get in touch with me, at the above address or on 01654-711-358. I would be so grateful and delighted!

Yours faithfully
Monica L. Jackson

Swyn-y-Mor,
94A Plas Edwards, Tywyn,
Gwynedd LL36 0AS

From Mr J. Johnson

Dear Sir,

Looking at the back cover of the August issue, I see it was the re-establishing of Line Communications between 2nd British Div and 4 Corps Signals. It may be of some interest to some of the readers; I was the Detachment Commander of 6th Bde Signals Line Section that made the connections. I remember it well.

I wonder if any veterans reading this, were in Aldershot Mons Barracks, 1933 to full mechanisation? If so, they may remember 'Nobby', the horse that was bought from the Army, because we, of 1st Div Signals, couldn't say goodbye to such a character. He was given a roaming commission, of the stables and the barracks. He knew exactly where he could get his bucket of beer; also what time the NAAFI kiosk opened down at the stables. He never bought anything, but he was always well supplied.

One night, an officer borrowed 'Nobby', for a bit of a celebration at the Officers' Mess. He rode into the Mess, with all the pomp and glory. Unfortunately, he left his card on the carpet. That was 'Nobby'.

Incidentally, the officer concerned, was suddenly posted to India and finished up on the NW Frontier.

Hoping others find this letter as lighthearted as it is meant to be.

Yours faithfully
J. Johnson

12 Hallington Drive,
Seaton Delaval,
Northumberland NE25 0JB

From Mr J. Thomson

Dear Sir,

During the 1950s the various Royal Signals Training Regiments wore coloured epaulette flashes and cloth identification patches on the arm.

5 Regular Training Squadron at Gallowgate Camp permanent staff wore a white over blue flash and a white triangle. The same was probably worn by 7th Training Regiment (National Servicemen).

3 TR at Boverton Lines and later at Lincoln wore green flashes and trainees a black oblong on the arm.

5 TR at Harper Barracks Ripon, driver trainees a red flash and orange oblong, dispatch rider trainees a medium blue flash and probably also orange oblong. Permanent staff at both may have worn triangles of the same colour as the oblongs.

If any readers can confirm the above and supply details of the colours of the flashes and patches of the other Training Regiments I would be grateful.

Yours faithfully
J. Thomson

52 Grove Street,
Edinburgh EH3 9AJ

Regimental Headquarters Royal Signals has moved to Blandford

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Regimental Secretary	**Col (Retd) A. N. de Bretton-Gordon**	2081
Assistant Regimental Secretary	**Lt Col (Retd) I. J. Hamilton**	2082
Chief Clerk		2083
Corps Accountant	**Mr A. Wilkinson**	2086
Accounts		2087
Welfare Secretary	**Mrs J. Nicholson**	2089
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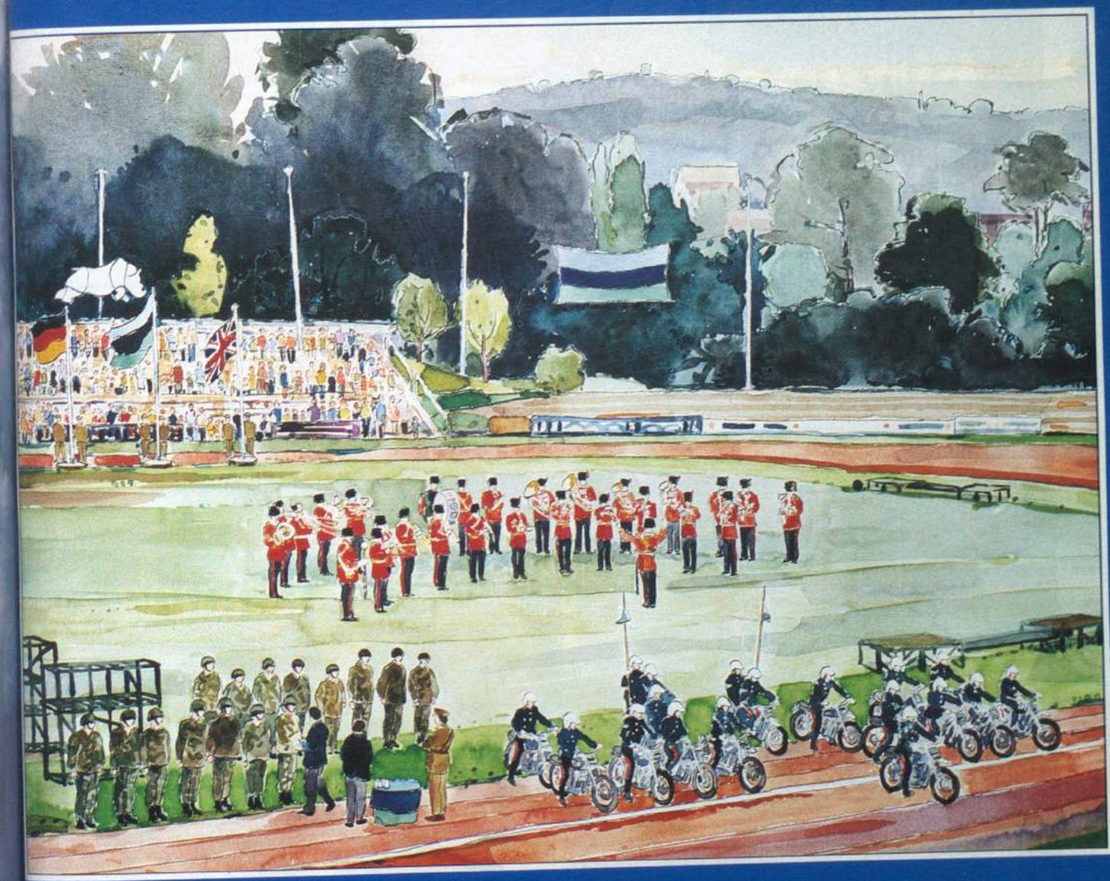
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Produced by the Publishers, Regimental Headquarters Royal Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8RH. (Telephone: Military System 737 2079 or STD 01258 48 2079)
Printed in Great Britain by Holbrooks Printers Ltd, Norway Road, Hilsea, Portsmouth, Hants PO3 5HX.
For advertising rates apply to: Combined Service Publications Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR (Telephone 01252 515891)



THE Wire

December 1995



The Royal Corps of Signals
75th Anniversary

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The Royal Signals Magazine

December 1995 Vol. 49 No: 6

The Wire

All correspondence and matter for publication in **The Wire** should be addressed to **The Head of Publications, The Wire,** RHQ Royal Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, DT11 8RH Dorset. Tel No: Blandford mil 2079 STD 01258 48 2079

Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of February, April, June, August, October and 10th December for publication six weeks later.

All enquiries regarding subscriptions/despatch should be made to ext: 2087

Subscription rates 1995 (Bi-monthly) (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, and Dec). Individual: Yearly **£9.00;** Bi-monthly **£1.50.**

Remittances should be made payable to Royal Signals Corps Fund

Editor Lt Col (Retd) P. Valder
Assistant Editor Mrs J. A. Herring

The Wire **is a member of the Association of Service Newspapers**



THE MASTER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

This is written after a week in which I was privileged to welcome our **Colonel in Chief** to 30 Signal Regiment settling well into Gamecock Barracks at Bramcote having moved from Blandford two years ago. The following day I visited 2 Signal Regiment at York to meet the rear party and the wives with the majority of the Regiment in either the Falkland Islands or Bosnia. 30 Signal Regiment has well over 100 personnel deployed on operations or roulement tours in Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Bosnia and has 54 members on permanent standby to deploy anywhere in the world at short notice; 6 hours for the majority. These two Regiments are not alone in this situation but it serves to remind us all to remember all those members of the Corps who will not be at home this Christmas and to assure them that they will be in our thoughts and prayers.

I was delighted to see at York that, courtesy of the Satellite communications bridge which is able to link together all overseas deployments into the UK communications network, wives are able to talk to their husbands on a schedule basis. One wife, with a baby one week old on her knees was telling father all about the new arrival. Wives not phoning husbands were watching the latest video recording made in the administrative lines in Bosnia. Older and retired members of the Corps may wish that the Information Technology age had arrived much earlier!

Our 75th Anniversary Year reviewed from my perspective has gone remarkably well. Our **Colonel-in-Chief** made five visits to the Corps including two of the central events at the beginning of July. I am sure we are all full of admiration for the way in which **Her Royal Highness** finds time to speak to so many members of the Corps on every occasion and brings such a remarkable family atmosphere to all her visits.

Prior to the central events we were able to return the hospitality that members of the Indian Signals Association (ISA) have received in India and Pakistan, to a party of distinguished senior officers and their wives from both countries in a two week programme in June organised by the ISA. For the first week in July we were joined by guests and their wives representing Australia, Canada, India, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan and the USA.

I hope that most of you had a chance to enjoy the fun of the many 75th Anniversary Parties held throughout the world. **Sylvia** and I have been able to join in a number of times and we thank you all for your warm welcome and hospitality on every occasion. I have received letters during the course of the year telling me of successful parties in Cyprus, Saudi Arabia and the USA and many more thanking me for successful and enjoyable events at home and in Germany and SHAPE.

Now is a good time for me to thank everyone concerned in the organisation of 75th Anniversary events throughout the Corps for all the hard work that is always required to make celebrations successful. We must include in that, of course, The White Helmets and the Corps Band.

Sylvia joins me in sending our best wishes to you all for a very Happy Christmas and a successful New Year.



THE SOinC's CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

This is my first Christmas message to you as Signal Officer in Chief and with it comes my greeting to all members of the Corps and your families serving in a wide variety of places around the world. At a time of continuing change I am extremely grateful for the way in which everyone has continued to perform with the highest professional standards in the different tasks that have come our way. Operations have featured high again this year and it is always a matter of considerable pride to realise that Signallers feature in all of them, even though we may not always hit the news headlines. We now have more members of the Corps on active service than at any time since the Gulf war. The strain on individuals and their families is immense in some cases and your continued support really is much appreciated.

No mention of the year would be complete without a word of thanks to everyone involved in the wide variety of activities connected with our 75th Anniversary. If there is one event to single out it has to be the Palace Guard which was an outstanding success and those of you who took part in it in any way can feel justifiably extremely proud of your performance.

This year has seen feverish activity at Blandford and we are now in a position to bring our trade courses fully on stream in the excellent new training facilities which are nearing completion. The new museum building has been opened and we will soon be ready for the general public, although we still have some way to go before being able to fit it out with the high tech displays which are planned. My own headquarters, together with Regimental Headquarters, has moved from London into the building previously occupied by Headquarters of the Royal School, so you can appreciate that we have now built ourselves a true centre of the Corps in Blandford. Now we must all look to the future. We have the ability, we have the skills, we must make sure we have the courage and vision to take full advantage of all the opportunities offered to us in this fast changing world.

Wendy joins me in wishing you all happiness over the Christmas season and good fortune for the coming year, during which we hope to meet many of you wherever you are serving.

Christmas Greetings

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Our front cover picture is taken from a painting by Wolfgang Heinrich of 1(UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt 75th Anniversary Parade at the Jahn Stadium, Herford.

Our back cover picture reflects the Master of Signals Christmas message to us all to remember Signallers overseas during the Festive Season.

The opinions expressed in The Wire *are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of the Corps or the MOD. This publication contains official information. It should be treated with discretion by the recipient.*

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THE MAN FROM THE MINISTRY

(with continued apologies to all other Royal Signals personnel working in the MoD)
by Maj Steve Turnbull, SO2 PS10a2(A), Directorate of Personal Services (Army)

The 1996 pay round has drawn to a close. All the evidence has been sent to the AFPRB and they have completed their programme of visits throughout the Forces. They now begin their deliberations and we look forward to reading the results when their report is published in February 1996. However, if I may be allowed a small indulgence I will do a 'Mystic Meg' and look at the likely results of the 1996 Pay Award 'lottery' (mind you I might be no more accurate than 'Mystic Meg' in my predictions).

So what might the 1996 Pay Award include:

1. Firstly the Government has made it clear that there will be no additional funding for public sector pay awards (including the Services) in 1996. The Treasury has made it clear that **any** pay award will have to be funded by increases in efficiency and savings within existing departmental budgets. What this means for the Defence budget is that within an overall framework of a reducing budget (reducing by 14.7% in real terms between FY 92/93 and FY 97/98) any pay rise will have to be based on additional savings found from within the MoD. The Government's economic evidence to the AFPRB has indicated that civil pay rises are running at only 3% and they would expect pay awards in that region. It is safe to assume that this is also what we can expect.
2. The AFPRB are very conscious of the feeling in the Services that the quality of life has deteriorated, and that many of the criteria affecting the rate of X factor have indeed got worse. However, they also feel that conditions outside the military community have got worse. On balance I do not expect any proposals to change the X factor this year.
3. Some minor forms of pay are likely to be ended or phased out, but it is unlikely that radical change will occur before the result of the studies into the 'Bett Review' are complete.
4. Accommodation charges are likely to continue to rise faster than pay, as the AFPRB continues with the catching up exercise they believe is necessary to make service rents 'realistic'.
5. Food charges are likewise likely to increase as part of the catching up exercise although not by as much as accommodation charges.

So much for the 1996 Pay Award. Whilst I've got my crystal ball out we could take a look at the work being done on the 'Bett Review'.

This is much more difficult and the margin for error is far greater, as many of the key decisions have yet to be made. Much will depend on the Services' willingness to stand up to the Treasury and the Central staff. To stick my neck out I might suggest the following:

1. The Services will lose the right to an immediate pension after 16 or 22 years' service. Reserved rights would apply to all those already serving, but new entrants would only earn a pension payable at 50 years of age. The immediate pension will be replaced by an enhanced resettlement package to assist the transition into civil life.
2. It is unlikely that any of the changes to Army ranks proposed by the 'Bett Review' will be adopted (Lance Corporal, Staff Sergeant, Warrant Officer One, Second Lieutenant and Colonel to be retained, Field Marshals will be studied separately).
3. Some amendment of the Service pay scheme is likely. However, this will not be as radical as envisaged by Bett. It might include the introduction of incremental pay for Warrant Officers and SNCOs.
4. A form of deployment pay is likely to be introduced. It might replace separation allowance and some other allowances and be payable to all personnel on a sliding scale which reflects the amount of separation an individual has experienced. It may also affect the calculation of X factor and a reduction in X factor may be an additional penalty for this extra pay.
5. A significant improvement will be achieved in disability and accidental injury compensation and pensions.
6. A cornerstone of the Bett proposals was the creation of a more stable Army. In the short term this is unlikely to be achieved. Indeed, the Army may be unable to maintain a six month roulement policy and may be forced to extend the operational tour lengths. In the future it may prove increasingly difficult to maintain the existing arms plot system and the Army may be forced to reconsider its adherence to the Regimental System.

These are just some of the ideas which may fall out of the 'Bett Review' process, although I do stress that no decisions have yet been made.

Moving on to a brief view of other areas:

1. **Defence Housing Executive**. Plans to sell off the married quarter estate to a private landlord are still being discussed, although it is hard to tell if this measure will eventually be accepted.
2. **Married Quarter Discount Sales Scheme**. The inland revenue is apparently considering taxing the discount available to Service personnel buying surplus married quarters (so you should have bought that council house tax free at a greater discount, or accepted a tax free grant from the council to move out!).
3. **HM Forces' Railcard**. British Rail have started talking about a further annual extension to the railcard (until March 1997), as they have still not completed the market research to make a final decision about its future. So watch this space.
4. **Pay-As-You-Dine**. A number of possible pay as you dine options are being considered as part of the 'Bett Review'. What the Army staff will not accept is a proposal to record who actually attends meals but continue to charge everybody for every meal!
5. **Forces' Discount Brochure**. By now you should all have received a copy. TA units have been sent two per unit and work is under way to acquire funding to increase the distribution in the future. There are still a few suggestions about discounts we ought to pursue. So any ideas, write in to:

Maj S. J. Turnbull Royal Signals
Ministry of Defence
Room 6/70
Metropole Building
Northumberland Avenue
London
WC2N 5BL.

That's all for now.

A CORPS CAPTAIN TAKES TO THE AIR!
by Capt M. G. P. Bohanan, MISM Royal Signals

As I sit here being deafened by the noise of Tornado's taking-off, I felt it was time to let the rest of the Corps know about my experiences as a Ground Liaison Officer, with 17 (F) (for Fighter) Tornado Squadron, RAF Bruggen. I have been with the Squadron for almost two years now, and have enjoyed, and I might add, worked hard on some excellent detachments. These have taken me world wide ie Italy, Las Vegas, Middle East to name but a few that have passed, and still more ahead next year!

I think the best experience that will remain with me forever, took place here at RAF Bruggen on 29 May 1995. The Officer Commanding, 17(F) Sqn, **Wg Cdr Iain McNicoll** invited me to fly with him in a Tornado. I must admit to being a little apprehensive, but determined not to miss out on such a unique experience, I swallowed hard and accepted the invitation!

So on Monday 28 May, I found myself with **Cpl Kev Holford** the Flying Clothing specialist, who fitted me into a Flying Suit and Helmet and ensured everything was a perfect fit for a good flight. He certainly knows his job, as I was to discover later. Tuesday 29 May dawned, cool but dry and some sunshine, very good flying conditions. At 0730hrs I reported to the Pilots Briefing Facility, to be briefed along with the other Pilots and Navigators that would be flying in the '4 Ship' formation that morning. Maps were consulted and plotted upon, details of the mission entered on the necessary paperwork, meteorological information recorded, all of which I had seen happen often, but never before been involved in.

We then got dressed into our Flying Suits and made our way to the Hangar, where our Tornado and its three Groundcrew, **Cpl Des Keen, JTech Lee Clements** and **SAC Paul Duncan**, awaited our arrival, to prepare myself and the Tornado for the flight. A special mention to these unsung heroes who keep the Aircraft in the air at all times (especially on this occasion!). **Flt Lt Mick Letch**, a Navigator whose seat I had taken over, was on hand to help strap me into the seat and make sure I was comfortable and secure! Then **Wg Cdr Iain McNicoll** gave me a 'run-down' on all the 'fixtures and fittings' in my part of the Cockpit, and what I could and could not touch, and what to touch in case of any emergency! At this point my mind is asking me if I know what I am doing, I refuse to think about it!

But before I realise, **Wg Cdr McNicoll** is strapped in, the Canopy is closed and there's no turning back now! So determined not to give way to any apprehension, I give a thumbs up to my wife, who is making a pictorial record of this momentous occasion! Then as we slowly start to move, we both give a wave and a smile for the camera and taxi out on to the runway!



A Farewell Wave!!

We assemble at the end of the runway with the three other Tornados we will fly with on this mission. One by one they depart and leave us to follow, suddenly we are off! Hurtling down the runway at God knows what speed, then we soar into the air, an experience that is indescribable, at least without using language forbidden in this publication!

We rise to a height of 25,000ft and travel quite steadily to give my body (and my mind) time to adjust and adapt. I am already feeling much happier than I did whilst preparing! Travelling across the North Sea, we reach the Ranges at Spadeadam, and drop down to 150ft and complete part of our mission. Then we partake in Low Level TF (Terrain Following) over the Yorkshire Dales, and fly over my home town Richmond, N Yorks. If only they knew I was up here! And by this time, loving every minute! We return to the North Sea over Flamborough Head and this time fly Low Level to the Dutch Coast, where we make a Bombing Run on a Range there to complete our mission. We then return to Bruggen, where my wife still waits with the camera, and the rest of the Aircrew await my return, only to find out how many 'Sick Bags' I have used or how 'Green' I am looking! But I have to disappoint them all as I climb out waving empty unused Sick Bag and wearing a healthy smile!



Wg Cdr Iain McNicoll with Capt Mick Bohanan after the flight

I then return to the Flying Clothing section and get out of my Flying Suit, and give a serious vote of thanks to **Cpl Kev Holford** whose fitting of the Suit made it such a comfortable and enjoyable trip, due to the fact that when you pull G-Force, if the suit is ill-fitting, then you end up being ill! But thanks to **Kev**'s excellent work this was not the case for me!

The experience I was given was truly one of the best things I have ever done in my entire career within the Corps, and I must say a heartfelt Thank You to **Wg Cdr Iain McNicoll** (now of MoD London) for giving me this unique and unforgettable journey.

Wire PHOTOGRAPHS

Please do not ask for photographs sent for publication in The Wire, to be returned, unless they are irreplaceable.

Contributors should be aware of the fact that although every care is taken with contributions, they should not risk losing a photographs that cannot be replaced.

NOTICES

MRS MARJORIE A. RIGGS

Marjorie Riggs has been Assistant Editor of *The Wire* for more years than she cares to remember. She has most effectively guided four Editors and has been a source of encouragement and assurance to many *Wire* Note Writers.

We thank you **Marjorie**, most sincerely, for your loyalty, commitment, attention to detail and cheerful demeanour. We will strive to maintain the standards you set, during your contribution to the Corps family magazine.

The Corps owes you a great deal, **Marjorie** and we extend our thanks and best wishes to you for a peaceful and happy retirement.

ROYAL SIGNALS AFLOAT

The Royal Signals New Museum Committee are anxious to contact past members of the Corps who served in Ship Signal Troops, to help trace the history of this little known branch of the Corps. Members who served in, or have knowledge of, these troops (Landing Ships, Command Ships, Logistic Vessels or others) are asked to contact:

Lt Col (Retd) J. R. T. Paterson
'Rosedale', Long Street
SHERBOURNE
Dorset DT9 3BY
Telephone: 01935 813534

CALLING ALL CORPS PARACHUTISTS

ONE TIME ONLY SPECIAL OFFER

The Royal Signals Display Team have available for sale 10 Javelin Fury II canopies.

These canopies, in Corps colours, comprise main, reserve and container and come complete with packing mat. Eight are full size canopies and two are of smaller size and are suitable for those of more diminutive stature. Purchased new, direct from the manufacturer, in 1994 they have had just one season of light use by qualified display parachutists only.

Before going for sale on the open market (at open market prices) they are being offered first to any Corps parachutist at a mere £800 per rig. This is a limited offer only and will be opened up to all comers at the end of January 1996, so if you are interested, act now.

To make your bid or for further details, contact The Royal Signals Display Team at Blandford either by letter, telephone (**Blandford Mil 2365**) or fax (**Blandford Mil 2770**).

ENGAGEMENT DATE FOR THE STAFF BAND OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS 1995

December 16 Malcolm Sargent Carol Concert, Royal Festival Hall, London.

ROYAL SIGNALS 75TH ANNIVERSARY RED WINE

11 Sig Regt has commissioned a Red Wine in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Royal Signals. The label is painted on to the bottle. The wine, which can only be purchased via the PRI 11 Sig Regt at a cost of £7.50 per Btl (750ml), or £84.50 per case, is either good to drink now or to lay down until the 100th anniversary or even to keep as a memento. It is sure to attract collector status just as the 50th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings bottle has done.

For further details and order forms contact either: The PRI on Blandford Mil 2236, Civil 01258 48 2236 or the RSM on Blandford Mil 2240 Civil 01258 48 2240.

MOVEMENTS

OFFICERS

OCTOBER 1995

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col J. P. Moreland	Depot Tp RSS
Lt Col M. L. Martin	SANGCOM
Maj S. C. Johns	DGCIS (A)
Maj J. J. Ashwell	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj A. H. Campbell-Black	HQ ARRC
Maj P. J. Daisey	9 Sig Regt
Maj S. M. Jones	71 Sig Regt (V)
Maj G. R. Mason	SANGCOM
Maj D. J. Walker	2 Sig Regt
Maj P. J. Welch	HQ 1 Sig Bde
Capt D. F. H. Kenyon	210 Sig Sqn
Capt J. W. Oakes	220 Sig Sqn
Capt S. G. Watson	240 Sig Sqn
Capt C. F. S. Waudby	259 Sig Sqn
Capt A. S. Williams	HQ ARRC
Capt P. F. Wood	RSS
Capt S. S. M. Youngson	215 Sig Sqn
Capt D. G. Robson	HQ 1 Sig Bde
Capt T. M. Jones	AA Coll Harrogate
Lt D. J. Thornton	2 (Trg) Regt AAC
Lt A. R. Aitken	RSS
Lt A. G. Carroll	RSS
Lt J. R. J. Carter	RSS
Lt G. M. Greenhill	RSS
Lt S. J. Harrild	RSS
Lt P. D. Merry	RSS
Lt P. M. Newton	RSS
Lt G. Peden	RSS
Lt T. E. Robinson	RSS
2Lt A. Aitken	7 Sig Regt
2Lt H. Bosley	7 Sig Regt
2Lt A. Carroll	2 Sig Regt
2Lt Jon Carter	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt S. Gough	RSS (5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn)
2Lt Garreth Lamb	220 Sig Sqn
2Lt N. J. Norris	RSS
2Lt P. Newton	2 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt G. J. Oliver	RSS
2Lt G. Peden	30 Sig Regt
2Lt R. C. Quinsey	RSS
2Lt T. Robinson	259 Sig Sqn
2Lt D. R. Seymour	RSS (249 Sig Sqn)
2Lt C. J. Woodbridge	RSS (15 Sig Regt)

NOVEMBER 1995

Lt Col T. G. Inshaw	9 Sig Regt
Lt Col R. A. James	DES 3 DGES (A)
Lt Col J. P. Moreland	33 Sig Regt
Maj E. J. W. Banham	21 Sig Regt
Maj P. F. Copson MBE	RAF MPA Ad Wg (Army Element)
Maj D. G. Longhurst	RSS
Maj A. W. Boag	32 Sig Regt
Maj T. W. Canham	RSS
Maj S. G. Hutchinson	HQ 42 (NW) Bde/10 REG AFHQ
Maj P. Robertshaw	Brit Military Mission–Kuwait
Capt J. E. Marriott	249 Sig Sqn
Capt A. M. Churchill	2 Sig Regt
Capt N. R. N. Caleb	JACIG (AE)
Capt J. W. Dakin	4 R Irish
Capt D. C. A. Ellis	HQ BRIGNEPAL
Capt P. Gaffney	2 Sig Regt
2Lt A. J. Parfitt	24 Air Mobile Bde/210 Sig Sqn

WOs AND SNCOs

OCTOBER 1995

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 S. J. Morgan	NCS Latina
WO1 (FofS) D. A. Strewart	2 Sig Regt
WO1 D. J. Whiting	280 (UK) Sig Sqn
WO1 (FofS) S. K. Whitwood	243 Sig Sqn
WO2 J. Gibson	19 (Mech) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn 209
WO2 C. M. Hardwidge	40 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 J. I. Mitchell	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
WO2 C. F. Sear	35 Sig Regt (V)
A/WO2 M. I. McKenna	16 Sig Regt
A/WO2 C. G. Milne	9 Sig Regt (R)
A/WO2 (FofS) I. Rutherford	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
SSgt T. Brand	35 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt A. Hartley	11 EOD Regt
SSgt M. J. Hughes	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
SSgt R. J. Malt	14 Sig Regt (EW)
SSgt R. Marshall	7 Sig Regt
SSgt K. Povey	Balado Bridge
SSgt S. A. Read	2 Sig Regt
SSgt S. Shaw	ITC Warminster
SSgt (FofS) R. C. Windows	604 Sig Tp
SSgt A. C. Wood	2 Sig Regt
A/SSgt P. G. Griffiths	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218)
A/SSgt S. M. Honeyman	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/SSgt G. W. A. Johnston	14 Sig Regt (EW)
A/SSgt S. J. Ryder	9 Sig Regt (R)
A/SSgt W. J. Scoots	35 Sig Regt (V)
A/SSgt P. J. Sinderberry	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
A/SSgt J. R. Stillie	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/SSgt A. J. Strudwick	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/SSgt P. A. Williams	RSS
A/SSgt P. Youd	NCS Latina
Sgt J. T. Arthurs	RSS
Sgt C. S. Bailey	7 Sig Regt
Sgt S. Bell	30 Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Best	RSS
Sgt A. M. Black	11 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Buxton	30 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Carter	16 Sig Regt
Sgt D. J. Chapman	280 (UK) Sig Sqn
Sgt C. M. Cheesman	35 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt S. Colledge	4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt C. Collins	UNICOM Team
Sgt L. Crossing	8 Cadet Trg Team Borden
Sgt S. W. Davies	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
Sgt F. E. Flaherty	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Sgt E. Gajny	5 (AB) HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para)
Sgt R. D. Good	Elect Branch REME
Sgt A. J. Gordon	2 Sig Regt
Sgt S. A. Gorton	220 Sig Sqn/21 Sig Regt
Sgt R. I. Hawkins	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt C. R. Hickman	RSS
Sgt M. A. Hitchins	2 Sig Regt
Sgt M. E. A. Hogan	RSS
Sgt D. Hughes	RSS
Sgt A. R. Hurst	RSS
Sgt P. D. James	RSS
Sgt L. Jarvis	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt C. M. Jones	RSS
Sgt J. W. Lester	237 Sig Sqn and 14 Sig Regt
Sgt G. K. Lloyd	RSS
Sgt C. G. Laughlin	7 Sig Regt
Sgt J. D. Lynch	34 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. McConnon	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt M. G. M. McDonald	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt G. G. Moody	RSS
Sgt S. P. Norris	7 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Proud	RSS
Sgt S. D. Rowe	Combined Arms Training
Sgt M. Sala	7 Sig Regt
Sgt L. E. Stockley	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. B. Tribeck	INT CEN Ashford
Sgt P. A. Vanden Broek	RSS
Sgt G. Wade	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
Sgt E. R. A. Walker-Moorcroft	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt R. Wallace	ATR Bassingbourne
Sgt J. P. Walsh	2 Sig Regt
Sgt J. D. Walton	16 Sig Regt
Sgt T. N. Whiston	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
Sgt S. D. Wilkinson	RSS
Sgt A. S. Yates	RSS
A/Sgt J. Barsley	RSS
A/Sgt K. V. Castledine	251 Sig Sqn
A/Sgt C. A. M. Cooper	7 Sig Regt
A/Sgt G. D. Currie	RSS
A/Sgt M. H. Darlington	1 RS
A/Sgt M. Hurren	1 KOSB
A/Sgt M. L. Ironside	7 Sig Regt
A/Sgt K. W. Kerr	RSS
A/Sgt L. M. Livesey	QG Sig Regt
A/Sgt S. J. Maughan	SHAPE Sig Gp
A/Sgt A. Oldroyd	2 Sig Regt
A/Sgt P. G. Preece	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/Sgt J. L. Smithurst	1 (MECH) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215)
A/Sgt B. A. S. Ward	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
A/Sgt D. T. Whitfield	RSS

NOVEMBER 1995

WO1 G. J. Baldry	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
WO1 J. Williams	21 Sig Regt (AS)
A/WO1 P. Edwards	37 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (FofS) D. O. Allen	Elec Bn REME
WO2 L. V. Martin	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
WO2 G. C. Ritchie	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 F. G. Waters	1 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/WO2 D. W. Craig	London UOTC
A/WO2 G. Hodgson	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
A/WO2 G. R. Johnson	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt M. K. B. Bernstein	Army Sch Trg Sp
SSgt A. P. Cheeseman	RSS
SSgt M. F. Potts	2 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt A. P. Staniford	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
SSgt P. Taylor	RSS
SSgt D. C. Torrance	RSS
SSgt C. L. Ward	7 Sig Regt
SSgt A. Woodley	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/SSgt G. W. Beech	2 Sig Regt
A/SSgt P. Jude	237 Sig Sqn and 14 Sig Regt
A/SSgt A. H. Manktelow	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/SSgt R. A. Needham	5 (AB) HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para)
A/SSgt J. P. Rutland	1 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215)
Sgt B. Berrie	RSS
Sgt L. D. Crossing	8 Cdt Trg Team
Sgt J. Davidson	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. J. Harriott	14 Sig Regt EW
Sgt P. J. Holmes	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
Sgt L. J. Johnston	RSS
Sgt C. D. R. Kitchener	HQ AFCENT
Sgt M. T. Licence	2 Sig Regt
Sgt S. M. McClelland	36 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt C. A. McGriffen	7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207)
Sgt M. I. Pavier	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
Sgt W. Phillips	34 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt A. Stratton	34 Sig Regt (V)
A/Sgt J. C. Crier	24 (AIRMOB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210)
A/Sgt S. J. Davies-Morris	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/Sgt S. D. Gill	280 (UK) Sig Sqn
A/Sgt J. Thorne	243 Sig Sqn
A/Sgt M. D. Wilford	RSS

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS ROYAL SIGNALS IS ESTABLISHED AT BLANDFORD

by Col C. J. Walters, Regimental Colonel

The move of the London elements of RHQ to Blandford was reported in the previous *Wire*. Now that we are up and running (but not yet fully established) it is timely to tell you what RHQ is doing. In each issue of *The Wire* I will explain a different aspect of our work. We are here to serve the Corps and much of what we do is paid for by our members, both serving and retired. I think it is important that everyone understands what RHQ is and how it operates. In this issue I will advise you of the personalities.

The HQ and Domestic elements are now accommodated in the newly refurbished Headquarters building which was opened by the Master of Signals on 15 September 1995. The Contractors had their fair share of problems with stairs, varnish and toilets being finished off as we tried to move our desks and furniture in, only to find that we didn't have any telephones. This was a deficiency that was soon put right by **Cpl Stanton**. The Soldier and Officer Recruiting elements are accommodated in R Corridor.

Unfortunately, the move from London brought about the retirement of all the London staff except two. **Maj** (Retd) **Gordon Schofield MBE** managed an extra week to move us in and we wish him, and **Louie**, well for the future and in so doing also congratulate him on his well deserved receipt of the Master of Signals Award. The mainstays of our new team are **Col** (Retd) **Alastair de Bretton-Gordon** the Regimental Secretary, and **Mr Alan Wilkinson**, the Corps Accountant (so at least the funds are safe!).

The responsibilities of RHQ divide into two sections. They are, Soldier and Officer Recruiting, and Domestic Affairs.

HEADQUARTERS
Regimental Colonel: **Col Cliff Walters**
RO3 Coord: **Maj Barry Rowe** (Temp)
Admin Assistant: Vacant

SOLDIER AND OFFICER RECRUITING

SO2:	**Lt Col Chris Melhuish**
SO3 Recruiting Team:	**Capt Bill Fathers**
SO3 Recruiting Team:	**Capt Annabel Basker**
Cpl:	**Cpl 'Skelly' Skelton**
LCpl:	**LCpl John Sheppard**
Admin Assistant:	**Mrs Sandy Townsend**
RO3 Officer Recruiting	**Lt Col** (Retd) **A. C. Stutchbury**
Admin Offr:	**Mrs Sherry Russell**
RO3 Recruiting Sp:	**Capt** (Retd) **Tony Reynolds**
RO3 Recruiting Sp:	**WO1 (YofS) Dave Keig** (Temp)
Admin Asst:	**Mrs Di Roberts**
Head of Publications:	**Lt Col** (Retd) **Peter Valder**
Admin Officer:	**Mrs Jacky Herring**

REGISTRY

Chief Clerk:	**Mrs Moira Graham**
Admin Asst:	**Mrs Jill Barber**
Admin Asst:	**Miss Jo Hewitt**

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

Regt Sec:	**Col** (Retd) **Alastair de Bretton-Gordon**
Assistant:	**Lt Col** (Retd) **Ian Hamilton**

MUSEUM

Director:	**Dr Peter Thwaites**
Curator:	**Maj** (Retd) **Roger Pickard**
Attendant:	**Mr David Walker**
Asst Archivist:	**Mr Tim Stankus**
Shop Manager:	**Mrs Gill Lugg**

ASSOCIATION

Admin Offr:	**Mr Peter Cuckow**
Welfare Sec:	**Mrs Jan Nicholson**
Accountant:	**Mr Alan Wilkinson**
Asst:	**Mrs Heather Way**



Regimental Headquarters Staff
Back Row (L to R): Jo Hewitt, Moira Graham, Jan Nicholson, Jill Barber, Cpl 'Skelly' Skelton, Capt John Norris, Capt Annabel Basker, LCpl John Sheppard, Sandy Townsend, Di Roberts, Heather Way and Sherry Russell
Front Row (L to R): Lt Col (Retd) Ian Hamilton, Lt Col (Retd) Peter Valder, Maj Barry Rowe, Lt Col Chris Melhuish, Col Cliff Walters, Col (Retd) Alastair de Bretton-Gordon, WO1 Dave Keig, Peter Cuckow and Alan Wilkinson

Some of the names have a familiar ring. **Peter Cuckow** arrived after retirement from the Directorate; and we can't blame him for that. **Peter Valder** has 'rejoined' the Corps after a few happy years of grappling with the difficulties of industry. We are now setting up a 15 Sig Regt reunion (ADEN of course!). **Mrs Herring** is daughter-in-law of **Don**, so members of the 254 Club and 'F' Company definitely have an edge when trying to get articles published in *The Wire*. Unfortunately **Jacky** missed the photocall. **Moira Graham** came from Harrogate to keep **Bruce** company; otherwise he would *always* be on the golf course rather than usually. **Jill Barber** is trying to help her husband to upgrade because they need the money (and the promotion) so, all being well, she will depart by the New Year. **Tony Reynolds** was a recent departure from the Corps but just could not stand life without us; life begins at 42! He will now be taking on liaison with units on recruiting matters.

Recruiting a few of our own posts, especially the ROs, has not gone as smoothly as we would have hoped. Anyone with an ambition in this field should contact us ASAP and let us hope we recruit soldiers more quickly. Meanwhile **Maj Barry Rowe** and **WO1 Dave Keig** continue to give stalwart support.

In the next issue I will tell you how we get the money into Corps Funds *and* how it is spent (or invested).

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please advise the Assistant Accountant, at RHQ, IN WRITING, of any change of address. This information should not be telephoned.



Back Row (L to R): Cpl Skelton, WO2 (SSM)s Barry, Ellis, Cupper, Ardern, Barnett, SSgt Craig, WO2 (SSM)s Campbell, Elliot, Hughes and LCpl Shepherd
Front Row (L to R): WO2 (SSM)s Forteath, Anderson, WO1 (RSM) Lodge, Capt Norris, Col Walters (Regt Col), Lt Col Melhuish (ORLO), Capt Basker, WO2 (SSM)s Wells, Bywater and Brebner

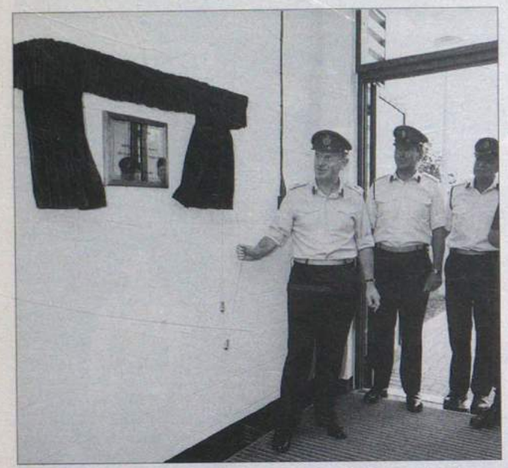
Each year ORLO runs a PSI's convention for all the WO2s and WO1s who are posted as permanent staff to University OTCs. These jobs are vital to our reputation and recruiting ability and as such the Corps tries to send its best. This year the convention took place from 25-27 September at Blandford and took on a slightly different format.

In order to make best use of time and to maximise the amount of feedback, the convention was run on a Presentation, then discussion basis by syndicates. The aim was to update the PSIs, give some tips to the new boys and generally let them know the Corps remembered them. All in all it proved to be a hugely beneficial couple of days with lots of positive feedback and a mountain of extra work for the ORLO SO3s. All those who attended felt it worthwhile and even **WO2 (SSM)** 'Never gets lost' **Campbell** said he had learnt something new. Thanks must go to **Lt Col Paul Oldfield** for his Corps Update and to **Brig Bill Backhouse** for his insight into how a University Liaison Officer works. We now look forward to Ex Lightning Strike to all meet up again.

The Wire
SUBSCRIPTIONS BY DIRECT DEBIT

- Many of you have converted to the Direct Debit system but **failed to cancel your Standing Order.**
- **Please ensure that you cancel your Standing Order before 1st January 1996.**

The Royal School of Signals
Blandford Camp



The Inspector General of Training Lt Gen S. Cowan CBE late Royal Signals, visited Blandford 25 September 1995. During his visit General Cowan opened the Ouston Building, the new home of Cable Sys Sec. The General is accompanied by Col John Kirby (Comd CIS Trg Wg) and Col Keith Butler (Comd BPT)



The General visits Telephony Training



On 18 September 1995 a group of Hungarian Army Officers visited Blandford to be briefed on Royal Signals Training. Hauptman C. Nolepa (the German Exchange Officer at the School) briefs the visitors (via an interpreter) on PTARMIGAN



SSgt Paul Garman discusses underground cable jointing with the General and Capt Om QGO OC Combat Support Gp

JOINT WARRIOR INTEROPERABILITY DEMONSTRATION

The Joint Warrior Interoperability Demonstration (JWID) is a powerful forum for industry to develop and demonstrate existing products and emerging technology as a means of solving problems. The event, involving the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force as well as the Army and the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA), took place at the Royal School of Signals, Blandford Camp between 21 August and 28 September 1995, culminating in an Open Day on 27 September to coincide with Leading Edge 95

Based on a Joint Force Headquarters deployment scenario, JWID concentrated on interoperability with our allies. A number of information systems and communications networks were linked by tactical satellite to the US using the latest technology to demonstrate how industry can meet operational military needs.

Leading Edge 95 took the form of an equipment exhibition and a series of presentations and was attended by prominent figures in the defence communications industry and the Services. Exhibitors demonstrated a broad spectrum of capabilities from communications and information systems, through simulation and fibre optics to communications security. Presentations were given throughout the day in three separate halls and covered a range of subjects with one central theme: Information Operations–A Battle-winning Prescription for the 21st Century.

Royal Military Academy
Sandhurst

SIGNAL WING

RSMI	**WO1 (YofS) Stratton**
YofS Old College	**WO2 (YofS) Pardew**
YofS New College	**WO2 (YofS) Darlington**

EXERCISE SOUTHERN TOWER

Ex Southern Tower was the final exercise for the Senior term Officer Cadets of intake CC943. Not in keeping with the rotation of Cyprus and France this 'overseas exercise' took place in the Rheinland-Pfalz area of Germany and was centred on the town of Bitburg. The total number of participants was 223 Officer Cadets, with a support and administrative staff of 256 RMAS permanent staff, who were mainly based at the decommissioned USAAF Base in Bitburg (and not the brewery as suspected).

In addition to the permanent staff from RMAS the support staff also included elements kindly provided by 21 Sig Regt from 81 Sig Sqn (V), **Cpl Mann** and his team consisting of **Sigs Downing, Smith** and **Clarke** were busily employed as LO's drivers and Rebro operators throughout the two weeks.

The exercise concluded and all returned to Sandhurst to prepare for the Sovereigns Parade. The big day arrived and one could not have asked for better weather, the spectator stands were overflowing.

The following Officer Cadets were commissioned into the Corps and after some last minute flight changes and a couple of days leave, were sent away on their attachments.

2Lt Andy Aitken–7 Sig Regt
2Lt Helen Bosley–7 Sig Regt
2Lt Andy Carroll–2 Sig Regt
2Lt Jon Carter–1 (UK) Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
2Lt Simon Gough–5 (AB) Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
2Lt Gareth Lamb–220 Sig Sqn
2Lt Phil Newton–3 (UK) Div HQ & Sig Regt
2Lt Grant Peden–30 Sig Regt
2Lt Trudy Robinson–259 Sig Sqn
2Lt David Seymour–249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
2Lt Caroline Woodbridge–15 Sig Regt

All were despatched with 12 months intense and often arduous training behind them but it is now that the learning really starts. Good luck to you all in your careers with the Corps.

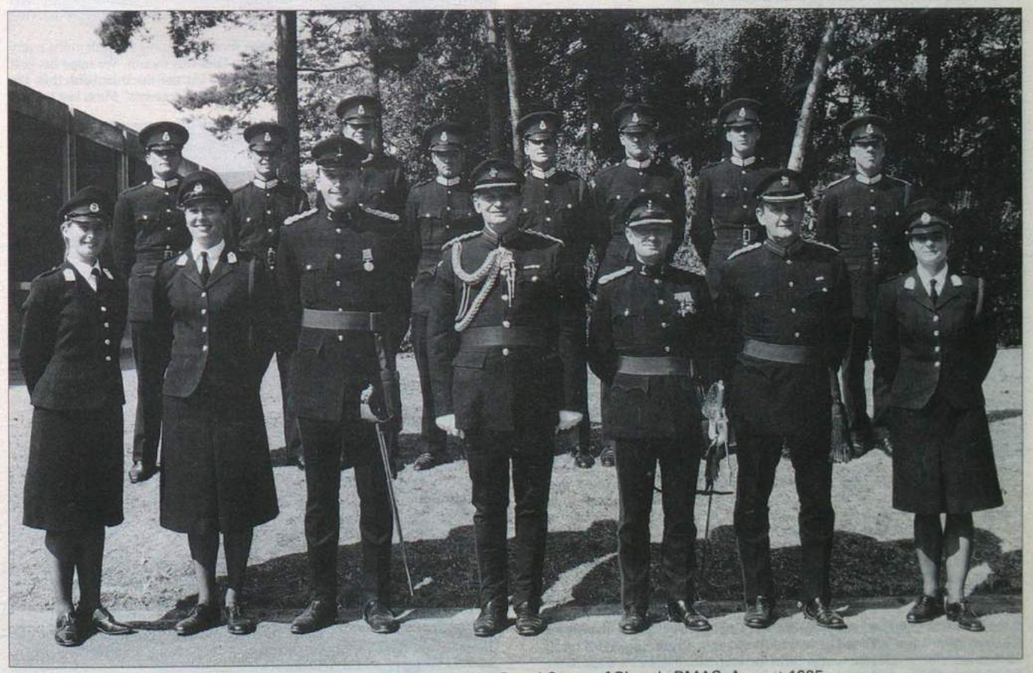
ANNUAL SIGNAL WING CRICKET MATCH

The annual cricket match between the junior ranks and the senior ranks was won this year by the juniors. This was despite a solid performance with the bat by **SSgt** 'Angus' **Palmer** and an extremely agile display of wicketkeeping by **SSgt** 'Taff' (the cat) **Thomas.**

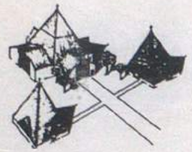
The credibility of the officials was placed under severe scrutiny when **SSgt David Little** gave all three Yeoman of Signals out LBW, and **Cpl Tony Weaver** was responsible for a couple of controversial runout decisions just when the senior ranks looked to be settling in for a big score. However **Cpl** 'Les' **Lester** whilst acting as a spokesman for the junior ranks claimed that reports of bribery and blackmail of technicians were all nonsense and **SSgt Little** could have his spectacles back any time.

The afternoon was rounded off with a Wing Barbecue attended by all the Wing and their families.

After a busy 14 weeks of training the Signal Wing packed up and closed down with the soldiers departing for various parts of the world on their four weeks well deserved recess leave.



Officer Cadets commissioned into the Royal Corps of Signals RMAS–August 1995
Back Row (L to R): OCdts Newton, Aitken, Carter, Gough, Seymour, Carroll, Lamb and Pede
Front Row (L to R): OCdts Woodbridge, Bosley, Capt E. R. Grant, Brig N. F. Wood, Maj M. Lithgow MBE, Col C. J. Walters, OCdt Robinson



Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

BRADLEY SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Dave Smith**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Phil Christie**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

A warm welcome goes out to **WO1 Kev Hallett** on his arrival as Troop Officer of Foxtrot Tp. **WO1 Sandy Dos Martyres** is especially pleased as he now only has one Troop to command and the 2IC's responsibilities. Welcome also to **WO2 (SSM) Phil Christie** and his wife **Denise** and family, and to **SSgts Dave Frost** and family, and **Paul Williams**, his wife **Nicky** and family. The Squadron send a sad farewell to **Sgt Gaz Beardall** promoted and posted unfortunately to Penney Sqn. We wish **Gaz, Michaela** and family all the best for the future.

SUPPORT FOR THE DISABLED

Sigs Angela Twist and **Vicki Molyneux** have just completed their training as Tele Op (Tg)'s. They were offered, and jumped at the opportunity, of looking after disabled people in Southern Italy for two weeks, all expenses paid. On their return they will be posted to RSS Blandford to complete Tg Op training and driving before moving onto their first working unit.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Sig Nicki Burkitt is presently undergoing basic trade training as a Tele Op (Tg). At her young age she has already achieved a tremendous amount on the sporting front. Some of her achievements are:

a. A qualified football referee local league Class II.
b. ASA preliminary swimming coach.
c. Royal Life Saving Society pool life guard.
d. Badminton Association of England leaders award.
e. Volleyball leaders award.
f. Winning the Army women's team triathlon 1995 open event.

In addition she has been selected to represent the Corps at hockey during recent trials held in Aldershot.

MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM

Sig Paul Calvert, an ex RAF Sergeant and Nimrod crew member, joined the Royal Signals having been made redundant due to cutbacks in the Nimrod fleet. Presently **Sig Paul Calvert** is undergoing training as a Tele Op (Tg) at the College. He is a trained Mountain Rescue leader and to his credit, although busy undergoing trade training, still manages to support the Mountain Rescue Team (MRT) whose boundaries stretch from the Scottish borders through to the Peak District and Lake District.

The College MT has supplied a L/R to enable **Sig Paul Calvert** to attend three of the four mandatory weekends. There are 6 RAF MRTs in the UK who are on call 365 days a year. Their initial role is to rescue downed aircrew but they find themselves being tasked with rescuing civilians in trouble at sea, mountaineering, sailing etc . . .

The qualifications that can be obtained are numerous if you feel up to the challenge to join up–your MRT needs you!

CORPS FOOTBALL SELECTION

Sigs Craig Hattie and **Jimmy Galliford** were both chosen to attend the Corps Youth Football Trials in Aldershot. Over 50 players were present with a very high overall standard. Both **Hattie** and **Galliford** were short listed for the first 24. They were subsequently chosen to play for the Army Youth Side, headed by **Sig Jimmy Galliford**, who, after scoring a hat-trick was chosen as man of the match. Both lads are looking forward to training and playing against other Corps and Civilian teams. They say the Army is brilliant, and are both as proud as peacocks.

RUGBY UNION ENGLAND SELECTION

Sig Gareth 'Monster' **Archer** is undergoing phase 2 trade training as a Tele Op (Tg). The 6ft 6in 18 stone lock forward whose former club is Newcastle Crosforth amongst others, now plays for Bristol. **Gareth Archer** was selected as stand-by for the England A team in the World Championships last year and he toured Australia with the England B team. He has since been selected to represent the England under 21's team in the second row. Still only 21 years old and growing, it is felt his call up for the England team is only a matter of time. NB **Gareth** if you have any tickets please send them on to **WO1 Sandy Dos Martyres** in Harrogate.

OC SQUADRON'S MONTHLY RUN

The OC's monthly run has been resurrected in the Army Apprentices College as it seems we are part of the College and the imminent move to Blandford never seems to come. The run is 3.7 miles for the men and 3 miles for the women. The fear of being placed on remedial PT if anyone came in after the OC **Maj Dave** 'Speedy' **Smith** was incentive for everyone to get out training (with the exception of **WO1 Kev** 'rubber legs' **Hallett**). The race was started by **WO1 (RSM) K. P. Humphrey** (Coldstream Gds) but he declined to race as he could not use his horse. The winners and runners up in excellent times are as follows:

MALE		FEMALE	
1st	**Sig Copeland** 23.05	**Sig Baker**	20.16
2nd	**LCpl Joy** 23.10	**Sig Moran**	20.20

TECHNICIAN WING

OIC — **Maj Peter Shawyer**

The first few weeks of the winter term have been fairly quiet with only 94C in Technician Wing at present. Examination of the new Intake 95B, who are carrying out the BRT at present, has produced 48 possible Apprentice Technicians who will start their technician course in late October 1995. This intake, if the plans go according to schedule will be the first to go to the RSS at Blandford in September 1996 to complete the second year of their Apprenticeship.

New arrivals to the Wing are **SSgt Shaun Cook** from 249 Sig Sqn and **Sgt Wayne Pinhorn** from 36 Sig Sqn (V) who, following their M of I courses will join the fray in keeping 95B and 95C on the straight and narrow. We hope they enjoy their short tour in Harrogate, before moving to the RSS next year.

On the social scene the OC has been seen sharpening his golf clubs ready to do battle, against the Sergeants' Mess later this month. We hope his golf is better than his cricket, and he improves on the duck he scored in the drubbing the Officers' Mess received from the Sergeants' Mess last term.

OPERATOR WING

After a very hot, busy Summer Term Commex Tp has lost some of its star performers.

a. **Sgt Tel Fleet** to Mil Tg Gp.
b. **Cpl Dom Cox** to Radex 1 Sqn 11 Sig Regt.
c. **Cpl Paul Stewart** to the Prudential Insurance Company.
d. **Cpl** 'Toyah' **Wilcox** to the Cdo Log Regt.
e. **Cpl** 'Jacko' **Jackson** who leaves the Army after 22 years.
f. **LCpl Adie Moore** to the Metropolitan Police.

The work that they have done has been much appreciated, not just by the staff and apprentices but by Cellnet, who have received enough funds through mobile phone bills from **Cpls Stewart, Wilcox** and **Moore** to install a new talkthrough at Ripon Parks.

Their loss will be offset by the new arrival into the Troop of **Sgt Mal Moloney** who has found his desk, moved it, organised it, re-organised it and is now in the process of re-re-organising it. Welcome, **Mal**, you have got a busy Winter Term ahead.

CLOSURE OF THE ARMY APPRENTICES COLLEGE HARROGATE WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS PROPERTY

As many of *The Wire* readers will be aware, the College is to close in August 1996 and move to RSS Blandford. In preparation for the move, the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess are currently trying to reconcile holding of items of property and in particular, presentation items.

Following the closure of 8 and 11 Sig Regts and their subsequent movement to Blandford, the Corps Mess now has many items of property. To move all of the presentation items from the Mess at Harrogate would only add to this accumulation and, sadly, it is perceived that many of these items would not see the light of day.

It is therefore requested that if anyone who has made a presentation to the Mess and, whether for sentimental reasons or otherwise, would like these items returned, they should contact the PMC by 15 December 1995:

WO2 (Supvr R) Dave Ruddock
PMC, WOs' and Sergeants' Mess, Army Apprentices' College Harrogate, N Yorkshire HG3 2SE.
Tel: York Mil (777) 4355
York Civil 01904 664355

PENNEY SQUADRON (APPRENTICES)

Sqn Comd — **Maj G. McNeill**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Boyle**

Graduation Day, back in July, is a distant memory now after summer leave and with the recent arrival of 150 'tender aged recruits'. However memories were jogged by the formation of the photo board with graduation 'mug shots'. Two prize winners from Intake 93B won the photogenic competition–**AT Middleton** and **AT John**. **AT Middleton** was awarded the Racal Prize for the technician with the best performance in Advanced Technology. **AT John** was awarded the Borough of Harrogate Prize for service to the community.



AT Sgt Middleton (Racal Prizewinner) with Col C. J. Walters and Mr Windmill of Racal



AT John (The Borough of Harrogate Prizewinner) with Col C. J. Walters and the Mayor of Harrogate

PHILLIPS TROOP (INTAKE 94C)

Tp Comd — **Lt K. Levins** R Signals
Tp Sgts — **Sgt Back**
Sgt Beardall

The second year of the apprenticeship for Phillips Tp kicked off after summer leave on 29 August 1995. Specialist trade training (either the Telegraphist Course, Special Operator Course or the Technicians Course) began after completing the first year of Basic Trade knowledge.

As well as Trade, External Leadership Training has taken place in the first six weeks of term, with 'EL Tp', where two trade classes at a time have a week of External Leadership which involves spending two days and nights in the Lake District, in appalling weather conditions! The rest of the week involves canoeing, climbing and caving. The week is enjoyable, though a sense of humour is needed as the week requires working as part of a team in poor conditions.

Leadership exercises also took the Troop away from trade classes for one night and two days, involving a number of command tasks designed to develop team work in order to solve problems.

On the sporting front **ATs Corcoran, Knibbs, Codywould, Mallaburn, Green** and **Matthews** have been selected for Army Colts Rugby and **AT Minshall** plays regularly for the Army Youth Football Team. Participation at this level requires considerable time and commitment on top of the busy apprentice programme. The Army Surf Canoe Championship held in Devon from 5-8 October resulted in the College team winning the Junior (Under 21) team event and **AT Cpl Charlton** won the Junior section of the Championships.

THE BRITISH RED CROSS 125TH BIRTHDAY ASSAULT COURSE CHALLENGE

The official handing over of a cheque for £1000 was made by **Miranda Armitage**, the President of North Yorkshire British Red Cross, to the Commandant of the College on 26 September 1995 as a donation to the Harrogate Memorial Trust Fund.

A total of £7,200 was raised in sponsorship money for the British Red Cross 125th Birthday Assault Course Challenge which was hosted, organised and run by the College on 25 June 1995. This money will be used to provide many caring services in the local community and in North Yorkshire.

The two sponsors for this event were Asda and Somerfield. The main supporter being Somerfield Stores who had pledged to raise £1.25m for the British Red Cross, nationally, in support of their 125th Birthday.



Official handing over of the cheque

COMMEMORATIVE PLATE–WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS HARROGATE

To celebrate 50 years of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, the Mess have commissioned a commemorative plate. The plate, which is being painted by **Jenny Hinchcliffe**, is to be a limited edition; 150 plates, each individually numbered and depicting the College Churches will be produced. Each plate will cost £16.50.

If there are any ex-members of the Mess, serving or otherwise, who would like to purchase a plate they are requested to contact the PMC, **WO2 (Supvr R) Dave Ruddock**, at the above address.

The plates will be sold on a first come, first served basis only.

EXERCISE BIG WEDNESDAY
by Capt Andy Churchill

Costa Rica is a Spanish name: it means Rich Coast. It is a country rich in memories for seven members of the Army Apprentices' College Harrogate who took part in Ex Big Wednesday (7-26 September 1995) the first major expedition by a British Army unit to this small, but exciting country in Central America, sandwiched between Guatemala and Panama.

The exercise was inspired by a desire to enter the World Surf Canoe Championships which were scheduled to start in Costa Rica in mid September 1995. The Army Apprentices College has enjoyed a good reputation in canoeing over the years, meeting with much success, so entry to a major world championships before the imminent move to Blandford in 1996 seemed a worthwhile goal.

Surf Canoeing is a potentially dangerous but exciting discipline of canoeing. The canoeist paddles his craft through breakers (reaching 10 to 15ft in height just like the board surfer), rides the shoulder of the wave, turning and weaving, extricating himself with an acrobatic 'loop', 'pop out' or pirouette, before being chastened by a body crunching wall of water–well that's the idea!

Few of the College canoeists paddling in the North Sea at Saltburn or Scarborough in January 1995 would have dreamt that they would be paddling in the clear Pacific waters of Costa Rica with a temperature of 85ºF eight months later. However after planning by **Capt Stu Moffat** it was arranged for **ATs Natham Hadley, Dave Turnock, Ian Belton** and **Gareth Vernon** to go. So all those Wednesday and Saturday trips in the back of icy 4 tonners were worthwhile. He also fixed it for Veteran Canoeist Burnham Lecturer **Archie Miles** and, Veteran Expedition Guru Burnham Lecturer **Mike McHale** (**Mike**'s training as a zoologist and botanist added an extra dimension to the trip. His observations about the toilet habits of the two toed sloth and his aggressive vegetation spotting made this the most educative of trips–eat your heart out David Bellamy!). Unfortunately due to posting **Capt Stu Moffat** was unable to go and as a result the expedition was led by **Capt Andy Churchill**.

Costa Rica is a country of extremes. It boasts active volcanoes, the occasional earthquake, tropical rainforest, beautiful beaches and windswept mountain tops. It is also extremely hot, averaging 85ºF and extremely wet (especially in the rainy season when we were visiting). Costa Rica is famous for its enlightened approach to conservation with 25% of the country's land divided into National Parks. The decision to freight six all purpose plastic kayaks by sea would mean we would be able to explore large lakes, thrilling white water rivers and visit remote exotic coastlines by sea and make the most of this magnificent country.

The outward flight from Heathrow to the capital of Costa Rica, San Jose, via Madrid and Miami proved exhausting but trouble free–except for the computer breaking down at the check in!

The British Embassy in Costa Rica had kindly given us a contact in San Jose who turned out to be an ex-pat and old soldier who had lived in Costa Rica for 11 years. His assistance was invaluable. He kindly provided us with our first base in Costa Rica and introduced us to many other kind souls who helped us in turn. The native Costa Rican men (descendents of the Spanish) are called Ticos and the women are called Ticas. They are very gentle and not given to violence. In the capital, San Jose (pop 2 million) we did not see one act of aggression during our stay, however, their wish to please did have a downside. Their habit of saying yes, to every request in order to please you often meant you ended up disappointed. Our attempt over four days to hire a suitable vehicle to carry seven bodies, kit and six canoes was a case in point. The small Toyota Van we ended up with did the job but at a cost in aching limbs. The biggest obstacle in Costa Rica was the poor state of the roads. Many pot holed highways could swallow up a small Metro, so we certainly had a bumpy ride.

Our brief stay in San Jose saw morning runs through the fume filled streets, a tour of historic sites and climbs through the cloud forest to Poas Volcano. A highlight was a loosening up paddle on Lake Arenal followed by a swim in the hot thermal springs heated by the active Arenal Volcano which proved an awe inspiring sight at night as red hot lava could be seen spewing down the side.

Volcanic ash has made the land rich. Every conceivable type of exotic fruit and vegetable grows here from papaya fruit to the lowly potatoes. Coffee plantations dominated the scene as we drove the two and a half hour journey to the River Reventazon, a major white water river. A visit to the country's most holy shrine at Cartago en route provided divine protection. The normally easy to moderate river Grade 2 to 3 was positively thumping down. Our guide told us he had never seen the dam open before and that the neighbouring River Pacure was 30ft above its normal height. Our proposal to canoe the whole river, miles through wild jungle had to be drastically revised. A bad capsize, a lost paddle, a dramatic rescue and a back injury to the canoe leader made for a nerve tingling day.

After a nightmare drive to the Pacific Coast (six hours) for our sea kayaking phase at Manuel Antonio, we were the guest of **Roger**, a 6'7" mountaineer who had climbed every mountain from Alaska to Costa Rica and had settled here for 20 years.

Archie Miles, still suffering from his back injury, was miraculously cured by the local healer **Shalimar** and put on a healing diet of Papaya (Paw Paw). Meanwhile **Roger** arranged an expedition for the group up his favourite Mount Chirripo at 13,000ft. The party would base itself in his hut at Herradure, at 4,000ft and then climb to the summit via an overnight refuge near the summit. Unfortunately some government officials had purloined the refuge hut on 'National Day', so the expedition party contented themselves with a hard slog up the old Indian trading trail which joined the Pacific to the Caribbean Coast. The party climbed over 9,000ft enjoying the dramatic changes in scenery as we climbed through differing layers of jungle. Oranges and avocados were aplenty and never tasted better. After our descent we were invited to the village to join the National celebrations. The ladies in the village were cooking over wood stoves and gave us Tomalis (a corn dish, baked in banana leaves) and Casado (a traditional dish of rice, beans, vegetables and meat). As we ate, the magnificent River Blanca, foaming white, tumbled past us–a memorable day!

We left with regret and retraced our steps down the rough Pan American Highway back to Manuel Antonio. We took our sea kayak trip around Larga Island and the scenic Cathedral Point before returning to Playa de Manuel Antonio to cool off in the crashing surf. The jungle came right down the beach here. Those with sharp eyes could spot howler and squirrel monkeys leaping from tree to tree.

We travelled North to the old part of Puntarenas and the beach of Boca Baranca to the scene of the World Championships.

The competition site at Boca Baranca was a great disappointment. Raw sewage was pumping into the sea from the nearby town and the River Baranca flowing into the sea gave it a dirty brown appearance–hardly a dream venue. There had been four sightings of crocodiles in the estuary in recent days. The competition started at 0600hrs in the morning. By 0900hrs the temperature was up to 90ºF. The heats were 30 minutes duration with a severe risk of dehydration and heat exhaustion. **AT Dave Turnock** had the honour of being first off in the Championships. He paddled well, manoeuvring his Mirage Canoe skillfully in the medium sized surf. The runs were the longest everybody had ever experienced. Unfortunately, the heavy craft could not compete against the revolutionary lightweight, purpose built surf kayaks that the Americans, New Zealanders, Brazilians, Argentinians and other international teams were using. These cost up to £1000 and are the Rolls Royces of the canoeing world. The sight of the Army 'plastic pigs' produced much amusement from some of the competitors but this turned to amazement when **Archie Miles** came second to an American team member **Greig Moreno** losing by only one point. **Capt Andy Churchill** continued to impress using a Dancer Canoe even gaining praise from the hard bitten ATs'. The conditions took their toll. Despite intensive washing after every heat, eye infections and ear infections were picked up by three of the party. Eventually after several days of competition all the college paddlers bit the dust and bravely bowed out of the competition. Happily we were able to display our 'Worlds' tee shirts for the rest of the trip and savour our experiences.

We then travelled South for another five hour journey to Playa Blanca. A chance meeting in San Jose earlier in the trip with American **Pete Neil** had brought about the offer of accommodation on his 45ft sailing ketch *Papagayo* (meaning Parrot) while we explored the Guanicaste Coast in our kayaks. The sea trips were stupendous, clear blue skies, flying fish, schools of dolphins, volcanic islands which startled you with the hiss of escaping gas, pelicans, giant frigate birds blotting out the sky, islands dripping with exotic cacti and much more–this was paradise beyond our wildest dreams. The huge pacific swells breaking over the narrow volcanic channels made for exciting canoeing, with **AT Gareth Vernon** excelling in this wild environment. Our only problem was the heat, with temperatures 100ºF plus, we literally fried despite the wildest of headgear and gallons of sun block.



ATs Hadley and Turnock 'Launching'

More was to follow on on our final day on the Coast. **Pete** took us out in *Permit*, a $1 million piece of floating real estate which posed as a fishing boat. The Guanicaste Coast is noted for its sport fishing. We did have a giant Rooster fish on line but let it go for humanitarian reasons! (Sure thing **Archie**.)

On our penultimate day in Costa Rica we rafted the giant Pacuare River. This is one of the Wonders of the World–13 miles, four and a half hours of tumbling white, Grade 4-5 rushing water over relentless falls and giant holes, between high cliffs covered in rainforest. The water level had just dropped and a life threatening tree had been cleared the day before. It was a magical adrenalin pumping end to our trip to Costa Rica.

Many thanks must go to **Capt Andy Churchill**. He spoke no Spanish, however, he followed the adage. 'If you are English and speak loud enough any foreigner will understand you!' It certainly worked and he was able to browbeat most unsuspecting Ticos into submission.



White water rafting

This was a remarkable adventure not just for the scenery and the adventure training but for the memorable people we met on our travels. **Tim, Roger** and **Pete** were saints. We also met **Tim** the American (Vietnam Vet) who became a Costa Rican Doctor at 40 and **Don** an American archaeologist from Berkeley University who was on a mission to stop 200 people drowning off the Costa Rican Coast every year.

All the members of the trip had a truly amazing time, sitting on the plane back to the UK with a new found wealth of knowledge about a Latin American Country, numerous memorable experiences and sun burnt noses! All the members agree, 'Education is a wonderful thing, but it's worth remembering that anything worth knowing can't be taught'–You learn by your experiences.

MY FIRST FIVE WEEKS – A VIEW
by RCT Ashmore

Upon arriving at the Army Apprentices' College on 4 September 1995 my thoughts were of the sheer pain and hell of the next seven weeks in front of me.

When training actually began I started to get a little homesick as I knew no one and I often thought of my family and friends that I had left at home.

After a few days I started to talk to people and make friends. This started to make me feel more relaxed and homesickness was soon put to the back of my mind, although not forgotten.

When I first started my Basic Recruit Training (BRT), I did not put my full effort into it and consequently found it hard. I decided that if I wanted to stay in the Army and not incur the wrath of Permanent Staff any more then I had better start trying hard, so I put more effort into the training which made it a lot easier and more enjoyable for me. Before I joined the Army Apprentices' College I knew nothing about the rifle 5.56 or how to look after and use it. Not having fired anything like this I was a little apprehensive but after five weeks of training I can now confidently strip and assemble the rifle, name all of the parts and fire in a safe and controlled manner. My group size is also slowly decreasing!

I thought that anyone who had a rank in the Army were 'beast masters' and morbid, but I now realise that this is not always true. A lot of Permanent Staff who I have come to know are friendly and have a good sense of humour. They are fair providing that you give them no cause to be nasty!

I have come to enjoy the Army over the past five weeks. I find a lot of the work enjoyable as well as interesting. I am definitely going to stick at it as I am sure this is the right place for me.

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The White Helmets

THE ROYAL SIGNALS WHITE HELMETS

OC RSDT	**Lt Col L. R. J. Tilson**
OC White Helmets	**Capt S. E. J. Parry**
Team Sgt	**Sgt D. Brebner**
Team Cpl	**Cpl P. A. Elson**

THE YEAR SO FAR . . .

1995 has certainly been a busy year for the team with five months spent away from Blandford and over 90 public performances safely negotiated! Highlights of the year include:

The Rhine Army Summer Show
The Royal Signals Association Day
Gatcombe Park (for **HRH Princess Anne**)
SOinC Show in Blandford
Fairford International Air Tattoo
SHAPE Performance in Belgium

As you can see the Team travels a great deal over the tour season–1995 was no exception; this year the Team travelled to BAOR three times, Belgium once and in between numerous county shows and galas all over Britain–total mileage in excess of 40,000 miles!

Luckily, injuries this year have been minimal apart from a broken ankle and collarbone, the remainder of minor accidents have dented pride rather than bones . . .

LOOKING FORWARD

Now the Team are back in base camp we can look forward to months of general turnaround from show trim to training trim on the bikes and of course our annual ATD training–Welcome Home!

1996 promises to be even busier than this season, already the Team are almost fully committed to major events including the prestigious Royal Tournament at Earls Court, London–see you there!

GOODBYES

The Team say goodbye this season to **LCpl Pete** 'Jelly Bean' **Maddock** and **Marie** to 7 Sig Regt. **LCpl Paul** 'Stucky' **McMenamin, Sig Kev** 'SPI' **Mounsey**–both hang up their helmets and go to civilian life. **LCpl Dave Pendleton, Sig Mick Cox** and **Marie, Sig Andy** 'Mengy' **Trueman** and **Sam**–postings to follow. We wish them and their families well for the future–keep in touch.

WELCOMES

Though we don't know the results of the 1995 Selection course yet we welcome all successful applicants to the fold, whoever you may be!



Gladiator 'Jet' poses with the Team at the Peterborough Truckfest

STOP PRESS!

EXTRA, EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT, BOSS OF WHITE HELMETS SIGNS HIS OWN DEATH WARRANT!

Death being that of single life, yes yet another Singly bites the dust. 30 September was the day. Needless to say the team said farewell in style . . .

Question: How do you confuse half of West Derby in Merseyside?

Answer: a. Take **Team Sgt Don Brebner, Team Cpl** 'Elly' **Elson** and two willing pillions **Cpl** 'Bones' **Balkham** and **LCpl Paul McMenamin** along with four pristine, but loud Triumph Tigers.

b. Escort bride and groom on various journeys over eight miles and unintentionally stop traffic over the whole route!

On a more serious note the cavalcade drew a lot of local attention and helped made the Bride's day that little bit more special.

The team would like to pass all their very best wishes to **Capt** and **Mrs S. E. J. Parry** and welcome **Alison** into a very special fold.



FINALLY

One final note we would like to thank the many units who kindly hosted us this year and made the touring season possible.

NEWS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

XV

HQNI and 15 Sig Regt BFPO 801

225 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Work has continued over the summer at the usual hectic pace of life in sunny Lisburn (yes it really was sunny).

The CO's cup competition continued with our bogey event the Tug of War. As usual the team managed a steady last place, even the inclusion of our strategically shaven gorilla (**Sgt** 'Moff' **Moffatt**) couldn't save us. Better luck next time and well done to all those who gave it a go.

SSgt (SupvrR) Colin Horner and his merry men, **LCpls Crocker** and **Salter** organised a superb summer function in the Shamrock Club. Those who stayed to the death were treated to a display of vocal talent rarely heard in NI as **WO1 Trish Mullen** belted out 'Danny boy'. The RMP turned up claiming they had heard the mortar attack alarm.

Three genuine stalwarts (well two and a half really) had a dining out from the Sergeants' Mess on Tuesday 29 August, so from all Squadron members farewell and good luck to **Sgts** 'Doc' **O'Doherty, Mark Shaw** and **Dave Turner**.

Moving into September the Squadron March and Shoot team started training under the sharp eye of team captain and Sqn 2IC **Capt Hayden**. The team trained hard but unfortunately on the day had to compete with one man down as **LCpl Jake Volack** had to retire after his bullseye on the one metre grass range. So no points there then.

The Squadron got back into its winning ways in the next CO's cup event, the football, team captain **WO2 (SupvrR) Paul Skeith** led the team to its first ever win in the competition, well done all especially **Capt Bob Bunten** in the nets.

ADMIN TROOP

Tp Comd **WO2 (RQMS) N. C. Yarwood**

Admin Tp as ever has got on with the business of keeping the Squadron supplied with paper clips, sandwiches and signals over the summer period. The turnover of personnel is as rapid as ever so goodbye and good luck to, **Sgt Dave Turner, Cpl Paula Neave** and hello to **Sgt Mick Concepcion, LCpl Shane Ackers** and **Pat**, and **LCpl Helen Nolan**.

Cpls Jos Taylor and 'Charlie' **Brown** organised a tennis and barbecue day in August. The SSM's son **Andrew** and his dodgy ringer mate won the tennis, **Sgt Dave Turner** won the burger eating contest and **Cpl** 'Charlie' **Brown** held a few good contenders at bay in the lager and tabs event.

Cpl Sharon Simmons organised a leaving dinner for **Sgt Dave Turner** in Newforge on 9 September. This was definitely his last session we were all assured, the RQ got the USO going with his slanderous going away speech and **Sgt Dave Turner** delivered his farewell speech whilst juggling three boiled potatoes (well they give you too much) very novel! So farewell to **Dave** and congratulations on your forthcoming marriage to **Debbie**. PS **Dave** is off to SHAPE, he came here from AFCENT. Thank you RSMRO.

233 SIGNAL SQUADRON
INDIA TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Jim Langley**

HAILS AND FAREWELLS

We welcome to the Troop **Sgts Mark Paveley** and **Dave Williams** and **Cpl Dave Thomas**; we hope you enjoy your visit to mystical Ireland.

Sadly we bid farewell to **Sgt Andy Osborne** who is off to the colder climes of Cyprus, **Sgt Neil Fisher** to the TA in London, **Cpl Craig Harbourne** to who knows where with 30 Sig Regt and **Cpl Rob Smith** to get a life at 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt in Bulford. Best of luck at your new units, and all the very best for the future.

BELATED ENTRY

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome **WO2 Steve Grantham** and farewell to **WO2 Chris Mountain** who replaced each other in the Troop in April of this year.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Troop all send their very best wishes to **Sig** 'Woz' **Smith** who was married recently.

TROOP SPORT

Over the last *Wire* period the Troop was involved in the CO's Cup competition both in Football and Softball, sadly the Troop came third out of four in both these events.

TM TROOP

First of all, a quick mention for **Sigs Grant** and **Weldon**–the poor guys at the bottom of the pile who still do a tremendous job. The Troop goes from strength to strength on the sporting field having completed a treble in the McKelvie Trophy for Volleyball, Softball and Football. Not bad for the busiest Troop in the Regiment. Work-hard, play-hard. It would be difficult to pass-by the McKelvie Trophy football without highlighting the men of the series, **LCpl** 'Stan' **Stanbury** and agile, but still dieting, **SSgt Tony Quinn**. As India and Romeo Tps do not require their trophy cabinets anymore could we have them?

Troop progeny is as active as ever and congratulations go to **Cpl Glenn Stephenson** and **Anne-Marie** and also **Cpl** 'Spike' **Kennedy** and **Vicki** on the births of their babies. And last but not least congratulations also to **Cpl Steve Armstrong** and **LCpl Tony D'Or** on their recent well deserved and, some might say, historic promotions.

On the movements front we bid welcome to **Sgt Les Crowder, Cpl Tony McKenzie, LCpls Ryan Lang, Dean Sutton** and **Mark Stanbury**. Sadly we must also bid farewell to **Sgt Ware**. The Province will not be the same without you but the Potcheen was great!

ROMEO TROOP

Following recent success in the Northern Ireland car rallying and 'easy car conversion for the home user' courses, the Troop have also completed a hill walking expedition. The weekend involved many endurance activities including some rather hairy rock climbing!

Congratulations must go out to the 'true flyer' **Sgt McGiffen**, Lance Corporal to Sergeant in six months is good even by tech standards. Also to **Cpl Hamlyn** who recently got her second. Further congratulations again to **Sgt McGiffen** on his marriage to **Lesley**. He is currently detached to 15 Sig Regt guardroom after performing with the new Romeo Tp group 'Take Ten'. The Troop would also like to welcome **Sgt Andy Gilpin**, and wish a fond farewell to **Sgt Sammy-Camps**.

THE MOURNE MOUNTAIN ORIENTEERING COMPETITION

The Mourne Mountain Orienteering Competition took place on Sunday 3 September 1995. This was the first event ever held by the military in NI on such a large scale. HQNI and 15 Sig Regt decided to enter a team of eight in the major units competition. The team consisted of four pairs of two covering KM25s, KM18s, KM15s and KM10s. The A team of **Capt Dickinson** WFR and **WO1 (YofS) Benson**, the B team of **Lt Col McEvoy** ALS and **Maj Boswell** REME, the C team of **Sgts Jim McMeniman** and **Will Jones** AGC (path finders) and finally the under estimated D team of **WO1 Hartley** and **Cpl Phil Stroudley** produced an excellent team result bringing the team in third overall major unit of 14, in very bad weather.



Back Row (L to R): WO1 (SupvrR) Hartley, Cpl Stroudley, Sgt McMeniman and Sgt Jones
Front Row (L to R): Lt Col McEvoy ALS, Maj Boswell REME, Capt Dickinson WFR and WO1 (YofS) Benson (Team Captain)

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (203)
BFPO 809

Sqn Comd **Maj G. J. T. Rafferty** R Signals

SHQ

Another hectic three months in the SHQ of 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn is over and with it all the new faces are in. **Sgt** 'Tricia' **Connor** got married and threw SHQ by changing her name to **Sgt Wall**. **SSgt John Carradus** is now in with his feet under the table (or on it) as the case may be, welcome to you both. The Docs Inspection passed without any major meltdowns, but many a night was spent down the bar plying the Inspectors with alcohol, It worked!!, we passed.

The whole of SHQ had a nights bowling followed by a meal. **Pte Matt Day** showed remarkable ability to knock down skittles bigger than himself with a ball almost as big as himself. **LCpl Nikki Wallace** spent most of her time in the gutter of the lane. All in all a good night was had by all, wives included.

TM TROOP

With the site inspections finally behind us, the Troop remains as busy as ever with the FRT and maint teams deploying everyday, and helitele teams deploying at weekends.

Baby tech **LCpl** 'Sparky' **McDonald** has made a good first impression on the FofS (the brown wire in a plug is the live one, not neutral, good going Mac).

LCpl 'Kipps' **Fisher** has amended the helicopter boarding rules; now one runs to the door, slips, falls, drops bergan and lands on backside, nice bruise!

The Troop says a sad farewell to **Sgt Joe McGinness**, **Cpl** 'Fatty Arbuckle' **Cook**, **LCpl Jason Harris** and **Sig Ross Mollon**, all of whom are off to pastures new

To keep up the numbers of our happy throng we welcome **Sgt Mark Sherwood**, **LCpls Matt Eades** and **Denzil Searle**.

Congratulations to **Sgt** 'Billy not so' **Smart** on passing his riggers course, **Sgt Brett Palmer** on completing his leadership course, **Cpl Jeff Hopkinson** on getting married to **Sherry**, **Cpl** 'Jacko' **Jackson** on his recent promotion to **Cpl** and finally to **Sig** 'Stu' **Street** on passing his APTI course much to the delight of **SSgt Dave Buckingham** (we can go running everyday now!).

QM'S DEPARTMENT

New Army: New ideas: New *Wire* Notes from the QM.

Dust flying across the helipad, numerous bare patches around the edge of the sports pitch, an absence of WOs and SNCOs on Wednesdays, who lives in a Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron like this? Those whose Comd is a keen golfer. (Actually we neglected to mention WOs on golf skills courses). Still, we are all 100% behind this band of dedicated individuals, who sacrifice their working hours for the greater good of the Squadron. What other activities have punctuated the busy months of August/September? Political correctness! balmy evenings spent socialising in the Sqn off duty recuperation facility (Squadron bar). Group interpersonal relationship therapy (Guard Duty). It is in the light of present thinking, that we congratulate **Mellisa Casey** on winning the bonny baby competition (she is an integral part of our extended family). It is surprising that her proud dad (**Sgt Dave Casey**) has never mentioned it! Sadly, some of our wandering herd have departed for pastures new, namely, **Sgt Eddie Gajny**, who has joined 5 Airborne for a three year sabbatical and **Cpl Dan Steele** who is joining 249 AMF(L) Sqn, which we have on reliable authority stands for, Arsenal Main Fanclub (Leeds Branch). An unusual choice for a Yorkshireman!

COMMS TROOP

Despite the cease fire our operational role continues to make demands on troop resources. However we are glad to be able to release **Sig Kirky Kirkbride** to join the Army boxing team and **Sgt Fran Graham** to represent the Corps at Hockey . . . in CYPRUS! (at great personal sacrifice, or so she claims!). We also congratulate **Sgt Andy Corder** on his promotion and successful selection for the YofS Course.

We bid a fond farewell to **Sgt Andy Corder** and his wife **Sam**, **Cpl** 'Geordie' **Green**, **Sigs Claire Allsop** and **Jimmy Marshall**.

Our dwindling ranks have been bolstered with **Sigs Danny Scull**, **Lee Thompson**, **Dave Parker**, **Jim Smith**, **Graham Rothwell** and **Karen French**, welcome

THE MERCURY CUP MARCH AND SHOOT COMPETITION

With very little time for preparation **Lt Steve Goodwin** selected a competitive team from the unit. On the day, the combination proved itself with each member able to draw upon his strength in his particular field of expertise in order to maintain continuity as a team. **Cpl** 'Geordie' **Green** was 'Top Gun' with his performance with the rifle. **LCpl Scott Harriman** encouraged the team during the march and shoot whilst **LCpl** 'Tomo' **Thomas** and **LCpl Dave Nevison**'s performance with the pistol and rifle were vital to the teams success. **Lt Steve Goodwin** performed a minor miracle with the shotgun (no one was more surprised than him!).

The team performed well in all matches, winning the APWT and the Judgemental Snap Shoot to ensure overall victory with the receipt of the Royal Signals Mercury Cup Rifle Competition Shield.

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218)
BFPO 807

Sqn Comd **Maj S. D. Hodges**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) D. S. Toon**

The summer vacation times have passed and the Squadron has once again settled into its routine. The Officers and SNCOs thrashed the Junior ranks in a hard fought but enjoyable rugby match, earning of course a most deserved victory. The summer sports competition is well under way, although it is now October, with cricket, volleyball and go-karting completed, and orienteering and swimming soon to follow. The Squadron's A team has seen two major changes with the new Comms Tp Comd **SSgt Pete Griffiths** and MTWO, **WO2 Steve** 'Geordie' **Simpson** who are most welcome to the Squadron. The Squadron continues to support the peace process with major changes in our Brigade TAOR but still fail to make headlines, obviously 39 Bde just have a better PR department. So to news from the Troops.

SHQ TROOP

Tp Comd **SSgt S. L. Standaloft**

Starting this edition with the goodbyes and thank yous. A fond farewell to **LCpl Bob** 'Wonkey Wheel 2' **Wetherall** and his wife **Angie** who leave us to join 25 Engr Regt in Antrim. The Squadron extends a big thank you to **Angie** for her involvement in the Squadron Wives Club and she can rest assured that she will be greatly missed by all the wives within both the Squadron and Brigade. Farewell to **LCpl** 'Chappy' **Chapman** who leaves us to go all the way to NIEW, another one able to stay in the Province! What will the Squadron do for a DJ now? Finally goodbye as well, but not farewell, to **Sgt Andy Robb** who travels the vast distance of 50m to join the Brigade Headquarters,

To commiserate, or perhaps celebrate, all those leaving the Troop, it was decided to hold a farewell disco and barbecue, on a cold but dry night at a pub not too far from the married quarters at Ballykelly. Although it was decided that the disco should be held in the open air, the organiser forgot to mention to everyone attending that a coat or jumper might be required. It all turned to the Troop's advantage because it brought everyone a little bit closer in more ways than one. It was good to see the whole Troop huddled around the barbecue attempting to maintain their body heat by hugging each other. A special mention must go to the Chief Clerk **SSgt Stan Standaloft** for his Joan of Arc impression with lighter fuel, well done Chief. Thank God no one had a light!

Finally, congratulations to our Admin Officer **Capt Percy Broad** on the presentation of his Accumulated Campaign Service Medal, with six bars! The presentation took place in the AO's office with the medal being proudly handed over by a newly promoted **LCpl** 'Mal' **Malone**.

At the moment the Troop is doing quite well in the summer sports competition after winning the cricket competition thanks to some good batting by **Sgt Andy Dutton** and **Cpl Carl Magin** and also some stern bowling by Sqn 2IC **Capt Andy Parsons**.

TM TROOP

Tp Comd **SSgt K. J. Simmons**

A few Troop hellos and goodbyes; Farewells to **Cpls Steve** 'DM' **Davies-Morris, Barry** 'Baz' **Kightley** and **Sig George Hignett**, may you all remember your time with TM Tp and the Squadron with nothing but fondness; and keep spreading the lies about how good we are! Hellos to **Cpl Alistair** 'Josie' **Wales** and his wife **Alison** and son **Cameron, LCpls Peter Richards** and **Stewart Crossman**. Let's hope that your stay here in Londonderry is both uneventful and enjoyable.

A RECENT ARRIVAL
by LCpl Stewart Crossman

I recently arrived in Londonderry to join TM Tp, also called the Arnold Swarzenegger one day club, a specialised group of individuals dedicated to the improvement of their bodies. Having seen my new colleagues at play I think I have decades of work to do before I look anything like either them or 'Arny'. As I am on this temporary enforced fitness drive I thought I may as well join the cross country team and having decided to give it a go, travelled down to Ballykinler to compete in the first race of the year. The Squadron team consisted mainly of athletes from TM Tp, with only one exception. The team went, it saw and I nearly died. **LCpl Ian** 'Random' **Bibby** did particularly well coming 49th out of 196 participants. **Sig John Morley** came 95th, **SSgt Kev** 'Terminator' **Simmons** came 100th and I came after. Hopefully the team will improve with more race experience.

During this time of the ceasefire there is an excellent opportunity to get various courses under your belt. I and some other members of the Troop have recently completed the team medic course at Ballymena and finding this course to be enjoyable, interesting and beneficial, have now learnt how to put people out of their misery by administering first aid. The Troop has also recently been busy preparing for the annual COUGAR inspections. This now finished, things are returning to normal. This may actually only be the quiet before the storm, as a Brigade level exercise is due to be staged towards the end of October. The Troop will be very active during this period leading up to the exercise setting up complete new nets and maintaining them throughout the exercise. So don't believe that Northern Ireland is a quiet posting now that a ceasefire has descended.

COMMS TROOP

Tp Comd **SSgt P. G. Griffiths**

First of all the Comms Trials team would like to say cheerio to **LCpl** 'Caz' **Carrington** who has gone back into the Commcen, to relearn his trade supposedly. **LCpl Rachel Bingham** who has also returned to the Commcen probably because the Commcen has got two phones, and congratulations to her on her recent engagement to **Dave**. On a hellos front we would like to welcome to the team **LCpl Mick Law**, that switched on cookie from Syscon, and **LCpl Ritchie** 'I've got to get out of the Commcen' **Ayling**.

In the Comms Trial team, aside from working really hard and getting all our courses and leave done, we are currently trying to work out the new computer which is to be the brain of the team. The team has also been participating in the summer (or should it be winter) sports competition. Due to the team's prowess in go-kart driving, or should that be demolition derby driving, we made up the lion's share of the Comms Tp team with the help of the new Tp SSgt **SSgt Pete Griffiths**, who we'd also like to welcome to the Troop. Due to mechanical failures and amazingly fast 'Benetton-pit-crew-like' wheel changes we came a fantastic fourth place. Not so fantastic as there were only five teams, but of course we did not have an officer in charge of our team who could change the rules as he went along! Finally we would like to say a sad farewell to our intrepid leader **SSgt James** 'T' **Crabb** Captain of the starship Comms Tp. Good luck in your new posting at 249 Sig Sqn.

Syscon bids a fond farewell to **Sig Ann Willding** and a raucous welcome to her replacement **Sig Tammy McIlwaine**. Over the past few weeks some members of Syscon attended a parachute jump day at Ballykelly. After a day of training they ended up waiting for the weather to clear before making the jumps. Let it be said now that there is no truth to the rumour that **Cpl** 'Taff' **Thomas** sent his wife **Nicola** to jump instead of himself, she wanted to do it herself! **Nicola** then proceeded to amaze all with her attempt to land inside the hangar, instead of on the vast amount of grass nearby. Unfortunately due to darkness setting in **Sig Andy** 'I'm grounded' **Garner** did not manage to jump but will do so at a later date.

Finally a few words from the Commcen. A warm welcome to **Sigs Kev Hellyer** and **Daz Morley** newly arrived to the Squadron and the Commcen. Congratulations to **LCpl Ritchie Ayling** who, having successfully passed his RSCC, has escaped into Comms Trials the Commcen escape committee is obviously working. Two unfortunates who have been returned to the Commcen are **LCpl Rachel Bingham** and **Cpl Sheena Motson**, but welcome back anyway. Our best wishes go to **LCpl Sarah Hall** who is currently taking her upgrading course.

MT TROOP

Tp Comd **WO2 (MTWO) S. Simpson**

Life in the MT has been as busy as ever over the past few months with most of the drivers in the Troop taking full advantage of the hosepipe ban during the summer and leaving their cars in a dreadful condition. Additionally **Pte** 'Stevie' **Wonder** took full advantage of the sunshine and took more than a little convincing that sunglasses, shorts and flipflops was not acceptable dress for driving the OC.

Congratulations to all Squadron members who have passed their LGV C & E tests so far. Thanks to the master driver at HQNI for eventually blessing us with a contract. Some Cat D contracts wouldn't go amiss. Commiserations to **Cpl Paul Stokes** who captained the Junior ranks versus the Officers and Senior ranks in the annual rugby (grudge) match and managed to break a finger whilst scoring. Better luck next time. A sad farewell to **Sgt Craig Blake** and his wife **Heather** who are off to 3 Cdo Bde, all the best, you will be sorely missed. Goodbye also to **LCpl Rob Harris** who is off to 8 Regt RLC and **Ptes Duncan Bain** and **Andy Armstrong** who are both off to civvy street. Their replacements and new arrivals to the Troop are **WO2 (MTWO)** 'Geordie' **Simpson, Sgt John O'Hanlon, LCpl Jerry Williams** and **Pte Billy Thompson**. We hope you enjoy your tour with 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and come to love Ebrington Open Prison as much as we do.

Finally congratulations to **LCpl** 'Avo' **Atherton** on his marriage to **Maxine, LCpl Rob Harris** on his marriage to **Nicola** and **LCpl** 'H' **Hallam** on his marriage to **Sharron**. Congratulations also to **LCpl Billy Pollock** on selection for promotion to Corporal.

QM TROOP

Tp Comd **WO2 (RQMS) J. Black**

It has been a very busy time in the Troop with PRE examinations, normal work and adventurous training. Since most of you know how uninteresting a PRE is I will let you know how it all went in Scotland.

Ex Highland Finn was a walk along the West Highland Way in Scotland, taking in all the best that this northern region has to offer; scenery, lochs and loads of pubs! Our commiserations must go to **LCpl Ken Harris** who having spent months organising the exercise had to drop out due to his wife **Wendy** giving birth. Congratulations to you both on the birth of your baby daughter **Tilly-May**.

The exercise was conducted over a two week period which allowed the majority of the Troop to get away. Unfortunately it was not possible for everyone to go and a couple of outsiders willingly volunteered to come on this arduous trek! The exercise was in two phases, each phase allowing six walkers to complete the same route . In the first phase **Sgt Steve White** RLC led a motley crew of **LCpls Joe McCormack**, 'Dinger' **Bell** and 'Spud' **Tait**, and **Sigs Tony Hughes** and **Andy Garner**. During the second phase **CSgt** 'Ned' **Kelly** led astray **Cpls Dougie Coid, Steve Cooney** and **Gary Mathieson** and **LCpls Andy Dennis** and **Russ Heynes**. In both phases the walk started in Balmaha and followed the West Highland Way for five days and nights finishing in Fort William.

During the course of the walk **Sgt Steve White** soon found out that his new mobile phone would not work without reading the instructions first and besides mobile phones and deep valleys don't tend to mix well. **LCpl** 'Spud' **Tait** also soon realised that the only way to get lost when on a well sign-posted tourist route was to use his map and compass. **Sig Tony Hughes** often volunteered to drive the minibus because he was suffering from a new medical condition called 'Drooping Arches'–funnily enough he still managed to set up the campsite and walk fast enough to get to the local pub at the end of each day. **Cpl Steve Cooney** (ex Cdo Bde) tried lecturing on the rigours of outdoor life but still made the lads wait for two hours before getting their first meal whilst **Steve** showed them how to use a peak one stove. **LCpl Andy Dennis** needed to be taught that the West Highland Way was to be walked upon and was not a non stop run. The freak heat wave soon slowed him down. Lastly **CSgt** 'Ned' **Kelly** showed off his very much hidden talent of being able to sing everyone to sleep. The hardest thing about the walk, everyone agreed, was that they had to pass so many good looking pubs but could only stop in one.

The quote of the week was overheard on the return to Londonderry.

'Would you do the same next year?'

'No!'

'Why not?'

'Well because it could never be as good as this years. Nothing is ever good a second time around.'

Finally a quick mention of **Sgt Steve Lynch** who would have loved a week in Scotland walking but unfortunately ended up on a UNICOM System Administrators course for his sins. His is now programmed to say 'Don't ask me I'm Royal Signals and I don't know why I was on an AGC course in the first place'.

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (213)
BFPO 801

OC — **Maj R. A. Sharp**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) P. J. McElwee**

OPS TEAM

It has been a particularly busy period for the Squadron with the July and August marches. The ceasefire continues, but we are just as busy!

The saga of the new ops office continues. After waiting six months it has finally been measured up for its refurbishment. The Yeoman decided to celebrate this special occasion in his own way. **Yeoman Bob** 'Tom Hanks' **Jonas** took part in a sponsored scalp whilst on leave and now resembles a character from Philadelphia. **Foreman Bob** 'Fore' **Pullan** still finds time to play the odd game of golf (apparently his swing is particularly odd!). **Capt Geoff Pullen** yet again keeps the office running whilst supporting POT 16.

COMMS TROOP

Comms Tp has continued with its 'work hard and play even harder' mentality since the last edition of the magazine.

Early in the period, the Troop deployed to the urban training facility of the Ballykinler Training Camp. The aim of the day was to refresh individuals in various drills to be adopted whilst deployed on operations. It refreshed individuals teaching **LCpl Matthew** 'Le Tissier' **Booth** that stairs are a distinct advantage when attempting to scale into the first floor, **Cpl Paul Keogh** that only Captain Scarlet is indestructible and **Pte Philip Jeffery Wood** that a banzai war path is not a proven military doctrine.

Other successes have included the Troop's victory at inter Squadron Cricket and Hockey and the announcement that **Cpl** and **Mrs Peter Asplen** have been awarded the Sun Newspaper's Married Couple of the Year award. It only furthers the argument that Comms Tp is the most beautiful Troop in the Corps!

TM TROOP

Nothing changes, we've been busy. The Troop congratulates **Sgt Paul Bruce** and **Michelle** on the birth of their daughter **Hailey**, welcomes **Sig Aaron Ship**'s wife **Julie** to the family and supports **Sig James Brown** exploits in the Army Under 21 Rugby Team.

We bid farewell to **Cpl Neil Russell** who leaves the Troop for 1 Civ Div and finally wish the Tp SSgt **Steve Hodgson** a speedy recovery with his broken foot. Is the RSM ever going to use him for duties?

MERCURY CUP SHOOTING COMPETITION 1995

This year's Mercury Cup shooting competition was held at Ballykinler on 13 September 1995. It involves all Royal Signals in the Province.

The Squadron entered a top class team specifically selected for their fitness, marksmanship skills and of course, availability!

The team comprised of **2Lt Caroline Woodbridge, SSgt Tim Comyns, Cpl** 'Dede' **Watts, LCpl** 'Benny' **Bennett, Sig Andy Beddow** and **Sgt Gaz Steel**.

The Squadron acquitted itself well by just losing out on the top spot in the March and Shoot competition, and having three firers in the top 10 shots (**SSgt Comyns, Cpl Watt, Sig Beddow**).

It just remains to be said if the personal weapon was a shotgun this team would have no problems!



Mercury Cup Shooting Team
R to L: 2Lt Caroline Woodbridge, Sig Andy Beddow, Sgt Gaz Steele, Cpl 'Dede' Watts, SSgt Tim Comyns, LCpl 'Benny' Bennett

INTER TROOP RUGBY SEVENS

The pre season Inter Troop Rugby seven-a-side competition was held on 20 September 1995. This was with the view to recruiting possible players for the forthcoming season.

There were good performances from **LCpl** 'Johno' **Johnson** from Support Tp, and **Cpl** 'Mat' **Pryme** Comms Tp, both non players.

It came down to sudden death with the winners of the last game winning the competition–TM versus Brigade. This was to be a good nail-biting end to the Rubgy 7s.

Brigade managed to boost their line up with the introduction of **Capt** 'H' **Graham**, who was to be instrumental in most of the Brigade moves. The game started with a quick try from Brigade. TM came back with an interception by **Cpl Paul Witchell**. The eventual winners were Brigade running through two tries to win 17–7.

INTER TROOP HOCKEY SEVENS

3 October 1995 was a significant day in the TM Tp calendar. It was the day of the Inter-Troop Hockey competition, played on a surprisingly warm day. There were four teams on the day–Comms Tp, Support Tp, TM Tp and Bde HQ. The majority of games were a close run but clean battle between the opposing teams. The team that shone above the rest was that of TM Tp winning all their games with a high scoring rate–(3–1, 5–0, 5–0).

There are a few good challenges left in this life ... This is one

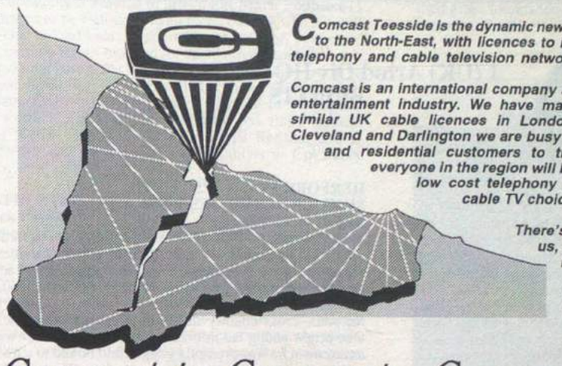
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NEWS FROM THE REGIMENTS

1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The Regiment celebrated the Corps 75th Anniversary at the start of September with a Pageant at the Jahn Stadium and Mess functions in all Messes. The Corps Band and the White Helmets, were the star attractions, with the Regiment contributing to the festivities by performing in a 'Royal Tournament' style gun race. Unfortunately since there were no guns large enough, scam masts had to be substituted! The heats were all closely contested with 201 Sig Sqn, led by **Lt Colin Horton** victorious over 208 Sig Sqn. The GOC and principal staff, the Burgermeister and key local dignitaries were in attendance. **Wolfgang Heinrich**, our well known local German artist has completed a water colour painting of the event.

VISIT OF THE MASTER OF SIGNALS–5 SEPTEMBER 1995

The Master of Signals and **Mrs Birtwistle** visited the Regiment on 5 September 1995. The Master was met by the 2IC Regiment and RSM whilst **Mrs Birtwistle** was whisked away to coffee with the wives of the Regiment. The Master visited RHQ, QM(T) and TM Tp, before moving down to the garages of 208 Sig Sqn, where he met the soldiers and seniors preparing for Ex Premier Link 3. He chatted to the soldiers about their careers and joked about how much the kit had changed since he had last worked with it. The Master then visited 211 Sig Sqn tank park, to see the armoured side of life, before meeting up with his wife in the Sergeants' Mess for a quick buffet lunch. Not a bad day's work for a quick stopover between Hohne and Rheindahlen!

INTER TROOP/SQUADRON CROSS COUNTRY 1995

After one cancellation, due to extremely hot weather, the Inter Squadron Cross Country Championships took place on Friday 25 August 1995 in Herford, on a cool and cloudy day. The course was set over 5.5 miles in the area of the Bismark. A total of 339 runners both men and women took part. The competition was run as both an inter Troop and inter Squadron event, with prizes also being awarded to individual runners. From the men, the first home was **LCpl Chico Towers** of 211 Sig Sqn in a time of 31.04. In second place was **SSgt Dean Richardson** of 212 Sig Sqn closely followed by **WO1 Morrissey** HQ Sqn who was also the first veteran in a time of 32.08. **Lt Mel Rayner** 208 Sig Sqn won the ladies race from **Capt Lisa Giles** 201 Sig Sqn.

Winners of the Inter Troop Competition were RHQ/TM Tp with LAD in second and Puma Tp 208 Sig Sqn in third. The Inter Squadron Competition was won by HQ Sqn. Thanks to **WO2 (QMSI) Roderick** and his team for the excellent organisation.



LCpl Chico Towers receives his prize from the CO

HERFORD STATION'S YOUTH SUMMER ACTIVITIES WEEK 1995
Report by 212 Sig Sqn

Once again the 10 to 16 year old children of Herford Station descended upon the Regiment for the summer youth activities programme. All Squadrons were approached to provide some sort of activities to keep the children entertained for a two week period. To that end, **SSgt Bentley** and his band of volunteers decided to take them to Minden North training area for some cross country driver training and other background activities. One bright young lad informed us all that his father was the RSM. To his amazement he was promptly gagged and bound to a tree where he enjoyed watching the others have a great day. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the RSM's wife as her son's packed lunch was delicious. In the evening, we organised a barbecue and disco in the Lord Carver Club to end a most enjoyable day.

EXERCISE PREMIER LINK
Report by Capt Lisa Giles

The Regiment deployed under a coating of cobwebs to the Hameln area for a two week Regimental exercise. Ex Premier Link was mainly designed to ensure that the Regiment was adequately prepared for the Divisional exercise which followed shortly afterwards. However, there was also the added excitement of an ORT team visit which focused everyone's minds not only on communications but additionally on NBC, first aid and defence.The visit of **Brig Schuler** also provided some light relief from a 'normal' exercise, if there is such a thing. Once the visit was complete, the exercise play took on a fast moving theme with bursts of activity from both the Headquarters and the Trunk Nodes. TN 061, led by their 'new boy', **2Lt Jason Hazlewood**, indulged in the exciting chaos of a relief in place and TN 041 managed to despatch their admin vehicle into a ditch, just metres away from their location. Both OSC crews bravely 'beaver'ed' on despite the absence of both Yeomen; one of whom was taken away for compassionate reasons, the other because of the birth of daughter No 2, **Abby**.

Congratulations, **YofS Rose** and **Dawn**!

REGIMENTAL DINGHY SAIL TRAINING WEEK 4-8 SEPTEMBER 1995
by OIC Dinghy Sailing Lt Driscoll

Preparations for the Regatta season got off to a somewhat wet and blustery start at the Dummer See Yacht Club, when 30 members of the Regiment invaded the lake under the edict of a RYA level 2 qualification course. Under the fearful eye of the instructors the students practised around a triangular course, however **Sgt Tony** 'Birdseye' **Lee** and **Cpl Jerry** 'Long John' **Marsden** disappeared into the distance to set some deep lake survival skills. **Sig** 'Daz' **Kirby** and our Australian exchange **Cpl Pete** 'Jibe Oh' **Ryan** decided to add realism to the man overboard drills by using the chef instead of a dummy.

The week culminated in the Inter Squadron Regatta which soon became known as the 'Dummer See Dinghy Disaster' or the 'Inter Squadron Synchronised Sinking Competition'. Initially the winds were Force 5, and the morning's first race went without incident. The second race was called off when **Capt (QM) Mick Pawlak** lost his mast, blaming an inexperienced crewman! It was the afternoon that proved to sort the men out from the boys, when the winds picked up to Force 6 gusting 7. Four wrecked boats and two broken masts later, 211 Sig Sqn emerged as the sodden winners.

DINGHY REGATTA RESULTS 1995

In the Royal Signals Major Unit Competition 13-14 September 1995, 7 Sig Regt pulled off a close fought victory to wrestle the cannon from us for the first time in some years.

Congratulations to them for good sailing, and watch out! However, **Sgt John Driver** retained the trophy for individual champion.

Slightly abashed and less complacent the team took part in the 1 (UK) Armed Div Championships and came first and second in nearly every race to retain the trophy in some style. Congratulations to **Sgt Driver, Cpl Anderton** and **Sig Shepherd** who were selected to represent the Army team.

REGIMENTAL OFFSHORE SAILING
by Capt Ian Gray

The Regiment has competed in almost all of the Offshore Sailing events which have taken place at Kiel this year. The first victory was in the Royal Signals Regatta. Two boats were entered, as the PRI is very rich, and whilst other crews repeatedly attempted to drown **Sgt Mark Pounsett** (1 ADSR), he still managed to be victorious in all races, bar one which is still heavily contested! Our second boat, skippered by the author, performed tremendously well, coming fourth (not bad for an all novice crew)!

The Regiment also took part in the Spleith Regatta, which proved to be a very close run event, albeit slightly too close between two skippers (*Teal* is now seriously damaged), but a final position fifth out of 10 original starters was well worth a mention. The Regiment has three soldiers onboard the Royal Signals Yacht in the Inter Corps Regatta, and at publication, the first leg had been won. Congratulations to **Cpl Jerry Sharpe**, the Skipper.

REGIMENTAL ATHLETICS
By Capt (QM) Mick Pawlak

On 26 July at the Army finals in Aldershot, the Regimental teams completed their most successful ever season. Having won the Zone competition and then winning the male and female sections of the British Army (Germany) Championships, we arrived in Aldershot ready to do battle with the top teams from UK. It proved to be an exciting, nail-biting affair, which was only decided on the last event for both of the teams. Whilst not at full strength, through injury and recent postings, the men's team was nevertheless very well represented and competed with great spirit throughout the day.

In contrast to previous seasons, it was the field event competitors who really kept the team in contention with performances which eventually won the trophy for best all round field results. However, the best individual effort of the day came from **LCpl Steve** 'Bandy the Hat' **Francis** who anchored the 4 x 100m relay team to victory. Receiving the baton in fifth place, 20 metres behind the leader, he ran down the best sprinters in the Army to win it on the line. Sadly a brave but tired 4 x 400m team could not get close enough to the eventual winners, 7 Para RHA, and we had to settle for a very creditable second place overall. The ladies team again put in a great all round effort picking up valuable points in every event to keep the pressure on the leading teams. **Lt Mel** 'Chubby' **Rayner**, the team captain found inspiration in both the 1500m and the 3000m. She attributes her fitness to her healthy lifestyle . . . cough, gasp! To finish only three points behind the eventual winners, Women's Service NI, was a great achievement and as the same team will be here for next season, who knows what will happen if they train! Finally, a farewell to **WO1** 'Chalky' **White** who for three years as the WO2 QMSI was the team guru and mentor. Although posted before the final event, he was responsible for laying the foundations which helped achieve the results; he will not be forgotten. So 'Chalky' from the team, just a few words . . . 'left, right, left . . . .'



The Regimental Athletics Team

QUICKSILVER

Finally the Regiment is taking over the Corps Yacht *Quicksilver* from the start of October. **LCpl Del Whyman** is in the process of taking over the boat from **LCpl** 'Windy' **Gale** who has skippered the yacht for the past two years. All bookings are via Kiel on Germany 0431 398833. The RSYC(G) Secretary and Yachtsmaster is **Capt Ian Grey** on Herford 3700, and the Yacht Manager is **Lt Roger Ayers** on Herford 3466.

From January 1996 **Capt Grey**'s contact number will be Glasgow Mil 5024.

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THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS ON PUBLIC DUTIES–SUMMER 1995
Account by Lt R. Webb

'They're changing guard at Buckingham Palace–Christopher Robin went down with Alice'.[1]

Should A. A. Milne's characters have visited London this summer they may have received quite a surprise. Traditionally one expects the black bearskins and red tunics of a Foot Guards battalion to be present on guard at St James' Palace, Buckingham Palace and the Tower of London. This summer they were joined by the khaki No 2 dress uniforms, dark blue No 1 dress caps, white belts and gloves of the Royal Signals.

Nine years have passed since the Corps last performed Public Duties. As part of the 75th anniversary celebrations we were to undertake those duties again. This time it was to be at the height of the summer tourist season and for an unprecedented 44 days.

It was decided that this task would best be performed by a composite squadron. Three complete detachments would be required to mount the guard on any single day. The tough day-on, day-off regime we would be working, the need for a pool of trained replacements and the requirement for at least a skeleton second guard in rehearsals led to the decision to have two complete guards. Thus Public Duties Squadron would be based around six detachments. Two detachments were provided by 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn. The Gurkhas, traditionally Light Division soldiers, drill at Light Division pace. It was decided they would have sole responsibility for the Tower of London. From the remaining detachments two complete picquets were formed to guard the two palaces. Picquet 1, the 'UK' picquet comprised detachments from 2 Sig Regt and 249 (AMF(L)) Sig Sqn. Picquet 2 , the 'Deutsche' picquet was drawn from 7 and 16 Sig Regts.

The Squadron, less its Gurkhas, assembled at 21 Sig Regt (AS) on 10 May. We found everything prepared for our arrival by the indomitable administration team led by **Capt Rab Young** and **SSgt Dalton**. We faced a simple challenge; to ensure our turnout, bearing, foot and arms drill were of a sufficient standard to mount guard in six and a half weeks time. The Senior NCOs immediately embarked upon a quick drill refresher course. With our instructors memories suitably refreshed, the Squadron commenced the carefully structured programme of instruction, practice, rehearsal and inspection devised by **WO1 (RSM) Mark Smithurst**. With the Tp Comds determined to assist the tailor by setting up a rigorous PT programme this proved a busy time for the Squadron. A series of familiarisation visits were made to London. For some this included a first meeting with the formidable figure of **GSM Mason**, who is responsible for all ceremonial duties in London District. We were extremely grateful to him for the invaluable assistance he provided at a very busy time as he finalised preparations for Trooping of the Colour. Certainly these visits brought home to us the great responsibility we were undertaking.

Five weeks into training all was proceeding well. Unfortunately, the same could not be said of operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In response to events there 2, 7 and 16 Sig Regts were all forced to recall their Detachments for a pre-Bosnia training package. Once it had been decided that these Regiments would not be deploying immediately, their Detachments returned to the Squadron. At this stage only 11 days were left until our first mount and a lot of work was still required.

The move to our London base, Chelsea Barracks, was completed in a day. Preparations were then finalised for the Inter-Detachment Drill competition. A feature of our training had been the intense rivalry between Detachments which had greatly benefited standards and enthusiasm. At last this rivalry was to be settled. Independent judging was provided by two members of the Scots Guards. **CSgt Vince Inglis** and **Sgt** 'Cammy' **Campbell** were to officiate and add the finishing touches to our preparations. The detachment from 7 Sig Regt came first in the competition. Additionally the Squadron as a whole triumphed as our instructors announced that, with fine tuning, we would be good enough to assume our duties on 24 May.

Visits from **Maj Gen Boyle**, SOinC(A) and **Maj Gen** (Retd) **Birtwistle** the Master of Signals raised morale and made the whole Squadron realise the support throughout the Corps for our endeavours. Thanks to the efforts of **Capt Anita Newcourt** (AAC) and **WO2 David Murray** we had gained considerable media attention. CNN, ABC and SSVC all gave publicity to the Royal Signals. All that remained was to perform the duty. Following an early morning rehearsal, 1000hrs on 24 June found final, nervous preparations being made at Wellington Barracks. Picquet 1 were to mount The Queen's Guard for the first time. Inspections complete, with a three deep crowd around the railings outside the Barracks, and thousands more outside the Palace and on the Victoria Monument, the moment of truth arrived. At 1127hrs the order was given by the Captain of The Queen's Guard, **Maj David Proctor**, 'By the left, left incline, quick march.'

To the accompaniment of the Corps Band, the Detachments marched off to Buckingham Palace. Approximately 40 minutes later the changing of the guard had been completed without major incident and the Royal Signals were once more guarding Her Majesty The Queen. The other Picquets would have a nervous two day wait until they mounted their first duty. On 26 June they showed they had not been perturbed by the delay on performing an equally good mount.

Later on the same day the first Picquet of the Gurkhas took over from 1 Bn Scots Guards at the Tower of London, the moment when the Squadron fully assumed its Public Duties responsibility. This was the first time that a Queen's Gurkha Signals Unit had done such a duty. The 24 hour guard possibly lacked the pageantry of that at Buckingham Palace but nine hours ceremonial sentry duty and 15 hours tactical guard certainly required first rate uniforms and the same application from each and everyone on duty. The Tower provided an exceptional setting within which to work and the tour was made even better by the outstanding support provided by the Yeoman Warders, in particular mention must be made of the outgoing Yeoman Warder, **John Maher**, ex Royal Signals.

The Squadron worked hard throughout its time on Public Duties. It adjusted to fluctuating fortunes of the weather including a heat wave the like of which London had not seen for many years. It also mastered the different practices of each of the Guards Battalions, particularly the protocol of the officers. All members of the Squadron sought to give of their best and, in the eyes of many neutral observers, the Royal Signals drill was generally superior to that of our more esteemed Guards counterparts. The spirit and professionalism present were outstanding. This was exemplified in the uncomplaining way in which extra duties were accepted after operational commitments forced 2 Sig Regt to recall 10 men.



SSgt Adams, 2 Sig Regt, confirming the fact that a bearskin makes you look taller

Several notable honours were gained by the Squadron. The Royal Signals Band performed incidental music on the forecourt of Buckingham Palace, a privilege usually reserved for state bands, on Princess Royal Day, 28 June. On 4 August **Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother**'s birthday, the St James' Palace Detachment marched past Clarence House with 'eyes left' to the strains of 'Happy Birthday' from the Corps Band. The greatest honour of all came from Her Majesty The Queen, who commended the standard of turnout and drill of our soldiers to the OC, **Maj David Proctor**, during an audience in his capacity as Captain of The Queen's Guard.

The Public Duties Squadron disbanded on 8 August. It had existed for a mere 13 weeks. To have achieved such high standards of turnout and drill, to have gained such tremendous family spirit and morale in so short a time is a testament to the quality and commitment of all Squadron members. Special mention is due to the Admin team of drivers, orderlies and our 'Super Clerk' **Sig Chapman** who did not share the spotlight but without whose support nothing would have been possible.

The final word goes to **Lt Charlie Messervy-Whiting** 1 Bn Scots Guards on being told the Royal Signals were on Public Duties commented: 'Really? Cool!'. As we returned to our parent units we were pleased to feel we had justified his confidence in us!

[1]A. A. Milne–'When We Were Young'.

NOMINAL ROLL

Maj Proctor		Captain of The Queen's Guard
Capt Young		Adjt/Admin Offr
WO1 (RSM) Smithurst		RSM/Conducting WO
WO2 Murray		SSM/Conducting WO

PICQUET 1–'UK'

ST JAMES' PALACE		**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**
2 SIGNAL REGIMENT		**249 (AMF(L)) SIGNAL**
SQUADRON		
OIC	**Lt Heath**	**Lt Marsh**
Snr Sgt	**SSgt Adams**	**Sgt Saunders**
Jnr Sgt	**Sgt Dawson**	**Sgt Cook**
OR	**Cpl Delaney**	**Cpl Baynham**
	Cpl Roberts	**Cpl Green**
	LCpl Christianson	**LCpl Button**
	LCpl Lester	**LCpl Fullerton**
	LCpl Lynch	**LCpl Hughes**
	Sig Cooper	**LCpl Thomas**
	Sig Crutchley	**Sig Clubb**
	Sig Jenkinson	**Sig Craig**
	Sig Joburns	**Sig Hughes**
	Sig MacVicar	**Sig Lawrence**
	Sig McNally	**Sig Noble**
	Sig Miller	**Sig Palmer**
	Sig Pickard	**Sig Reed**
	Sig Smith	**Sig Stewart**
	Sig Walton	**Sig Tailford**
	Sig Yeardley	**Sig Thompson**
		Sig Thorley
		Sig Wilson

PICQUET 2–'DEUTSCHE'

ST JAMES' PALACE		**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**
16 SIGNAL REGIMENT		**7 SIGNAL REGIMENT**
OIC	**2Lt Griffiths**	**Lt Webb**
Snr Sgt	**SSgt Miller**	**SSgt Read**
Jnr Sgt	**Sgt Jarnell**	**Sgt Meseck**
OR	**Cpl Chamberlain**	**Cpl Burrows**
	Cpl Craddock	**LCpl Morris**
	Cpl Nicholson	**LCpl Slack**
	Cpl Palmer	**Sig Ackers**
	LCpl Hobson	**Sig Annetts**
	LCpl Nicholson	**Sig Antosch**
	LCpl Overal	**Sig Attridge**
	Sig Applegarth	**Sig Berwick**
	Sig Billings	**Sig Boyle**
	Sig Cardwell	**Sig Brown**
	Sig Davies	**Sig Grix**
	Sig Hovey	**Sig Hennebelle**
	Sig New	**Sig Livingstone**
	Sig Pettinger	**Sig McKenna**
	Sig Taylor	**Sig Moye**
	Sig Vallance	**Sig Scott**
	Sig Waterworth	**Sig Tyrrell**
	Sig Wells	

ADMIN STAFF

SQMS	**SSgt Walton**
Clk	**Sig Chapman**
Dvrs	**LCpl Chinery, LCpl Cresswell**



A moment of intense concentration

ORDERLIES
Sigs Boney, Mcguiness, McLeish, Rae and Slaughter

TOWER OF LONDON GUARD

PIQUET 1	**PIQUET 2**
Lt Stokoe	**Capt Mansing Gurung**
Sgt Tilbahadur Saru	**Sgt Rituman Limbu**
Sgt Gyanbahadur Tamang	**Cpl Narbahadur Gurung**
Cpl Premparsad Limbu	**Cpl Kabiraj Gurung**
Cpl Gangaram Subba	**Cpl Gangaram Gurung**
LCpl Debbahadur Rai	**LCpl Amritbahadur Rai**
LCpl Ganeshbahadur Gurung	**LCpl Birendraparsad Rai**
Sig Dhirbahadur Khokaja	**Sig Birprasad Magar**
Sig Binod Gurung	**Sig Haribahadur Ghale**
Sig Tilbahadur Gurung	**Sig Bholajang Gurung**
Sig Devkumar Megi Ghotane	**Sig Amar Gurung**
Sig Pratiman Rai	**Sir Dhiraj Dewan**
Sig Mohanbahadur Gurung	**Sig Rajkumar Gurung**
Sig Amritbahadur Limbu	**Sig Baratkumar Rai**
Sig Kirkankumar Gurung	**Sig Tirthabahadur Rai**
Sig Danbir Limbu	**Sig Kumar Limbu**
Sig Dilip Kumar Rai	

CHEF
Sig Bhupendra Shrestha

PRIZE WINNERS
BEST CONTRIBUTION TO THEIR PICQUETS:

2 Sig Regt	**LCpl Lester**
249 Sqn	**Sig Noble**
16 Sig Regt	**Sig Vallance**
7 Sig Regt	**Sig Annetts**
30 Sig Regt	Picquet 1: **Sig Devkumar Megi Ghotane**
	Picquet 2: **Sig Haribahadur Ghale**

BEST OVERALL CONTRIBUTION:

Sqn Clk	**Sig Chapman** 7 Sig Regt
Chef	**Sig Bhupendra Shrestha**

3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Bulford Camp

HQ (THE SOMME) SQUADRON
EXERCISE NORTHERN TRIANGLE

Capt Drain	**Sgt May**
Sgt Bremner	**LCpl Eldridge**
Sgt Dillet	**Sig Manby**
Sig McGinty	

The start date of the exercise was 18 June 1995. The pre-exercise training and selection had started some months earlier, the team had to be whittled down to a 12 man crack unit. The training went well but was obviously too physical as on the start date there were seven who reached the required standard; which was to be able to take a week out and have £20 in cash.

Sgt George Bremner was Mr Admin for the week and set out for a forward recce of the first location. The main party left by luxury coach some time later. It was only when on the coach that the real purpose of the coming week was divulged. Disguised as hill walkers crossing the Pennine Way we were to gather as much information from the locals as possible in order to effect an invasion plan to secure the brewery locations in the area.

Arrival at the first camp caused some concern as the recce party had not arrived. Not to be put off, the main party pitched tents. Finally the recce party did arrive and **Sgt George Bremner** knocked up a meal for the hungry hordes. It was then time to infiltrate the local population and keep eyes and ears open. After a very brief stroll through the metropolis it was noted that there were two main meeting points where our purpose would be best served and sure enough, best was served at both places. In order to authenticate the disguise most of the talk was about the Pennine Way and it was decided that to give added credence to our cover we would actually walk along the Pennine Way. **LCpl Phil Eldridge** was responsible for the first leg and immediately found out the bus timings–just as a contingency plan–he assured. After a successful first night it was back to the tents and heads down, unfortunately **LCpl Phil Eldridge** and **Sig Mark Manby** had a force field at the entrance to their tent cunningly disguised as a fly sheet and it took some time for the field to drop.

The next morning all were up early, breakfasted and ready to go by 0800hrs just as the rest of the campsite was getting up; obviously this would have to change. The team set off for the day–a short introductory walk was planned. While approaching a wall with a small crossing gap **Sgt Bob Dillet** was heard to say 'you will never fit through there you fat (reader's choice)'; immediately the larger members of the team, **Eldridge** and **Manby**, hissed and cuffed at this remark which **Sgt Bob Dillet** still insists was aimed at the herd of cows in front.

On arrival at the next campsite it was decided that only a small number of the team should go for a recce and **LCpl Phil Eldridge, Sigs Mark Manby** and 'Mac' **McGinty** were told to lay low and impressed us all by the way they stayed in the prone position for the next five hours.

The weather up until now had not been kind, very damp and misty and as the locals did not go hill walking in this weather it was decided that if the weather persisted, the next day's walk would be cancelled and bowling and swimming would be the order of the day. Next morning sure enough the mist and rain was still there and true to his word **Capt Wally Drain** said 'time to go walking'. The day turned out to be long and wet but with a great view if you like mist.

Once camp was set for the night it was again time to get down to the real hard work and continue gathering the information that was so very vital. To this end **Capt Wally Drain** and **Sgt Bob Dillet** had three pints in five minutes claiming that two of them were bad and had to be returned . . . really! On return to the night's location **Sgts Bob Dillet** and **Shaun May**'s tent had mysteriously moved but it was soon discovered that this must have been an outbreak of morale from the giggling tent of **Manby** and **Eldridge**.

The next morning one of the team **Sig** 'Mac' **McGinty** had to return to Bulford for the Lanyard Trophy Competition which left us short but **Capt Wally Drain** insisted reinforcements were on the way.

The day's walk started off well for the first 100m until **Sig Mark Manby** tried to take the team on a mystery tour. Fortunately the overseer **Sgt Bob Dillet** refused to follow and the right course was soon followed.

On arrival at the location the team was shocked and stunned when reinforcements were there in the shape of the Regt 2IC **Maj Dryburgh** and the Trg WO **WO2 Keith Fisher**. So as not to upset the routine of the now well drilled team, the reinforcements opted for the B&B rather than the luxury and comfort of our hospitality.

The penultimate day's walk was to be a short, slow bimble but the 2IC, even with a **WO2 Fisher** pack on, raced ahead and only an equally energetic **Capt Wally Drain** managed to maintain the pace while the rest of us strolled along at the rear.

After a hard day's walking it is always nice to have a decent meal and **Sgt George Bremner** surpassed himself with steaks, pork chops and salad flushed down with some red wine and finished off with gateaux which **Sgt Bob Dillet** forced himself to eat half of. Most people thought the meal was fine but **Capt Wally Drain** threw his on the floor and it was thought the 2IC was giving it a miss altogether until turning up at the end blaming **WO2 Fisher** and insisting that his watch was not 20 minutes slow after all.

The final day started with the reinforcements being called away on a special mission and once again the team was left alone. It was all uphill to the highest pub in England at Tan Hill, the arrival at which was scheduled for midday. A few liquid refreshments were taken and the information collected through the week was collated. A big pat on the back is in order and all were sure we had completed an excellent exercise and our cover was still intact. We were sure that when HQ had this information a successful mission to secure the breweries would be imminent. All that was left now was to unwind and rest our weary feet. **Sgt Shaun May** showed **Sig Mark Manby** how to play pool by the old rules and **LCpl Phil Pederick** was duty toilet director. As a few more of the local delicacies were taken, tongues started to loosen and talk of the week's activities was let out. It was noted that the local landlord had rumbled us and was on the phone, so the emergency transmitter was activated and within minutes the heli-minibus arrived and extracted the team. Unfortunately in all the haste to escape the briefcase with all the information in it was left behind. It looks like another team will have to be sent next year.

The team wishes to thank **Capt Wally Drain** for managing the finance, **WO1 (FofS) Lee Wookey** for planning the route and booking campsites and **Sgt George Bremner** for the excellent food throughout the week and finally **Sgt Bob Dillet** for guiding us along the way.

257 SIGNAL SQUADRON
EXERCISE AHOY THERE

Fifteen members of 257 Sig Sqn led by **SSgt** 'Doz' **Day** attended a sea survival/fire fighting course held by the Royal Navy at HMS *Phoenix* in Portsmouth over the period 22-23 June 1995.

The aim of the course was to train 257 Sig Sqn under arduous conditions to survive a period of time at sea, in a liferaft, and to put out simulated fires within the hull of a ship.

The first day was spent in one time survival noddy suits jumping in and out of freezing cold water in the Southsea Estuary and attempting to clamber in and out of a 25 man liferaft as if abandoning ship in high seas.

Day two was spent in the fire house, a metal unit simulating the inside of a Royal Navy Ship full of fire and smoke. Our task was to extinguish the raging fire in a controlled manner. Both days were enjoyed by all, apart from **LCpl Paul Coxon** who had to leave the fire house overcome by the acrid smoke and fumes.

The Royal Navy can keep the sea, we'll stick to the land.



SSgt Day and Sgt Downie prepped for the sea

206 SIGNAL SQUADRON
MONS TROOP

Once again MONS Independent Army (MIA) has been right in the thick of it–being the keen soldiers that we are! Since returning from Battle Camp our feet haven't touched the ground and to write about the last few months would fill *The Wire* alone. One event however that demanded a mention is our encounter with the 'Heli-Dunker'. This well loved piece of equipment belongs to the Royal Navy Underwater Training Unit. The enviable job of the Matelot Instructors is to teach you to escape from helicopters that have crashed in water.

Not surprisingly we were all a little apprehensive at the thought of being trapped for 20 seconds (doesn't sound long–until you try it!)–submerged in what can only be described as a giant tin can full of soup. For reasons I cannot explain, most Squaddies seem to escape rather rapidly–unless you were unlucky enough to be the last man.

In the case of **LCpl** 'Taff' **Ansell**, he liked it so much, we had to persuade him to come out by raising the Dunker. **SSgt Crozier** on the other hand, decided to try the scenic route. He thought he would explore the bottom of the pool before returning to join his Troop.

Recently, we have had three new willing volunteers to the Troop in the form of **Sigs Justine Graham, Martin Kennie** and 'Fish' **Wicks**. All arrived in time for Ex Red Tricorn 3. Happy days are here again.

On a final note, I would like to say congratulations to **Sig Matt Dorling** who tied the knot on 9 September from all of MONS Tp.

SHQ TROOP

Well SHQ Tp hasn't given any material to *The Wire* for some time now. Not because we are a bunch of illiterate ?@*? (although that could be said of a few of us) but because we have all been working our fingers to the bone, bringing 206 back up to scratch after bringing our vehicles out of Light Pres. After the aborted NI tour, those techs who were meant to go after the six months training were horrified to find they had to go back to menial first line inspections. On the good side though, it meant coffee breaks were back. It's difficult to understand how a perfectly working freezer can go into Light Pres and come out a complete shed looking like a grenade has gone off inside.

Our YofS and FofS, mountaineers extraordinaire, decided that we all needed a spot of fresh mountain air and from their trusted minds out popped 'The Three Peaks'. For cancer research we had to climb up and down Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon in 24 hours. 'It can't be done' I hear you say. Well it nearly wasn't, most of us only made it with half an hour to spare. We started at Ben Nevis, straight up straight down, into the mini bus off to Scafell Pike and so on till our legs fell off. We haven't collected all the money yet so we don't know exactly how much we've got, but if you discount the Pfennigs, Drachma, Cents and Pesetas that were put in our collection boxes, it's still quite a bit.

Our new Troop Staffy, **SSgt Crozier** has decided to show us his true colours by carefully attempting to reduce the number in his Troop by tactical drowning. His organised Troop outing to the 'Dunker' is described in Mons Tp notes.

Unfortunately we have to say goodbye to a few people. Rumour has it that TM Tp can't even plug in a kettle so **Cpl Avery** is going up there to show them some real brew making. Unfortunately that just leaves us with one radio tech to make the brews for the real techs, so we will be endeavouring to keep him. However **Rich** won't be going until after our three or four back to back exercises so he isn't geting away that easy. Also leaving are **Cpls George** and **Edwards**. Both have served their time in 3 Div and are off to fresh fields in Cyprus. Not that we are bitter about it or anything. We wish them the best of luck and hope their plane doesn't explode or anything. Congratulations also to **Cpl George** and his wife **Tanya** who has just given birth to boy/girl twins. Hope they like Cyprus.

CAMBRAI TROOP

After Summer leave the Troop soon got back into the swing of things. Vehicles returned from light care and preservation and required a great deal of maintenance with minimum manpower to make them battleworthy. Needless to say Cambrai Tp met this challenge with determination and industry if not enthusiasm. We now face an exercise season providing Ptarmigan access to 4 Airborne Bde and 3 Commando Bde.

The Regimental March and Shoot was enjoyed by almost all of the 10 strong team. The Troop came ninth out of 22 teams over the 11 miles course. **Lt Launders** was left slightly out of pocket after betting a bottle of champagne that Cambrai Tp would finish in front of the CO's team, 'Better luck next time!'.

The Regimental Open Day this year was a great success. A lot of work was put into moving equipment to and from camp to the site of the fete. The hard work was rewarded by public support. The coconut shy was a hit, so much so that the coconuts had run out by dinner time. Plans are under way to make it harder next year.

Congratulations to **Staff Mick McKenna** and good luck on posting and promotion to WO2 at 16 Sig Regt. 'Keep having those parades **Mick**!' Congratulations too to **Eddie Eddleston** who has reached the dizzy heights of Sergeant and **Scott Day** to Corporal.

Hello to **LCpl Stevie Lowton** who has just arrived from 257 Sig Sqn and inevitably goodbyes to: **Mark Vaughan** and **Paul Glowinkowski** (Ski) who have both made it to Civ Div.

INKERMAN TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt Glynn Buxton/Lt John Coleman** (They're not sure who yet)

First welcome to **Sigs Meek, Fox, Fly, Smith** and **Wayne Stewart**. All straight from the factory. Farewells to **Sig Richard Cocks** who is off to sunny Krefeld and 280 Sig Sqn, and the union rep **LCpl Georgie Moss** who has got to get a job as he has done every resettlement course there is, so he is qualified at everything, all the best in civvy street.

Inkerman Tp has now reformed after eight months apart with people going to 257 Sig Sqn on PGF and the rest forming a temporary Radio Tp, we are now going back to our role as a Light Wheeled Headquarters.

Upon reformation the Squadron deployed on Ex Rhino's Horn where the Squadron was to complete our ADT's and carry out a field exercise in the first week. The secondary aim of the exercise was to 'Gel' the Squadron back together, but most of the gelling seemed to happen on the second phase of the exercise where our mission seemed to be 'to liberate the town of Weymouth of its alcohol stocks'. This was carried out very enthusiastically and was nearly successful.

Whilst this was happening **Mr Buxton, Staff Balsdon** and **LCpl** 'AB' **Brown** were training for the Lanyard Trophy, where they came a close second place to 216 Sig Sqn, congratulations are in order.

As soon as we recovered and returned to Bulford **LCpl** 'AB' **Brown** was detached to 25 Airmobile Bde, to give them a personal hand in Bosnia. Good luck 'AB'.

LCpl Le Boutillier was selected to organise a sponsored starve for Cancer Research. This was held in the Troop garages where quizzes and board games were played. Also we managed to watch every Star Trek film ever made thanks to **LCpl** 'Gaz' **Wilsea**. Whilst doing all this the Troop managed to raise £595 approx for charity.

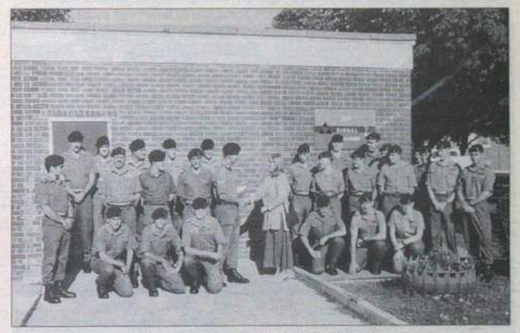
Ninety percent of the Troop are now on Ex Iron Wanderer, an Escape and Evasion exercise. From the reports coming back to us through the grapevine this seems to be a front for a crash weight loss course. More details next issue.

The VCT element of the Troop will soon be coming to a close which will be a great weight off **Cpl Batt**'s mind, but then what will there be for him to do next!

Congratulations to **Sig Karl Flannagan** on getting married to **Claire**. All the best in your life together.

We would like to congratulate the recent promotions in the Troop but alas there weren't any as per usual.

Now after 'Gelling' back together (Sergeant Major's words not mine) everyone is looking forward to a well earned Summer leave, that is if we don't get called back to deploy to Bosnia. If so one of the new boys will be writing the next set of *Wire* notes from his shell scrape.



Cancer Research fund raising

EXERCISE NATIVE TRAIL 1/95–BELIZE
A Report by SSgt M. J. McKenna

Ex Native Trail is a company level jungle training exercise carried out in Belize over a six week period. Belize offers a unique opportunity to carry out military training in a demanding environment without the restrictions normally imposed in the UK. 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt were allocated a slot from 1 April to 18 May and 202 Sig Sqn were nominated as the Squadron to run the exercise, with other members of the Regiment mainly from 206 and 222 Sig Sqn. The following personnel from 206 Sig Sqn took part:

Capt Colin Pettifer	OC Jungle Training School
SSgt Mick McKenna	Range Conducting Officer
Sgt 'Taff' **Davies**	Jungle Warfare Instructor
LCpl 'Gaz' **Wilsea**	Ops Room
LCpl Dave Pilgrim	2IC Section
Sig John Warden	MT

SECTION MEMBERS

Sig Stu Blevins	**Sig Scotty Craig**	**Sig** 'Muzz' **Murray**
Sig 'Jacko' **Jackson**	**Sig Emma Baines**	**Sig** 'Taff' **Morgan**
Sig Neil Steward	**Sig Tracy Loades**	**Sig** 'Fozzie' **Foster**

The exercise was divided into six elements and the platoons rotated around the following package:

Basic Jungle Training; Advanced Jungle Training; Live firing; Adventure Training; Final Jungle Exercise; and R & R.

Jungle training was carried out in the region of Guacomallo Bridge, a dense area of jungle about five hours by road from the base camp which was situated at Airport Camp in Belize City. The Regiment had sent a number of personnel on a Jungle Warfare Instructors Course in January which meant all instruction was carried out by personnel from the Regiment, with advice from the resident SAS instructor and **Winston** a local tracker/guide. Without doubt the time spent in the jungle was, in the

majority of cases, the most intense period of military training anyone had ever participated in. Many new skills were taught, too numerous to mention, it was an achievement in itself to live satisfactorily in the demanding conditions of oppressive heat, irritating insects and having to sleep in a hammock!

Some personnel spent nearly a month in the jungle where all drinking water had to be sterilised before use, all bathing was in the river and food was 24 hr rat packs for the duration. Not many people want to see Lancashire Hot Pot or Lamb Stew ever again.

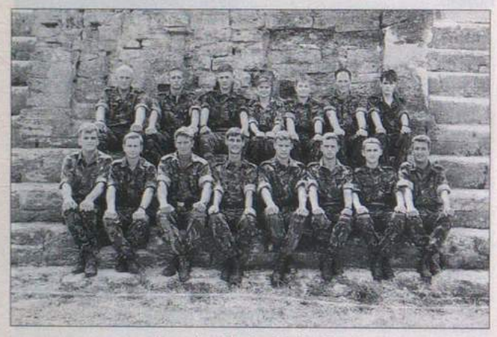
Live firing consisted of many different types of range such as an instinctive shoot and pairs break contact drills. Most people enjoyed these ranges as they had never experienced virtually unrestricted shooting practices. The GPMG night shoot with different coloured tracer up the river was memorable if only for the reason that half the night was spent extinguishing the subsequent jungle fire.

The final exercise was a culmination of all the things taught over the preceding weeks and consisted of a camp attack, a number of close target recces and amongst other activities a live Platoon ambush which was set at 1800hrs and not sprung till 13 hours later.

The adventure training was carried out on St Georges Caye, a small island off the coast of Belize which is a typical 'Bounty advert'. Many people achieved their novice diver in what are considered some of the best diving conditions in the world. Canoeing, snorkelling and windsurfing were also on offer and this element of the exercise was enjoyed by everyone who had the opportunity to take part in it.

After the final exercise everyone reassembled at Airport Camp for a Squadron barbecue before embarking on an R & R package. Cancun in Mexico proved very popular and San Pedro off the coast of Belize were the main venues for R & R and many stories will be told for months to come.

Overall the whole exercise was superbly organised, well executed and a rewarding experience for all involved.



Exercise Native Trail 1/95
Rear (from L to R): Sigs Warden, Blevins, Craig, Baines, Loades, Murray and Morgan
Front (from L to R): LCpl Pilgrim, Sgt Davies, Capt Pettifer, SSgt McKenna, Sigs Foster, Jackson, Steward and LCpl Wilsea

206 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Ian Westerman**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Terry Crane**

'No long list of helloes and goodbyes' came the instructions from RHQ. 'Use some imagination and produce something original rather than "What I Did On My Holidays"' it said on the memo–it probably had some obscure and unrelated quote associated with it as well since it came from the 2IC of the Regiment, but to be honest I can't remember. Well it has not been the most inspiring period for writing up events, so instead we will try a theme approach. The theme for 206 Sig Sqn's *Wire* notes this time will be SHQ–who are they, where are they and what do they do for a living? Well, at least we will try the first two, the last one might be difficult and could even prove embarrassing!

But first we must take time to say goodbye to one of the major characters in the Squadron who is leaving after more than three years–sorry 2IC but this one has to be said. **WO2 (SSM) Trevor Keates** is finally packing his kit and moving across the water to Germany. The whole Squadron wish him well in his new post as RSM of 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. He has promised that when he gets there his rugby playing days will be over–still since he has made more come-backs than Frank Sinatra we will believe it when it happens.

So to the meat of the matter–SHQ. As well as coming to terms with the arrival of a new SSM, **WO2 Terry Crane**, whose body seems worryingly similar in shape to a pocket-sized Charles Atlas, the Squadron are also still trying to work out what makes the Sqn Comd tick. Some suggest that he is actually sane, and that his eccentric approach is just a self-protection measure to survive a tour in Bulford. Others, less charitable, seem convinced that he actually is certifiable, and that everyone so far in his career has been too polite to do anything about it. Only time will tell which view is right. The 2IC **Capt Ian Blower** could be just the man to sort him out. He is frequently to be seen striding about the countryside dressed in leather, and is a well-known disciplinarian–except when it comes to large black labradors.

In the Ops Cell the story is not much different. The YofS **SSgt Dick Rutherford** is preoccupied with fitting obscene lyrics to well known tunes, and spends most of his time on exercise in bed contemplating new ones. The FofS, **Dave Ball** is an equally sad case who has a deep-seated desire to be tied-up, abused and tortured and has even volunteered for courses on the subject. All in all the Ops team fit in well to the whole SHQ mentality.

There is one apparently normal member of the SHQ crew, the SQMS **SSgt Chris Kidd**. He has many hobbies and interests, the main one being fishing–that is to say sitting beside cold, miserable stretches of water in the early hours of the morning dangling a drowned worm on the end of a piece of string. On reflection perhaps he is just as daft as the rest. Finally mention must be made of our AGC clerk **LCpl Darren Savage**. It is fortunate indeed for the Squadron that **LCpl Savage** is there to ensure that things run smoothly. It is only because of him that these *Wire* notes will actually get out on time–mind you if you can't read them it most probably means that he typed them. This whole motley crew has recently moved out of their old accommodation which they shared with 202 Sig Sqn–who, you will not be surprised to know, are quite relieved to see them go–and into newly refurbished padded cells.

So farewell from 206 Sig Sqn–the motto that SHQ hope will be adopted for the Squadron in the future is 'We may be de-ranged but we are still de-best'.

202 SIGNAL SQUADRON
EXERCISE STUBAI CHALLENGE
AUSTRIA 1-16 SEPTEMBER 1995

The Stubai Region of Austria, just south of Innsbruck was the destination for 12 members of 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt led by **Sgt Dave Iverson**, 202 Sig Sqn.

The first day's hike saw us climb over 1400m to the Innsbrucker Hut (2369m) with the final 100m through snow. Unfortunately the next leg to the Bremer Hut was not to be, since a couple of days earlier the region had been hit with the worst weather, for that time of the year, for 30 years.

The following day we descended back to Neustifr where we camped overnight. With the weather improving we were driven to our next ascent by **Cpl Giffen**. The following seven days saw us pass through six huts, however facilities in some were quite basic, much to the annoyance of **Sig Burnham** and even **Cpl O'Dell** refused to have a shower.

The return journey saw us in Garmish for two days before we finally descended upon 'Cochern on the Mosel' for a night on the town and **Sig Lewis** attempted to master the art of chatting up the locals.

Overall–the 'Stubai rucksack route' turned out to be a great challenge; there was invigorating scenery, good company and plenty of local culture to be sampled.

EXERCISE ALPINE CONDOR I

Sunday 3 September 1800hrs–the guardroom at Picton Barracks saw the departure of the last three adventure training expeditions from Overloon Tp destination 'Kranzegg' in the heart of the Bavarian Alps, activity paragliding. First stop, Ramsgate driven by **WO2 (RQMS) Frank Evans** (now RSM 4 Bde). The ferry crossing of four and a half hours to Ostend allowed some to catch up with their sleep, ready for the journey ahead.

0530hrs Monday 4 September, we departed Ostend bound for South Germany. Ten hours later with mountain tops white with snow, countryside fresh with scattered farms somehow told us we were no longer in Bulford.

On arrival at the British Alpine Hanggliding and Paragliding Centre we were met by **Sgt Bob Hope** Royal Signals, a senior instructor at the lodge, given an admin brief and settled down for the night, a taste of the Bavarian beer, then sleep being the priority to end what seemed a never ending journey.

Up to the hills and jump off, no, not quite as easy as that. The first few days of the 10 day course were taken up with issue of equipment and running up and down a steep slope controlling the glider and dodging 'Cow and Pats' and the bottom, **Sig Andy Miller** sliding through them rather than around.

Great emphasis on controlling of the hands during the launch of the glider was persistently advised by the instructor. After about four days of training hindered by change of wind conditions, most of the 'Bulford Flyers' were getting to grips with the basics of paragliding, **Sig Karen Dempsey** laughing all the way to the bottom and **Sig** 'Ozzy' **Osgathorpe** bouncing his way down wrapped neatly in his wings.

Day six. At 500ft we were given a fine example by **Sig Andy Miller** on how to take off, hit a tree and crash into a heap without breaking any bones, well done **Andy**. Later that day at 750ft, **SSgt Geoff Hodgson** (now RQMS 15 Sig Regt), the expedition organiser, gave us all a 'Dare Devil' stuntman demonstration of how to tackle winds from both directions, avoid 6ft trees and land all in one flight, shaken but safe.

Due to deteriorating weather on the last two days of the course we were unable to fly from the mountain towering above us. However all 12 members from 202 Sqn and the remainder of the course passed the final written exam, thus attaining student pilot qualification.

Ending with a formal dinner and presentations courtesy of the lodge staff, the paragliding came to a finish, until next time. Those that choose to return for continuation flights will aim to achieve club pilot rating, with which the pilot may fly without the guidance of an instructor.



British Hang Gliding

THE KIWI HALF MARATHON–SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 1995

On Saturday 2 September 1995 the first ever Kiwi Half Marathon took place. Working on the germ of an idea from **WO2 Dennis Budd** on how to raise money for charities, **Capt Wally Drain** developed the concept by setting in place an annual event entitled the Kiwi Half Marathon.

It was agreed that the proceeds of such an event would go to help boost the flagging funds of SSAFA and also the Regimental charities which are: a. Save the Children; b. SSAFA; c. Wessex Children's Hospice; d. Royal Signals Museum Fund

After much planning and advertising the QMSI **WO2 Ian Young** produced a course so interesting that it couldn't fail. The following appointments were then set in place.

a. Race Organiser **Capt Wally Drain**
b. Race Secretary **WO2 Dennis Budd**
c. Course Supervisor **WO2 (QMSI) Ian Young**

The application forms were produced courtesy of **Sgt Campey** and **Cpl Walker** from the Divisional GEO Branch. Requests from runners soon came pouring in and on the day a total of 97 runners from all walks of life met at Carter Barracks for the off.

The eldest runner of the day was ex Corp **SSgt Aimable** who at 68 years young came in at a creditable 2hrs 27mins 29secs.

True to form the rain came down just before the start but undeterred **Mrs Sarah Jackson** the Chairperson of SSAFA Tidworth and Bulford Garrison, fired the start gun and the race began.

Feedback from the markers as the race progressed soon indicated that **Mr Keeny** from Aldershot and **Mr Anderson** of Salisbury were going to be the main contenders closely followed in third position by **SSgt Alan Balsdon** from 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt. After much jockeying for position the final positions were as follows:

a. **Mr Keeney** – 1hr 18mins 57secs
b. **Mr Anderson** – 1hr 20mins 41secs
c. **SSgt Balsdon** – 1hr 23mins 26secs

Our thanks go to our sponsors who gave their support in the following ways:

a. Cotswold the Outdoor People–suppliers of all trophies
b. Ammo & Co–financial donation
c. Amesbury Sport and Leisure–financial donation

It is hoped that once a new date is set for next year, a much greater response will be forthcoming.

EXERCISE IRON LADY 1995

The wives of soldiers belonging to 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt recently took part in Ex Iron Lady, a wives club military exercise, over the period 19/20 August 1995.

As the mist lifted on the Regimental Square a total of 34 would be warriors paraded with all their kit and equipment, enough to last them 24 hours. They were then met by **WO2 (Trg SSM) Keith Fisher** who had the unenviable task of sorting the girls into sections, after which it was noted that he continually twitched and gyrated golf balls in his palm for the remainder of the exercise.

Gratefully he handed the girls over to the Tarmac Technician himself **SSgt** 'Dusty' **Miller** and his sidekick **Cpl Gawthorpe**. The drill manual has now been completely rewritten! As the girls were marched away to start the 24 hour exercise, a sigh of relief spread over the two exhausted instructors. The remaining challenges awaiting our Troops were:

a. Assault course and command task
b. Living and cooking in the field
c. First Aid
d. Map reading
e. APC driver training
f. Navigation
g. Basha building
h. Command task

The APC driving organised by **Cpl Buckle** proved to be popular and produced the following new personalities 'Kamikaze' alias **Paula Earl**, and 'Lightning' **Emma Foxley**. **LCpl Hook** was voted Mr 'Lush' by the ladies as the sexiest APC driver. Our photo shows him with just a few of his admirers.

On the assault course **QMSI Young, Cpl Wood** and **LCpl Maybury** kept the ladies busy and maintained enthusiasm.

From there it was on to the rudiments of basha building and cooking in the field, shown to the ladies by **Cpl Hyde** and **Sig Baines**. Then on to map reading by **Sgt Dillett**, command task by **WO2 (SSM) Terry Crane** and navigation organised by **FofS Lee Wookey** and **SSgt McGowan**.

At last the battle weary ladies arrived at the exercise HQ to prepare their basha and a meal, where they were greeted by the OC Exercise **Capt Wally Drain** and **SSM Keith Fisher** who informed them that they were to have a barbecue in the field.

The ladies soon tucked into the delights prepared by **Cpl Lusty** and his crew, after the odd glass of wine, some excellent sketches performed by the sections, a good night's rest and an Army breakfast the CO **Lt Col Ian Foxley** presented certificates to all participants.



APC Driving

7 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

229 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj David Powell**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM)** 'Stan' **Stanford**

TRUNK NODE 011

Tp Comd — **Lt Martin Bever**

Following the summer leave period, the Troop deployed on its annual summer adventure training. **SSM Stanford, Cpl Des Holroyd** and 14 of the Troop headed south for Spain, to walk the heights of Pico's De Europe. The trip was a great success and the Troop would like to thank **Lt Bever** for making it possible.

After a good nine days hard walking, 'The Hardy Pioneers' returned to the notorious blue battle bus for the highlight of the adventure, the 30 hour trip back to Krefeld. The bus was equipped with extras such as a non functioning cassette player, door handles that fell off, an ignition barrel which could be started with a coin and a heater which couldn't be turned off. Long hours were spent playing 'Sweat In', a game involving the closing of all fresh air vents and windows then shoving smelly socks into the hot air outlet. Although many were game to try and tough it out, few survived!

TRUNK NODE 012

Tp Comd — **Capt Jodie White**

The Troop would like to welcome **Sig Mark Avery** and his wife **Annette**, as well as giving a long awaited welcome back to **LCpl Kieron Slack, LCpl Billy Morris** and **Sig Tony Annetts**, all of whom have just completed their tour of public duties at the palace. Congratulations to **LCpl Glenn Neighbour** on his marriage to **Sabine** and congratulations also to **Sig Ralley** on his marriage to **LCpl McSkeane**. Farewell to **Sig Mark Hazlehurst**, wife **Lisa** and baby **Jasmine** who are off to 3 (UK) Div HQ & Sig Regt at the end of the month. All the best.

Adventure training for the Troop took place at Garmisch, at the AFRC camp site. Activities included golf, trekking, mountain biking, wind surfing, canoeing and white water rafting. **Cfn Dowsett** received the only sports injury–a golf club to the head. **Sig Rob Jones** suffered multiple injuries during the exercise including a wasp sting on the area you wouldn't want to be stung on . . . ouch! He was also diagnosed with a septic knee which he incurred falling from a piggy back. The Troop's thoughts are now being directed at the forthcoming Autumn exercise season.

TECH WORKSHOPS

OC — **SSgt Patrick Hurge-Mogg**

A fond farewell to **Sgt Paul Gartside** and wife **Sandy** who have gone to RSSST and **LCpl Frank Henderson** on inter Squadron posting to 231. Welcome to **SSgt Hurge-Mogg** and wife **Judith, Sgt Pete Laird** and wife **Mandy** and finally, **LCpl Gordon**.

MT

OC — **Sgt Jim Rock**

Following the leave period, MT have started with a vengeance. **Sgt Rock** has been working the boys like a slave driver.

Congratulations go to **Sgt Rock** on his marriage to **Jackie** in St Lucia and also to **Cpl** 'Baz' **Ward** on his recent posting on promotion.

All the best wishes 'Baz' and **Dani**, 249 (AMFL) Sig Sqn awaits you.

Congratulations go to **Sigs Dave Carter** and **Christine Strain** on their engagement.

SAN TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt Lee O'Rourke**

Over the last month or so, the Troop has had time to relax and enjoy some well earned leave. Not for long! We are now back into exercise silly season. We would like to welcome **Sig Culver** and **Sgt Raynor** to the Troop. Nice time to arrive guys. We also bid a sad farewell to a couple of characters who are off to Civ Div, **Sigs Howard Clegg** and **Stevie Walker**. It is rumoured, in order to clear from the Regiment, 'Cleggy' had to hand his gold card back to the Eros centre. We also say goodbye to **Sgt Tim Maynor** who goes to Mike Tp. Finally, congratulations to **Cpl Tony Martin** and **Gail** on the birth of their first child.

231 SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Squadron has been busy over the last few months. Eighty of the Squadron attended summer camp at Haus Magnus in Wertach, Bavaria. We were promised endless sunshine and clear skies, but all we got was rain. Nevertheless most people braved the conditions to enjoy climbing, walking and canoeing. The camp's highlight was definitely the outing to Fussen's ice rink. All ranks demonstrated their inability to remain upright or stop. Now that the fun is over, the Squadron is once again preparing for the busy round of autumn exercises.

BRADBURY FAYRE

Major Access Node 097 was given the grand total of three days to get two stalls designed, built and sited for the Bradbury Fayre. We produced Tin Can Alley and Baseball. Prizes were kindly donated by local shops and businesses. On the big day we gathered at the Fayre to discover a storm in the night had all but wrecked our efforts, however, a quick make over and we were there. **Cpls Dave Greenstreet** and **Mick Poining** committed career suicide by suggesting the young officers dress as women and roam the Fayre collecting money. This, bless them they duly did, helping us to reach a grand total of DM 720:00. A big thanks to all members of the Troop for all the hard work you put in to make the day a success.

THE BRADBURY MINI

As part of the hugely successful Bradbury Fayre, a Mini Cooper 1300i was offered as first prize in the grand draw. MTO, **Lt Barry Spiers** sent men as far afield as Stuckenbrock safari park in the east and JHQ NAAFI in the west in a frenetic effort to sell enough tickets to cover the cost of the car and earn enough money for charity, which after all was what the whole thing was about! Plans set, soldiers briefed, towing trailer repaired, the boys of MT Tp set off to do the business. Just over three weeks of hard sell with a big push on the day of the Fayre and success . . . all the tickets gone, CO happy and charity benefited to the tune of DM 1,000.

The car was won by **Cpl Cheryl Cox** of 2 CS Regt RLC in Gutersloh who only bought two tickets, one for her and one for hubby, also a soldier serving with 2 CS Regt. They are off to Bosnia soon so the celebrations may have to wait until they get home.

The picture shows **Cheryl** with **Lt Col D. McDowall MBE, Major M. D. Fogg MBE, Lt B. Spiers, SSgt G. Pickford** and the said Mini.



It is worth mentioning discreetly here that when the extent of the task facing him dawned on the MTO, he confided to a close group of 'friends' that should he manage to recover the cost of the car in the time allocated, it was his intention to display a hitherto unseen part of his anatomy in the window of a well known high street retailer . . . we are waiting **Barry**!

Thanks to all who took part in the project, your effort will provide charitable help for someone.

THE REGIMENTAL SHOOTING TEAM

The Regimental shooting team started the season off at Haltern Ranges competing in the Rhine area SAAM and producing a successful result.

Sig Lello triumphantly won the Champion at Arms. **Sig** 'Mac' **Macpherson** the overall best young soldier, and the team won the prestigious section in defence fire team, match 31B, with flying colours.

The Regiment also participated in the new equivalent to the APWT, as the new pamphlet 1 (shoot to kill) was initiated for the first time at this event. This was without a doubt 'no problem' for the 7 Sig Regt team as they stormed onto the range with the fastest time for the two mile run prior to advancing towards the targets. The scores at the end of the day showed that the 7 Sigs team was victorious under the guidance of **Sgts Tom Lappin** and **Dave** (disciplinarian) **Copley**. The standards were set and maintained throughout the season as the team entered CORPSAAM at Ash Ranges in UK, approximately three weeks later.

The standards were high, however the team still set the following results:

Sgt Dave Copley – Highest score Match 2 (37/40)
Cfn Whannel – Best non Royal Signals Shot

The team came runners-up to 250 QGSS (Gurkhas) and had **Sgt Copley** qualify fourth in the Signals, second in the Corps. Congratulations to him and the other six members that qualified for the second stage.

Sgt Dave Copley went forward to Shoot in July for the Corps in the NRA Service Weapons Competition in which he set high standards, and was once again Best Royal Signals Shot.

This led straight onto the Queens Medal Competition which was held at Bisley Ranges, Pirbright on Wednesday 5 July 1995.

Sgt Copley has already set the standards within the Corps and Army as an Army 100 Shootist and proved to be once again simply the best. He achieved the following points:

Roupell Cup	34/40
Henry Whitehead Cup	35/40
The Graham Trophy (FIBUA)	149/200
The Queen Mary Match	124/150
Total	549/670

The Regiment wishes **Sgt Dave Copley** and other members of the Corps competing in the Methuen Cup on Wednesday 27 September 1995 the best of luck. Hopefully with **Sgt Copley**'s commitment to the sport he will once again be part of the winning team, matching his achievements in 1993.

Finally **Sgt Copley** represented the Regular Army at the NRA meeting in both the Long and Short range inter-service competitions. For the first time there were six members of the Royal Corps of Signals representing the Regular Army.



7 Sig Regt Shooting Team
L to R: Sigs Lello, Ayre, Cpls Olford, Compton, Sig McPherson, 2Lt Saul, Sgts Lappin, Copley, Sig Barber, LCpl Cope, Sig Cochrane, Cfn Whannel

ASCOT DAY

7 Sig Regt sponsored the Ascot Race meeting over the weekend of 9 and 10 September at the Krefeld Rennbahn. This continued the Regiment's strong association with the Krefeld Rennverein and provided an opportunity to host a number of local and military dignitaries, which included the **Mayor** and **Lady Mayoress of Leicester**.

The weekend's activities were split into two separate areas, a guest lunch and a commercial venture. The commercial venture involved the Regiment running a number of stalls, including Guinness, Pimms, Irish Coffee and Cream Teas. Bribing the PA man with a few pints of the black nectar enabled us to ensure our facilities were well advertised. A few Pimms also secured the services of a Caribbean steel band to liven up the traditional English atmosphere. The Guinness and Pimms stands proved to be particularly popular with both the locals, and members of the Regiment.

The Sunday included a race sponsored by the Regiment and a Retreat Ceremony played by the Corps Band. A military race was also run for fun with 'jockeys' from nearly all the units in 1 Sig Bde. 7 Sig Regt was represented by **2Lt Lisa Taylor** who, after a slow start, produced a blistering finish to end in third place. **Lisa** and mount then continued for a further half lap after the other horses had stopped! The race was won by **Capt Paul Gaffney** of 220 Sig Sqn, Laarbruch. His horse, incidentally, had earlier thrown him and rolled over on him at the starting tape.

The Retreat Ceremony gave the Corps Band a chance to impress the Krefelders, and ended an excellent day. The occasion was a success and strengthened the Regiment's links with the local community. Thanks go to **Maj Julian Turner** RA Sigs and all of 232 Sig Sqn for their hard work in organising the weekend.

45 YEARS OF BRITISH BROWNIES IN KREFELD

This summer saw the 45th anniversary of British Brownies in Krefeld. On 20 July 1950 **Mrs H. D. Street** registered the 1st Krefeld Pack with The Girl Guides Association for the fee of One Shilling! Brown Owl, **Mrs Street** and her girls were part of the then post war, North Rhein Westfalia Division of the British Zone c/o 323 BSE CM LO, BAOR 34. The pack flourished and continues to do so today. Since its formation, 1st Krefeld has seen a total of 38 Brown Owls, many hailing from long disappeared units such as **Mrs Stratton** married to the Senior Gunner of the Royal Artillery Rhine Flotilla. She was Brown Owl from April 1951 to March 1952. The 1995 1st Krefeld Brownies are proud of their history which began even before their parents were born and today's girls are led by 90's Brown Owl, **Mrs Julie Simcox** who took on the pack when 7 Sig Regt arrived in Krefeld. The Brownies have planted a young tree to mark their anniversary and we all hope that 1st Krefeld's future will be as successful as its past.



The picture shows SOinC(A) **Maj Gen Boyle** and **Mrs Mary Garman**, Programme and Training Advisor for BGIFC preparing to deliver the symbolic spadeful of soil to the tree watched by **Mrs Lesley Mitchem**, Divisional Commissioner; **Mrs Christine Richards; Mrs Julie Simcox**, Brown Owl; the Brownies and **Mrs Judith Yeardley**.



Tp Comd Lt Kyle Barker–and his policy adviser

CORPS RADIO TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Lisa Taylor**

A new name and a new Tp Comd.

The Troop has had a quiet few months during block leave, however those left behind managed to keep busy and nearly gave **Sgt Browitt** a heart attack while teaching cross country driving. A special welcome to our new arrivals; **Cpl Baddeley** and wife **Amanda**, our new Troop technician, **Sig Fielding** and wife **Zoe** from Blandford, **LCpl Abraham** from JCUNI and last but not least **Sigs Borril, Mears** and **Woodall** all from Harrogate. Congratulations to **Cpl Coombes** and wife **Carolyn** upon promotion.

Goodbyes to motormouth **Sig Porter, LCpl Lewis** and wife **Rebecca, LCpl Crawford** and wife **Jannene**. All are posted to UK–Shame about the LOA! Lots of luck to **Jannene** for the big day in November, keep us informed.

Congratulations also to **Cpl Oakey** who received his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal from **Brig Schuler** on 11 September. How did you manage that?

SCRA(T) TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Andy Parfitt**

August and block leave have come and gone. Congratulations to **LCpl Cartwright** on becoming a married man. The return to work was a shock to the system, there is nothing like fast approaching DTIs and exercises to scare everyone back into work mode.

Congratulations to **Cpl Darlington** on his promotion and subsequent posting to the Royal Scots. We hope you have a couple of dry days during your time in Ireland.

Congratulations also to the Tp Comd after announcing his engagement to long term girlfriend **Anne**.

DIV RADIO TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Richard Byfield**

As far as stability goes, the previous two months have been reasonably quiet. An absence of exercises and some well earned leave have resulted in a refreshed Troop, desperate to get back on leave. We welcome **Sigs White** and **Tyndall** who immediately go on remedial pistol cocking, that's one way to get out of RP shift.



Cpl Oakey receives his LS & GC from Brig Schuler



11 Sig Regt Blandford

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj T. J. Friend MBE**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Chris Gopsill**
Trg WO **WO2 Ken Kennedy**

This reporting period has been relatively quiet for all, with the majority of people fitting their summer holidays in by wasting money flying to the sun when Sandbanks is only a traffic jam away to the south. The Squadron did manage a group holiday to North Wales care of **SSgt Steve Metherell**, who organised a seven day Adventurous Training package from Capel Curig Camp.

EXERCISE WANDERING WARRIOR 95

This year saw TM Tp plus a few extras from the LAD and C Tp departing for the wide open spaces of Snowdonia to partake of a week's adventurous training. The week's activities included Hillwalking under the strict control of **Sgt Titus Reene** and **Cpl Pete Casson** (now known as the terrible twins after their week's exploits). Climbing and abseiling was under the supervision of **SSgt Steve Metherell, Sgt John Wood** (APTC) and **Cpl Andy Cranmer**. Each of the sections during the week also assisted the National Trust in repairing some worn footpaths high up on Tryfan. The programme also allowed time for a cultural visit under the guise of a problem solving exercise put together each day by **SSgt Steve Metherell**. As an extra treat bikes were provided and a route chosen and the sections got to ride over some beautiful countryside and it is true that there are no flat bits in North Wales.

Day 1 of the training started with everybody feeling the effects of the previous evening's meet and greet but this didn't deter anybody from throwing themselves whole heartedly into the day's activities, notably the climbers as all had confessed to being afraid of heights. **LCpl** 'Ronnie' **Barker** proved to be a bit of a spiderman flying up the climb with real vigour and on reaching Terra Firma asking if he could have another go. **Cpl Flo Wilson** on the other hand got two feet off the deck and cried out 'I canny go any further'. **Sgt John Wood** put some rescue techniques into practice and lifted her off the rock. **Cpl Shel Watkins** thought she was making good progress until she got to a tricky point about 6ft up and took a breather to try and figure out the next move. She was reminded quite strongly that she wasn't going to stand on **SSgt Steve Metherell**'s hand all day. **Sgt Sarah Sachno**, one of our two TA representatives, decided she was going to abseil down the climb but on reaching the edge decided this was not such a good idea. However under the supervision and coaching of **Cpl Andy Cranmer** she composed herself and descended slowly and very carefully to the bottom.

In the evening the hillwalkers were always the easy ones to spot as they were in their maggots asleep. At the time of going to press we have been unable to find out what the terrible twins had been doing to them on the hills and maybe that's the way it should stay. All in all a good week was had by all and thanks to all the instructors and students for making it so. A special mention must be made of **Sgt John Wood** who achieved a life long ambition by leading an E1 (Climbing Term) and is still walking around about six inches off the floor.



HQ Sqn on Ex Wandering Warrior 95

TM TROOP FISHING TRIP

Another day of recreation saw 11 keen and aspiring members of the Troop departing Poole harbour for an afternoon's sea fishing. It was easy to spot the less experienced anglers amongst the party whose protection from the elements included Pink Floyd/Wile E. Coyote t-shirts and 'Ron Hill' leggings. The more experienced amongst us included **SSgt Steve** 'Thar she blows, harpoon' **Metherell** and **Cpl Gilly** 'lobster face' **Gillan**. First to strike into mackerel was **Cpl Flo Wilson**, who until that time had never caught a fish in her life. This fluke was quickly laughed off by the rest of us until she then landed two dogfish in quick succession. This was to set the pattern for the rest of the trip, and by the end of the trip all had caught something. Special mention should go to **LCpl Archie Lewis** whose use of the priest resembled something from 'Psycho' and to **Cpl Andy Mileham** who slept throughout the trip only to be woken up half way through by a dogfish on the end of his line wishing to be reeled in.

The day was a complete success and a return trip is planned soon.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Squadron welcomes the following personnel to the Regiment and wishes them a memorable tour: **Capt Martin Smith** and **Sgt Mick Davies** fresh from AAC Harrogate as the PSO Team, **WO2 (FofS) Pete Bruce** to TM Tp, **LCpls Tait** and **Venni** both to the Provost Staff.

The Squadron extends best wishes for the future to the following members of the Regiment on posting: **Cpl Elaine Ralf** to 237 Sig Sqn, **Cpl Gillie Gillan** to 63 Sig Sqn (V), and **LCpl Steve Lewis** to 7 Sig Regt.

TRAINING SUPPORT SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Capt T. O. Wood**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) H. R. Griffin**

NEWS FROM THE DUG OUT?

With the normal mayhem of the buildings going up all around us the building site is almost looking like an Army camp, but still a long way to go before we can stop washing our cars and polishing our boots to get rid of the mud.

SHQ

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

A period of personality changes for SHQ at the moment. Out goes **Capt Tim Jones**, in comes **Capt Tim Wood** from Shrivenham via a pit stop with 1 Sqn. A warm welcome is extended to wife **Dawn** and daughter **Kate**. Hope the family see more of him (what with Corps Hockey and Golf) than the SSM does.

Also leaving is **WO2 (FofS) Kev Moir**, following the crew of 'Soldier Soldier' down under to Australia (you thought their Mil Skills were bad!). Best of luck in the future **Kev** to you, wife **Jan** and kids **Mark** and **Emma**. We welcome in **SSgt (FofS) Steve Hutchinson** making the daily trip from Bath. Will you continue with the Foreman's closed door policy? (Out of sight out of mind.)

On the sporting front SHQ managed to come in as Runners Up in the Basketball Summer League by relying (heavily?) on **Kev Moir**'s 6'3"/17 stone frame.

RADIO EXERCISE TROOP

Radex has a new Tp Comd, **SSgt Keith Langton**, who is now asking for pay of a higher rank, but has been told that there is not enough money as it is going on the new buildings. Most of the Troop have been away on Block Leave and yet all have returned, 'none of us have won the lottery?'. Management Training has been quite busy with **Sgt Mick Main** taking his Troops up to Scotland for Ex Skywave (so that's why they all came back off leave . . .) and then to Manston on another arduous exercise. Soldier Training, under the close eye of **Sgt Pete Mullen** deployed with all its manpower 'and some kindly donated from 1 Sqn' up to Newcastle (and only one of our chariots broke down) to provide the communications for this year's BUPA Great North Run which incorporated the World Half Marathon Championship. This year it was held on 17 September. The event takes place through the streets of Newcastle along a 13 mile course to South Shields. The day started rather cloudy with a mild wind but it did brighten up in the afternoon. All the FFR vehicles were in pre-determined positions by 1000hrs ready for the 1300hrs start. Our mission was to provide safety and emergency nets to cover the race progress and report any casualties that occurred along the course. The race started on time by the special guest appearance of BIG **Frank** 'World Champion' **Bruno** who fired the start cannon. No more than a few minutes later, **Frank** was in the thick of it again fighting his way through his admirers.

The race progressed smoothly and there were few casualties among the estimated 27,000 competitors. This kept our involvement to a minimum enabling the Troop to see some part of the race and some of the many characters.

Congratulations to **Maj Tom Pengelley, SSgts Si Tatman, Gary Smurthwaite** and **Sgt Hank Cappleman** on completing this year's Great North Run.

Congratulations to **Cpl Pete Clements** on passing the Skill at Arms Instructors Course (a lot of bets were called off after three days), **LCpl** 'Tommo' **Thompson** on passing the RSDCC, and **Jim Turnbull** for his promotion to Lance Corporal.

SYSTEMS EXERCISE TROOP

As the Troop has passed through one of the busiest periods of the year and the dust is beginning to settle the Troop has taken on a new shape. We have seen several changes including the arrivals of **Cpl Si Cullen** and **LCpl Neil Shillito**. To counter this we must say farewell to a number of the Troop. **LCpl** 'Shaky' **Beard** and **Sig** 'Zig' **Albone** have taken the big step into Civ Div and **Sig** 'Robbo' **Roberts** has headed north for 3 Div. We have also said a fond farewell to **Sgt Craig Collins** who has wangled a posting to Winchester prior to his re-trade to ADP. All this has gone on around Royal Visits, Div 1 Staff College demos and interim Soldier Training.

As hectic as life has been we have still found time for sport. This month saw Sysex Tp, much to everyone's surprise, win the Summer League Basketball Competition. Congratulations to **SSgt Si Tatman** who won the Corps Wide Windsurfing Novice Title. We are now looking forward to a little respite in the Training Programme before the onset of Soldier Training proper in the New Year.

1 SQUADRON

As the year has progressed the Squadron has seen a marked increase in students passing through Phase 2 and upgrading training. Driver training has also been busy with **Mr Norman Harrison** recently taking over from **Mr Norman Lodge** in the post of HIO.

He is rightly proud of the pass figures for the period April-September 1995, with 125 students all passing Cat B driving, taking an average of 19½ hours to gain their licence.



Mr Norman Lodge retiring after 24 years

The Squadron were proud and rightful winners of the Commander's Challenge run, an event combined with the Truscott Trophy. Ninety-nine members of the Squadron turned out to make the five mile gruelling course a keenly contested event. **Cpl** 'Ginge' **Davey** crossed the line in first place in a time of 27 minutes and 40 seconds. Had it not been for a small detour by the second and third man, **SSgt Andy Slack** would have gained more points and the Squadron would have the Truscott Trophy as well. Never mind **Andy**, don't get caught next time.

The Squadron says farewell to **Capt Nick Caleb, Emma** and family on his move to JACIG and **Cpl Jim Gray** on posting to 30 Sig Regt.

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11 SIGNAL REGIMENT
BASKETBALL'S INAUGURAL SUMMER LEAGUE

In May of this year, a letter was distributed to every department within Blandford Garrison, proposing that an annual Basketball Summer League be held. To my amazement by the cut off date for entry, 18 teams, with varying names from Dynamic Dunkers to RHQ, had entered the league. With each team consisting of six players, of either gender, military or civilian, a total of 108 people over 76 games were to participate in this, the inaugural Summer League. To enable the season to be completed prior to the commencement of regular season games, the competition was divided into two leagues, with the top two placed teams progressing to a four way playoff decider. So on 26 June the first four games were played, with the last of the league fixtures being played on 18 September. The season went well with over 90% of all games being completed by the time of the playoffs. The standard of play improved through the league games and the intensity at times came close to boiling point, showing a desire to win and progress onto the playoffs, but at the end only two teams from each league could progress. On 22 September the playoffs were held.

The four teams through were Tim's Pirates, TTSG 2, Sysex Stompers and Dynamic Dunkers. If the playoffs were to be like the league games it was tipped that the champions would come from either Tim's Pirates or TTSG 2. However like all Championships, what happens in the regular games does not always transpire in the playoffs and this was no exception. Dynamic Dunkers came very close in the first game against Tim's Pirates. Systex Stompers then surprised everyone by beating TTSG2. They then followed this up with a very close victory over Tim's Pirates. With only Dynamic Dunkers to beat Sysex Stompers became unexpected, but deserving Summer League Champions 1995.



Summer League Basketball 'Sysex Stompers'

THE ROYAL SIGNALS HALF MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS

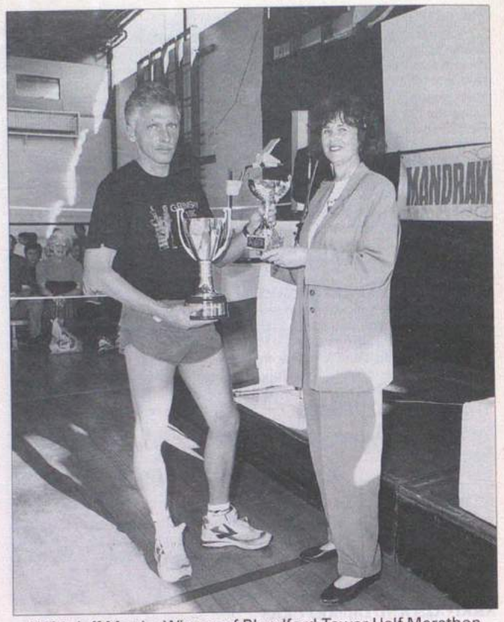
The second Royal Signals Half Marathon Championships was held at Blandford Camp on Sunday 8 October 1995, an event incorporated into the annual Blandford Tower Half Marathon, which was the twelfth year that this race had been held.

This year nearly 200 competitors, both military and civilian, entered the event from all corners of the UK. This extremely demanding event took place by kind permission of the Comd Royal School of Signals, **Brig J. H. Griffin**, and took in the beautiful Dorset Countryside, under the race directorship of **Capt Tom Dean**.

The race was started at precisely 1330hrs by **Mrs Marion Griffin** by the detonation of a thunderflash. In glorious sunshine the runners disappeared not to be seen for another hour.

Whilst the half marathon was in progress, two further races were held, a three mile road race and a one mile fun run.

The prizes were presented by **Mrs Marion Griffin** and **Mr Terry Jefferson-Brown**, representing the events sponsors. The Royal Signals results are:



WO2 Jeff Martin–Winner of Blandford Tower Half Marathon and the Griffin Memorial Trophy

MEN'S INDIVIDUAL			Overall Position
1st	**WO2 J. Martin**	1.14.39	1st
2nd	**LCpl J. Palmer**	1.21.59	4th
3rd	**SSgt Cowen**	1.23.36	7th

WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL			
1st	**Sig D. Codlin**	1.40.05	52nd
2nd	**Sgt L. Murphy**	1.54.11	90th
3rd	**Cpl D. Nevens**	1.57.47	101st

TEAM RESULTS

TEAM	PLACES				TOTAL	POSITION
11 Sig Regt	13	14	15	22	63	1st
3 UK Div Sig Regt	10	32	39	47	98	2nd
39 Sig Regt	1	19	69	73	162	3rd
15 Sig Regt & HQNI	51	52	58	123	284	4th
71 Sig Regt	62	75	80	81	298	5th
243 Sig Sqn	55	84	101	124	364	6th

TRUSCOTT TROPHY

The Truscott Trophy incorporating the Garrison Cross Country Competition took place on Wednesday 6 September 1995. It covered a five mile course including Camp and parts of the Dorset countryside. A total of 271 runners participated in the event, both as individuals and representing teams from all departments within the Royal School of Signals including 11 Sig Regt. The first man across the line was **Cpl Davey** with a time of 27.40 making him the Truscott Trophy winner. The results are:

TRUSCOTT TROPHY TEAM RESULT

1st CIS Training Wing
2nd 1 Sqn
3rd Training Support Sqn
4th CIS Engineering Gp
5th HQ Sqn

MEDAL WINNERS–Male

1st **Cpl Davey**
2nd **Sgt Blair**
3rd **Sgt Proud**

MEDAL WINNERS–Female

1st **Capt Rees**
2nd **Miss Sarah Neale**
3rd **WO2 Stonier**

MEDAL WINNERS–Veterans

1st **Capt Wild**
2nd **Capt Dean**
3rd **Maj Smurthwaite**



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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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.



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.

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 36

HQ SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj Peter Whitehead**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Mark Toner**

HQ Sqn continues to be busy preparing the Regiment for the move to Brawdy.

TM TROOP

TOT	**Capt Gig Plumb**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Stretch Aimer**

Seven people are detached on the Vixen trials and three in each of the Falklands, Bosnia and in UK prior to deployment. We say farewell to **WO2 (FofS) Phil Cooper** who was grabbed by RSMRO for an urgent tour with 24 Airmobile Bde in Bosnia. Our best wishes go to **SSgt Em Evans** and **Rhianna**, **Cpl Al Bradbury** and **Rachael**, and **LCpl Gaz Heads** and **Lisa** on the births of their little girls. Congratulations to **Sgts** 'Robbo' **Robinson** and 'Sandy' **Sanderson** on their recent promotion, now you do more work and get less thanks.

FUNDRAISING FOR BRAWDY LANES

The Squadron's contribution to fundraising was to be just the Beer and Wine Fest on 23 September, but after consultation with **WOI (RSM) Stachini**, it was decided to expand the day to include a car boot sale and the Inter-Squadron football competition with all profits going to Brawdy Lanes, the bowling alley at Brawdy. **SSgt Steve Hughes** organised the car boot sale, ensuring the wishes of the wives were adhered to whilst **WO2 (SSM) Mark Toner** took on the football competition. **SSgt Stretch Aimer** was responsible for the now legendary Beer and Wine Fest, with **Gig Plumb**'s Wine Emporium proving the main stumbling block on the evening. A special thanks to **LCpl** 'Crusty' **Phippen** for keeping the dance floor full as stand in DJ. All the events were immensely successful with over DM 1200 being raised towards the bowling alley.

226 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj Don Macaulay**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Mick Heelan**

COMINGS AND GOINGS

The Squadron has been 'enjoying' a rather turbulent period. **Capt J. J. Smith**, has moved into the Ops block where he is OIC large growths of facial hair. The two lady Troop Commanders, **Capts Ros Artley** and **Jane Appleby**, have deployed to Bosnia on roulement along with **SSgt Kev Jones**, **Sgts Kev Taylor**, **John Winn** and 'Wodge' **Howard**. **Cpl Willie Wilson** and **LCpls** 'Robbo' **Robson**, 'Matty' **Leonards**, 'Lewey' **Lewis**, 'Biffa' **Randle** and **Ray Chrispin** and **Sig Dernie** have all gone to pastures new elsewhere in the Corps. **LCpl Tammy Dawson** has taken the more permanent step into Civ Div and will shortly be followed by **Cpl Ski Barr** and **Sig Debbie Johnson**. We wish them the best of luck and ask them to remember us if they win the Lottery.

The Squadron welcomed two new 2ICs–**Capt Robbie King** briefly sat in the chair after arriving from 2 Sig Regt and swiftly moved (upwards!) into H Tp. His replacement, **Capt Brian Alderson**, returned from the Sarajevo det with plenty of stories and even more pennies. **WO2 (YofS) Mark** 'Forrest' **Harris** joins the Squadron from The Iron Div and **Cpls Davey Whitehead**, **John Perry** and **LCpl Mac MacLaughlin** all returned safely from Op Hamden and are welcomed back to the fold. **Sigs Chris John** and **Stan Standish** join the Squadron bright eyed from the factory and with the promise of 'Join the Army and See the World' will have the pleasure of serving in Germany and Wales within six months of passing out. Finally, congratulations are in order to **Sgt** 'Geordie' **West** on his recent promotion.

COMSEC MONITORING TEAM (GERMANY)

Tp Comd	**Capt** 'Mac' **McCrindle**

The Team have just completed an extremely busy period, carrying out all-arms COMSEC monitoring in such diverse locations as Bavaria, Rheindahlen, Sennelager, Hohne, Central Germany and the Falkland Islands.

Cpl 'Mick' **Murphy** and **LCpl** 'Titch' **Meakin** were assessed as being prone to capture and despatched on the annual regimental Escape & Evasion exercise while the rest of us roughed it at RAF Bruggen. Resources were divided to provide support for an Artillery FTX in the Sennelager area as well as battlegroup training at Hohne. Amazingly enough **SSgt (YofS) Andy Dobson** still found time to become the winner of the British Army (Germany) canoe slalom championship. Thanks to **Cpl** 'Mick' **Murphy** and **LCpl** 'Aus' **Gambles** for organising an excellent barbecue for the team and the Troop day out at Fort Fun.



Elements of the comsec monitoring team parade outside their new Troop office

Congratulations to **Sig** 'Nic' **Nicol** on her recent wedding and we wish you all the best in your marriage and posting to 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt. Farewell to **Sig** 'Kev' **Rutherford** who leaves us for Comms Tp and to **Sig** 'Rodders' **Rodmell** on posting to 2 Sig Regt. Thank-you all for your good work.

EXERCISE WHALE SPEAR

The final week in August included the Squadron Battle Camp organised by **WO2 (SSM) Mick** 'No drill' **Heelan**. The camp was held on Haltern Ranges and, despite 'slimming down' to prepare for the move to Wales, comprised of many activities centered around range work. The shooting practices varied from the new APWT to Section in Defence ranges, and a night shoot organised by **SSgt Dan Thornton**. We concluded with a 17km March and Shoot incorporating NBC (up a steep incline), First Aid (down a steep incline), an assault course (in and out of 'elephant traps') and a Falling Plate competition. The quote of the week goes to **Sig** 'Daz' **Wall** who in reply to the question 'What is the longest war in American history ?' answered 'The Great Wall of China'?

Congratulations to **Cpl** 'Spotty' **Meek** for winning the best overall soldier award and to **Cpl** 'Daz' **Collins**' section for the best section award.



SSgt (SSI) MacDonald oversees the love tangles of the Regiment on battle PT

245 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj Bob Munro**
Sqn 2IC/Ops	**Capt Alan Tuck**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Jim McLachlan**

The toughest challenge facing the Squadron at present would seem to be not the on-going move back to Brawdy, but simply keeping tabs on everyone's disappearing acts. Even without postings, the Squadron nominal role seems to change on a daily basis, with operational commitments in Bosnia, advance parties to Brawdy and others preparing for the introduction of Vixen equipment in Hullavington. For those stalwarts left behind, the work of packing boxes, preparing vehicles for the impending move and generally clearing up continues. But the end is now in sight and, despite the inevitable reluctance to give up the much loved LOA, the Squadron is looking forward to seeing what Wales has to offer.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

In what is clearly an attempt to avoid the hassle of the Brawdy move, much of the Squadron hierarchy has abandoned ship, with **Maj Bob Munro** and **WO2 (SSM) Jim McLachlan** replacing **Maj Phil Osment** and **WO2 (SSM) Clive Sear** as Sqn Comd and SSM. Other arrivals include **2Lts Moir** and **Woods**, fresh from the Shop, **Cpls McCardle** and **Tobbin**, **LCpls Baker**, **Leighton**, **McTurk**, **Nichol** and **Price**, and **Sigs Brierley**, **Cairney**, **Clarke**, **Gallagher**, **Smith** and **Yates**. Detachments aside, the Squadron has said farewell to **Lt** 'Mad' **Hanson**, **SSgts** 'Geordie' **Hancock**, 'Scouse' **Wharton**, and **Morris**, **Sgt Beale**, **Cpls Lonergan**, **Campbell** and **O'Neill**, and **LCpl Harvey**. Finally, a special farewell to all those off into Civ Div and to **JTech McConnell**, off to try her luck as an RAF Officer, pending lobotomy.

31 Sig Regt (V)
Southfields

CO	**Lt Col K. Bruce-Smith**
Trg Maj	**Maj R. Thomas**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) M. Smithhurst**

VISIT OF HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL
TUESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 1995

Annual Camp 1995 was just a distant date on the horizon when the Regiment were informed that we were to be honoured with a visit by **HRH The Princess Royal**, one of four visits to Royal Signals units during this our 75th Anniversary Year.

PREPARATIONS BEGIN

Preparations for the visit began immediately with the Trg Maj, **Maj Rod Thomas** locking his office door to emerge a month later looking even older and more haggard as he successfully battled with the visit programme to ensure that the Princess met as many people as possible during her time with the Regiment. Deployment to Annual Camp at Altcar took place on Saturday 9 September which left very few hours before the day of the visit itself. Fortunately the Regiment arrived at Altcar with no real problems and preparations could really begin in earnest. Everyone in the Regiment would be involved in the Royal visit with all officers and SNCO's tasked with areas of responsibility. It was to be a real team effort in the lead up to the Princess Royal's arrival.

PRE VISIT INSPECTION–IT RAINED!

All too quickly Monday morning the 11 September arrived and the pre visit inspection was upon us. This was the day summer officially ended and the north west weather returned to normal with lashing rain and howling winds. The day proved to be a real test for the Regiment, but despite the weather the programme went ahead and by late Monday evening everything was in place.

Everything except The Royal Car; however **WO2 (MTWO) John Middleton**'s confidence was high; despite the RSM counting up how many bottles of port the absence of The Royal Car was worth, the car arrived late Monday evening. The most relieved person being the Trg Maj who knew that despite all the expertise in the Regiment there was no way we could turn the CO's Ford Escort into The Royal Limousine.

THE VISIT

Tuesday morning dawned; the Commanding Officer and Training Major beginning their day in deep conversation with the Regimental padre. Whatever they said must have worked, all prayers were answered, it was bright and sunny. **The Princess Royal** arrived exactly on time at Altcar to commence the visit. Following her arrival, The Master introduced **Her Royal Highness** to the Corps and Regimental hierarchy which included the Honorary Colonel, **Maj Gen I. O. J. Sprackling OBE** and the Commanding Officer **Lt Col K. Bruce-Smith**. **The Princess** was then introduced to **WO1 (RSM) Mark Smithurst** who having spent the summer on the Queens Guard at Buckingham Palace was the most relaxed person on parade that morning. Following the formal introductions, the Princess inspected the Honour Guard before moving into the Officers' Mess to sign the visitors book. A short briefing on the role of the Regiment followed before **the Princess** walked across to the assault course to watch the Regimental Cadre Course being put through their paces. Under the command of **SSgt Andy Raynsford** two teams battled over the course ably encouraged by other members of the DS. The competition to win was so intense that the team members almost forgot **the Princess** was visiting as they offered loud encouragement to their fellow team mates. All the effort was worth it with the teams only five seconds apart at the end of the course. The Captain of the winning team **Sig Ian Byrne** then presented the **Princess** with a cheque on behalf of the Regiment as a donation to the Save the Children Fund.



The Commanding Officer greets the Princess Royal, the RSM waits 'relaxed' but eager in the wings



The Princess meets Honour Guard Commander Sgt Steve Mcaulliffe

The next stand was the Regimental communications complex where **the Princess** was introduced to the Regimental Ops Officer, **Maj Bryan** before going on to meet the Regimental Communications experts. These included **WO2 (YofS) Byron Sinclair** and **SSgt (FofS) Bob Wymer**. The Yeoman decided that since he had been in the Regiment for five years and the FofS only five minutes that he had the monopoly on **the Princess**'s time and proceeded to do all the talking–nothing changes! However he graciously allowed the foreman to say 'Goodbye Ma'am' as she left the Regimental Command Post. The Princess also met **WO2 John Hickey**, the Operations Warrant Officer and his detachment communicating long distance by skywave. Despite **WO2 Hickey** losing even more hair the Comms held firm and **the Princess** was able to communicate with a detachment on far away shores. **The Princess** was also introduced to the Regimental REME detachment under the command of **WO2 (AQMS) Andre Scrivener** and PSI **SSgt Pete Jones** who tried without success to convince **the Princess** that they were the real workers in the Regiment!



The Princess meets Sgt Cardwell PSI 41 Sqn and an awestruck Sgt Zavas US Army

Time marched on as **the Princess** moved on to the Officers Command Task Stand where she was given a briefing by **Capt 'Jack' Russell** before the officers were put to task. True to form and despite their many practices the officer's failed! It was left to the Adjutant **Capt Andy Cameron** to explain where they went wrong. He was obviously so embarrassed that he was lost for words, so much so that when introducing the officers to **the Princess** he completely forgot **Lt Kate Harris**'s name! Fortunately the Commanding Officer was not so in awe of **the Princess** and stepped in to spare the Adjutant's blushes.

The Princess was then presented to **WO2 Dave Parr** and **SSgt Jim McMahon** at the Skill At Arms Trainer where members of the Regimental Recruits Course were proving that the expert coaching of the DS really did work as they achieved some very creditable scores.

It was then back to the main square of Altcar Training Camp where **the Princess** presented medals to the following members of the Regiment–

Maj Bryan – TD Medal
SSgt Bell – TA Efficiency Medal
Sgt Stanton – TA Efficiency Medal
Sgt Travis – LS & GC



The Princess completes the medal presentation by congratulating Sgt Bob Stanton

Following the presentations there was a Regimental Officers and SNCO's photograph (another for the RSM's portfolio!) prior to a buffet lunch in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. During the lunch **the Princess** was presented to the PMC of the Mess **WO2 (SSM) Rudi Harding** and also met many other members of the Regiment. This included members of the Quartermasters and Administration Departments whose hard work behind the scenes keeps the Regiment on the straight and narrow. All too soon it was 1500hrs and after farewells from the Master, Honorary Colonel, Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major, **the Princess Royal** left Altcar Camp to continue her engagements.

The day had gone splendidly and will be the highlight of 1995 for the Regiment. There is no doubt the preparation and effort was all worthwhile and the visit will be talked about for many years to come. Tradition demanded that the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess remain open and the remainder of the day was spent with members of the Regiment recounting the day I met **the Princess** . . . All this and Camp was only four days old–still another 10 days left!!

REGIMENTAL CADRE AND RECRUITS COURSE

Under the leadership of **WO1 (RSM) Smithhurst** and **WO2 (SSM) Parr** the Regimental Training Team ran both a Cadre Course for Senior Signallers of the Regiment and for the first time, an in house Royal Signals Recruits Course (TA). A combined total of 32 soldiers accepted this never to be repeated offer and were rewarded with a very demanding, intense but action packed 10 days. The tranquility of Altcar Camp was broken at a very early hour by course PT under the guidance of 'The Gruesome Twosome' **SSgts Jim McMahon** and **Andy Raynsford**, much to the disgust of the still slumbering young officers of the Regiment! To add insult to injury the parade square, directly outside The Officer's Mess, soon reverberated as the RSM and **Sgt Dean Clark** put the courses through their drill paces.

The course medics/first aid instructors **Sgt Bob Gallagher** and **Cpl Tanya Nicholas** were soon required to attend to aching limbs and muscles, and were called into real action by **Sig May** when he decided to faint half way through a particularly gory training video! As the week of instruction drew to its close many of the students had learnt a great deal, certainly **Sig Ogle** had learnt that Army Assault Courses were not designed for soldiers under five feet tall! A fact also noted by **the Princess Royal** during her visit.

The final field phase of the courses took place at the Holcombe Moor Training Area. Thankfully the weather remained kind and the abundance of pyrotechnics courtesy of the kindly Quartermasters Department made for some exciting scenes. One in particular being when under the expert and vociferous encouragement of their DS, **Cpls Mat Cahill** and **Jan Davies**, the Recruits Course fought off a sustained attack by the numerically superior Cadre Course. This was a turning point in the exercise, **Sgt** 'Ripple Fire' **Stanton** decided that the Cadre Course honour must be restored and promptly added a dawn ambush to the programme!

So it was a very weary but happy body of soldiers who stood proudly before Comd 2 Sig Bde on the final pass off parade. Of the 32 starters six had sadly fallen prey to injury or illness, but they all expressed a desire to try again next time. All successful students deserve great credit for the way in which they performed but special mention must go to the following:

Top Student Cadre Course: **Sig Hall** B Grade
Top Student Recruits Course: **Sig Dainty** B Grade

As a footnote it was with great pleasure that **Brig J. Neeve**, Comd 2 Sig Bde, was able to promote Sig, now **LCpl Louise Hall** at the pass off lunch as reward for her top student placing.

EXERCISE SHOOTING STAR (SURVIVAL PHASE!)

The best kept secret in the Regiment was disclosed on the night of 19 September 1995. Five members of the Regimental management had kept the survival phase of Annual Camp to themselves for several months, an awesome task! So on a still, dark night the teams were taken by surprise on what they thought was to be a routine night shoot. After a rather hectic and nerve racking 'capture' the teams were transported to Holcombe Moor training area where they were met by three members of a 'friendly' UN team. These three nameless faces were the Regimental QM **Capt Don Pawlow** and **Cpls Roughton** and **Murphy** kindly loaned to us by 264 Sig Sqn. On arrival at the training area the teams were led to their respective trees for the night, where plastic and hessian was given to them for their comfort! Next morning this 'happy band' of stragglers were taken through some basic field survival lessons including shelters, traps and skinning animals.

During the afternoon all teams were given stiff rabbits of their own accompanied by fresh vegetables to make their gourmet evening meal. The highlight of the evening however was the improvised clothing fashion show where prizes of fresh fruit were given for the Best Outfit, Basha Area and Team Spirit. The Commanding Officer had returned to the area to witness this extravaganza and was most impressed by the high morale of his weary refugees.

32 Sig Regt (V) Glasgow

32 (SCOTTISH) SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)
CO **Lt Col I. O. Robertson**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) G. G. A. Reith**

ANNUAL CAMP 1995

Annual Camp for the Regiment was executed in three phases.

Phase 1–A tactical deployment to field locations from TACs for Ex Sure Start 1 which was a Regimental NCRS exercise.

Phase 2–Recovery from the field to Deverill Barracks in Ripon for Ex Sure Start 2.

Phase 3–Deployment to the field for Ex Tartan Warrior.

EXERCISE SURE START 1

Ex Sure Start 1 was our first major deployment with the National Communications Radio System (NCRS) which has just been introduced into service in the National Defence TA Regiments of 2 (NC) Sig Bde. The Regiment deployed straight to field locations from TACs, (a first for over 10 years) and some went through a steep learning curve as to what was required for a tactical comms exercise. Overall the exercise went well with only minor hiccups. The main success was that all operators learnt a great deal about the system operation and deployment set up drills.

EXERCISE SURE START 2

This was followed immediately by Ex Sure Start 2 which involved recovering back to Deverill Barracks for an in barracks plug up using dummy loads under the direct control of staff from 2 (NC) Sig Bde. Again the exercise went well with all elements of the Regiment learning more about the management and the operating capabilities of the NCRS equipment.

CAMP SPORTS AND SOCIAL EVENTS

After Sure Start 2 while still based in Deverill Barracks, most of the Regimental sports competitions, functions and dinners were held. The social side is an important element of a TA camp and gave everyone a chance to relax and enjoy themselves.

This year was the turn of the Sergeants' Mess to host the Officers who all seemed disappointed when they turned up with carrier bags to find the stock safely secured behind the bar.

The CO breathed a sigh of relief when the RSM got stitched up at blind date. It was bad enough for the RSM to have lip stick on his collar without having to explain to his wife that it was **WO2 Rab Campbell** that put it there!

Instead of separate Squadron functions the Regiment had one all ranks function which again was very successful.

VISITORS DAY THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 1995

This visitors day was attended by **Col Petrie**, Hon Col, **Cols Acda, Verey, Watson** and 10 from the Glasgow Branch of the Royal Signals Association. The programme included a brief on the role and organisation of the Regiment, a tour around Brigade HQ, Excon, NMC and NCRS Dets on Ex Sure Start. A look at the Recruit Course followed by lunch in respective Messes, Clay Pigeon Shooting in the afternoon and then the Officers to Sergeants' Mess function in the evening.

MEDAL PRESENTATIONS

On Friday 29 September **Brig J. E. Neeve** Comd 2 (NC) Sig Bde presented the following awards:

WO2 Menzies LS & GC
SSgt Hillborn LS & GC
WO2 MacKay TA Warrant
SSgt (FofS) Ghandi TA Efficiency Medal

After lunch **Brig Neeve** joined the Officers clay pigeon shooting team led by the CO to shoot against the Sergeants' Mess team led by the RSM. After a close fought competition the Officers just managed to beat the Sergeants' Mess into second position! Two days after camp the RSM was seen to depart on a Shotgun Coaching course.

EXERCISE TARTAN WARRIOR

Ex Tartan Warrior was the tactical field exercise.

The initial deployment, on Sunday 1 October, was on foot to the Exercise Area outside Ripon Barracks. At 0500hrs the following day, the Regiment moved to Catterick Training Area.



Brig J. E. Neeve with the Medal Recipients

Once they arrived in Catterick they disembarked to their first tactical location, surprisingly it was a wood. Once the harbour area had been sorted the unenviable task of digging trenches was undertaken. This was done with much enthusiasm, and soon trenches were appearing all over the place. Albeit the trenches would have been the perfect depth for a garden gnome with full kit. The sections put a lot of effort into this day and the benefits were for all to see. Digging in took up most of the day, so it was with much interest that the Troops were finally told that the enemy were to be active at 1900hrs. After hearing this news they were then instructed to fill in the trenches. Good tactical doctrine!



Some of 52 Sqn before being briefed prior to the Live Section Attack

TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER

Field firing all day on Feldom Ranges included an excellent IBSR range run by **WO2 (SSM) McVey**, a Platoon in Defence Range run by the RSM followed by a linear night ambush again run by the RSM. This was the first time most of the Regiment had been on field firing and all thoroughly enjoyed this part of camp. When the Troops completed the night shoot they were at last given a good night's sleep as they were warned that Wednesday would be a HARD DAY!

WEDNESDAY 4 OCTOBER

Each Squadron set out in search of some enemy to destroy, on their way to the Regimental form up point. Once the enemy were destroyed everyone moved on for the Regimental attack. At the Regimental form up point the briefing stated that 51 and 52 Sqns were going to be left and right flanks respectively and 61 Sqn were the Squadron going in for the kill. 52 Sqn reached the area first and started laying down suppressive fire but the other Squadrons had not arrived, so 52 Sqn decided to assault the enemy on their own.

THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER

More live field firing on Feldom Ranges. The Defence Range was run by **Capt** 'Cammy' **Payn** and tested soldiers on laying down effective fire by using different types of accurate fire control orders.

The RSM ran the Section Attack range which he says aged him 10 years. Again this was the first time most of the Regiment had carried out F & M using live rounds and although some of the tactics were more from the Battle of Stirling in the film 'Braveheart', most learned a great deal and thoroughly enjoyed the day.

The Regiment returned to Deverill Barracks on Thursday to start preparing for the hand back of camp on Saturday 7 October 1995.

FRIDAY 6 OCTOBER

Apart from handing back equipment and preparing for the long move back, Friday saw the Recruit Course Pass Off Parade which was held in conjunction with the Regimental Parade and prize giving.

REGIMENTAL PRIZES

The following prizes were awarded on Camp.

The Myers Cup	**Sig Urwin** 51 Sqn (most improved soldier in the year)
Whistler Bowl	61 Sqn (best Squadron throughout the year)
Goodwin Jones Trophy	HQ Sqn (best Squadron at Camp)
Assault Course Winners	51 Sqn
Volleyball Winners	HQ Sqn
Football Winners	HQ Sqn

REGIMENTAL RECRUIT COURSE NO 5

Best Recruit	**Sig Shabbas** 52 Sqn
Most Improved Recruit	**Sig Drummond** 61 Sqn
Top Recruit Shot	**Sig Burns** 52 Sqn ('Yes you CAN join the Regimental Shooting Team **Sig Burns**' Quote RSM)

It was 0550hrs on a Sunday morning when the young(ish) officer stepped out of his accommodation into the crisp air, as yet untouched by the pollution of cars. As he strode purposefully towards the Parade Square, through the dark and drizzle, he heard the morning chorus of his RRTT Instructors; 'when you are told 0600 you form up at five to'. Turning the next corner he saw the bedraggled band that were to be his charges for the next two weeks. Recruit Course No 5 had started.

The next few days were a whirlwind of weapon handling, drill, first aid and NBC and soon the course battle cry, 'I want to go home' was ringing its way around the camp. Highlights of the first week included the battle stroll in full kit and weapons at the end of which a thankful RRTT drank **Cpl Linda MacKenzie**'s hard won liquid prize; we'll say no more about that one, eh RSM?

The trail from finish line to the MRS was like the retreat from Moscow.

By the end of the first week there was only one drop out. Things were not going to plan.

The second week contained the three highlights of the course: the Range Day, the Field Ex and the pass off. The range day went well with a whole range of skills and abilities on display ranging from **Sig** '3M Grouping' **Shabbas** to **Sig Burns** who was top shot. The Field Ex started immediately after the ranges and held a few surprises for the RRTT. The normally timid **Sig Mary Brown** turned into Trooper **Brown**, special forces, when placed in the field. She didn't so much build a Basha as make a hammock of twigs. When the exercise finished the only thing left was the pass off. This had been rehearsed and everyone was confident. Unfortunately, the parade had changed between final rehearsal and actual pass off. There was an awful moment when the CO and OC RRTT, **Lt Donald Gordon** stared at each other waiting for the other to move. This was soon resolved by an inconspicuous whisper from **Cpl McKenzie**.

We retired to the NAAFI for refreshments and the prize giving where the CO presented the top shot to **Sig Burns**, most improved recruit to **Sig Drummond** and best recruit to **Sig Shabbas**.

52 SQUADRON

The time: 0800hrs.

The place: Deepest Glasgow.

The event: 52 Sqn deploy to Annual Camp.

Cold, dark and damp it was, but morale was high and the wagons were ready to roll (backwards?!). Our mission, should we choose to accept it, was to deploy straight into the field for a four day NCRS exercise in and around the Yorkshire area. Whilst we had been warned that the old Landrovers might struggle a wee bit trailing the NCRS 'pods'–Glasgow to Yorkshire in 10 hours was slightly excessive! But we made it and a good time was had by all playing tossing the caber with the mast!

Having returned to Deverill Barracks for the middle weekend of camp, our next adventure was a five day infantry exercise. 'Tartan Warrior' on Catterick Training Area. This was the climax of our pre-camp training activities and even the most unlikely became heroes!

All in all, a thoroughly enjoyable camp was had by the Squadron.

A fond farewell and best wishes is extended to our OC **Maj Fiona Farquharson** who has been transferred to 61 Sqn (Edinburgh)–serves her right!; and hello and welcome to **Capt Dave Andrews** who is joining us to replace her from HQ Sqn.

37 Sig Regt (V)
Redditch

CO **Lt Col Stamford Cartwright (V)**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) John Riley**

We welcome **Capt Steve Williamson** as Adjutant. Succeeding **Capt Andy Duncan**, who has gone to HQ Land at Wilton, he maintains the trend for tall thin Adjutants from the Celtic fringe. Best wishes to **Andy, Claire** and family on their new posting and to **Steve**, who found himself thrown into Annual Camp not knowing anyone and hoping his predecessor had buttoned it all up.

ANNUAL CAMP 1995

The Trg Maj, **Maj Tony Shaw** started the disappearing trick towards south-west Wales on a recce early in the year, along with the RSM. They came back full of glowing reports about the local area but less enthusiastic about the facilities at Penally Camp. Fortunately the QMs, **Maj Ian Dudding** and **Capt John Byrne**, worked out how to fit everyone in, though not how to stow their kit, so Penally was confirmed. Having only just received the NCRS trailers (at last), for some Squadrons it was a long slow trundle at the 40mph maximum permitted but by midnight on Saturday the whole Regiment was in camp. After the usual Regimental activities on Sunday morning–Church parade and briefings–MTWO **WO1 Jim Smiley** bussed the Regiment to Templeton airfield for the BFT and Tickle Test. Who said all airfields were flat? The drizzle put a dampener on proceedings and some found difficulty with the new squadded format for the first half, followed by best effort. It was a relief from Monday for the radio Squadrons to deploy to play with their new toys, the NCRS trailers, interspersed with ranges and other military skills training. Throughout the first week, HQ Sqn PSAO **Capt Dave Cooper** and his select gang of instructors taught Squadron teams the ropework skills necessary for the military skills competition on the Friday. Likewise OC RRTT **Capt Richard Adams** made sure their weapons were zeroed ready for the competition. The event started with a shoot, followed by an abseil and rope crossing, concluding with an entertaining stretcher race through a minefield, devised by RQMS **WO2 Charlie Dubique**. When the dust had settled, 67 Sqn had regained the trophy by a narrow margin. Earlier in the week, Comd 2 (NC) Sig Bde, **Brig J. E. Neeve** had visited the Regiment to present awards and attend a superb Officers' Mess Dinner in Pembroke Castle. Master Chef **WO2 Neil Burgin** and Major Domo **WO2 Eddie O'Connor** and their team had to import everything from tables to cooking equipment but the result was excellent.

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Brig J. P. Weller, Comd 143 (West Midland) Bde, presents the shooting cup to LCpl 'Micky' Muckle of HQ Sqn; CO rechecks the scores



TOT Capt Dave Fraley and 2IC 96 Sig Sqn Capt Dick Hall anticipate the NCRS exercise as the Troops are briefed



Presentation lineup
From L to R: Capts David Cooper and John Byrne (Accumulated Campaign Service Medal), WO2s 'Alby' Alberone, and Ray Campbell (LS & GC), Sgt Hughie Phillips (Lord Lieutenant's Certificate)



93 Sqn's Cpl Yvonne Pinder, SSgt Neil Reid and Cpl Paul Snelson enjoy the challenge of the NCRS exercise



US Signal Corps Sgt Kevin Slagg and 53 Sqn's Sgt Jim West share a brew

After a Saturday off in Tenby and surrounding towns, the Regiment prepared to deploy on Sunday afternoon for a Regimental exercise, leading into the Brigade Exercise Sure Start which would concentrate the NCRS dets at Manorbier. 96 Sqn won the prize for the first det to break an NCRS antenna on the exercise but this fitted in with the need to recall manpower to Manorbier to their NMC. After 36 hours in the field, the remaining NCRS dets were also recalled, leaving the thinly (and expensively) manned HF dets to continue the Regimental exercise. Much anguish in week one had gone into revising the plans for the layout of the NCRS complex. On arrival the 2 Bde team approved of most of it but RCP had to be surrendered for their use. OC 67 Sqn **Maj Roy Naylor** promptly scored Brownie points by volunteering a spare CUV to keep the RCP watchkeepers warm after they had enjoyed one night in a 9 x 9. By Thursday lunchtime the Brigade team had completed their serials and disappeared and Endex was declared for both exercises. The NCRS crews were kept busy and learnt a lot and even the HF detachments found the exercise useful. Comms were maintained around the clock by keeping within groundwave distance; who said that was cheating?

Once the kit had been recovered and checked, Friday finished off Camp with a Regimental Sports Day and barbecue. The CO was delighted with the Regiment's performance throughout, the dire tales of restrictions in and around the camp proved worse than reality and even the ban on Troops in Penally village turned out to be a misunderstanding. So came the end of another memorable Camp. **Maj Steve Holder**, Sqn Comd 96 Sig Sqn in Coventry, spent the last day shaking everyone's hand before he emigrated to New Zealand. We wish him all the very best and will miss his experience and expertise but congratulate **Maj Dick Hall** on his promotion and taking command in his stead.

Sadly, we also have to say farewell to 2IC **Maj Ian Morris**. After a full regular career and TA appointments with 35 Sig Regt (V), **Ian** came to 37 to be Ops Offr but found himself commanding 67 Sqn. Pressures at work have forced him to resign; RAO **Maj John Carter** took over as Officers' Mess PMC at Camp and a new 2IC is expected in January . . .

Finally a select gang enjoyed an extended Camp by supporting the three Regional Brigades' Exercise Western Dragon in the Kielder Forest. **WO2 (YofS)** 'Monty' **Montgomery** escaped early from Penally to set it up and was relieved as comms adviser by **SSgt (FofS) Mick Cowie** after Camp. The Brigades have made appreciative noises but it did have an adverse effect on numbers attending the Regimental Camp. One of the problems of having several Masters . . .

93 (EAST LANCS) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd	**Maj Ross Parsell (V)**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Paul Todd (V)**

904 Tp Weekend took place in the Keswick area of the Lake District. The weather was not too good, but it did not dampen our spirits which is more than can be said for our sailing, which dampened everything. We ended up in Derwent Water almost managing to sink our unsinkable boat. With the help of two safety boats we were deposited back on dry land with minor dents to our boat and our egos. The climbing and abseiling went well once the instructor got the hang of throwing the rope down and keeping hold of one end. The brave people who went mountain biking with the Beast Master, then went horse riding. All came back with rather sore rears and things. Sunday saw us all slipping, sliding, splashing and swimming our way up a river. Unfortunately, we ran out of time to climb the waterfall at the end. We had a full weekend and the general consensus of opinion was that we all had a good time and we are already planning next year's event.



904 Tp ready for they don't know what!



LCpl Tony Windle and Sgt Donna Scott up to her arm pits in one of the deep pools

878 Tp Weekend was spent at Whernside Manor Signals Adventure Training Centre near Dent in Cumbria. Saturday morning we were all kitted out with the itchiest underwear, then a really cool rubber dry(!) suit, the latest in wellies, a hard hat, safety harness and two of the biggest heaviest batteries ever. You sling them around your waist so they rub off all the skin around your hip bones. Having never caved before it was with trepidation that we all followed our leader down a very small hole in the ground. One of our party who really did not want to go caving kept singing, the tighter the squeeze, the louder he sang. We abseiled down waterfalls, went along rivers on our hands and knees, waded through chest high water, crawled through very low muddy stony cracks in the rock to emerge into huge great caverns. It was an amazing experience. When the singing stopped all you could hear was the constant drip of water seeping through from somewhere a long way above us. We had to climb up a metal rope ladder–easier said than done–then one last push to exit the system into the hot sunshine. It was a very enjoyable day–even our soloist said he had a good time, but he would not be doing it again.

Sunday we went rock climbing. We dragged our chef along for this one. We have only ever seen **Keith** cook before so we were amazed when he turned up in just his shorts. He had enjoyed a little too much sun on Saturday, his top half was bright red and his legs incredibly white–he looked like a lollipop. Then we watched him tackle a severe climb with a 20ft layback section, his first ever climb. He carried on to complete three other similar climbs, well done Spider Man, now all you have to conquer is your snotty eggs and cardboard bacon.

Thanks to **Dave** the Chief Instructor at the Manor and to 'Gaz' who has never had a mention in *The Wire*. It was a great weekend. Whernside Manor is under used, so for your next adventure training exercise why not look into their facilities, I am sure you will not be disappointed.



Sgt Keith Harrison belaying under the watchful eyes of our caving/climbing instructor Dave

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38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

CO	**Lt Col R. Davenport TD**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) J. Grandison**

ANNUAL CAMP 1995

The Regiment deployed on Annual Camp 9-23 September 1995. The first week consisted of Squadron camps to all four compass points of Great Britain, all of which the Commanding Officer insisted on visiting! Week two was the Regimental concentration at Crowborough Camp, East Sussex, which in the main was made up of Ex Blue Duster, a 2 Bde NCRS plug up and Regimental exercise with live enemy. **Capt Jamie** 'You'll never take me alive' **Compston, SSgt Keith** 'Hannibal the Cannibal' **Lecter, Cpl Trev** 'I wish I hadn't run into **Sgt Frank Reid**' **Grant** and **Gdsm** (yes, **Gdsm**) **Tony** 'I do get excited in the jungle' **Crowley**. Much was learnt on this exercise, which moved the Regiment, under the stewardship of the Trg Maj, **Pete Baron**, and his Ops Team, further towards the 'Green Field' concept–the communications weren't bad either.

Other highlights were; the Officers' versus Sergeants' Mess Games Night, organised by OC LAD, **Capt Phil Simmons**, the Officers' Mess Dinner 'in the field' which was enjoyed by Comd 2 Bde, **Brig John Neeve**, but not by those with no night vision, who fell over in the dark afterwards. The Regiment also hosted two US officers, a Danish officer, and four US SNCOs. It's probably best left to one of our guests to sum up his Camp experience in a letter that was received by the Regiment:

'To all my friends,

Well, I made it back to the US, arriving at home at about 2300 local time (0900 your time). Jet lag wise, it is a little tougher coming this way than going your way.

When I got home I was inundated with questions about my trip. I was wise enough to give the censored version to those who asked. Just yesterday I spoke with the commanding officer of my unit and gave him the less censored version, to which he responded, 'Holy Hell!' I tried to explain to him the mess environment and the social nuances of a Squadron party, but it's hard to verbalise what is primarily a feeling. He did agree with me that we're missing out here in the US Army by not having those kinds of social and esprit building experiences.

Since I've been back I've had to put in long hours at my company to get caught up. I suppose that you could call it penance for my time with you all. Please believe me when I say I had a great time. It was nothing like I expected, but it sure was a lot better than I expected.

I broached the subject with my CO for setting up a "partnership" between our units and he is willing to discuss it further with me when we drill in a couple of weeks. Hopefully, we can get support from our higher headquarters to do this with you all.

In the meantime, all the best to all of you.

Blane R. Clark
Major, US Army Reserve'



The Adjt, Capt Jamie Compston in the process of 'Sumo' wrestling Sgt Andy Thwaites to the death

HEADQUARTERS (SHEFFIELD) SQUADRON

Chickerell Barracks, Weymouth, was HQ Sqn's venue for the first week of Annual Camp 1995.

The ranges there afforded the opportunity for us to sharpen our shooting skills in preparation for the forthcoming REGSAAM. Despite inclement weather (it poured down) we managed valuable practice under excellent tuition from **Capt Phil Simmons** and range control from **Sgt Andy** 'Thumper' **Thwaites**.

To ensure the wet theme continued, the following day our watermanship skills were tested at Wyke Regis under the watchful supervision of the Royal Engineers. During this enjoyable and eventful day on and in the water, **LCpl Stuart** 'Simmo' **Simmons** and **Sig Dean Oxley** demonstrated their swimming capabilities, even if it was somewhat against their will. To dry the Squadron, **SSgt (FofS) Mark Cotton** and **Sgt Dave Gelsthorpe** thoughtfully arranged a 16 mile walk along the picturesque Dorset coast. Unfortunately the slightly undulating terrain the walk was billed as, turned into a series of challenging ascents and descents. For this the walkers took their revenge on the organisers later that day.

The second week we joined the rest of the Regiment at Crowborough Camp where HQ Sqn returned to its regular supporting role. The LAD repaired, the clerks clerked, the cooks cooked, the guards guarded, and the techs–well, they varnished the RCP vehicle!

Ex Blue Duster and the concurrently run Ex Sure Start required all the manpower resources HQ could muster. Even RQMSs **WO2 Bob Ingham** and **Mick** 'I haven't done this in a long time' **Piechota** were drafted in to establish and maintain comms at Echelon. Both were seen standing precariously on top of a commandeered Landrover, antenna in hand saying, 'just a little more height'.

In addition to the Ex Blue Duster assignments, the Squadron was tasked with arranging an officers' dinner in the field. It was no mean feat turning the sloping Echelon location into flat ground suitable for erecting kitchens and tents for the dinner. However, with characteristic teamwork, the ground was levelled, the tentage erected, the kitchens prepared and the site camouflaged. The dinner was a complete success and Ex Blue Duster continued satisfactorily in the absence of the officers.

Finally to round off a successful Camp 1995, HQ emerged as the dominant force on the sports field. Trophies for football, volleyball, rounders and the tug of war, along with overall sports trophy, now reside in the Squadron's display cabinet. All this illustrating HQ's superb team work and competitive spirit.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go to **SSgts Andy Medley** and **Bev Connolly** on their promotion to WO2 along with **LCpl Julie Phillips** on her promotion to Corporal.

64 (CITY OF SHEFFIELD) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj Stan Fitzgerald**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Jimmy Mees**

It was six years ago when the Regiment were last represented in the Nijmegen Marches so 64 Sqn thought it was about time to bring the event back into our calendar.

The first hurdle was the RAF Benson 50 mile qualifying march which, after many weekends of training and along with the mandatory blisters, tired legs and aching feet, we successfully completed and were chosen to compete in the main event in Holland.

The trip to Nijmegen was uneventful and we quickly settled into tented camp life. **LCpl** 'Cowboy' **Wilson** soon discovered that a continental breakfast did not include bacon, eggs and beans. To add to his misery every meal in fact consisted of cheese and ham slices.

Marching day one finally dawned with a 0230hrs reveille and a 0400hrs pre-dawn start. Much to our surprise the locals were already lining the route so who were we to grumble?

The first two days, despite the persistent rain, progressed quite well and then it got hotter and hotter–36 degrees to be precise.

Day three–the hills–and having spent all our walk training weekends in the Derbyshire Dales, this was our speciality. With the shouts of 'push harder', from the locals ringing in our ears we overtook a great many teams on this day and in fact we were marching so hard we nearly missed a check point.

Because of the heat on day four, the final day was very difficult, and **Cpl Gary Helliwell** was heard to comment, 'put this in your diary **Phil**, I'm not doing this next year,' or words to that effect. We completed the day, however, in very high spirits but not so good of voice having sung our way over the complete course distance.

Twelve hours and 40 minutes after the start it was all over and, having collected our individual and team medals, we prepared for the journey home.

Having started out on the return leg we did a quick about-turn to collect **SSgt Phil Horton**'s suit bag from Nijmegen before eventually arriving at the ferry port with just three minutes to spare.

The conversation on the long drive up the M1 to Sheffield was quite worrying with comments about 'next year'–What? Go through all this again next year?–well go on then.



L to R (and front to rear): LCpl 'Cowboy' Wilson, Sgt John Marsen, Sigs Steve Furniss, Wayne Cheetham, Vince Shay, Sgt Gary Owen, Cpl Gail Roddis, Sig Mark Shaw, Sgt Michelle Marsen, Cpls Gary Helliwell, Paul Burditt and SSgt Phil Horton

87 (NOTTINGHAM) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd — **Maj Tom McCappin**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Kev Gator**

'Only six Ks to go!' said **Lt Gupta** on the Regimental Walk 1995, which was in the Peak District. At the second-to-last checkpoint 87's male team was in pole position, and really going for it. Unfortunately a slight navigational error cost 87 the trophy. As the old adage goes–never trust an officer with a map.

'**Sgt Higgins**?' 'Present, Saaarrrgent-Majorrr!' replied the likeable US National Guardsman and Vietnam veteran who joined us for Camp 1995. To make sure he didn't feel homesick he was joined by a National Guard Officer, **Capt Thomas C. Georges**, from US Intelligence. Or was **Capt Georges** really there to make sure that his fellow countryman didn't reveal any secret information?

Week one of Camp was at Tregantle Fort, near Plymouth; it very quickly acquired the nickname 'Colditz'. We enjoyed a lot of adventure training but unfortunately it rained virtually every day. And I mean RAIN. Week two of Camp was at Crowborough, East Sussex, where the Regiment used NCRS on exercise for the first time. Much experience was gained all round.

Congratulations go to **SSgt Peter Cooper** and to his wife **Sgt Christine Bull** on being presented with their TEMs by **Brig Stevenson**, Secretary of East Midlands TAVRA, at Tregantle Fort (sorry–Colditz!). The Brigadier also presented **WO2 (SSM) Kevin Gater** and **WO2 Nigel Caldicott** with their Warrants. Congratulations also go to **Sgts Craig Toft, Pat Crogan, Georgie** 'Boadicea' **Ashcroft**, and to **Cpl Dan Milnor** on their promotions. Well done! Finally our best wishes go to **Cpl Andy Paton** on his recent marriage and to **Cpl Michelle Dunkley** on her engagement.

On a sadder note(?) 87 loses **Sig Mark Saint** to another Regiment (TBC). At least if he stays Royal Signals capbadged, we're bound to hear of his exploits in future editions of *The Wire*. London, do we have a present for you!

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

CO — **Lt Col Roger Batho**
RSM — **WO1 Bill Ogden**

ANNUAL CAMP

The arrival of autumn saw the departure of 40 Sig Regt from the province for our annual camp in La Courtine training area, in Central France–Sennybridge with French sheep! The Ulster lads had obviously had enough of this years unusually hot summer as wet weather was indented for by both the QM and the Padre–it worked! The weather at camp was pretty miserable to say the least but the RSM put it in perspective–'it's not training if it's not raining!'. The three day drive for the Road party both there and back was an arduous trip but all vehicles arrived there and back safely without undue mishap. Aside from the usual plethora of tasks, visits by both the Honorary Colonels, Comd 107 Bde and Comd CIS LAND and a posse of press kept the RHQ personnel busy.

HQ SQUADRON

HQ Sqn maintained its traditional role of sustaining the Regiment throughout the two week Camp in La Courtine.

In addition to the normal run-of-the-mill feeding, rationing resupply and transport requirements the Squadron also deployed two infantry sections to carry out the role of both enemy and EAN defence platoon.

We were not a little surprised to find that **Capt Victor** 'Crocodile Dundee' **Beggs** and his LAD Team made excellent enemy–we were more surprised when the DS said they had performed so well as defence troops. Whilst half of LAD was playing infantry the remainder managed to replace two Bedford clutches in less than three hours.

We were well supported by our QM team who established a Communications Logistics Group (CLG) and managed to persuade two visiting Brigadiers to act as bag carriers for vehicle spares. **QM John MacKay** newly in post having been MTO until about week before Camp, made an impression on everyone he came in contact with–**John** was always available with helpful advice and never short of useful ideas on how to employ the Regimental Second in Command and RSM! **SSgt Ramharry** (RAMC attached) was flown in to help us with his local knowledge and his excellent command of French–we suspect he has friends in high places and we look forward to his new book 'Winning Ways in France– How to work the system.'

Maj Dave 'Doc' **Doherty**, has developed his strong silent style and has discovered that he can get nearly anything by smiling sweetly. (We suspect that if he didn't smile he'd cry and we still haven't fathomed his references to 'b..... rocket fuel'.)

This camp was the first for our new RMO **Maj Ian Moles** who, with OC **Maj Steve Hare**, managed to hold their own as Squadron representatives at 'The Horse'–69 Sqn's Smoker. The Horse were in fine voice and were it not for the able assistance of the RSM HQ Sqn would have been hard pressed. We are grateful to the RMO for his prescription of four glasses of red wine daily as an aid to combat cholesterol–indeed to make assurance doubly sure we have taken the precaution of rounding the amount to five glasses–but then there's that silly little bit left in the bottle . . .

We say goodbye to our Padre–**Maj Robin Lavery** who after 25 years is leaving the Regiment. This camp he was reported as having been seen in full combat kit assisting **RAO Maj Ian Kyle** paying the Troops in the field.

The Squadron was strengthened by attachments from Catering Regiment CVHQ, from 74 Engr Regt who provided a further Chef and a number of Officer Cadets from Tayforth OTC who provided a translation service. We also had two Sergeants attached from the US National Guard–who found the new, sleeping systems the best part of being 'observers' in the field and were so popular with the RSM that he insisted on retaining the proof copy of the Squadron photograph.

66 (CITY OF BELFAST) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Joe Haldane**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Stanley**

Forget commemorative medals for the Siege of Drumcree, 66 Sqn see the need for a commemorative medal for having survived the rigours of travelling and the French weather at this year's Annual Camp at Camp La Courtine.

For the Squadron the first week's activities saw 66 Sqn deploying on a commex, with the second week involving infantry training.

During the commex phase the movement of an EAN and an OSC on French roads was found by **2Lt Jenny Ballagh** to be secondary to the needs of the 'Ballagh Hedgehog Rescue Service'. The war was put on hold whilst the needs of the small spiky creature were attended to. It was left to the OC, **Maj Joe Haldane**, to point out later that it was put back on the side of the road it had started from!

The Regimental barbecue at the end of the first week's training gave **Sig Andy Colwell** the opportunity to propose to his girlfriend **Sig Andrea Medlicott**. Braver than most, he chose to bend the knee on the dance floor in front of the entire Regiment. Best wishes are offered by all ranks of 66 Sqn to the happy couple.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Squadron welcomes **2Lt Jenny Ballagh** on transfer from Queen's UOTC, **SSgt Kev German** on his move across from Training Wing and **Sgt Lee Warren** on his posting from the Royal School of Signals.

Lt Aaron Ballantyne is wished all the best on his move to the wilds of the north-west to 69 (North Irish Horse) Sig Sqn, as are **LCpl Sarah Taggart** and **Sig Louise Robinson** on their move within Clonaver Park to HQ Sqn.

EXERCISE WALTZING MATILDA

Headquarters 107 (Ulster) Bde recently conducted a Battle Study in France over the period 1-4 July 95. The Regiment was represented by **Maj Stephen Hare**, **Capt Mike Frasier-Brenchley**, **Capt Victor Beggs** REME and **Lt Lynne Colan-O'Leary**, who all went along to consider Guderian's Crossing of the Meuse and the British Counter-Attack at Arras in May 1940.

The Corps was further represented in the form of **Maj Peter Holliday**, Chief of Staff 107 (Ulster) Brigade, and Exercise Director, and **Lt Col Ian Henderson OBE**, an ex-CO of the Regiment and now an SO1 at 107 Bde responsible for the selection and training of potential officers for the TA in Northern Ireland.

CAMP 1995–LA COURTINE FRANCE

Having come under command of 40 (Ulster) Sig Regt (V) in April 1995, 69 (North Irish Horse) Sig Sqn (V) attended the Regimental Annual Camp at La Courtine, France. La Courtine is located in the Limousin area of France on the Central Massif.

We departed Northern Ireland by ferry at 2300hrs on Friday 15 September and arrived at La Courtine on Sunday 17 September at 1815hrs–43 hours of mind-numbing, knee-aching travel in coaches!

Our accommodation was basic, the toilets different and if you wanted heat, you were better off living in the field. Our spirits were lifted through calls back home via the excellent French phone system and the occasional report that it had actually rained back in NI.

For everyone our first day in camp was set aside for shaking out and preparing for both comms and mil trg exercises. Lectures and demonstrations filled the morning's activities and in the afternoon everyone set about getting kit and stores together for the following day.

69 Sqn had several roles to perform over the two weeks including 521 radio training, 321 radio comms exercise, military training and maintaining a safety net for the military training exercise. After a few teething difficulties, bearing in mind that the Squadron had had their 321 radios for only eight weeks and their 521 radio dets for only five days, all comms were established and our role proved very successful. Signals were sent back to GB and NI via a telephone link through Brampton Castle in England.

During our two day stand down we visited the cities of Clarmont-Ferrand and Limoges where we managed to combine shopping and 'wine tasting'! We also visited the village of Oradour-sur-Glane which was left untouched since it was razed to the ground by the Nazis in 1944 and over 600 inhabitants massacred!

On the final day, the Padre's prayers were answered and the sun shone just before we left. The journey for both military vehicles and coaches was long and tiring, but everyone returned to the province safely.

Thanks to all in 69 (NIH) Sig Sqn (V) who made this camp so successful for the unit. Our team work was unrivalled.

The Queen's Gurkha Signals
Hong Kong

Comd — **Lt Col R. J. J. Ellis**
GM — **Maj (QGO) Silajit Gurung MVO**
RSM — **WO1 Omprakash Gurung**

Despite the weather and the various other unpredictables in Hong Kong, the Regiment has continued in its mission and enjoyed a hectic social and sporting life! This has been helped by the numerous farewells from the Regiment, the Regimental Birthday, the 50th Anniversary of the Liberation of Hong Kong, nine LS & GCs for the RN LEPs and various sporting competitions.

One of the most unusual was the HKMSC Potted Sports, where **SSgt Lo Man Hon** organised a six man team, made up from the Royal Signals and clerks of HKMSC to take on the might of the major HKMSC units. After a hard fought day, they ended up a creditable fourth.

A new but more conventional event was the COOL run, or CO's Own best effort Lauf Run. Though running uphill for 13kms is not exactly cool, even our LSL took the Peak at speed and all enjoyed the well deserved breakfast afterwards.



The Comd briefing the runners



LCpl Kong Kin Sun and his Medicine Balls

BFHK VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 1995
By SSgt Rajukumar Gurung

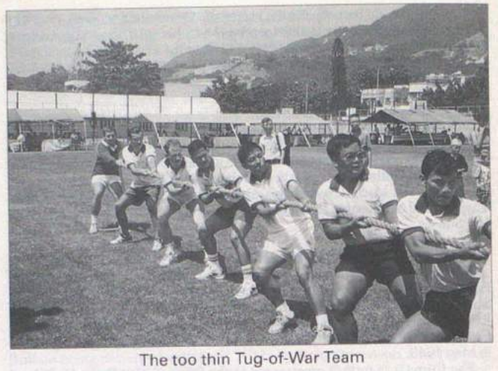
Having won the Plate Shield in 1985 and 1990, the team knew that on the five year cycle their chances were good to win it again in 1995. The plan started well when their first draw was against the favourites 1 RGR B and despite some valiant diving efforts the team lost in straight sets and subsequently were in the Plate Competition.

The next match was the Plate semi-final against the HQ Log Sp Regt (RLC). The first set was an easy victory, however the RLC rallied in the second and won it. The third set was going badly with the RLC 12–8 ahead when a time-out and firm talking to seemed to wake up the team who eventually won 13–15. The final was an easier game, with QG Signals beating 29 Sqn RLC in two straight sets.

The team were justifiably proud of their success, but none wanted to return in yet another five years to take on the Chinese!



QG Signals Volley Ball Team



The too thin Tug-of-War Team

REGIMENTAL BIRTHDAY 1995
by Lt (QGO) Mahendrakumar Gurung

The Regiment celebrated its 46th Birthday on 23 September 1995 at St George's School, Kowloon. The Regiment paraded for the Comd to read the Regimental Birthday Speech, as originally given by **Maj Gen L. E. C. M. Perowne CB CBE**, followed by the Nepali version read by the Gurkha Major. The 2IC then read out the Regimental achievements of the year.

The Parade was followed by inter Squadron sporting competitions at hockey, football, basketball, volleyball and tug of war. A strong HKGSS A team won most of the honours, though AUSK won the hockey and came very close to winning the volleyball. A noticeably big HKGSS A team quickly defeated the more svelt HQ Sqn team in the finals of the tug of war.

The sports were followed by the cake cutting ceremony performed by the Comd and GM. After this the prizes for the sports and awards for various achievements over the year were handed out. The QG Signals awards for the year were as follows:

Best Trainee of the Year–**Sig Hariprasad Limbu**
Best Footballer of the Year–**Cpl Bushnuprasad Gharti**
Best Runner of the Year–**Sig Manbahadur Thada**
The Bosuns Pipe–**LCpl Dhalbahadur Sahi**
The Ridlington Trophy (for hard work and loyalty)–
Cpl Prembahadur Ale

FAREWELLS

It is with sadness that we had to bid farewell to our first Naval Officer, **Lt Tim Finch** RN who has returned to the Navy in far-off Scotland. **Capt Tom Sandman** has also departed, but this time for London seemingly to ensure that he is in the UK before his eventual retirement from the Army but we are not sure . . . **Maj Russ Davey** has ended a long association with Hong Kong on his return to the UK, unless he manages yet another tour here before 1997! **WO Yu Chung Wai** retires from the RN LEP, and will be sorely missed from the Officers' Mess. **WO2s Steve Innes** and **Bob Bacon** leave HQ Sqn on their postings to Pay Office Edinburgh and HQ 42 (NW) Bde respectively. **Sgts** 'Mac' **McClelland, Mark Hitchins** and **Steve Rowe** move to 36 Sig Regt, 2 Sig Regt and the Combined Arms Training Centre Warminster. **Cpl Lee Harris** has landed a posting to IARRCIS, whilst **Cpl** 'Mac' **McCafferty** has gone on a short tour to the Falklands. **RO Elliot Foskett** is drafted out and is due to change trades to ATC. We thank them for their efforts whilst with QG Signals and wish them, and their families, well for the future.

AND WELCOMES

On a happier note we welcome **Lt Nigel Walker** RN, **Capt Marcus Sulivan, SSgt Mel Tibbitts, Cpls Paul Cullum** and **Dougie Celerier** and from the Navy **WRO1(U) Ellen Merrilees**.

Good News Travels Fast!

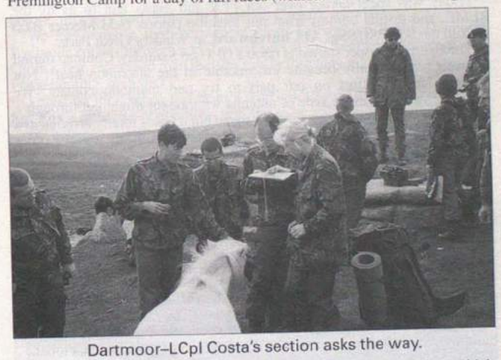
Publish it in The Wire

The Editor is always pleased to receive interesting articles

71 (Yeo) Sig Regt
Bexleyheath

265 (KCLY) SIGNAL SQUADRON
ANNUAL CAMP

The week prior to camp saw the issue, after nearly 20 years, of the National Communications Radio System. As the Regiment's NCRS Squadron we received the lion's share of the system and began camp with a two-day shakedown exercise in preparation for the Regimental PACE and brigade sponsored two day trial, Ex Sure Start. The system performed well during all three tests and we look forward to the forthcoming Brigade exercise in October when, for the first time since 1987, we will be using a full set of kit. A centrally organised adventure training package began with a day's walking on Dartmoor which gave our JNCOs a chance to practice navigation in rough country. The whole Squadron managed the 20 kilometres intact, with the exception of the 2IC, **Capt Huw Jones**. He only managed 300 metres before falling onto the one piece of sharp moorland putting a hole in his leg. He was on his way to place a safety check point! Despite several of the moor's notorious thunderstorms, a dry night out was spent by all, although camping on moorland taxed the ingenuity of those who do not usually carry tent poles. We then returned to Fremington Camp for a day of raft races (without water) and climbing.



Dartmoor–LCpl Costa's section asks the way.

For the Squadron, camp ended with a three day range package which gave most of the Squadron their first taste of field firing, both in pairs and as sections. The programme proved a refreshing and challenging change from the usual ETRs. The aching limbs and bruises from the ranges, and the odd pricked finger from the 'how to put up a barbed wire fence' stand, were eased on return to camp by a mass descent upon the local Chinese restaurant. Here the stock of draught beer was swiftly despatched to make up for three 'dry' days on the range. Needless to say all the rice and noodles helped with the following day's CFT and subsequent drive home.

75 YEAR CONNECTION WITH THE CORPS IS BROKEN.

As the Corps celebrates its 75th anniversary, **Capt Jim Esson MBE**, our PSO for the last 17 years is retiring, ending a 75 year family connection with the Royal Signals. **Jim**'s father, 2868509 **Sig Esson** joined the Corps on its formation in 1920, transferring from the Gordon Highlanders, and was one of those who marched into Marsfield Camp, the Corps' first home. **Jim** joined boys service in 1946 and has seen service in the Far East, Middle East, France, Belgium and Germany. He attended Number Seven Yeomans' Course in 1964 and retired from regular service as a Traffic Officer in 1978.

He then joined 265 Sqn, and played a major part in turning the Squadron from the Regiment's HQ and Signal Squadron, into a fully fledged Radio Squadron. This hard work (and that of the revamped squadron management team) paid off when 265 became the fourth CONRAD Gateway in 1984. His powers of administration and chasing up of mess bills were also remarkable. Indeed, when one subaltern was falsely imprisoned in Nigeria for three months in the early 1980s, he received only one visit from the British Consul - to deliver a mess bill with a demand for early payment! **Capt Esson** provided a vital point of continuity and contact during the major rebuild of the Bexleyheath TA Centre in 1986-87 and the splitting off of RHQ Support Troop and formation of HQ Squadron in 1987. This work, and his many years service for the Corps were recognised by the award of the MBE.

Capt Esson was also a leading light in the Squadron's thriving social life, and no microphone was ever safe from a broad ulster rendering of "Danny Boy", even if, as on one occasion, it proved to be live and the key to our RAE hosts' alert system, leading to the whole base being serenaded at two in the morning. Our football team too will miss his talents as manager and tour organiser.

We look forward to working with his replacement, **Capt Barry James**, formerly of the RTR, whose baptism of fire starts with annual camp.



Capt Jim Esson MBE, retiring PSAO of 265 (KCLY) Sig Sqn, presents Maj Simon Malik with a miniature KCLY guidon at Capt Esson's Dining Out, August 1995

REGIMENTAL TA RECRUIT SELECTION WEEKEND
by WO1 (RSM) M. Geer.

I took on the running of the Regimental Recruit Selection Weekends as part of my job as RSM 71st (Yeo) Signal Regiment. After conducting a few selections and making some small changes, I decided it was time to get a "Volunteers" view of the weekend. On successful completion of a weekend this unsuspecting individual was given his chance of fame and told to recount his weekend in writing. This, as they say, is his story.

Friday pm. Four of us await the coach that will take us to Longmoor. There is another group waiting to go on their continuation training "C" weekend. We ask about the selection weekend, horror stories abound and we wonder what we have let ourselves in for.

8.pm. On the coach and off we go, nervous as hell. Someone mentions a 3 mile run and we all groan. It might as well be 20 miles as no one looks fit.

9.30pm. Amble off the coach into the cookhouse, sign in and get our billet number, then food arrives (sort of limp fish and rubber chips). Well it's free so we shouldn't complain.

10.pm. Off to the NAAFI where cheap booze steadies the nerves.

12.pm. We muster in the hall, see the other "volunteers" and get allocated a syndicate. We all look at each other and wonder how well we will perform against each other. Off to bed.

Saturday 6.30 am. Help! what's going on, its too early, everyone flaps, gets washed, gets dressed and off to breakfast.

7.am. The dreaded PT. It's hell. Muscles that I never knew I had get pulled, I'm panting like a horse. We are told that this is only a warm up and stretch!

8.am. 3 mile run. Got to keep moving, I come in 20th and collapse. An NCO shouts in my ear "get up you (something I didn't quite catch) arms over your head don't slouch" - really !!!

I'm now getting the idea. You can't wear a watch but are told to get to certain areas throughout the day at a certain time(how) and when you get there on time you get "beasted" for being late (when they say 12.30 they mean 12.25). But you volunteered, so head up, mouth shut, look straight ahead.

9.15am. Initiative tests. Every group has a Rambo (Mr Keen, know all, big headed, loud mouth), my syndicate has one.

1st test is to retrieve radio parts over a rope bridge, good fun everyone tries hard, Rambo decides he can carry the radio around his neck whilst sliding down the rope.

2nd test. Trailer run. Hard work. Everyone tries hard again, we push it up then down the course. The NCO's look bored and ask us what we want to do. One of the girls who is keen squeals "lets do it again!" Daggers appear in our eyes, she shuts up. Its only 10 o'clock.

3rd test. Memory test, pictures on the wall, including some bloke that looks like the RSM from Soldier Soldier. Later we find out that it is our RSM!

4th test. The tent. What a disaster, 4 blind folded people directed by 4 other people trying to put up a tent. In half an hour we get as far as opening up the tent upside down. Embarrassed we went to lunch. Shovel it down, gulp some tea (what happened to an hour for lunch), back to training.

5th test. Drill. Ooooh! Off we march, sweaty coveralls and trainers. Rambo has a flaw, he marches like a robot, it puts you off step, so you smirk. We bimble (new word) around getting the drill instructor upset.

6th test. Save, or is it, retrieve a tyre? So far we are not wet. Well the sadist who designed this had us going through a tunnel about 10" high filled with 3" of mud, bum down, crawl through, coveralls now weigh a ton, lots of effort, we now have the tyre and have to go back through the tunnel. I collapse on some one, gurgling noises emit from the mud as he is pulled out legs first.

7th test. The dreaded log run. Away we go 8 pairs of hands trying to shove a 12 foot log through a tight hole, jump into the mud, I'm stuck, it's like glue, slurp out, run around the course, I'm almost dead, we finish. The time is not good enough so we have to do it again. I carry on, how I don't know, round again, we are slow, fit to drop. Coveralls are now rigid with dried mud, we march (ha! ha!) off back to our billets. In the shower aches and bruises abound.

6.pm. IQ tests. It starts easy then gets to tons of division and high multiplication. I haven't done this sort of thing since school 10 years ago. The score you get tells the staff what sort of trade you're suited for. Looking at my sheet I could be a cook (no offence to chefs).

7.pm. Ball games. Where does my energy come from !?

7.30pm. All ranks do, Cheap booze, stars Freddy Mercury and Gary Glitter. We all say an early night and no heavy drinking (really!). We stagger back to billets at lam . . . the worse for wear.

Sunday 6.45am. Fall out of bed, shower and shave and a fried breakfast, only to almost throw it up over the NCO's boots during PT at 7.30.

8.30am. Assault course. What fun, we have gelled into quite a team (we have lost one member). We cream the competition.

9.30am. We now wait for the syndicate Officer/NCO chat. I go in and have passed, good marks all round, I'm on a high.

11.30am. Finished. It's been hard work and it feels like we've been here 5 days (not 1 and a half). I passed and enjoyed it in a sad way. This is only the beginning but I crave more. Most people were not fit enough and they know that to carry on they have to get fitter, but that is what the TA is about to me. We all have full time jobs already and this is something extra that I want to do and only I can train to do it.

Once a "Sad Bunny TA Recruit"

Now **Sig Tony Whymark** of 94 Sig Sqn.

Well it's reassuring to know that the volunteers fully appreciate the time and effort put into running a selection weekend!

94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn
Windsor

EXERCISE LOG HAUL
by Cpl Neville MacMillan 908 Tp

On 1 April 96, 94 Sqn will become independent but remain affiliated to 71 (Y) Sig Regt. The new role for the Squadron will provide communications in support of Combat Service Support Group in Germany and UK.

Much preparatory work has gone on during this summer including Ex First Call. The opportunity arose during this Ex to send a detachment to Osnabruck to establish a HF link back to the Squadron in UK.

The aim of the Ex Log Haul was to establish and maintain a medium range HF link between a detachment in Germany and Squadron detachments on Ex First Call, a fully tactical Sqn comms exercise in the UK.

The detachment sent to Germany consisted of one member from each of the four Signal Troops in the Sqn, namely myself, **Cpl Nev MacMillan**, **Cpl Vicki Houlton** Comms Tp, **Cpl Andy** 'Goggle eyes' **Cassidy** 886 Tp, **Sig Richard** 'Top recruit' **Eburne** 885 Tp and, of course, not forgetting our attachment from 604 Tp **Cpl John Whitworth**.

The objectives for the exercise were set out to the detachment by the Sqn Comd **Maj Geoff Hornsby** on the preceding Tuesday and were as follows:

1. To practice antenna and propagation techniques.
2. To gain some experience driving on German roads.
3. To enjoy ourselves and see as much of Germany as we could.

The exercise started for us on Thursday morning with a 55 minute, British World flight to Paderborn. Top marks to the pilot for an excellent flight and landing, though no prizes to the caterers for an indescribable meal.

Friday was spent taking over our FFR and masts lent to us by the REME, and testing comms from our location (sports field Mercer Bks) back to the Sqn PSI, **SSgt Al Churchward**, at Windsor Great Park.

The Exercise proper started at 0800 ZULU on Saturday. Comms started off well but gradually became unworkable in the afternoon heat!! Not through lack of effort on our part to try and maintain contact. We experimented with every type of antenna we thought might get through – full dipoles, NVIS and sloping 'v's to name but a few – finally arriving at a 3/4 Wave Endfed. However, raising and lowering of masts was the order of the day.

Comms were regained in the early evening and traffic was sent throughout the night which did not pass entirely without incident. Disaster almost struck when the pizzas and NAAFI special supplies almost ran out!

After the comms phase had finished we spent the Monday trying to get our heads round driving on the wrong ie, the right side of the road. **Sig Eburne** seemed to find this so easy that he spent much of his time looking over his shoulder at us sitting in the back wondering why we looked so scared.

With the white knuckle rides over and when off duty, we spent our time getting to know the taste of a cool German beer.

All in all the exercise was a great success for us and we look forward to building greater links with 604 Tp and returning to Germany in October.

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE RECEIVED SIX WEEKS
BEFORE THE PUBLICATION DATE

NEWS FROM SQUADRONS

Brit Sig Sqn Op Grapple
HQ SSW Sig Tp
Gornji Vakuf

Tp Comd — **Lt Alan Garrett**
Camp Sgt-Maj — **WO2 John Fladley**

HELLOS AND FAREWELLS

There has been rather a lot of movement in and out, so you would be reading this all day if we stuck in a list. A few are worth highlighting, however: **LCpl Geordie Aspery** bought a packet back to Blighty, or Paderborn at least, when he had a bit of a strain in his arm; **Sig Debbie Payne** had a quick swap round; **LCpl Andy Orr** has rotated back to the world; and **Lt Alan Garrett** has gone down/back/rearwards to Split to do his thing there. Hellos are deserving to **LCpls** 'Engy' **Engelmann, Andy Monger, Carl Payne** and **Neil Callow**.

MEATY BIT

NCP Tac HQ. Take half-a-dozen over-ripe panzers, a dozen fresh soldiers, a dash of staff and a big helping of kit you have never seen before: mix well and deploy to Kiseljak. Carpark secured.

We now have a semi-permanent rebro halfway up Route Diamond. Everyone rotates through and it is pot luck if the weather is sunny or wet. Quite a few request to man the site just before they go on R&R, however. Panic tanning, perhaps?

Latest on the agenda has been a rear link to the Gunners. Pretty soon, **Sgt Fox**'s little bag of operaters is going to be rather empty.

In between all this excitement, we managed to build a rest-room. Known as the "Oasis", its main feature was that it had a pond, something that most people learned with a shock, even the OC! **Lt Alan Garrett** got to know it quite well when he got promoted. Unfortunately the "Oasis" is no more, but it went with a bang, not a whimper.



The Oasis

MAIN TROOP
Tp Comd — **Capt Paul Smith**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt Mark Tivey**

It was a nice spring day in Paderborn on 29th April 1995 as the main party waited in anticipation to be called forward to the MCP. Once we had gone through the documentation ceremony, that seemed to take a life time, we said our last goodbyes to our families and boarded the coach bound for Paderborn airport. Spirits were high and the training finally finished as we boarded the UN aircraft and departed for the Former Republic of Yugoslavia. As the plane landed at Split and taxied onto the airport pan, a deadly silence came over the whole plane as all eyes were 'fixed' on the mountainous countryside and then onto the 'cheery faced, banner waving' greeting party of 19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. Once arriving in Divulje Barracks we received our UN ID cards followed by the in theatre Mil Info brief. We were then shown to our 'luscious' accommodation, with 'hot' running water and 'spacious' living accommodation. Now that we had settled in, it was time for the handover/takeover that went extremely well, due to the fact of 19 Mech Bde being very keen to handover and 200 Sig Sqn to takeover. Once all the formalities were over and 19 Mech Bde had left, it was time to get down to the hard work that lay ahead. The first thing that happened was the renaming of the troop from **BRITFOR Troop** to **Main Troop**, commanded by **Capt Paul Smith.** The troop is an unusual mixture of personnel, it is almost like a small scale independent Sqn in itself. The troop consists of the following departments, MT, LAD, Techs and Radio sections. This amounts to around 40 personnel and includes the troop hierarchy.

It was now time to put all our training and expertise into practise, so the department heads got together to see how things could be improved and what problems we might incur like working conditions, accommodation, communications and troop areas. Once all departments had found their feet and achieved as much has they could in their respective areas of responsibility, it was time to start on the troop area. The MT washdown was the first thing to be tackled and tackled it was. It was transformed from a 'mosquitoes breeding paradise' into a troop briefing area, come barbecue area and was named 'The Fubar' where many a good time was had by all.

The next conquest was the vehicle park though we came across a lot of difficulties like, the one-way circuit that no one seemed to adhere too, trying to find sand for the cement so that we could make bollards for the park, 'even though we were on the coast' and putting the servicing bay into some kind of order. A lot has been achieved on this OP GRAPPLE tour and it will be left for OP GRAPPLE 7, to carry on the activity.

MT
SSgt Bovan

After the handover/takeover which was 'swift and sure' it was time to look at the vehicles. So our illustrious leader **SSgt Bovan** asked the LAD to have a quick 'gander over the vehicles, to see what condition they were in'. That was a 'big mistake' half an hour and 6 VOR landrovers later, **SSgt Bovan** had to have a quick word in the ear of **LCpl Hammersley** and try and persuade him, that this was actually a working MT and not a dormant one! After that little 'catastrophe' things got into a nice routine, 'fast balls' come in thick and fast, due to the staff of HQ BRITFOR needing to go up country and 'visit everyone' in theatre. The up country routes were quickly learnt and the 'war stories' grew with every trip 'it was this BIG.' Next come the VIP visits under the co-ordination of **Capt Liz Whichelo** who worked for Protocol in SSW. The daily task for the MT was not the driving 'details' but to try and keep out of her 'evil clutches'. Her sole intention in life, or so it seemed, was to stop the MT from having a Sunday off. With her last minute VIP visits, she quickly came to be known as the other 'Kate Adie!'

In came a fast ball from 'yes you've guessed it' **Capt Whichelo**, the 'Pay Review Body are visiting theatre' was the cry. So the vehicle was found, the D Comd's Safari TDI. All that was required now was the driver, **Cpl Fitzgerald** was given the task. **SSgt Bovan** and **Sgt Mitchell** will never forget that evening as they sat in the office saying, 'the VIP visit seems to be going well' until **Sig Starkie** reported to them saying 'have you heard about the TDI' 'NO' was the reply, 'well, the wheels come off', to which **SSgt Bovan** replied 'yes but the VIP's were not in it', then came the reply that he did not want to hear 'Oh yes?' With the end of their careers flashing past their eyes they sped off to the scene. There it was on the bottom road to Split, in the village of Kastela, the vehicle at the side of the road, leaning to the left, with **Cpl Fitzgerald** looking bemused. Luckily no one was hurt due to the expert driving of **Cpl Fitzgerald**. The remainder of the VIP visits went without incident.

In between all of these activities we had the disappearance of **Cpl Fitzgerald** through a knee injury and during his ever so 'brief appearance' **LCpl Dave Turton** through a back injury. (Un)fortunately **Cpl Fitzgerald** came back and **Sig Dave Dowson** replaced **LCpl Turton**.

Time then for roulement, the halfway stage. So it came and we lost three rather renowned characters to SSW, namely **Sig Bell, Sig Robinson** and **Sig Harkness**. In return from SSW we received **Sig Trethewey, Sig Straughan** and **Sig Millar**. So the long process of having to teach the three 'newcomers' the local area started all over again, which, gladly made the time go by that much quicker.

Once again our 'illustrious' leader **SSgt Bovan** decided to lead from the front. He arranged that a member of 1 D & D namely **SSM Andy Clark** and himself, go on a rather urgent recce of the Jesenica area.

So packed to their 'teeth' with flip-flops, sunglasses and what-has-your-fancy, off they went. The MT waited with 'baited breath' for their return to hear the stories of, 'you should've seen the size..' and 'the way they

wriggled . . . ' instead we were greeted by a shell of the former man with stories of how the HV had decided to use them for target practice on route Gannet, followed by catchy phrases like 'doesn't that just make the hairs on the back of your neck stand on end.' Needless to say after a quick trip to the 'psychiatrist', our leader is once more back to his old quirky self.

Happily things are now trotting along at a giddy pace and the end of October is looming. The lads in the MT have done an exceptional job and all should be individually congratulated on all the requirements put before them by HQ BRITFOR. Not one member of the MT has had to fill in a FMT-3. Well done.

THE EFI SHOP
LCpl Steve Godfrey

In one corner of BRITFOR Sig Sqn MT park sits 'The Corner Shop', a little Oasis in one large desert. Following on from **LCpl Andy** 'Reg' **Monger, LCpl Pete** 'Reg' **Emson, LCpl Dave** 'Reggie Kray' **Turton** and **LCpl Jim** 'Reg' **Prior**. **LCpl Steve** 'Reg' **Godfrey**, complete with toupee, is the fifth and penultimate 'Reg' from OP Grapple 6. With a wide range of useful stock such as, Kuwait medal presentation cases (who ordered those?) Royal Signal stable belts and Vo5 hair gel (who are they trying to impress?) everyone's needs were catered for!

Tuesday's are the day's that every 'Reg' dreads, R & R flights 'nightmare.' From opening time to closing time, it is one mad rush. A gully, runs from the counter to the fridge, worn down from the countless trips for 'soft' drinks. The 'Reg's' are bombarded with questions such as 'what pop do you have' and 'is it cold,' this question is being asked by every second person. It is not surprising then that all 'Reg's learn to communicate through sign language, grunts and pointing their way through most of the day. Sometimes the urge to empty a can of sprit over a customers head, is almost too tempting. So if you were one of those that complained, remember that 'Reg' did his best.

RADIO SECTION

It's been an interesting tour for Radio section. A total change from the armour that they had left back in Paderborn. For some it was the first time that they had worked on FFR's. Soon after the handover/takeover, like the MT, they soon got the calling from HQ BRITFOR asking for transport to go up country, with comms. So **Cpl Chapman** tasked his crews and they were off. With everyone tasked, accept for the one 'Reg' tasked to run the EFI shop and the three operators to run the ops room, the Radio Shack resembled a ghost town.

The next task on the agenda was to send an out det to the former Krajina capital Knin, **Sig Anscomb** and **Sig Howard** were tasked. The stories that came back from this one, well, they had to have a UN police escort, drive through deserted villages, overcome mined roads and were forced to eat 'by whom we don't know' raw fish and curry.

Cpl Chapman, **Cpl Maclaren** and **Cpl Nixon** were tasked to take out three Rebro's to a secret destination. Very quickly they all got to know the routes.

On Roulement to SSW it was goodbye to **Cpl Maclaren, Cpl Nixon, Sig Howard** and **Sig Atkinson** and welcome to, **Cpl Duggan**, **LCpl Devlin, LCpl Bob Cunningham, Sig McCulloch** and **Sig Elliott Harper**. Now the tour is drawing to a close, but they are busy once again with 1st line inspections and comms trials.

THE LINE TEAM

Prior to their arrival way back in May 95 **Sig Durrans** and **Sig Slocombe**, enjoyed a three week Riggers course held at RAF Digby. With the course behind them it was time to put it into practise. Over the tour a few Rigging tasks came along and so they were 'off' to all areas of Bosnia to install new ops rooms, repairing and laying new lines for the ever increasing Forces arriving into theatre. Stories came back with the likes of **Sig Slocombe**, claiming that he had been shot at, while on a Rigging job. He does like to add a few noughts on.

When the team have not been so busy and **SSgt (FOS) Paul Redmond** could not find them any work, then they were employed in the Sqn MT. During this time **Sig Slocombe** put his other talents into good use, namely his carpentry, and was sent up to GV to build a bar. He worked on this project for nearly four weeks and with the bar finished, he returned to Split. Some weeks later he was invited back to GV for a function at the newly constructed 'Oasis' bar, only to see the bar 'burn' down, all his hard work gone to waste, unlucky!

STRATCOMM TROOP

Tp Comd	**Capt Shipley**
Tp SSgt	**SSqt Belam**

Welcome to probably the largest troop in Royal Signals and probably the best mobile satellite communicators in the world! The events in Bosnia over the past four months have resulted in the troop expanding from 7 to 11 dets, deployed throughout Bosnia and Croatia, with a resulting increase of manpower from 89 to 130 personnel. The troop is now the same size as the remainder of BRITSIGSQN put together and even includes a VSC 501 det from TCW. Many of the troop are on their second tour and there are even a few who are out for the third time on Grapple! In addition to the satellite dets providing normal COMMCEN and secure phone/CIS facilities, the troop is also providing five Ptarmigan Satellite Bridge (PSB) dets including one attached to 24 AIRMOBBDE in the Fly Forward role.

The UN decision to withdraw it's troops from Gorazde saw a hurried extraction of our TSC 502 det. **LCpl Field** and **Sig West** were the first to depart with a 1 RWF convoy to Belgrade and UN flights to Split via Zagreb. **Sig Ian Wilson** came out next, with the det 4 tonner. The final close down, packing up and extraction were left to **Sgt** 'Taff' **Tanner** and **Cpl Geoff Osborne**. Most items got out okay but don't ask them if you can borrow the det Landrover (it's still in Gorazde!). The final convoys did the "Wallis Arnold" tour of the Balkans from Gorazde to Belgrade then Zagreb and finally to Split!

The Tp Comd (or "OC Swan" as he is better known) continues to spend his time "Up Country" at all the dets, in the hope that he will have a war story to tell. So far the most exciting thing that has happened to him is getting spat at by a Bosnian boy somewhere between Kiseljak and Jablanica. Try as he did, he was unable to persuade the powers that be to call a NATO air-strike on the boys village.

In Split, the det has been using it's limited time off to build a superb patio and barbecue area ably led by **Cpl Jon Greenwell** and **LCpl Si Parkes**. The lads even built a covered veranda with floors made from CORIMEC walls. **LCpl Parkes** added his own personal touch with the psychedelic paint work and pond which he dug prior to his departure (no water yet though, still waiting for the pump he promised to send!). The quality of workmanship was proved only a couple of weeks ago, when a large storm hit Split, resulting in the medics 12x12 tents hovering 20 feet above the ground and pushing the Spanish MT tent across the road and into UK HF Troops antenna field. This resulted in UK HF Troop being re-named UK Troop (because they didn't have any HF left!!). Through all of this the veranda held out and only a few sheets of corrugated iron were ripped from their fixing! All dets have memorable stories to tell but unless *The Wire* dedicates an issue to Stratcomm Tp, we will not be able to record the events for posterity! Therefore, we will go on to arrivals and departures for the month of September (and early October!).

We say a sad farewell to **Capt Fred Whichelo, WO1 (FofS) Ian Hugill, SSgt Kev Belam, Sgt Neil Trengove, Ian Glover, Ratna Rai, Cpl Mandy Russell, Paul Wilcock, Kev Lumley, Yam Gurung, Chris Hardy, LCpl Si Parke, Mick Preston, Bhim Thebe,** Taff **George, Lisa Jenkins** (soon to be Conley), **Michelle Drew, Sig Mac McWha, Raj Kumar Gurung, Kamal Gurung, Nanda Pun** and **Glen Robinson**.

A jolly welcome and Happy Christmas to **Capt Sarah Allan, WO2 (FofS) Mark Hardy, SSgt Mal Eatwell, Sgt Kev Peters, Mark Evans, Lal Gaha,** Tosh **Leyland, Cpl Kabiraj Gurung, Bridge, Steve Robinson, Kerr, LCpl Birendra, Lake, Sig Manprasad, Dilip, Binod, Pratiman** and **Smith**.

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7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207) BFPO 30

Sqn Comd **Maj J. P. Wilson**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Fitzpatrick**

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

The past few months have seen a host of new arrivals. **WO2 (SSM) Jim Rouse** has been here on Long Look, we haven't really seen him so this will be hello and farewell, **Sgt Paul Boughey** arrived from his gunner RLD to B Tp and then moved to A Tp, **Sig Dave Dytham** from Laarbruch. We have had a host of postings in from Harrogate including **Sigs Moore, Alston, Woolley, Whetlor, Turnock,** and **Broderick**. Hello again to the 21C, **Capt Neil Fraser**, back after JDSC and an attachment to 8 R IRISH, to climb his in tray. Farewells to **Sigs Templeman, Wright** and **Green** all gone to Bulford and **Sig** 'Pierre' **Walker** gone to Aldershot.

75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS – 4 SEPTEMBER 95

Despite the pouring rain the White Helmets motorcycle display team provided the highlight of the Squadron's 75th Anniversary Fair, performing their full routine to an appreciative, if wet, audience. A slightly drier audience were treated to the sounds of the Corps' Band in the marquee, who performed a varied routine delighting all including the guest of honour, the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE DL**. As well as the major attractions the Squadron had many ways of parting the visitors from their money – all in the name of charity of course!! **Cpl Jase Raybould** offered the ideal stress reliever – a 51b sledge hammer and an old banger or two. **Cfn Dave MacLeish** (now LCpl), ran the mandatory stocks for revenge on the Squadron management. Least popular target was the QM **Capt Brian Dalton**, while public enemy number one, at least to his kids, was **SSgt Steve Ferris**. The Squadron also hosted the Royal Signals Inter-Unit Cross Country Championship for Germany. **WO2 (YofS) Paul Sexby** organised the event and led the Squadron team to Minor Unit Victory. Major Unit Winners were 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.



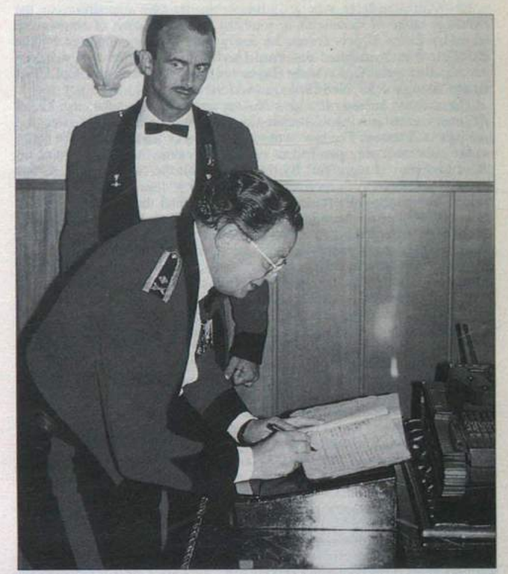
R Signals BFG Minor Units Cross Country Champions: *L-R*, Sig Slater, LCpl Harris, WO2(Yos) Sexby, LCpl Day, Sig Wheeler, SSgt Croft

The day was declared a resounding success, despite the weather. The Master of Signals then presented medals. **WO1 Sandy McLean** received his MSM, **Sgt Brian Albert Drew RLC** received his LS & GC and **Sgt Pete Howson** was presented a commendation from N Ireland. Congratulations to all.

In the evening, celebrations continued with a dinner for the Officers, Warrant Officers and SNCOs. Guests included the **Master of Signals** and the Bde Comd, **Brig C. W. Montgomery**. To remind us of our links with the Royal Engineers were **Lt Col P. Wall** and his RSM, also invited were RSOs and RSWOs. The Corps Band played throughout the meal which everyone enjoyed, the Chefs pride and joy being a mousse in Corps' colours. On Friday the whole Squadron came together for an all ranks function with a band, disco, bar and buffet. The only possibility was to enjoy yourself. By the early hours of Saturday the 75th Birthday of the Corps' had been celebrated in style.

EXERCISE PREMIER LINK 11–20 SEPTEMBER 95

The aim of the exercise was to practice deployment and communications drills to build on in later exercises. A series of TEWTs were held covering deployment, establishing and defence of the HQ, and movement drills. These were organised by the Ops Officer, **Capt Fred Hargreaves**, who instructed along with a very enthusiastic RSM. The Squadron then deployed into the field in fairly slow time and was visited by Comd Comms HQ Land **Brig A. J. Schuler** on 14 Sep at



The Master of Signals signs the Sqn Visitors Book watched by a shifty RSM.

the first location. Unfortunately only Echelon was on site as the 432's were suffering a setback after the breakdown of two low loaders!! Portaloos had a major impact as insufficient had been deployed on the exercise. A team from the Div Sig Regt sneaked into one location to remove toilets only to be apprehended by the lineys. The Recce Officer, **Capt Neil Fraser** and **LCpl** 'Sticky' **Allardyce** – the "Bogs R Us" Team, was then tasked to locate all the toilets and carry out a mission to hijack toilets from subsequent locations to those in more desperate need. After a few moves the Squadron spent the weekend in Hoxter covering some mandatory training and repairing vehicles.

Following the weekend the Sqn Comd and YofS departed the exercise leaving the 21C and Ops Offr "in charge". Despite the desire to stay in Hoxter and order take time out the Squadron picked up the pace with a series of fast moves. The Tiffy **SSgt George Macintyre** provided the perfect demonstration of what happens when a radiator cap is taken off a 432 which has been running for some time – the resultant jet was very impressive. **Cpl** 'Pathfinder' **Pollitt** was able to lead A Tp into an obviously planned scenario of having to practise their reversing drills on a narrow rough track with a column of nine 432's and four B vehicles. **Cpl** 'Diamond Duvet' **Gee** was in on the plan by causing the Tp Comd **Lt Darren Offord** a further test of leadership in separating him from his mattress of concertina wire atop his vehicle. Starvation was narrowly avoided for the crew of ES/RMP on two occasions when **LCpl Kev Tharby**'s vehicle broke down and had to wait for the overstretched LAD. First time was opposite a Schnell Imbiss, the second opposite the Golden Arches, phew what a stroke of luck.

Another disaster was narrowly avoided when **LCpl Charlie Farley** accidentally took a cross country route in his 432. With the exceptional quick thinking of a JNCO in the Corps he used a ditch instead of the vehicle brakes to halt himself when he realised his error. **Sig Gaz Woolley** demonstrated the new tactics on "Actions of a Sentry during Stand To" which, as we all should note, is to do a runner to the position appointed in the event of an alarm and not, as one would expect, to remain at the Guard Post. The exercise practiced the deployment of Echelon at main and as an independent site. The RQMS, **WO2 Dave Catchpole** led his team of cooks, MT, LAD and Q staff to provide container meals and rolling replens during the exercise. All in all the exercise, aided by the kind weather, was beneficial and everyone learnt something.

19 (Mech) Bde HQ and Signal Squadron (209)

Sqn Comd **Maj Paul Towers**
RSM **WO1 (RSM)Dave Showell**

EXERCISE WILD WANDERER 29 JULY-10 AUGUST 1995

Ex Wild Wanderer was an adventurous training expedition to the Pyrenees range of mountains in southern France. A crew of seven were taken by Comd Bravo Troop, **Lt Andy Knott**, ably supported by the JESMEL winter qualified **Sgt Paul Davies**, on loan from 3 Div. Those participating were, **Cpl**'s **Andy Hayes** and **Russ Shields**, and **LCpl**'s Taff **Evans**, **Dougie Icke**, **Neil Binks**, and **Al Stewart**.

The exercise kicked off with a 36 hour test of travel endurance. Thirty six hours after leaving Catterick Garrison, we finally made it to the campsite at Luchon. The boss was too tight to pay for cabins on the ferry, so the children's play pen had to suffice. For some the temptation of all those toys proved too great! By the time we hit the campsite, we all felt like going straight to sleep, ready for the next few days activities.

Day one on the hills started with a monumental thinning out of kit to keep our backpacks to a reasonable weight. Wash kit was down to a toothbrush each, and a tube of toothpaste between all. All manner of kit superfluous to requirement was left behind, and the campsite looked like a tip. 'Brits abroad' was definitely the message from the faces of the French onlookers. Let them look we say! The surplus kit was put into binbags, and loaded onto the minibus, all bar one bag which was picked up by French bin men!!! Next it was off to the drop off point, and three days of solid beast around the mountains.

Trekking in the Pyrenees is definitely not a jolly. 1 kmh is considered fast going by the locals, and this was our average speed. On night one, the boss once again proved just how tight he could be with the expedition fund, and we all spent a very wet night out, not 100 meters from a nice warm hostel on the mountain side. Up with the sunrise, we made an early start for the longest leg to the next hostel, some 14km away. The ground was getting harder underfoot, and the group experienced some seriously steep terrain, rising to some 10,000 feet at the Coll de Crabioules on the border with Spain. Unfortunately, because of the heavy rain that day, it was unsafe to climb the Coll and make the refuge on the other side for risk of avalanche, so another night was spent in the rain. The boss was secretly savouring the thought of yet another few Francs saved from the budget, but like all the rest of the team, was shivering all night huddled behind a rock at 10,000ft. The rock that sheltered us that night was not quite big enough for us all, so **Sgt Paul Davies** went solo. His Gucci Inflatable mat was warm enough he said, until of course it burst.

Day three of the first leg was another long trek, with the party this time enduring a blisteringly hot day, a change from the thunder of the day before. Once again, it was a hard slog to make the pick up point on time, but a relief to see the bright yellow Darlington self-drive minibus in the distance, manned by **Cpl Russ Shields** and **LCpl Al Stewart**. We were interested to hear that whilst we had been on the French answer to the Lanyard Trophy, these two had been to see Boney M in concert. The venue was packed with a total of 90 fans cramming the stadium. I'm still not sure which required the most endurance to complete, but for the walking party, bathing sore feet in a bowl of Stella Artois and eating Garlic Cheese soon put everything into perspective.

The second leg centred around climbing the highest peak in the range, Pico d'Aneto, on the Spanish side of the border. After the boss said goodbye to the Au Pair girl from Luchon, we were once again on the move to a drop off point in Spain. At the border the Spanish Customs suggested a short cut to a mountain. This short cut turned out to be a visit to look at a rather bland reservoir some two hours drive out of our way. Top tip of the trip –nod at the men in uniform, but don't listen to them. We climbed to a refuge below the summit, where the boss released the moths from the exped wallet, and paid for accommodation in the dormitary style hut. Inside it felt quite spacious, that is until about 100 screaming Spanish school children piled in. Downstairs the food smelt wonderful, but as usual we had to cook our own. So, after a delicious feed of pasta and compo, it was lights out in the children's dorm.

To make it to the summit, a glacier has to be crossed. It is important to reach the glacier before the afternoon sun melts the surface layer, thus rendering crampons useless. We started the ascent at 0500hrs, and by 0930 we were on the Glacier. Two hours later we had reached the summit. The views were absolutely incredible, and the whole party took half an hour to savour the atmosphere, (which at 10,500ft had become slightly thinner). To stand on the top was the highlight of the trip, and even made the bosses tightness with the exped fund seem worth it. The steep descent was also fun, with the top of the glacier having by then turned to slush. Entertainment was provided by **LCpl Taff Evans**, who spent most of his time on his backside. Then it was back to the minibus, and our return into France.

The last two days were spent on the Atlantic coast near Biarritz. The Atlantic breakers were huge, and presented the swimmers (gone were the days of trekking and boots) with a solid wall of water in which to dive before being washed back up the beach in a lifeless heap. The body board surfing was even more outrageous, with wave 'wipeout' scuppering any hope of 'catching a tube'. Tans topped up, it was back to UK, and another night in the playpen on the ferry.



Summit Pico D'Aneto
L to R: Sgt Paul Davies, LCpls Neil Binks, Taff Evans and Lt Andy Knott

WO1 (RSM) PETE WOODWARD

After 24 years of service, **RSM Pete Woodward** is retiring from military life. It was on 1 June 1971 that he first reported at the Army Apprentice College in Harrogate, joining intake 71 B. (At that time the author of this article was two years old). Passing out as a data telegraphist, but later re-trading as a tech clerk, **Mr Woodward** has served in a total of nine units. His first posting was to 16 Sig Regt, and after a miriad of other units including 39 Bde, plus two notable stays in Cyprus with 9 Sig Regt and 259 Sig Sqn, he has served his last tour in the slightly colder Catterick based 19 (Mech) Bde as the RSM, during which time he was the Force RSM in the former Republic of Yugoslavia on Op Grapple 5. He retires with his wife **Pat** and two children **Gary** and **Tracy** to Richmond, where he will be well placed for visits to future Squadron functions. We wish him and his family the very best of retirements, (and plenty of luck with his fishing).

We also welcome the new RSM, **WO1 Dave Showell** who has arrived from 2 Signal Regiment. We wish him a successful tour, which starts with a 3 week exercise in Malaysia.



The RSM *(right)* with his cake on exercise whilst the QM (Capt Chas Dale) grins for a slice

LANCE CORPORAL FRANK WOODS

Lance Corporal Frank Woods was presented The General Officer Commanding's Commendation for Outstanding Service in September by the Commander of 19 (Mechanized) Brigade, **Brigadier Gordon CBE**. **LCpl Woods** served in the Headquarters Northern Ireland, working as a rigger from 1992 - 1994. It was for his outstanding commitment and service in sometimes difficult circumstances that he was awarded the commendation at the end of his tour.

24 Airmobile Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron (210) BFPO 540

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt L.J.H. Cullen**
SSgt **SSgt** 'Angry' **Alger**

After much "Yes you're going, no you're not" the advance party flew into Split and made their way to 'Club Dole', 37km from Ploce. Life was difficult, the YoS pointed out, as getting up at 6am did not compensate for having your bed 5ft from the Adriatic. 2,500 sandbags later, **LCpl** 'Pakbat' **Bremner** and his crew of **LCpl** 'Doddy' **Doe** and **Sig (now LCpl)** 'Gunners' **Grundy** watched in amazement as the 2IC gave them all away – it had been a hard few weeks.

The Main Body arrived and moved into hangar 5B, which resembled the arches under Waterloo Bridge. All that was required were some tourists throwing change into paper cups.

Our move out of the 'hangar of many alarm clocks' to 'Camp O of many names' was welcomed and at last we got into a routine. As Fly Forward was put together (Corps(-) in size), the Goojerat Gazzel's Volleyball team **CC, Dodgy Ankle, Tats Oot, Tugger, Dali Lama,** and **Thunderbolt** got through to the final only to be beaten by **Judas**'s team.

Amidst all the flooding, **Cpl** 'Swampy' **Terret** announced it had nothing to do with him, **Sig Davies** has returned after his sponsored absence in aid of the Corps museum, and finally **Sig** 'Romeo' **Russell** has swept **Pte Little** off her feet (or is it the other way round!?).

BRAVO TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt D. Worden**
SSgt **SSgt (WO2) Milne**

The activation party arrived in Croatia and immediately laboured away establishing themselves in Dole holiday camp. They vehemently denied rumours that they were actually on holiday there, while sporting golden tans and living in tents a stones' throw away from the beach. The Main Body arrived to find themselves in temporary accommodation in a hangar on Ploce docks. Conditions were cramped to say the least, and bedspaces were viciously fought over until the Troop seniors arrived and solved the problem by taking the best themselves. Ah, the burden of responsibility!

Sleep was difficult to come by for most due to alarms going off from 0530 to 0800 each morning. **Sig Stevenson** however found no difficulty in sleeping in one morning only to wake up with 2 minutes until parade. Not clever when you wake up in front of the RSM and all the Squadron seniors!

Once acclimatised, the Troop celebrated the 75th Anniversary by becoming part of the Engineers once again, showing off our inherent sandbagging skills. **Sgt Tanner** also qualified as an NPC Parking Attendant while sorting out the Headquarters.

Now in our tented camp, rumours of a snake in '**The Brewery**' have been vastly exaggerated, and any sightings of bootlaces are to be ignored in future.

The Troop sends congratulations to **WO2 Colin Milne** on his promotion. We also say hello to **Sig Scott 'Scott' Chapman**, and farewell to **Sig 'Mr.' McAree** who leaves us for civvie street - good luck for the future.

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd **Maj (QM) Rick Licence**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Ged Robinson**

Ploce!! Where on earth is Ploce?? Approximately 103 kilometers South East of the main Adriatic port of Split–Slipper City to the more envious amongst us.

Little did we know when deploying on Exercise Gryphons Eye on the 15th of May that exactly 2 months later our advance elements would be setting up the reception in a dockyard on the Adriatic coast for the remainder of The Airmobile Brigade. The troop figured quite prominantly within the advance party which, after being stood up and down a total of 7 times, eventually departed on the 17th July and stories of beach parties and endless hours of sun, beer and beach volleyball are scurrilously inaccurate.

Time seems to have flown by at an alarming rate since Gryphons Eye. No sooner had endex been called and the squadron stood down for a long bank holiday weekend when the call came from the **Sqn Comdr Maj David Meyer**–that his mother suggested he pack his kit. From then on every department within the troop has, apart from the odd long weekend, worked exceptionally long hours in preparation for deployment. After much uncertainty (which cost the QM a crate of beer) the main body of the squadron flew out of Brize Norton on the 2nd August to the sunnier climes of Split.

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT

RQHS **WO2** 'Molly' **Collins BEM**
SQHS **Sgt Pete Brooker**

The QM experienced two very different emotions during the bank holiday weekend. (Referred to in Support Tp notes above). The first was giving his daughter away in marriage and the after effects of a haemorrhaging wallet. The second was, after all the guests had gone home, that the peace and tranquility of an empty house was being replaced by a gradual dawning that Malcolm Rifkind had planned a surprise Summer break for him.

Subsequently, the department got to work trying to prize sufficient equipment out of a system that was not quite as convinced, as the Brigade air cell were, that we were deploying with an Armada of aircraft.

Sgt Pete Brooker worked wonders in convincing the system our demands needed to be met and gradually the stores filled. Now came the next problem – the dreaded UN in survey – when considering the **RQ**, **WO2** 'Molly' **Collins** is more of a luddite when it comes to computers than the QM, considerable time and the occasional expletive escaped from the confines of the RQ's office before the final sigh of relief could be heard which signalled the end of a very lengthy not to mention irksome task. ISO containers duly arrived and were subsequently painstakingly packed by **Cpl** 'Mac' **McDonald**, **Cpl** 'JJ' **Johnson** (light loads only), **LCpl Billy** (throw anything in) **Smith** and, last but by no means least, **Sig** 'Peaches' **Gregory**. These were then duly manifested (several times) and finally dispatched.

IN THEATRE

It aint so bad in Ploce, I am sure there are worse places on earth?? There's nothing wrong with working out of an ISO container, in fact they even pay you 58p extra for doing so. Filling sand bags can be fun too, but you don't get paid for that. You do, however, gain therapeutically from the experience. What about cold showers? They have replaced Bromide as the modern Army's method of suppressing the natural urges. And the scenic views combined with the Alpine like air whilst strolling to and from the showers does you a world of good.



"Oy! Stop smiling!!." Sgt Neil 'Taff' Evans shows his patient side as Cpl David 'Angry' Whitfield and LCpl Taff 'Bluey-reader' Francis pose when they should be sandbagging.

BROWNING LINES

The Squadron are gradually settling into a routine in Browning Lines – a tented camp comprising The Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, 51 Airmob Fd Sqn RE and The CSS Bn. Volleyball court and gymnasium, designed and built by **SSgt Frank Flaherty**, are getting some hammer, although with no mirrors available, the muscle busters are at a loss as to where to look.

The Admin office under the auspices of **SSgt's Paul Storrs** and **Stella Layzell** are well settled and doing a sterling job in providing the mail and of course the beer tokens for the Sqn bar. The other personality in the tremendous threesome is **Pte Elaine Little** who is working hard on her liaison skills.

Several barber shops are in evidence, but it seems 'Scousebatt' **SSgt's Ged Robinson** and **Frank Flaherty** have cornered the market to such an extent that the OC, QM and RSM trusted having their long locks shorn down to the wood by this family concern.

ECHELON

Echelon is established a mere mile from Browning Lines and is quite clearly the hub of activity. Not unlike Goojerat the elements that make up the majority of Support Tp continue to provide the various services to the squadron. What started off as a dusty corner of Ploce dockyard, followed, after a particularly heavy downpour, by something that resembled the river

Mersey at the height of the tide is now looking, after a great deal of hard work and innovation like a home from home. Our resident home improver – **Cpl** 'Mac' **McDonald** continues to astound us all with his innovative, agile mind by producing a myriad of labour saving devices including, just in case of another tremendous downpour, a means of sailing to safety. One only has to look at the furrowed brow and intense look of concentration to realise yet another masterpiece is in the pipeline, Terence Conran, watch out!

LCpl 'Breakdance Billy' **Smith** continues with his exacting body building regime by drinking copious amounts of Coca Cola.

CATERING SECTION

Or, here in Ploce, the unsung heros. They have done a marvellous job since arriving with the advance party. To labour under such conditions is worthy of praise, but to do so with such humour and panache is, indeed, worthy of the highest praise. Well done to our magnificent team: **Sgt** (now SSgt) **Dean North, Cpl Al Baker, Pte's Al Weaver** and Taff **Lloyd**.

LAD

The LAD, consisting of six of the REME's finest, is an extremely busy section at the best of times. Upon the order to deploy to Croatia, it became even busier. Two extra mechanics were drafted in, vehicle inspections stepped up a gear and spares hastened. Given that 30 days worth of stores were to be taken to theatre, the 'Tiffi' **SSgt Brian Jones** took great delight in handing the USA SNCO – **Sgt Kev Price** five A4 pages of the necessary spares to support the Squadron's 120 vehicles and trailers initially in theatre.

Once safely enclosed in QM's kingdom in the sunny resort of Costa-del-Ploce, the LAD enthusiastically set about reducing their numbers. **Cpl Duffy** tried drilling a hole in his thumb resulting in the loss of his nail. **Cpl Loughlin** then went one better by attempting major surgery on his thumb without anaesthetic which resulted in a quick return to the UK. And finally, **Cfn Duke** kicked a concrete block without the benefit of steel toe capped flip-flops. Fitters were falling fast! However, with equipment husbandry high on the squadron priorities the good standard of the vehicle fleet is being maintained and will continue to be despite what gremlins this tour throws up!

TM WORKSHOPS

The technical advance party consisted of **Sgt** 'Basher' **Bates**, **Cpl's** 'The Body' **Thomson**, 'Head' **Mills**, **LCpl's** 'Bumper' **Brydson** and 'Forrest' **White**. We arrived into theatre with great anticipation only to find we were doing the job of an ED, laying power cable and installing lighting into the tents broken up with the odd shift in Comms Ops.

Our accommodation was situated in Dole Camp only a stones throw from the Adriatic – a heady mixture of sand, sea, sun and surf. While the more sensible spent time slowly acclimatising, **Cpl** 'The Body' **Thompson** started pumping iron and, not to be alone in admiring his pecs, dragged **LCpl** 'Forrest' **White** along. After all the hard work had been completed the remainder of the tech team arrived looking pale and bemused: **Sgt** 'Rimmer' **Barclay**, **Cpl's** 'Fatboy' **Dundas**, 'Laid Back' **Preece**, 'Quiet Boy' **Colburn**, **LCpl** 'Day Dream' **Shaw** and of course **SSgt FofS** 'Dad of Hodge' **Hodgkinson**. Hands interlocked free thumb sucked frantically, the main body were led, chain like, to their home for the next few weeks – a huge dimly lit hangar – blinking they felt their way toward their 6' by 2' bed space. Helping them acclimatise, endless hours of fun were organised to stave off the boredom. This included the filling of endless bags with sand, the occasional guard and, of course, the inevitable fatigues.

The move from the hangar to the tented camp was welcomed by all. This was to change, however, when, after the first Balkan Storm, the vast majority of tents resembled indoor swimming pools.

NOTICES

Promotions - Congratulations to the QM **Maj Rick Licence**, **SSgt Frank Flaherty**, **SSgt Dean North**, **SSgt Paul Storrs**, **Sgt Tim Goodall**, **LCpl** 'John Mate' **Ryalls** and **LCpl Kevin Harmer**.

Marriages/Births – Congratulations to **SSgt Brian** and **Marion Jones** on the birth of their son **Steven**, to **LCpl John** and **Odette Ryalls** and **Sig Perry** and **Ria Mason** on their recent marriages. Well done! and good luck to you all.

Welcomes – A very warm welcome, although the weather is changing, to **WO1 (RSM) Grant Pocock** from 7 Signal Regiment. We wish you, **Ann** and family a very happy tour in Colchester. Welcome to the lads of The 'Iron Division Signal Regiment' - **Cpl Duffy**, **LCpl Smallwood**, **LCpl Owen**, **Cfn Duke**, **Sig Scott** and **Pte Lloyd**. Welcome aboard lads, thank you for all your hard work thus far and lets hope for a speedy and safe return to your families and friends in Bulford.

Also a warm welcome to **Sgt Tim Goodall** who has made a long journey from 156 Pro Coy, hope you have a great tour with us.

Farewells – A very warm and sincere farewell to **WO1 (RSM) Steve Morgan** and **Allison** who leave us for a 2 year repose in Latina. Many thanks to you both for all you have done for us. To **SSgt Frank Flaherty** and family who leave us for 249 Signal Squadron. Many thanks for all your hard work and dedication throughout your tour. To **SSgt Dean North** and family who move to Wattisham to take up the post as Master Chef to 3 Regt AAC. Many thanks and good luck. Also to **Sig John** 'The Colonel' **Dunwoody** his wife **Emma** and young son **James** who move to 1 (UK) Div HQ and Signal Regiment.



5 AB Bde HQ and Signal Squadron (216 Para) Aldershot

Sqn Comd **Maj P. Gillespie**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) J. J. Fairbairn**

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

There has been the usual turnover over the last couple of months. The new AO, **Capt Dave Wilson** is welcomed back, while **WO2 (YofS) Tony Redman** has fully established himself having completed his parachute refresher course. **Sgt Mark Sowerby** is also worth a mention–congratulations on your fatherhood. **SSgt Dougie Craig** is soon off on promotion, and he is wished all the best. We hope to see you return.

ACTIVITIES

Following a well-earned summer leave, members of the Squadron spent September all over the globe. At the time of writing 15 men are attached to 1 WFR training in the infantry role in Canada. Also **Capt Andy Fallows**' B Tp expedition has just returned from the Canadian Rockies, A Tp's small trip to Scotland has finished and other soldiers are on various courses (some serious, and some less so). The Ops O **Capt** 'Lord' **Cubbin** has managed to fit in a recce (or was it a swan?) to the USA prior to our exercise there next year. The Training Wing has had several successes with some good P Coy results and some excellent reports from the Royal Signals Corporals Course. Well done to **SSgt Stu Archer** and his team.

Looking forward, there is soon to be a busy exercise period, which will be followed by some military training and sports prior to Christmas leave. By the time this article is published it is hoped that this would have all been a success.

EXERCISE ROCKY VENTURE
by Cpl Fogg

Ex Rocky Venture was an expedition conducted in Canada over the period 5-26 September 1995. Led by **Capt Fallows**, 10 members of the Squadron went trekking, white water rafting, mammoth driving and gaining an experience of a lifetime.

The plan in the beginning had been to fly to Vancouver and make a short hop over to the Rockies in a day or two. Cost soon put a dampener on this idea and consequently we were faced with the prospect of driving from Toronto, only four inches on the atlas! This in reality turned out to be 2500 miles and a full four days of driving. However after a few interesting stops, some planned, some not–as can be imagined with a speed limit of only 58 mph, conflict was bound to happen. **Cpl** 'Nosher' **Brown** received the first speeding caution followed swiftly by **Cpls Fogg** and **Hammond** with their caution for not seeing a red light, or the police car at the red light. We eventually arrived at Radium Hot Springs in the Rockies.

After four days stuck in a vehicle, it was with some relief that we finally started trekking. Planned only as a 'leg-stretcher', it soon became the usual airborne tab, covering approximately 20km, climbing to a height of 7200ft and almost seeing off the team to begin with. But the views from the summit were well worth the flight, the drive and the tab to the top.

Lake Louise was next on the agenda, with the plan of just picking up the appropriate maps and provisions. Once there however the attraction of walking and boating up to a glacier was too good to miss. Yet again sleep came easy that night.

Finally the days of the trek arrived and after calculations had been done on the food to weight ratio, we erred on the side of starvation. However the bergens still weighed a ton! The next six days passed by mainly at 45 degree angles, either up or down and always with the ache of hunger. Throughout our trek, in which we saw very little human existence, we constantly saw warning signs for bears. However our impersonation of a herd of buffalo put paid to any likelihood of spotting any wildlife. The trek actually finished with aching backs, blistered feet and a few pounds lighter.

With the white water rafting proving an exciting finale, the time came to get back on the road and head back to Toronto. A route back through America to relieve boredom and familiarity brought us eventually to the Niagara Falls. So with 'flasher macs' donned, we ventured onto the *Maid of the Mist* and into the Falls. Half an hour later and completely soaked to the skin, the dulcet tones of **Sig Watson** could be heard to say 'well if that was it, I am not impressed'. There is no pleasing some people.

With the final day spent buying last minute presents, the expedition came all too quickly to an end. It was with some reluctance that we boarded the plane back to Britain. It was with some justification, for as we returned to the Squadron lines we were met with the sight of the vehicles lined up! We were on exercise the next day. Welcome back!

ADVENTURE TRAINING IN SCOTLAND

Ex Pegasus Highlander 95 was an adventure training trip to Scotland for **2Lt Merry, Cpls Christie** and **Combe, LCpl Jenkins, Sigs Finn** and **Phatta Gurung**. The problems started on the journey north when the minibus engine exploded! Our progress to Cameron Barracks was delayed; the back of the Sherpa minibus providing the best shelter around. **SSgt McNaught** managed to bale us out and we arrived in Inverness a day late.

Having finally arrived we headed for the Cairngorm Mountains to explore some of the heights. Land clearance had been difficult to obtain but the peak of Ben Macdui made the trip worthwhile. The team also walked in the area of the Battle of Culloden using a route that conveniently ended at a distillery.

The adventure training proved to be very enjoyable despite some other difficulties and Cameron Barracks in Inverness provides excellent facilities. The lessons learnt may at least help to make Ex Pegasus Highlander 1996 a bigger success. Having returned from Scotland we learned of the success of **Sigs Barrs, Shaw** and **Vanden** at P Coy in Catterick–well done!

MIKE TROOP

Tp Comd **FofS Steve Bason**

We welcome **Sgt Mark** 'Blah' **Farmer, LCpl** 'Paddy' **Clarke** and **Sig Walker** as new Troop members and say farewell and best wishes to **WO1 Bob Morris** on his commission and posting to 30 Sig Regt as the TOT. Congratulations go to **LCpl Pete Byrne** and **Cpl Steve Jones** on passing their Detachment Commanders Course. Also, well done to **LCpl Byrne** on passing his LGV 1 Course. **Sig Andy Fisher** has just returned from his German jumps course and managed to get some foreign wings at last. **Sgt Jim Duncan** has now finished beasting Pre Para and **Cpl** 'Brad' **Braddock** has returned from leading 1 PARA to win the Army Nines Rugby League. He was rewarded for his efforts towards rugby league and received the award for Army Player of the Year. Also congratulations on being recently appointed as Army captain for this season. Last but not least, a belated welcome to **Ivor Herring**. **Ivor**, the star of the sick parade, managed to spend 15 minutes off the sick and score two 'you've got to be happy with that' tries against 215 Sig Sqn in his latest game of rugby (union) for the Squadron.

EXCHANGE AU PAIR 'AN EXCHANGE OF EQUALS'
by 2Lt Merry

Life had been very hectic since arriving at the Squadron in April: P Coy, Basic Parachute Course, exercise and adventurous training. Therefore it was a pleasant surprise to be told by the 2IC 'You're off to France on exchange'. The trip took place at 18eme Regiment de Transmission located at Epinal in North East France; a French Airborne Signals Officer had visited Aldershot, and **2Lt Richard Quinsey** had hosted him. Fortunately for me, **Richard** was unable to go to France because he was parachuting.

I received my first lesson in military travel affairs in Paris. After going to collect my tickets from British Airways I was told there was no record of my reservation let alone tickets. My immense vocabulary of 10 words proved to be less than useful but the British Embassy was excellent and managed to bale me out. The duration of the exchange was two weeks and enabled me to see the French equivalent of Ptarmigan–Reta. I was literally welcomed with open arms by the Commanding Officer and brilliantly hosted by his subalterns. It appeared at times that the entire Regiment wished to practice their use of the English language and everyone was keen to speak to the 'man with the different uniform and red beret'.

The French Army operates a different system of administration than the British; this is mainly due to a large contingent of Appullee, or conscript soldiers. It is part of the French Institution that each man completes 10 months National Service before returning to civilian life. For this pleasure they receive £70 per month and a rail warrant home. Many Appullee go AWOL and it may take up to three years to complete their service as gaol time does not count. The life of the Regiment is very cyclic; every 10 months a new batch of recruits arrive and require training in the fundamentals of military life. I joined a group of soldiers on a 15km march that would result in the award of their Black Beret and allow them to join the Regiment. I was also fortunate enough to see many other aspects of life in the French Army including the various weapons in service, and visit the French Infantry and the French version of adventure training. Whilst not dressed in green I visited Strausborg with **Ltn Claude Bindrieff** and was given a native's tour of the city. On the final night I was 'dined out' with cussine de grenouille and l'escargot–frogs legs and snails.

The exchange was superb and I learned much about the French and their Army. Not speaking French proved to be of no major consequence. If you ever get the opportunity for an exchange, take it!



2Lt Merry outside the Regimental Barracks

CAYTHORPE MARCH AND REUNION WEEKEND 1995

The Caythorpe weekend is one of the highlights in the Parachute Sig Sqn calendar. Caythorpe in Lincolnshire was the village that the 1 Airborne Div deployed from to mount the Arnhem offensive. Therefore Caythorpe was adopted by the Old Comrades of the 1 Airborne Div Sig Regt as the location for their annual reunion. Nowadays with the kind permission of the Old Comrades the Squadron deploys to Caythorpe to join in the annual weekend.

As always, the Caythorpe weekend was preceded by the annual charity march. The route which was chosen for 1995 was from Catterick–the



Team with Master in Northallerton

Corps' traditional home–to Caythorpe. It was a route of 240 miles taking the marchers down the east coast of England. The team was run by **Capt Dave Wilson** and **SSgt Vince McNaught**. The marching comprised of 12 men led by **Sgt** 'Dinger' **Bell**. The team split down by marching one day and manning the publicity stand the next–sadly for **Sgt Bell** he tabbed the lot. The march took a route through Northallerton, Scarborough, Bridlington, Hull, Boston and Caythorpe. The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE DL** met the teams in Northallerton and put a coin in each collecting box. He also took **Capt Wilson** and **SSgt McNaught** for a beer. The charity march was a great success and raised over £2,500 for Cancer Research.

The reunion weekend had the usual superb atmosphere about it. Sadly, due to RAF 'operational expediencies' the planned Squadron parachute descent failed to happen. However, an impressive flypast of the Dakota of the Battle of Britain brought back a lot of memories for the Old Comrades and the older villagers.

The weekend followed the usual format with a game of football and much socialising. This culminated in a church service where the Old Comrades remembered their fallen friends and the new generation of parachute signallers remembered theirs. The Squadron led the Old Comrades past **Maj Gen A. J. Deane-Drummond CB DSO MC** (and **Bar**), who took the salute.



Team at the end of the March in Caythorpe

223 Signal Squadron (399 SU RAF)
RAF Digby

Sqn Comd **Maj Charles Turner**
SRO **Maj Jim Dodds BEM**

As we write these Notes, **Wg Cdr B. M. Wynn OBE** is handing over command to **Wg Cdr R. I. Allan OBE**. We wish **Wg Cdr Wynn** all the very best for the future and for his new rank as he leaves Digby on promotion to Group Captain, a just reward for working with the Army. We welcome **Wg Cdr Allan** from the Reaction Force Air Staff in Germany and wish him a similar fate to **Wg Cdr Wynn**!

B FLIGHT

Flt Comd **Flt Lt Simon** 'BFT' **Watkins**
DSO **WO Dave Keates**
DDSO **WO2 (Supvr R) Shane Knight MBE**

FLIGHT UPDATE

B Flight would like to extend a warm welcome to **WO2 Shane Knight** and **LCpls** 'Nobby' **Clarke** and **Day** 'Brews On' **Long**. Also, a welcome back to **LCpl Kev Dingsdale** from his holiday in the Emerald Isle and good luck to **LCpls Martin Barker** and **Andy Knowles** who are off to spend a 'cracking Christmas' with Echo Tp, 225 Sig Sqn.

EXERCISE MERCURY RISING

Over the hottest weekend in July we've had for nearly 15 years in Lincolnshire, the Army element undertook its annual military exercise at Beckingham Ranges. The first day was devoted to brushing up on our basic military skills and a few of the JNCOs were also given the chance to improve on their teaching skills by giving entertaining lectures varying from 'Carrying out a Body Search' by **Martin** 'Fingers' **Barker**, 'Six Section Battle Drills' by **Richie** 'Bullet' **Canale**, and 'Snaring Rabbits' by **Kev** 'Boot Lace' **Dingsdale**. The second day was a military skills competition with **Cpl** 'Arch Bishop' **Ashley** leading the winning section. Congratulations also to the joint winners of the 'Most Improved JNCO' going to **LCpls Richie Canale** and **Carolyn** 'Rouge' **Thomson**.

HADRIAN'S WALL WALK

Well done to all involved in the sponsored Hadrian's Wall Walk, from Bowness on Solway to Newcastle. The hardy team consisted of **Cpls Lee** 'Tentpegger' **Ghaunt**, 'Tuxedo' **Malin, Dave Marrs**, 'Oops we're lost' **Si Haynes** and **LCpls** 'Why don't we get a bus' **Berry**, 'Can we hitch a lift' **Dunsmuir** and **JT Anya Moul**, and last but not least, **JT Joe** 'Grasslicker' **Ghaunt**. We had an enjoyable, if not at times weary, walk and more importantly raised £400 for local charity.

B FLIGHT BATTLE

The Enigma Zone in Lincoln was the venue for a laser gun battle between Flight members. Although it is supposed to be a non contact sport, **Cpl** 'Beavis' **Malin** decided to collide head to head with **JT** 'Jay' **Harrison**, both ending up on the floor with stars above them. Our intrepid leader **Flt Lt** 'Luke Skywalker' **Watkins** swept the board and won all four rounds, taking **LCpl** 'Nozzer' **Knowles**' scalp on numerous occasions.

CRICKET

Congratulations to our cricket team for winning the CO's cup. It was a close match, with exceptional batting from **SSgt (Supvr R) Paul Davey, Cpl** 'I'll play but I'm not very good' **Ashley, LCpl** 'Barbados' **Lamb** and **Cpl Pete McKinstry** and wicked bowling by **JT Jas Turney**. Well done to all concerned.

DELTA FLIGHT

Flt Comd **Lt Simon Meadowcroft BEM**
DSO **WO Tony Davis**
DDSO **WO2 (Supvr R) Andy Ashwell**

FLIGHT UPDATE

We start off with a Warm Delta Force welcome to **WO Tony Davies** and **JTW Sharon Davison** on their return from sunnier climes, also a warm welcome to **LCpls Tony** 'Forrest' **Green** from the farm and **Matt Blake** from H Flight. More hearty congratulations go to **JT George Wynn** and **JTW Nikki Sharpe** and **Cpl** 'Mitch' **Mitchell** and **JTW Paula Mansell** on their recent marriages. Fond farewells go to **WO Paul King** on his retirement, **LCpl Aidy Raine** on his de-mob, and **JTs Hoyle** and **Ward** on their moves to lesser Flights.

SOCIAL

Delta Force kicked off the month with a cracking families barbecue courtesy of **Sgt** 'Jacko' **Jacklin** and his merry crew, cheers lads, and we braved the green algae to shoot some rapids in Nottingham. Warnings not to drink the water were ignored by firstly **Lt Si Meadowcroft** closely followed by **LCpl** 'Potts' **Potten**. Within two hours one raft decided to take on the river vertically leaving its crew treading water and being treated to a mouthful of the local amber nectar. However no ill side effects have been seen . . . yet. Thanks go to **JT Said Charm** for organising a great day out.

SPORTS

Another spectacular month on the sporting front for the Flight with **Cpl Paul Waters** winning the CO's Cup for triathlon, **WO2 Andy Ashwell** and **Cpl Jane Pickworth** nearly winning the swimming and **SSgt (Supvr R) Denver Owens** winning the angling competition.

KILO FLIGHT

Flt Comd **Capt Eric Doughty**
Ops WO **WO2 (Supvr R) Mick Keech BEM**
Admin SNCO **FSgt John Tomblin**

FLIGHT UPDATE

A warm welcome back to **Sgt Mark** 'Charlie' **Brown** from his det to Bosnia, **Sgt Gordon Gardner, Cpl Sam Hepburn, JTs Kath Davey** and **Marylin Kitching** all just back from a short tour in the Falklands. Good luck to **Sgts Mick Osborne** and **Gordon Burns** on both having just started their Supervisor Radio's course and big congratulations go out to **Sgt Tony Woods** and his girlfriend **Elisa** on the birth of their baby boy **Alexander**. Stop Press: **Cpl Daz Hepburn** has been promoted!

SPORT

The CO's Cup Swimming Gala was recently held and Kilo Flight needed to do well in this event to retain their joint lead at the top of the table. Not one of our strongest events, but a lot of effort was put in with notable performances coming from **Cpl Sam Hepburn, WO1 (Supvr R) Chels Facer** and **FSgt John Tomblin**.

EXERCISE CHEVIOT CHASE

In September eight members of the Flight spent four days adventure training in the Northumberland area and RAF Boulmer provided us with a great hut at Newton-on-the-Sea. The Hill Walking phase was an 18 mile round trip to the top of the Cheviots and with good weather everyone set off in high spirits. Expedition leader **Cpl Daz Hepburn** led to the top, but with thick cloud coming in fast, he decided not to hang around. **SSgt (Supvr R) Dave Devine** took us canoeing on the freezing Kielder Water and **JT Carl Hoyle** was the first to have a look at his canoe from under the water, the rest of us are still wondering if he did get is hair wet before he went under, as he was out of his canoe so fast! **Cpl Si Nowell** probably got the most out of the day, having a slight steering problem with his canoe he probably paddled about three times the distance of the rest of us. Top Rope and Abseiling was the main activity of Day 4, with two climbs being set up at Ratscheugh crag by **Cpl Si Nowell** and **JT Paul Jones**, both climbs proved quite hard but in the end even **Cpl Robbie Sharwood** stuck to the rock like Spiderman. **JT Carl Hoyle** managed to descend the 50ft abseil with only touching the rock face twice!



'Wot no Pubs!'
L to R: Cpls Robbie Sharwood, Daz 'just call me Sarge now' Hepburn, JTs Paul Jones and Carl Hoyle and Cpl Si Nowell

238 Signal Squadron
Chelsea Barracks

Sqn Comd **Maj J. A. Harris**
RQSM/SSM **WO2 (SSM) Singleton**

RADIO TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt B. J. Elliott**
Tp SSgt **SSgt J. Laffey**

Arrivals: Welcome to the new PTI **Cpl Sue Asken** and **Cpl Rowe** who moves into the Trg Wing

VJ DAY

Whilst most of you were on summer leave there were great tremors in Radio Tp offices as **Capt Brian Elliott** and **SSgt Laffey** tried to contend with one of the largest parades the capital has ever seen. After a brief of 'we don't know how many are coming' and 'there's not a great deal of information on that yet' we set off around London area to provide comms for the parade.

At least 20,000 veterans turned out in the baking August sunshine to pay their final respects to their fallen comrades. By 1400 the parade was well underway and already **Cpl Ian Devonport** was deaf due to the Garrison Sergeant Major needing to raise his voice quite frequently. After a service conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury there was a two minute silence followed by a fly past of a Lancaster bomber which dropped thousands of poppies over the congregation at the Queen Victoria Memorial. This was followed by a march past and salute taken by the Queen. After the parade the troop continued the VJ day festivities with a well earned barbecue in the grounds of Kensington Palace. It was a long day but well deserved for the veterans and throughly enjoyed by those who took part.

EXERCISE TARTAN COCKNEY
ADVENTURE TRAINING SUMMER 1995

For a change this year the Squadron deployed north of the border to Garelochhead for its Summer adventure training. The first batch of intrepid adventurers arrived in Scotland to a brief of 'If you think this will be a weeks holiday you're sadly mistaken' and the following morning set out on the various walking, climbing and mountain biking activities the DS had organised.

The walking, under the guidance of local flora and fauna expert **SSgt Kev Bickerstaffe** was 13km Scottish hills, culminating in an 880m peak at the finish. **Sgt Paul Storey** led the mountain bikers round an arduous 30km bike route that allowed people to spend as much time sliding down hills as they did riding down them. The climbers with **Cpl Cliff Marker** (recently returned from his attachment with the FBI as Special Agent Utah) quickly gained their heads for heights although some, particularly **Sig Mark Dawson** had to be more actively encouraged to step off on the abseil. **Sgt Chris King** was so keen she simply jumped off, failing to remember she was on a rope not a bungee!

The final day of sports was based on a section competition with hockey, football, swimming and canoe races all contributing to another long and tiring day. After a challenging and fun week we boarded the train back to London all looking forward to the winter ceremonial season.



243 Signal Squadron
Bulford

Sqn Comd — **Maj M.S. Castle Smith**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) C. Alexander**

REPORT FROM U TROOP
By Tp SSgt 'Taff' Burdge

Firstly the farewells and welcomes of which we have many. A fond farewell into CivDiv goes to **Cpl Tony** 'How do you like your eggs done' **Baines**. After a 22 years sentence he is finally going to Slipper City in COMMCEN Plymouth. A farewell into Civy Street also goes to **Sig Claire Pettit**. **Sig Mandy Robinson** leaves us to go to 9 Sig Regt in Cyprus. Welcomes. To **Sgt Walker** who has come to us from JCUFI. Hello to **Cpl Phillips** arriving from Harrogate into the unfamiliar world of the teleprinter. A returning hello to an old face, **LCpl Woodhouse** who has come back to the fold after a couple of years at 30 Sig Regt – Sucker for punishment! Finally a troop welcome to **Sigs Beany** and **Ferguson** from 9 Sig Regt and 39 Bde respectively.

After the arrival of the new troop commander and staffy the troop has settled down into an active pattern of work. Congratulations must go to **Sgt Dani Thwaite** for recently passing her sergeants course – well done (But don't mention the map reading!). **Sig** 'Wardog' **Germain** also paid a flying visit to the COMMCEN during his spell of leave whilst back from Bosnia, stopping only to comment on the appalling food that he has been subjected to whilst serving with the French.

EXERCISE MILE MUNCHER
By WO2 (YofS) Bob Smith

When the call came from the Corps Museum for the annual donation of funds a scheme for raising money was needed. It was decided that the Squadron would do a sponsored run from Edinburgh back to Salisbury via all the fixed signal squadron locations at Edinburgh, York, Donnington, Chelsea and Aldershot. To help us in our fund raising activities we decided to also raise money for the National Meningitis Trust and the Salisbury Journals Life Line Appeal for the District Hospital.

The scene was set, now the exciting part of who was going to organise this Jolly. All the main players were at the OCs conference and the subject arose as to who was going to be the lucky victim. The initial idea came from **WO2 Dave Metcalfe** via Comd T Troop, **WO1 FofS Tim Prince**. The silence fell, no one was looking at the Tp Comd, as eye contact would be fatal, the lucky person is – **WO2 Bob Smith**, relief for everyone apart from the YofS. The YofS quickly suggested that as it was T Tps idea, **WO2 Metcalfe** might like to lend a hand with the admin.

Volunteers were sought to form the team of 12 runners and 3 support staff. By virtue of the fact the **YofS** and **WO2 Metcalfe** were going to be the admin party they decided that they couldn't run and do the admin (especially as it was some 750 miles), although they would run the odd leg "honestly". There would be 12 runners split into two teams. Team 1, was led by **WO1 FofS Tim Prince**, who started training 5 mins after leaving the conference, **SSgt Andy Burge**, **Sgt Dani Thwaite**, **Cpls Kev Bownes**, **George Lawson** and **Graeme Keith**. Medical support was provided by **Maj Patsy** 'whatever injury you have, take your shift off' **Burges** from 208 Field Hospital (V), Lancaster Det. Team 2 was led by **SSgt FofS Dino Priers** and consisted of **Sgt Mark Wigmore**, who unfortunately had a chest infection so had to pilot the mini bus for them, **Cpls Andy Baird**, **Terri Bennett** (Sqn PTI), **Donna Nevens** and **LCpls Rick Cardwell** and **Ben Jeffries**. Medical support for team 2 was provided by **Cpl Kenny Lloyd** also from 208 Field Hospital. The teams left Wilton on Sunday the 24th September for the drive to Edinburgh. The nice new mini bus on loan to us from AVH at Salisbury was taken by **WO1 Tim Prince** and **SSgt Dino Briers**. **Dino** soon complained that when it rained it was drier outside the bus. Tuesday morning saw the start of the run back, all down hill one of the participants commented, not the route the YofS had recced. The teams made the first stopover at Ouston without incident. The feeling that the teams would be too tired to go out at night was soon dispelled. The teams were not only going to run back to Salisbury, they were going to sample the ales as well. We had only been on the job for one day, and **Bob Smith** and **Dave Metcalfe** were renamed "Beavis and Butthead", derived from a series on MTV.

Wednesday night saw the teams arrive at York. The teams were getting a little weary. The delights of York had to be sampled, after all there was only 104 miles to do the next day to Donnington. Donnington came and went, Telford not deserving a mention from the lads. Friday and Saturday night was spent courtesy of 30 Sig Regt, Training Wing.

Saturday was designated a rest day. Sunday took the team to Aldershot via Chelsea in London. Aldershot night was spent in the gym at 251 Sig Sqn. Tuesday the 3rd October saw the finish outside the Guildhall in Salisbury. The end of a long week. The YofS achieved his life long ambition of rallying through Redesdale Forest in the Sqn Comd Astra Estate. Thanks go to all the static Sig Sqns that supported us on this event.

EXERCISE BRUNO FALL
By LCpl Jamie Topping

Ex Bruno fall was an adventure training exercise in the Lake District to prepare those intending to go on subsequently to attempt their UEL summer. After an early start on Tuesday, we drove up to the Lake District from Halton training camp. Our target was a rather large hill called Helvellyn. Ably led by **Sgt Wigmore**, or more correctly by his two Staffordshire Bull Terriers Biffa Chumley Bacon and Bess. We decided to take the direct approach, straight up, gaining height quickly to the summit. This all took it's toll on **Cpl Grahame** 'Crazy Legs Crane' **Keith**, who was still suffering from the night before (too much culture!!). We had lunch at the peak, Biffa and Bess making sure the lunch packs were sufficiently vetted before allowing anyone else near them. The afternoon was less strenuous, the walk back to the minibus being all down hill.

Wednesday was the longest day of the week, the day the group tackled Scarfell Pike. Progress was a lot slower than the previous day, due to the rocky nature of the paths along our routes. The dogs found it harder going than us, for a change. Everytime the group stopped for a water stop or to check the map Biffa didn't and would go wandering off with complete strangers. Once at the top we sat down to take in the sights and minutes later were joined by the boss **2Lt Blake** who had driven!? the minibus round to the western side of Scarfell to meet us. The surprise on the peak was mutual, neither party expected the other one to be there. Having reached the peak it was time to capture the group on film, or was it! The Boss's cameras, which had worked all the way up, now failed to function. In traditional tech fashion the Boss tried that most technical of methods to restore it to working condition – throw it against something solid. The drop test failed however and not a single photo of Scarfell was taken (we did reach the top – honest!).

LCpl Jamie 'Cultured' **Topping** decided that Scarfell Pike was nothing to rave about as there was no bar, and commented that he wished he had brought his stereo! The descent was slightly steeper than the ascent, the first part of which was completed by scree skiing on what ever part of your body you happened to fall over on.

Thursday was a little more gentle, concentrating on map reading skills (or lack of them Grahame!) Practised around Lake Windermere. The first leg proved to be most interesting under the direction of **Cpl** 'Sniffer' **Keith** leading the group into the only patch of elephant grass in the whole of the Lake District, which didn't impress **LCpl Michelle Jackson** very much as "the creepy crawlies keep going in my hair". After an enjoyable day around the Lake we experienced our first rain of the week as "the culture posse" made for the town of Windermere. Yet again **LCpl Topping** was disappointed to see the lack of disco, curryhouse and allday drinking facilities but now understands that people can survive without these essentials if necessary!

The exercise was a complete success brushing up skills that many people hadn't used for some time. A good time was had by all.

SPORT
ARMY 7-A-SIDE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT 9/10 SEPTEMBER 95

Cpl's Bennett and **Smart** and **Sig Appleton** represented the Squadron in the above event and after an outstanding effort they were runners up out of 28 other teams . . . Well done girls.

ARMY ROUNDERS FINAL - WORTHY DOWN 11 SEPTEMBER 95

Cpl's Bennett, Smart, Geddes and **Dunlop** and **Sig's Appleton** and **McGeachie** represented the Squadron and after reaching the final were unlucky to be runners up . . . Again . . . Well done.

3 (UK) DIV 6-A-SIDE LADIES FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT 21 SEPTEMBER 95

Cpl's Bennett and **Smart, LCpl Cavanagh** and **Sig Appleton** represented the Squadron in the above event. After an exciting semi-final which went to penalties after extra time the team qualified for the final which they unfortunately lost 2–1 to 17 Port and Maritime . . . Good effort girls for being runners up in a very competitive tournament.

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY TRIALS 23/24 SEPTEMBER 95

Cpl Smart and **Sig Appleton** went forward for the above trials and were selected for the Corps Squad for the 95/96 Season.

CORPS GOLF

On the 13/14 Sept 95 the Corps golfers met in Blandford to commence battle in the 95 Autumn Meet. Unfortunately the squadron were unable to enter a team but **Capt (Retd) Bob Wright** and **WO1 (FofS) Tim Prince** entered several competitions as individuals. The FofS managed a creditable 3rd place in the Stableford and 4th place overall in the handicap cup.

ARMY TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS
By Sig Steele

During the period 29 Jul to 3 Aug of this year the Army Tennis Championships were held in Aldershot. I'd come through to get to the ladies doubles final with my partner, **Sgt Heather NcNair** based at 240 Sig Sqn (York). After a close match we won beating the No1 seeds, **Capt Lorna Wood** and **Maj Kirsty Richards**. It was a double celebration because it was a Royal Signals win. Due to this success I was chosen to represent the army in the Ladies Doubles in the Inter Services Championships to be held at Wimbledon on the 7/8 Aug 95.

There was quite a bit of pressure for the Ladies Team this year. We had won it for the last two years so we were going for our hattrick. I was to play with **Cpl** 'Lofty' **Lofthouse** from ATR Winchester as Doubles pair three. The first day in the singles, the Ladies were leading the RAF. We played the Navy number 3's first. After a tough start we beat them. This meant we went on to play against the RAF number 3's with a air of confidence. We started well, too well I think. After a while we started to lose concentration and they came back. As it looked like defeat we started to win back our games but unfortunately of fortunately it all came to a crashing end when one of the RAF girls injured her leg. We therefore won the game by default. We weren't relieved . . . much!! As for the other double pairs the last day was pure pressure. The final score all depended on the last match between the army number 2's and the RAF. After a long and tense slog the army won, so overall we had retained our title beating the RAF by a single point. The Navy came a poor third. I really enjoyed playing at Wimbledon and receiving my colours for representing the Army team. It was a brilliant experience and I can't wait until next year.



249 Signal Squadron (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

EXERCISE SUMMER LINK

Ex Summer Link was the annual Squadron exercise, which consisted of an instructional phase centred at Longmoor Camp followed by a communications deployment over the South of England. In order to reflect a possible wider employment of the AMF(L) the exercise scenario was not based on a usual deployment sequence, but around a peace support operation. The instructional phase simulated pre-deployment training and was designed to give refresher and continuation communications training to all Squadron personnel. It consisted of numerous theory and command task based communications stands culminating in Ex Full Circle, a round robin competition. The competition was won by **Cpl** 'Jelly' **Smith** (fresh from his class 1 course) and his section.

Ex UNPROMELT was the communications deployment phase which exercised the unit in the provision of non-standard nets. The opportunity was taken to practise both comms ops teams in the communications planning and deployment of the Squadron's detachments. A demanding task, stretching from Dover to Cheltenham. This proved to be a popular challenge which was enthusiastically driven by both **Capt Andy Talbot** and his Main Tp team and **Lt Gareth Marsh** with Support Tp. The importance of accurate navigation was highlighted by the 'right grid, wrong map' method used by **LCpl** 'Magellan' **Pay**, the Bisley Range Warden was due a break anyway. The opportunity to test the unit DAMCON reporting policy arose thanks to the thoughtfulness of **LCpl** 'Berserker' **Bazzard**, managing to break into more training areas than the hordes of new age travellers have this year.

The exercise ended with an agreed withdrawal of all AMF(L) Troops back to Salisbury just in time for the exercise only NOPLAY message informing **Sig** 'Del' **Hatton** that he was about to become a dad–best of luck!

LEADERSHIP COURSE

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))'s leadership course was held at Okehampton, Dartmoor Training Area, for two weeks in October. The course consisted of an instructional period covering topics such as first aid, map reading, the orders process, tactics, estimates, also periods on current affairs, logical thought problems and as much PT as they wanted (although that was not enough for **Sig Reed**).

There followed a two and a half day military exercise where harbour drills, OP's and CTR's (even if it was the wrong objective 'recced') were put in, culminating in the classic dawn attack:

'Eat your hearts out Kelly's Heroes'

Congratulations to those who finished in the final top three positions:

1st – **Sig MacGregor**
2nd – **Sig Raine**
3rd – **Sig Tailford**

Due to the hard work and effort put in by all the students we even let them do the Kiwi Trophy the day after we returned.

KIWI TROPHY–PART 2

The Kiwi Trophy, 13 October 1995, had been rescheduled from July 1995, when it had to be cancelled due to excessive heat. This is a prestigious competition within the Squadron, so much so that some people were more than keen(!) to have another go, even though they had completed the course the day before it was first cancelled. If you wanted to win you had to compete again!

For those who have not served in the Squadron the event is an individual effort 22km biathlon over testing terrain, with each competitor carrying 30lb plus SA80 and water. The ranges are at the 10km point and this is where the competition is won and lost. Ten rounds at a figure 11 target from 200m. Each miss adds three minutes to the total time.

The course proved more than difficult for some people, especially those who veered from the marked route, though this was not helped by mysteriously disappearing TAC signs! Nonetheless, almost every competitor had covered the course on more than one occasion. **Sgt** 'Gaz' **Greaves** was busy fending off disgruntled competitors with the immortal words 'They were there this morning . . . honest guv.'

This year's results were:

1st	**WO2 (YofS) Nixon**	2 hrs 14 mins 45 secs
2nd	**Capt Foulkes**	2 hrs 16 mins 13 secs
3rd	**WO2 (SSM) Barnes**	2 hrs 23 mins 29 secs

A special mention should go to **LCpl** 'The Cat' **Pay** who managed to complete the course in the quickest time, 2 hrs 7 mins 3 secs, but unfortunately amassed a 30 minute penalty at the range. Best of luck on your APWT!

WIRE PHOTOGRAPHS

Please do not ask for photographs sent for publication in *The Wire*, to be returned, unless they are irreplaceable. Contributors should be aware of the fact that although every care is taken with contributions, they should not risk losing a photograph that cannot be replaced.

THREE COUNTIES CHARITY MARCH

During the period 14-20 August 1995 Support Tp, 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) ran a marathon a day from Salisbury to Torquay (via Bournemouth, Weymouth, Lyme Regis and Exmouth) for the charity Cancer Research. This is an event which the Troop runs each year and is organised by the Troop Corporals. This year it was down to **Cpl Drudge-Coates** (DC) to do the public relations and **Cpls Lou Plested**, 'H' **Harrison** and **Paul Young** to organise the event. The overall coordinator was **SSgt Pete Griffiths**.

After many phone calls and letters the big day finally arrived to start the run. Assurances from **Cpl** 'DC' that **Vicky Michelle** of 'Allo Allo' was to start the run in Salisbury was much looked forward to by the lads. Little did we know that the Big Breakfast Road Show had given her loads of money to appear that very day in Bournemouth. 'The show must go on' as we say, so after a not so trouble free photo session outside Salisbury's town hall we set off on our long run.

The Troop was split up into two main bodies, runners and collectors. The collectors headed by **LCpl Andy Armitage** with his loud-hailer and his witty comments enticed the local populations to part with their money, while the runners slogged it on the road behind 'white flash', our newly decorated open top Land Rover 90. After a few days the flow of money was slowing down a bit so with a shout of 'these squaddies will jump into the sea for a tenner' we started raking it in. On our final day we finished at the Riviera Leisure Centre in Torquay where we were given free use of all the facilities in exchange for another photo session (modelling gets you anything!).

As another 'PR' stunt, the presenter of Mr & Mrs (answers on a postcard if you can remember his name) actually turned up to help us out–cheers DC, **Vicky** was a much better idea! This year we managed to raise £2,300 for Cancer Research, totalling our contribution to a sum of



Cheque being handed over by the OC

£10,000. Well done lads. The person who wrote this is **Sgt Neil W***** and if this gets printed it will be the first time I've ever been mentioned in *The Wire*–Hi Mum!

251 Signal Squadron
Aldershot

Sqn Comd **Maj John Gerrard**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Kev Jenkins**

During this period we are saying farewell to the Sqn Comd **Maj John Gerrard** who is being replaced by **Capt Dave Ellis** who takes over as TOT and acting Sqn Comd for six months. The YofS **WO2 Keith Roach** is off to 21 Sig Regt and will be replaced by a gapped post.'

EXERCISE CUTTING EDGE 18–22 SEPTEMBER 1995

Ex Cutting Edge (Battle Camp) took the form of a counter insurgency operation against a terrorist organisation known as the Popular People's Front of Ashdown (PPFA). The PPFA had murdered two local government officials and were gaining support from the local people by the use of intimidation, the Squadron's task was to support the local Crowborough police.

DAY 1–THE OPTIMISTIC DEPLOYMENT

The exercise started with a tactical deployment into the field using a large blue MT bus. On arrival we were welcomed into the loving arms of **SSM Jenkins** and our Save A Soul (SAS) guide **Capt Baldwin** who joyfully informed us the exercise would start with a leisurely stroll, bergens and all, around the beautiful Crowborough Training Area. The two Sections set off in search of stores and our luxury accommodation. Luckily for Section 2, **Sig** 'Pathfinder' **Coils** decided to take the scenic route, allowing them to see most of the training area in the first day, which was much appreciated by the Section. Eventually both Sections arrived at our deluxe accommodation, which was just waiting to be dug. Four hours later and six foot down, the duplex condominiums were completed and the sections settled down to a guard routine.

DAY 2–THE FUN REALLY BEGINS

Section 1, under the leadership of **LCpl Lynn Cunningham** set off on an OP recce. On returning she described the OP area in great detail to an amazed **SSgt Smith** who had been at the OP all day and had not seen a soul. He could only put it down to women's intuition.

Section 2, meanwhile, went on a standing patrol and had the first encounter with the PPFA. When attacked, the section remained cool and calm, despite having to charge towards the flashing barrel of an AK47. It's amazing how composed the NCO I/C **LCpl Lucy Mason** was, despite being responsible for a section which shot an unarmed terrorist 20 times. Luckily the terrorist **Sgt** 'Willy' **Williams** made a complete recovery.

During the night the PPFA attacked, but **Sigs** 'Millwall' **Martin** and **Liddell** had gathered an arsenal of pyrotechnics even the Warsaw (or was it Walsall) Pact would have been impressed. When the attack came the PPFA were treated to a fire fight that would have done justice to the 'Last Night of the Prom', however, this was not enough to wake **Sig** 'Cheesey' **McChesney** who managed to sleep through the whole thing. The SSM



The Ops Offr telling the SSM the trench is in the wrong place and the SSM telling him what he intends to do about it!

was heard to say that the poor girl must have been really tired, I'd better give her some new boots or was it a boot?

DAY 3–MARCH OR DIE (WELL STARVE ANYWAY)

The importance of map reading, the order was simple get it right or go hungry! Fortunately for the Sections, the map readers managed to find the cache locations, except for **Sgt Cappleman** who was left off the ration strength and went on the night ambush hungry.

On the way to the ambush location the SSM had a surprise for the Sections, a rope crossing over water. This turned **Sig** 'Slightly' **Slight** a whiter shade of pale, but he managed, with great determination, to overcome the obstacle.

For those who don't understand the joys of a good ambush, we were beginning to wonder if the wait was worthwhile, when we were rewarded with a gloriously colourful and loud firefight which saw all the PPFA terrorists killed. The PPFA should have remembered 'Hell hath no fury like a woman in a Section scorned'.

DAY 4–HOMEWARD BOUND

After a successful ambush the Sections marched off triumphantly and although everyone enjoyed the exercise the thought of a warm commcen full of clattering Trends was too much to keep us in Crowborough, even if it meant the inevitable yomp to the bus couldn't be avoided.

Medals were awarded, **Cpl** 'Lou' **Walker** and **LCpl Emma Lowe** won the golden blanket medal for sleeping whenever and wherever possible, **Emma** also won an award of 'almost competent operator' when she discovered you stay a lot drier if you lift the cover of the portaloo seat before using it.



LCpl Lowe and Sig Coils actually found the weapons cache

HOCKEY SEVENS 9/10 SEPTEMBER

The Squadron entered a team in a Women's Hockey Sevens competition:

Cpl Mitchell, LCpls Jackson, Cunningham, Lowe, Mason, Day (Guest) and **Sig McChesney**.

The team put in an excellent effort, braving a wet and windy weekend to compete against teams from Ireland, Germany and the UK.

280 (UK) Signal Squadron
BFPO 35

Sqn Comd **Maj Bob Weston**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Jeff Williams**

The Squadron has just finished a busy period of Exercises and Adventure Training, we have time now to draw a quick breath before deploying on Battle Camp in Sennelager and then HQ LANDCENT's major exercise of the year Ex Cannon Cloud.

VISIT OF SOINC(A)/DGCIS(A) MAJ GEN A. H. BOYLE

As part of his farewell visit to Royal Signal units in Germany, **Maj Gen Boyle** visited the Squadron on 6 October 1995. During his brief but busy stay the General presented LS & GC Medals to **WO2 (YofS) Lee Keily, WO2 Michael Brooks, Sgt Mark Potter, Sgt Glen Miller** RLC and UN Bosnia Medals to **Capt Bridget Forster, SSgt (YofS) Matthew Horan** and **LCpl Darren Almey**. All medal recipients are to be congratulated.



SOinC inspecting the Honour Guard

SHQ TROOP

The Troop would like to say farewell to **LCpl Armstrong** who is off to sunnier climates at JHQ. Congratulations to you and your wife on the new arrival.

Also leaving the fold shortly are **WO2 (FofS) Dean Allen** and **SSgt (APTI) John Berry**, best of luck to you in the future. 'Mad Max' Jonno **Johnson** is also on his way, look out Brands Hatch and Silverstone he's coming to civvy street!

A warm welcome to **Sgt Steve Spiers** our new PTI, and his family, and **WPte** 'Addy' **Bowden** who is joining the hard workers up at SHQ.

EXERCISE QUEBEC BACKSTOP

A combined Sp/SHQ Tp adventure training exercise was recently completed in the Herz mountains, near the picturesque town of Braunlage.

The camp was jokingly referred to as a 'Summer Camp', however, those of you who know the area well, will realise that summer in that area consists of a dry afternoon in July and in early October the 'wet season' has definitely set in! Still, the weather wasn't too bad for the time of year, and an enjoyable time was had by all.

The camp was organised initially by **Sgt Andy Craig** and **Sgt Mick** 'Sleeping Bag' **Jones** RLC, but **Andy** eventually skived off to go on something called his RSSC. The things people will do to avoid living in a tent!

Sgt Mick Jones is to be congratulated on his organisation of the camp, especially when his booking of the hut was cancelled the week before due to renovation work. Undeterred, he simply moved the camp a couple of clicks down the road to a local campsite.

Sgt Brian 'Pathfinder' **Green** stepped into the fold at the last minute to assist **Sgt Jones**, but is probably regretting it after filling up the OC's petrol car with diesel. Expensive career move **Brian**, but thanks for all your help anyway!

The week passed surprisingly quickly with activities that included Windsurfing (with **Sgt Munford** and **Cpl Sanderson**), Rock Climbing and Abseiling (with **Sgt Radzimierski**) and Hillwalking (with **Cpl Honeyman**). Throw in some pretty dodgy mountain bikes and a great chef (**LCpl Radford**) and there you have it!

EXERCISE FRAN MAIDEN

Ex Fran Maiden was an exercise planned and organised by the Trg Wing, to let the wives of the Squadron deploy to the field, and experience first hand the joys of Army life from their husbands' view point.

Once there in the field there were various activities to keep them active, starting with basha erecting, supervised by **Cpls** 'Spats' **Brodie** and 'Big **John** (Pot Yeoman) **McArdle**. Once settled into their bashas (some of which were better than the DS accommodation) they were then taught how to cook in the field, under the watchful eye of an apron clad **John McArdle**.

After lunch and a short time to get into teams of threes or fours, they had a quick map reading lesson from **Capt Jacquie Beecher**. Then onto the orienteering course organised and run by **Sgt** 'Wy-ay Geordie' **Raine**. This event was won by **Clarissa Lowe**'s team.

On returning to the camp site and after a short rest it was onto the Command Tasks run by **LCpl** 'Paddy' **McNally** and **Cpl** 'Spats' **Brodie**. The race was on, as the team with the slowest completion time had to collect wood for the fire!

Now it was time for the escape and evasion. All the ladies were taken and dropped off in the woods where they were then hunted down by the DS and due to some excellent evasion techniques and help from the local farmers, the ladies made it to safety.

Night having closed in around us it was time to light the fire, sit down and have a chat about the day's activities, and life in general. Never in the history of Military Training have so many hip flasks been produced in so short a time, by so many wives!

Morning came around and with thoughts of the assault course looming, everyone packed up and boarded the Club Class DAF. **LCpl** 'Paddy' **McNally** was the PTI tasked with getting the ladies safely over the assault course. On the demo lap the ladies refused to go any further until a number of frogs that had become trapped in the sand pits were rescued. After the DS had risked life and limb returning Kermit and his friends back into the woods the ladies were now ready to commence. Set off in two teams they hurled themselves down the course with much encouragement from the DS. After a close fought battle **Erica Smoothy**'s team won.

It was then back to camp and a presentation by **Maj Weston** of a certificate to each of the ladies, which they had well and truly earned!

The weekend was a great success thanks mainly to the good humour and enthusiasm of all involved. Roll on next year!

The following 'spouses' (politically correct) took part in the Ex Fran Maiden.

Melissa Biggar, Gillian Baldwin, Mandy Coffill, Mary Cave, Heather Charles, Kim Dunford, Denise Eley, Liz Furness (infiltrato from AFCENT!), **Linda Gardiner, Sandra Green, Carisse Lowe, Marina Melotte, Erica Smoothy** and **Debbie Thomas**.

ALPHA/CHARLIE TROOP ADVENTURE TRAINING CAMP EXERCISE VOGAL BACKSTOP

This year's Adventure Training Camp took place near Munich. The days started out in a large hut in the middle of a training area. Pursuits included Mountain biking, White water rafting, Hill Walking, TR&A, Orienteering, and a river crossing. The first day (a nice easy day) was a walk up the Zugspits, 'Just to break your boots in for battle camp' quote, **SSgt Smoothy**. After five hours and a coke (in the restaurant a third of the way up) we arrived at Garmish PX, where some people swapped their boots CBH for proper walking boots. The Mountain Biking experience, was led by **Cpl Honeyman**, whose favourite saying was, 'This is the last hill'. The route was to be 115km. In the words of **Cpl Cowie**, 'Don't worry, after 10 k's we'll stop at a pub . . . Well maybe after the next 10 k's'. The OIC **Capt Kennedy** showed us all how to climb properly with no harness or rope and get stuck about 40ft up a rock face. And **SSgt Melotte** showed everybody how to abseil by using a harness, helmet, rope, safetyman and fingernails. Saturday afternoon was reserved for a practice river crossing, in a very cold pond. 'Just to prepare you for Battle Camp' quote **SSgt Smoothy**. Sqn Comd **Maj Weston** visited the exercise location and joined in on the White Water Rafting day. To the disappointment of the other raft the Sqn Comd spent most of the time out of the water. During the second week we all took part in an orienteering exercise. This included teams running about the training area with a Jerrycan of water between us. And so ended the Challenge Pursuits Camp, which everybody felt better for.

280 (UK) SIGNAL SQUADRON FOOTBALL TOUR

The Squadron Football Team departed to UK on Monday 18 September 1995 with great anticipation, having just won their first league fixture 8–0, though there was slight anxiety as a third of that winning team were remaining in Germany.

Arriving 0500hrs Tuesday, in Chelsea Barracks, London, the team badly needed rest and sleep having had a rough night on the ferry, even though the sea was calm! By that standard the team were happy to discover that their game against Notting Hill Metropolitan Police had been arranged for that afternoon. Showing great powers of recovery 280 had a sound 6–1 victory.

The next game, against 238 Sig Sqn proved to be the toughest encounter of the tour. The opposition came raring to go and promptly took a 2–0 lead. The touring team then had 80% of the play, but couldn't break a resilient 238 defence until a thunderbolt free kick from **Sig** 'Si' **Cartwright** put 280 back in the game, which they eventually ran-out as 4–2 winners. The team then had a couple of days of relax to discover the more exciting sights of London, which they did to their full potential.

Friday 22 September 1995 saw the Squadron team move on to Maidstone, Kent to play 36 Engineer Regt. This again was a hard fought affair with the game being won by another eye catching free kick from **Sig** 'Wicksy' **Payten**.

Sunday 24 September 1995, after the blur of Saturday night, the team found themselves at RAF Manston, Ramsgate. Looking for their fifth win in a week the Army team took on the Air Force under windy conditions. RAF Manston put the visitors under pressure for the first half hour but the defence proved up to the task keeping the scores at 0–0. Then a quick goal on the break before half time saw the Air Force heads go down. With the wind behind them an excellent 8–1 victory was achieved with **Sig Cocks** contributing well.

All in all a good footballing tour!!!



1 Signal Squadron (SC) (V)
Bletchley

Sqn Comd — **Maj Gordon Duncan**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Willie Ironside**

COMINGS AND GOINGS

The last two months have been hectic with numerous farewells and new additions to the Squadron. The most notable farewell was to the PSAO, **Capt Harry Meekings** who was dined out at Bletchley Park after 45 years in the Army. We wish him well as he sets off, with his wife **Pat**, on a European tour in his newly acquired camper. Other farewells go to **Sgt Nick Kimber** who is leaving the Army after 12 years, **Sgt Dave Hughes** as he goes on his Yeoman's course, **Cpl Seager**, our Chief Clerk on posting to SHAPE and **LCpl Gaz Coupe** on leaving the Army. Good luck to them all. We also welcome to the Squadron, **Sgt Debbie Driver** as the new Chief Clerk, **Sgt Danny Ford** as the Stores Sgt, **Cpl** 'Elvis' **O'Neill** as MT Cpl and **Cpl Eddie Stallwood** as our VM.

EXERCISE DOG BITE

Ex Dog Bite was the second 'Annual Camp' for the Squadron since its formation in April. Predominantly a communications exercise the Squadron deployed five detachments, two to Canada and one each to Gibraltar, Cyprus and Morocco. The Gibraltar det consisting of **SSgt** 'Market' **Stock, Sgt** 'Rabbit' **Davis, Cpl** 'Songbird' **Linnett, LCpl** 'R Entacar' **Avis** and **Sig** 'Rope' **Guy** deployed for 12 days and from reports and photos seen the det certainly worked and played hard with good comms. Excursions included a day's R & R in Espana, a tour of what must have been nearly all the 36 miles of tunnels in the Rock, and a visit on a US nuclear submarine.

Sgt 'Sword' **Wilkinson** and **Cpls** 'Blowdry' **Gilbert, Sylvester** 'Halfpint' **Hack** and **Libby** 'Palmtree' **McKerrow** deployed to Cyprus to join in Ex Dog Bite and also provided an operational link, excellent training in real-time traffic for the TA operators.

Two detachments deployed to Manitoba, Canada– one to the airbase at Winnipeg and the other to a Ground Search Rescue Cabin at Lac-du-Bonnet in the middle of nowhere. According to the detachment the aims of the exercise were to line dance better than the Canadians, shoot more grouse and catch more fish than the Canadians (as part of a survival exercise) and . . . communicate to each other and back to the UK. To the Ops Cell in the UK it often felt as though these were listed in Priority Order! The det performed well with **YofS** 'two step' **Willimont** perfecting line dancing within a matter of minutes. Shooting and fishing were easy for **Sgt Al** 'licensed to kill' **Moodie** and **Sig** 'Wild Frontiersman' **Coomber** who each had been issued a shotgun. The variable comms were easily explained by **YofS** 'Ginge' **Willimont** who was heard discussing 'an 11 year cycle' with the local amateur radio club! The Ops team are not sure if this is a comms term or an unsuccessful attempt by the YofS to supplement the Bungee Jumping and waterslides with mountain biking!



Sig Craig Capewell preparing dinner in Canada

EXERCISE SADDLE SORE

At the end of Camp all detachments returned to Bletchley and Ex Saddle Sore took place. An assessment weekend aimed at putting the JNCOs and signallers to the test in areas such as leadership, fitness, initiative and teamwork. The weekend included team appreciations, presentations and a 32 mile bike ride centering around Brill Hill with numerous command tasks along the way. The Saturday night gave people a well deserved rest from the cycling and a chance to nurse their 'saddle sore' parts in the bar.

NEWS FROM THE TROOPS

604 Signal Troop
BFPO 544

Tp Comd — **Capt S. R. Mannings**
SM — **SSgt P. M. Lord**

ARRIVALS

The Troop welcomes a number of new arrivals to sunny Aldershot and maybe later sunny Yugoslavia. Welcome to **SSgt (FofS) Robbie Windows** and his family from Cyprus, luckily already used to the heat. Welcome also to **Sigs Marshall**, from 16 Sig Regt, **Belton** and **Hadley**, both from Harrogate and **Cfn Hammett** from 5 Regt RA.

NEWS FROM FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

The Troop is currently deployed in numerous detachments throughout Croatia and Bosnia. These are some of the det crew's candid views:

REBRO DET 1–SOMEWHERE NEAR ROUTE TRIANGLE
by Sig Adam Backer

The 'Bacon Hill' Rebro Det is currently the up and coming venue for social functions. Friday, 18 August saw the joint birthday bash of **Sig Adam Backer** and **LCpl Doug Smart**. The night in question left **Cpl Bri Ruddin** and **Sig Backer** with rather bad head colds after the resident barber (scalper more like) **LCpl Bernie Fidler** made a substantial slip with the clippers when performing routine hairdressing surgery. The Det would also like to thank a rather nice Cook Sergeant in Lipa as we are never short of our daily bread, steak, eggs, bacon and sausages. Needless to say, we are all dreading our return to Aldershot where **SSgt Phil Lord** will get us back into shape again.

LIPA DET
by LCpl Bernie Fidler

We have been in Lipa now for eight weeks in support of British Logistic Battalion 2 (27 Regt RLC) and more specifically lending our vast experience to their Regt Radio Tp. That is of course when **LCpl** 'Iron Man' **Fidler** is not sleeping, running up route TRIANGLE or abusing 27 Regt Rad Ops (threatening them with his infamous haircuts!). As for **Sig** 'Capt Chaos' **Willis**, he has set an all time low recently. Due to a distinct lack of mail he is often spotted chatting up the female truck drivers from 27 Sig Regt. Please, to help this poor soldier would ANY females reading this article write to **Sig Willis**, 604 Sig Tp Det, RRFLG, BFPO 544.

SPLIT DET–THE BEGINNING, MIDDLE, BUT DEFINITELY NOT THE END
by Cpl Si Ashwood

Once we were given clearance from UN Zagreb and the Croatian MoD to set up and start working the rest was easy. All we had to do was clear a snake infested field 100m x 25m of grass 4ft high with a broken strimmer and hope the field really had been cleared of mines as the Det Comd, **Capt Spencer Mannings** assured us. Once cleared we set up our 12 x 12 for six months plain sailing. 'Don't worry about the 100°F and the dust, you'll be getting a CORIMEC shelter next week with air conditioning' the Comd, with tongue in cheek, assured us.

The dets were then deployed to some really outstanding locations. **LCpl** 'H' **Harrison** was given about 3ft^2 of grass in which to erect his antennas. Luckily he had some help from the visiting plague of locusts! This was only marginally worse than **LCpls Doug Smart** and 'Davrog' **Rogers** who were given a sewer to set up on. With the HF in and working the rebros departed on their recces. **LCpl Al Wilson** had no real difficulty with his site, but **Cpl Si Link** wasn't as fortunate. 'But the Path Profile Computer says it works' said **YofS Jim Knight**. It probably did, but **Cpl Link** was completely out of mountaineering kit for the Rover. In the end both rebros consolidated together somewhere in the South American Rain Forest (Thank God for the chainsaw). Meanwhile back at the ranch, **LCpl** 'Shaggy' **Watkins** was busy laying telephone lines and remotes to the HQ and as an added bonus we got the Unit Level Switch in our tent (so that is what a ULS looks like). **Cpl** 'Thomo' **Thompson** had a nightmare with the new type 1500W generators, so new they didn't come with a manual. **Cpl** 'Brooms' **Broomfield** set up his ERV, TV, video, kettle etc and braced himself for the bombardment of heat broken kit. Sure enough the Troop didn't let him down!

Two months on and things are calming down. **Sig Dave Ellis** twice daily was made to beat down the plague of locusts and our Det was boosted by a crew from 2 Sig Regt, but still no CORIMEC!

BATUS (BRITISH ARMY TRAINING UNIT SUFFIELD)
BFPO 14

Ops YofS — **WO2 A. C. M. Craig**
Ops NCO — **Cpl E. W. Davis**
COMSEC Offr — **Lt J. K. Walster**

BATUS where's that? Well, to say that it is in the middle of nowhere would not be an understatement. The nearest town is Medicine Hat, which is 45km away! Calgary is 250km away. The unit consists of one camp for the Temporary and Permanent Staff (TS & PS) and a separate camp for the Battlegroup (BG). The married quarters are 3km away at Ralston.

The British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) offers a unique opportunity for live fire and manoeuvre exercises conducted with a freedom and a level of realism which are not possible elsewhere in the world.

There are currently two PS and one TS Royal Signals appointments at BATUS, these are the Yeoman of Signals with his Ops NCO and the COMSEC Officer, all with very diverse jobs.

The YofS, currently **WO2 Andy Craig**, and his Ops NCO, **Cpl Eddie Davis**, are the continuity posts which ensure that the 12 TS who man the Ops room safety nets from March to December each year are trained in the unusual job of ensuring all vehicular movement, casevacs and incidents are handled correctly in order to maintain discipline and safety at all times. In addition the YofS deals with all Comms related matters at BATUS as there are no staff officer appointments within the HQ. The remainder of the TS who operate the safety nets are mixed Royal Signals and Other Arms capbadges. Safety nets use commercial radios by Motorola and this fleet is maintained by the Yeoman and Ops NCO.

The COMSEC Officer, currently **Lt** 'Jules' **Walster** from 16 Sig Regt, is here to monitor all BG nets and produce two reports, one at the end of the live fire phase and the final report at the end of the Tactical Engagement Simulation (TES) phase. In addition she is the Safety Staff observer for BG HQ during the accounting periods prior to templates turning from Green (Dry Trg) to Red (Live Fire). She also acts as a Liaison Officer of a flanking unit ie the Royal Scots both on the ground attending orders or on the secure Brigade net simulated on Motorola.

This season has seen a large change in the Medicine Man exercises with the introduction of the Tactical Engagement Simulation (TES) Phase. This has seen the reduction in the live fire phase from 19 days to 12 days followed by a 10 day TES phase. During the live fire phase the BG and all safety staff have to be accounted for 100% prior to any live fire templates being activated. From then on, all movement around the prairie is strictly controlled to ensure no vehicle 'wanders' into the firing line. This is crucial especially when the first seven days are 'Special to Arms' training involving all individual elements of a BG. The live fire phase then culminates in two 'All Arms' exercises where, during Ex Gopher East and West the BG is split and conduct two half BG exercises which lead up to Ex Supercharge, a three day exercise involving the entire BG.



BG in motion

A Medman lasts for 25 days, followed by about five days leave. Most find themselves heading for the Rockies to see something less flat, with more than three trees and no dust! And of course during the winter season there's the skiing. BATUS does in fact have its own Adventurous Training Base at Trails End, where BG, TS and PS can go to climb, walk and canoe to name just a few.

In all life at BATUS is tiring but gives an exceptional insight into how a BG works and moves and is an enjoyable posting for any Royal Signals subaltern or NCO.

1 (Training) Sqn Royal Signals
ATR Bassingbourn

Sqn Comd **Maj G. Hearn**
SSM **WO2 (SSM)A.S.S. Sherrard**

Since arriving at Bassingbourn the Squadron has gone from strength to strength and now trains 80% of all Royal Signals recruits joining the Army. The Squadron consists of some 35 permanent staff and trains 900 recruits per year. We also have Royal Signals representation in RHQ in the person of the Adjt; **Capt Tim Carmichael** and in HQ Coy the OC; **Maj Bill White MBE**. The Corps is also well represented in the Gym, QMs Dept and the MT. In addition there is also a Royal Signals Troop in D Sqn. Despite having a very small number of permanent staff the Squadron has been busy undertaking a wealth of tasks.

A team from the Squadron entered this years Lanyard Trophy competition and completed the course in 13 gruelling hours! The Regiment recently held an inter-squadron Triathlon competition and 1 Squadron won the overall team prize. Special mention should be made of the fine efforts of **Lts Ken McKenzie** and **Andy Lucas** in finishing second and fifth respectively. The Squadron as a whole actively encourages fund raising and each Troop/Recruit intake adopts a charity to support. This idea has proved very successful over the past year and has enabled us to raise well over £10,000 for various charities.

EXERCISE MERCURY CHALLENGE

The main event in this years busy calender was Ex Mercury Challenge. The event, led and organised by **Lt Lucas**, was designed to forge the links between ourselves and the new Single Centre for Royal Signals at Blandford and to raise money for the new Royal Signals Museum and a local charity, the Childrens Hospice for the Eastern Region. The hospice looks after 'Life-limited' children and is based in Milton two miles north of Cambridge. To this end it was decided to undertake a sponsored run between Bassingbourn and Blandford, a distance of some 200 miles. A team of 9 volunteers signed up for the challenge. Each runner had to complete two eight mile legs per day. Training began in earnest at the beginning of May and all 9 members of the team regularly turned out for practice runs both before and after work. The run was planned for the end of August and at 0600hrs on Wednesday 30th August **Sgt Si Donnelly** set off from Bassingbourn Barracks on the first leg. The first day thankfully ended at 8pm and we all retired to Hermitage Barracks near Newbury for a brief but much needed rest. We set off the next day again at 0600hrs and finally arrived at the New Royal Signals Museum building at 1530hrs where we were met by the Comd, **Brig J. H. Griffin, Lt Col (Retd) P. H. Soward** and several cans of well chilled beer. It was hard to decide which received the better reception, the cheque or the beers!

The only notable event during the two day run was **SSM** 'Scottie' **Sherrard** managing to get the support minibus bogged in during the driest summer on record!!

The overall sum raised was £2,690.04 with each charity receiving a cheque for £1,345.02.



Lt Lucas presents the cheque to Brig Griffin

SPORT

TENNIS

ROYAL SIGNALS TENNIS REPORT 1995

In our 75th Anniversary year the weather shone magnificently and so did our ladies. **Sgt Heather McNair** and **Sig Sarah Steel** won the Army Ladies Doubles Championships, a first in our history. Although the Corps team had a disappointing season, many quite excellent fixtures were played climaxing in a 75th Anniversary fixture versus the Royal Engineers. This fixture played at Blandford on 8 July 1995 resulted in a win for the Royal Engineers by 6½–6½ rubbers. **Sapper David Ingham**, the current Army Champion, was a major influence in the Royal Engineers victory. At the end of the fixture, **Col Keith Butler**, the Royal Signals LTA Chairman, presented a memento to each player to mark the occasion.

INTER CORPS LEAGUE

The Inter Corps League provided excellent competition for those players participating. Sadly though, trying to raise six players to play eight fixtures in what was a glorious summer was somewhat exasperating. Quite simply, there is not enough talent around which is surprising considering the increasing amount of Royal Signals personnel in the UK Southern Hemisphere. However those individuals that did turn out were rewarded with some excellent tennis against very good opposition.

The results are as follows:

Royal Signals v REME	2½–6½	L
Royal Signals v RLC B	0 –9	L
Royal Signals v RA	4 –5	L
Royal Signals v AGC A	1 –8	L
Royal Signals v AMS	7 –2	W
Royal Signals v RLC A	2½–6½	L
Royal Signals v RE	2½–6½	L
Royal Signals v AAC	4½–4½	L*

*First string winners decides the match in the event of a draw.

The Corps team finished eight out of nine, our lowest result for many a year.

CORPS CHAMPIONSHIPS

This annual event took place at Colerne during June and some 28 players took part. As in the past this tournament is always popular with those who attend. Players readily mix and socialise and there is a warm feeling of friendliness and cordiality from all ranks. Each individual plays to win yet the atmosphere is good natured and the sportsmanship quite excellent. There were no major surprises and seedings on the whole went according to plan. It was especially good to see players from 7 Sig Regt attending again. **Cpl Clark** from the Regiment is possibly the most improved player this year.

The results were:

Mens Singles	Winner	**SSgt Fisher**	225 Sig Sqn
	Runner Up	**Maj Miles**	21 Sig Regt (AS)
Open Doubles	Winners	**SSgt Fisher/Sgt Petty**	225 Sig Sqn/ 249 Sig Sqn
	Runners Up	**Col Butler/Maj Miles**	School of Signals 21 Sig Regt (AS)
Inter Unit Doubles	Winners	**Maj Miles/Sig Lobb**	21 Sig Regt (AS)
	Runners Up	**Capt Wilson/Cpl Clark**	7 Sig Regt
Ladies Singles	Winner	**Sig Steel**	243 Sig Sqn
	Runner Up	**Sgt McNair**	240 Sig Sqn
Mixed Doubles	Winners	**Sig Lobb/Sgt McNair**	
	Runners Up	**SSgt Fisher/Mrs Fairley**	
Ladies Doubles	Winners	**Sgt McNair/Sig Steel**	
	Runners Up	**Mrs Fairley/Mrs Wright**	

ARMY CHAMPIONSHIPS

This competition held on the grass courts at Aldershot provided the Corps with its one major success of the season. Although individually it was our poorest turnout in many years, the girls more than made up for a somewhat disappointing season. **Sgt Heather McNair** and **Sig Sarah Steel** played exceptionally well to reach the final of the Ladies Open Doubles Competition and were matched against the two best ladies players in the Army, **Maj Kirsty Richardson** and **Capt Lorna Wood**. At one set each the match was evenly balanced, although it must be said that **McNair** and **Steel** had squandered chances to take the second set. In the third set the nerves that showed throughout the previous two sets seemed to dissipate with each shot from our girls and **McNair**'s solid, consistent returns matched with **Steel**'s excellent forehand proved far superior than their opponents anticipated. **McNair** and **Steel** went on to win by a resounding 6–1 in the third leaving their opponents somewhat devastated. This was a superb performance which **Sgt Heather McNair** so richly deserves after many years of playing in this competition. It was her first major victory in the Army Championships. As for **Sig Sarah Steel**, this was her first Army Championships and what a way to start. She has a possible great future in Army Tennis. **Sarah** was selected for the Army Team whose victory in the Inter Services Championships adds to her excellent season. (**Heather McNair** had to forego a place due to holidays.)



Sgt Heather McNair and Sig Sarah Steel–Army Ladies Open Doubles Champions



SSgt Eddy Fisher–Corps Tennis Champion 1995

ROWING

On 20 September, four oarsmen assembled to row for the Corps at Oxford Regatta. Although rowing in the Army colours, this was to be yet another attempt for the Corps Rowing Club to achieve success in a prestigious and well attended civilian competition. Clubs from all over the country formed to compete on the day. The Corps team were no exception to this with members travelling from Northern Ireland, Germany and the south of England to row.

The crew were entered into the Senior 3 category and it was almost to be a coxless entry as our star coxswain did not show. The situation was rectified by a volunteer from a civilian club and eventually the crew were complete.

Although the crew were not victorious on this occasion, they did manage to get into the second round but were beaten by the eventual winners of that class of entry. The next event on the calendar is the Boston Marathon, an event in which the brawn of the Army may pay off!



Pictured L to R: Lt Tom Crapper, Capts John Adams and Neil Frazer
Below: Capt Geoff Pullen (Team Capt)

TUG OF WAR

CORPS TUG OF WAR–END OF 'OUTDOOR' 1995 SEASON REPORT

As ever, the Corps Tug of War teams participation at events was affected by commitments and training restrictions. However, from the onset of the early season, the stalwarts of Corps Tug of War prepared their teams in anticipation of the Inter Corps Championships.

The early season competitions commenced, as always, with the prestigious Princess Royal's Open Inter Service Championships held at Windsor Great Park in the presence of our Colonel-in-Chief. Despite this competition being near dominated by the Artillery teams, there was some excellent pulling shown by 7 Sig Regt and the emergence of a promising novice team with 237 Sig Sqn thanks to the drive and enthusiasm of **WO2 (SSM) Stevie Stevenson**.

Divisional and Area qualifiers for the Army Championships followed shortly after and both 7 Sig Regt and 237 Sig Sqn teams became stronger and thus achieved entry to the Army competition. The Army Championships has always been a competition full of upsets and this year was no exception when 7 Sig Regt and 237 Sig Sqn proved to be much more of a match than some teams had anticipated. A special note should be made of 237 Sig Sqn who beat a particularly good RAMC team dragging both winning ends back from the 'tape'. An excellent performance and recorded as one of the best 'pulls' of the day.

Unfortunately, what should have been a step forward with the next event transpired to be a large and unnecessary step backwards. What is even more disappointing is that our very own Royal Signals Morrison Cup (UK) Major and Minor Unit Tug of War was so poorly supported by both Major and Minor Units that the competition was almost cancelled. It appeared that most Units were paying 'lip service' to an ideal venue at 30 Sig Regt's (75th Anniversary) Open Day with an audience in excess of 20,000 and highlights on a massive scale such as the ever impressive White Helmets. There were only two Major Unit teams, Royal School of Signals and 30 Sig Regt. Up until the scheduled Minor Unit Competition only 237 Sig Sqn had entered. Through much hard work by **WO2 (SSM) Stevenson** a 'make shift' team was formed by 250 (Gurkha) Sig Sqn who were recruited from the Open Day Arena/Fatigue Party. This poor support for our own annual Corps event cannot continue and it is hoped that the reviewed format for 1996 will produce an almost compulsory entry by all Regular UK Major and Minor Units. This year's results were: Major Unit winners, Royal School of Signals–Runner up, 30 Sig Regt. Minor Unit winners, 237 Sig Sqn–Runner up 250 (Gurkha) Sig Sqn. Morrison Cup (UK) 1995 Champions, 237 Sig Sqn. This latter result proves that sheer hard work and dedication can mould a near novice team into a championship winning team in a short space of time. Many congratulations to 237 Sig Sqn.

This event was followed by another annual competition that should have been better supported and, yet again, through much hard work, the Corps team and Inter Corps Championships were held on 26 July. Fortunately, all the determination and hard work was rewarded with the Corps team gaining emphatic victories in all four weight categories for the first time in the Inter Corps Championships history. Regardless of the lack of opposition to the normal standards nothing should detract from the amount of effort made to maintain our Corps reputation as the best Corps team amongst the Royal Logistics Corps, Royal Army Medical Corps, Corps of Royal Engineers and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. A grateful vote of thanks to all Commanding Officers and Squadron Commanders for releasing Corps team members.

Finally, the Braemar Highland Games Inter Service Tug of War event, held in the presence of **HM The Queen** and other members of the Royal Family produced some exceptional results for the fast developing team of 7 Sig Regt. Having justified their exclusive initiation to this prestigious event, 7 Sig Regt proved that all the season's hard training was worthwhile and brought some surprising but resounding victories over the dominant Royal Artillery teams. 7 Sig Regt reached the semi-final stage only to be eliminated by 1 RHA who, I hasten to add, are the 1995 Army and Inter Service Champions.

Well done to all team members. Let us all hope that 1996 will see more teams at all levels of experience supporting Corps Tug of War to enable us to maintain our excellent reputation among the top teams throughout the services.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

President: The Master of Signals

Chairman and Treasurer: Major General A. Yeoman CB

Vice Chairmen: Brig C. T. Garton Area 1; Brig W. H. Backhouse Area 2; Brig S. G. M. Gordon Area 3; Brig T. H. Wheawell Area 4; Brig P. J. Evans Area 5; Brig G. J. Curl CBE DL Wales

General Secretary: Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon **Assistant General Secretary: Lt Col I. J. Hamilton**
Welfare Secretary: Mrs J. Nicholson **Administrative Officer: Mr. P. J. Cuckow**

Association Office, RHQ Royal Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8RH. Telephone: Military System 737 2090 or 01258 48 2090. Welfare Secretary Telephone: Military System 737 2089 or 01258 48 2089.
All contributions for *The Wire* should be addressed to the Editor and any queries referred to him on extensions 2079 or 2085.

The Association communicates with its branches and individual members through the pages of The Wire, *which contains accounts of Branch affairs as well as a forecast of Association events.*

Branch Secretaries are asked to check that their Branch members receive sufficient copies of The Wire. *Association HQ can arrange for copies to be delivered in bulk to Branch Secretaries for further distribution if this is convenient: it helps us save on postage.*

Dates of Branch events can always be published in The Wire *and should be submitted to the Editor. We also welcome letters, requests to contact old comrades and announcements of births, marriages and deaths. We hope that each Branch will contribute a short account of its activities, preferably with photographs, at least once a year.*

BRIGHTON BRANCH

It is with deep regret that we report the death of our Branch Chairman, **Alan Rudd** (see Obituaries column). **Alan**'s funeral took place on Monday 11 September at Worthing Crematorium. It was well attended by our members including our Branch President **Colin Brown** and his wife **Heather**. The Burma Star Association, the Royal British Legion and the Worthing Bowls Club were also represented. The Branch Standard and those of the Burma Star Association and the Royal British Legion were paraded. A trumpeter of our parent Corps, the Royal Engineers, sounded The Last Post. This was followed by the declamation 'They shall grow not old . . .' and finally The Reveille.

EAST KENT BRANCH

August was a busy month for the Branch. A record number attended the barbecue at the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess at the Intelligence Centre on Sunday 13 August. Alas this may be our last function at this venue, 'The railway goes through the middle of the house', literally. In the near future the Barracks is designated to close. The railway mentioned is the new link from London to the Channel Tunnel which you have no doubt read about in the National press.

On the day of the barbecue **Keith Chambers** (and others) was parading the Standard at the Burma Star Association celebration at Manston Airfield. Several members took part in the VJ celebrations in London whilst a dozen attended the VJ service in Canterbury Cathedral and watched the Beating of the Retreat afterwards.

The East Kent Branch is now four years old since its inaugural meeting on 5 July 1991 at the Slatters Hotel, Canterbury. We have gone from strength to stength and membership now totals 182. We are thinking of holding an event next July to celebrate our fifth anniversary. On this note we welcome our latest recruit **Mr Michael Liversidge** who now lives in Deal. **Michael** was a Regular who served from 1963-1976.

Sunday 10 September. Fifty-two members gathered in the Chimney Boy Inn, Faversham to hear a fascinating talk by **Trevor Allison** on his exploits to halt the illegal broadcasts by Radio Caroline (and other similar stations) in the 1980s.

Maj Peter Foakes, who many may know is a fine swimmer, competed at Tunbridge Wells on 2 September in the Kent Masters. He managed three Gold Medals in the 70 to 74 year age group, 100m Freestyle 1 min 38.03 secs only .02 secs over his record set two years ago; 50m Freestyle 40.79 secs; 50m Backstroke 52.53 secs. I suspect that those of us of his age would be glad to get to the other end of the pool in any time.

Our Honorary Treasurer who is 83, recently had a book published called 'Signal Success', an autobiography of **Tommy Thomas** who joined the Royal Corps of Signals to escape from depression-ridden Wales in the 1930s. This is the story of his 40 years of travel and adventure as a British Soldier. A copy was sent to, and gracefully acknowledged by, **HRH The Princess Royal**.

GLASGOW BRANCH

The membership of the Branch has increased by reason of the publications in the local and national press with more than a little help from the insertion in Teletext Channel 4, 'Service Pals'.

The Regiment has refurbished the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess and we now have a very pleasant and relaxing place for our monthly meetings. The new corner bar is very popular.

Fifty-four members and friends including **WO1 (RSM) G. G. A. Reith** of 32 Sig Regt (V) and **Mrs Reith** attended the VE/VJ Sunset Ceremony at Edinburgh Castle on 20 August. There were massed bands and the Lone Piper on the Battlements and a firework display at the end. **Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal** attended the ceremony. Unfortunately the British Legion would only allow their own Standards to be shown. None of the Regimental or Corps Standards of the units who took part in the Far East and Pacific war zones were in evidence. A big disappointment to those of us who had served in those units, especially 'The Forgotten Army' members.

Only seven members were able to take advantage of the kind invitation by **Lt Col I. O. Robertson** CO 32 Sig Regt (V) Glasgow to attend the Regiment's Camp in Ripon. We arrived at 0600hrs to wake up the camp four hours earlier than we were expected but we were invited to breakfast and a squad of soldiers were sent into our hut to make up our beds. We managed a kip before the day's events started. We were able to see the latest technological equipment and meet the soldiers operating the equipment who patiently explained what was happening during the exercise.

After lunch we were taken to a field to take part in clay pigeon shooting. One of our members **Bobby Dixon** won a prize after a 'shoot off' with **John McNab** another of our members.

The day finished with an informal 'do' in the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess which was generously arranged as a Free night. We were able to meet the Officers and senior ranks of the Regiment from Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Dundee. The Regiment are to be congratulated on the way they take such an interest in the Association members. It is a sample of the rapport between the Regiment and the Association and very much appreciated by Glasgow Branch members. A most enjoyable visit and our thanks to all concerned.

The St Andrew's Ball is on 25 November to test the laurels of our new social convener.

PETERBOROUGH BRANCH

DEDICATION OF THE KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL, WASHINGTON DC

by Reg Briggs, Peterborough Branch

Five members of the Association, who are also members of the British Korean Veterans Association, were part of the large British contingent who took part in the dedication of the Korean War Memorial in Washington DC.

Some 500,000 veterans–relatives–friends from across the world were in Washington for the event. The British party were led by **Maj Gen P. A. Downward CB DSO DFC**.

The temperature during the march past was in the high nineties with humidity as high, but we were very fortunate to have the excellent New Zealand Army Band to our rear and we all marched with very real pride in our Regiment and our Country. **Ron Larby** and **Frank Fellows** of the Association carried the wreath which was laid by **Gen Downward** and **Reg Briggs** placed a wreath on behalf of the Association.

A reception was held at the First Minister's House in Washington which was hosted by **Brig Richard Baly** Royal Signals, the Defence Attaché at the Embassy. I did not know that he was Royal Signals on entering the reception but after a warm handshake he pointed to his stable belt and then at my Regimental tie. He was pleased to see the Corps represented and he and his charming wife spent a lot of time with the members of the Association. We very much appreciated their hospitality.

In this year of remembrance it was a trip we were all proud to have taken and we believe the BKVA acquitted themselves extremely well.



On the Mall, Washington DC
From L to R: Ron Larby, Neasden London; Reg Briggs, Peterborough; Don Collen, Little Downham Ely; Frank Fellows, Northwich Cheshire; Dereck Stuart-Kelso, Cheltenham

PRESTON & BLACKBURN BRANCH

This year to date has been a particularly busy one for the Branch and the Corps as a whole, with all the 75th Anniversary celebrations that have taken place. The Branch Standard has been paraded no less than eight times and various members including **Mr Gornall, Mr Larder** and **Mr Lorimer** are hereby thanked for turning out in such blistering heat on so many occasions.

January saw the departure of **Mr Doug Scott** (our Treasurer for two years) off to Canada to start a new career after 23 years Military service. **Mr Brian Milne**, an old member, came back after a few years' absence and took up Treasurers duties in April. Thanks **Brian.**

Gus Hales joined the Branch in April after leaving the Corps and taking up residence in Blackburn, however after only three months with the Branch his career took him south. Our loss is another Branch's gain, we wish him and his family all the very best for the future.

Mr Maynard Hawthorne organised a quiz night in Clitheroe and three members attended. They won't make Brain of Britain but well done anyway to those concerned.

Welcome to **Mr Ian Newham** our latest 'recruit' **Ian** served with the TA for 10 years in Blackburn.

RSA BRANCH ADDRESS
Please note the following error in October's *Wire*:
Page 352.
Secretary of Peterborough Branch shown as
'R. S. Rowland
23 St Michaels Walk
Eye
Northampton LE11 0EY'
Should be 'Eye, Peterborough PE6 7XG'.

75th Anniversary celebrations at Blandford Reunion came and went and will be remembered for a very long time. A total of 11 members and six guests from the East Lancashire and Lancaster area made the long journey south. A convoy of five cars set off from different locations to arrive safely in Blandford. **Mr Arthur Hudson** and **Mr Ian Lorimer** were presented to **Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal** our Colonel in Chief in the VIP's Enclosure and after a long tiring day the Lancashire lads set off for home arriving back at around midnight. This Branch would like to put on record its thanks to RHQ Royal Signals for the magnificent preparation and planning put into organising the celebrations.

VJ Day Parade in Blackburn organised by the Lord Lieutenant's Office in Preston saw the Branch parading on Sunday 20 August 1995, (one of the hottest days on record) with other organisations of the Regular and Volunteer services, ex Serviceman's Associations and local dignitaries totalling about 1500-2000 march the one mile from Somme Barracks Blackburn to the cathedral in the town centre. The townsfolk of Blackburn and surrounding areas turned out in their hundreds and cheered as Branches passed by.

By kind permission of Comd 93 Sig Sqn (V) **Maj Ross Parsell**, the Secretary, after a lot of hard work and sleepless nights organised a 75th Anniversary 'Jimmy's Party' celebrating 75 years of Signalling. The event was well attended despite it being held on bank holiday weekend Saturday 26 August. A vote of thanks is extended to **SSgt (SQMS) Pete Harris** the Squadron NRPS who with his artistic paintbrush and some black hessian created an excellent backdrop to the normal dull looking TA Centre. **Cpl Mick Clarke**, a serving TA soldier and Branch member is also thanked for loyal support, after a sumptuous three course dinner the 55+ revellers were entertained by 'Freestyle' a singing duo and later by Alpha Leisure who provided the disco. Proceeds from the event went to Branch funds.

September saw the annual visit to the TA Signal Squadron at Penally Training Camp near Tenby in South Wales. Six members of the Branch were hosted by 37 Sig Regt (V) for four days. Thanks must be made to those involved namely–CO 37 Sig Regt (V) **Lt Col S. J. Cartwright** (TD), the QM, RSM and all Mess Members WOs' and Sergeants' Mess 37 Sig Regt (V).

Finally as we steer ourselves towards the festive season the Branch's heartfelt thanks go to **Mr Roy Whittle** (Administrative Officer RHQ R Signals) who supported the Corps beyond all recognition. Preston and Blackburn Branch will miss the cheerful attitude and devotion to duty that he has shown over the years. He will be sorely missed. We wish him good luck and happiness for the future and look forward to seeing him as a regular reunion attender at Blandford.

August saw the sad loss of **Mr Samuel Bailey** better known as 'India Bill'. 'Bill' was a regular attender at Blackburn and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Our hearts go out to his family and friends.

Last but by no means least, if any members of the Corps reading this update of Branch News, living in the Lancashire area would like to join the Branch please contact the Branch Secretary. Address published at regular intervals in *The Wire* or ring him on 01254-261583 or 01254-262444. 'We need you now'.



Outside Somme Barracks, Blackburn, prior to the VJ Day Parade. *L to R:* Joe Jepson, Gordon Larder, Ian Lorimer, Bill Lorimer, Arthur Hudson, Harry Gornall and Alan Howard

SHROPSHIRE BRANCH

NEWS FROM SHROPSHIRE

To mark the 75th Anniversary of the Corps we, the Branch, together with 95 Sig Sqn (V), decided to hold an Open Day in the TAC Sundorne Road.

Under the watchful eye of the Sqn Comd, **Maj Richard Hemmings**, the wheels were set in motion. The Squadron laid on a very interesting display and (with the help of various Units) they obtained a Climbing/Abseiling Frame, Laser Range and a Bouncy Castle. The Branch provided a small shop selling all things Royal Signals–this was in the hands of **Bob** and **Josie Aitken**. Sales were brisk and well received.

The Vintage Military Vehicle Society put on an excellent show of a very varied selection of World War Two vehicles, led by **Wg Cdr** (Retd) **John Dainty**. The Branch also put on display a 1937 500cc BSA M20 motorcycle, the property of **Emyr Edwards** (14594318) of Oswestry, an ex-Dispatch Rider. **Emyr** found the motorcycle some years ago and set about putting the bits back together and restoring in Desert Trim with the insignia of Palestine and Egypt Commands displayed front and rear.

The day also proved worthwhile as we made contact with several ex-members of the Corps–we hope that we will see them in Branch meetings in the future. The oldest ex-Corps member was **Clifford Crockett** (2322140) ex Dunkirk veteran; he joined the Corps at Kiwi Barracks, 3 Division as a Dispatch Rider in 1933.

The Branch wishes to express a very big 'Thank You' to those who helped to make the day a success. **Maj Barry Rowe, WO1 (YofS) Keig, Gill Lugg**, together with all ranks 95 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V), not forgetting **Trevor Leach**, the hard-working Caretaker of the Drill Hall.



Vintage Military Vehicle Owner Pete Maddox (*centre*)
Left: Arthur Thomas, Tamworth
Right: Ken Evans, Shropshire Branch

SOUTHPORT BRANCH

The past months have been very busy for the Branch. **John Reaney** has taken over the reins as Acting Chairman until the next AGM. Included in the events, the Branch has held a reasonably good car boot sale for funds despite the poor weather on the day.

The Branch is a member of the Southport & District Council of Ex-Service Associations and takes an active part, with RSA members holding committee appointments. During the period 1-3 September in conjunction with The Metropolitan Borough of Sefton, a series of parades and functions took place in Southport to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Ending of Hostilities of World War Two. This also coincided with the anniversaries of the invasion of Poland and the entry of the UK into the Second World War.

As Southport is twinned with the city of Gdansk, Poland, arrangements were made for the Gdansk Polish Military Band to attend these functions. Among the dignitaries attending were The Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough of Sefton, the Chairman of West Lancashire Regional Council, Deputy Lieutenant of Merseyside, the Consul of the Republic of Poland, MPs, Military Attachés from America, Canada, Denmark and the Netherlands, local Councillors, Gdansk City Councillors, Gdansk Trade delegation and other VIPs. Branch members of the organising committee were **M. Macleod, B. Moorcroft** (police liaison) and **R. Stanforth** (secretary).

At the Show held in Princes Park, the Branch exhibited its Human Fruit Machine which was based on the 'Catterick model' which gave great amusement manned by **J. Reaney, G. Krinks, B. Moorcroft** and **B. Gillingham**. In the Parade which was half a mile long with three bands, some 500 veterans marched and nine wartime vehicles, included a Dodge ¾ ton Signals Truck which was of great interest.



Southport Branch Secretary (and organising Secretary) R. Stanforth with Janusz Wach Consul of the Republic of Poland and Col Tadeusz Olszewski of the Gdansk Military Academy Band at the Parade Reception

WEST LONDON BRANCH

On a Sunday in September, coincidentally the anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War, the Branch went to morning service at the Chapel of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. On what has become an annual attendance, we marched in to the drumbeat with the In-Pensioners, joining them in their Club after the Service and in some cases finding we were older than our hosts!

Our Curry Luncheon was a great success. It was followed by a 'Sports' Afternoon, on which the Darts Competition was won by our guest **Danny Axten** and the Dominoes by **Mrs Pat Miller** (our gallant Chairman's carer).

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received in October/November.

Mr H. Dickinson, 3 Div Reunion Club	£5.00
WO2 Bevan	20.00
Mr W. H. Holden, 3 Div Reunion Club	5.00
Mr Packman, 3 Div Reunion Club	5.00
	£35.00

DEATHS

Dickinson–H. Dickinson–died 16 June 1995.
Lane–Lt Col J. B. D. Lane–served 1940-69–died 8 September 1995.
Mote–Lt Col H. T. Mote–served 1940-50–died 1995.
Rudd–Maj A. H. Rudd–served 1939-46–died 1 September 1995.
Watts–Maj K. Watts–served 1944-73–died 18 August 1995.
Munson–Sgt A. F. Munson–served 1956-75–died 5 September 1995.
Lavery–Sgt V. Lavery–served 1947-65–died 10 June 1995.
Markham–Capt J. R. Markham–died 10 June 1995.
Morton–Maj P. P. J. Morton–died 6 August 1995.
Parfitt–Capt G. E. Parfitt–died 11 June 1995.
Holden–LCpl W. H. Holden–served 1939-46–died 12 October 1995.
Singh–Mr Bhagwan Singh–died 25 September 1995.
Ellis–Lt Col (Retd) **J. H. Ellis**–served 1922-51–died 20 August 1995.

OBITUARIES

Ellis–Lt Col (Retd) **James H. Ellis**. It is with deep regret that the Chester Branch of the RSA report the death of one of the original members of the Royal Corps of Signals at the age of 91 on 20 August 1995.

Jimmy Ellis joined the Royal Engineers in 1919 as a Boy Telegraphist at the age of 15 years and he transferred to the newly created Corps of Signals in 1920. He did a year's training with the GPO in Liverpool as a boy soldier before joining the ranks in 1922 in the Corps. During his early days **Jimmy** served in Turkey in 1922 where he was promoted Lance Corporal and in 1923 was promoted Corporal and appointed Instructor with the Artillary Signals. In 1926 he went overseas to the Indian Signals training centre as an Instructor (Operator Wireless and Lines) and he was promoted Sergeant in 1927. He returned to the UK in 1932 when he was posted as an Instructor in a TA unit in Nottingham. In 1937 he returned to the Signal Training Centre in India in the rank of Warrant Officer where he taught Indian State forces wireless courses and also instructed both English and Indian Army officer students. After this tour he came back to England and assumed command of a Tech Maint Troop with 1 Armd Div who were then at Tidworth.

On the outbreak of World War 2 he was granted an Emergency Commission and he became Quartermaster of the Depot Bn of the 2 Sig Trg Centre in North Wales. During the war his service took him to France where he was evacuated from Dunkirk and in 1940 he was promoted Captain before proceeding to East Africa. In 1942 as a Major at the fall of Gondar and the final retreat of the Italians, he was transferred to Nairobi and was appointed OC HQ East Africa Comd Sig Office and OC Sys Rear HQ. Continuous 24 hour communications from this Centre were world wide and traffic handled averaged 20,000 groups daily, 80% being ciphers. **Jimmy** remained in Africa in various appointments such as Chief Signal Officer Southern Area consisting of the territories of Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Nyasaland, N Rhodesia and the islands of Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles finishing in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and returned finally to the UK in 1948. From 1949 to 1951 he served as CSO 1 AA Group in HQ London. When he retired from the Service he went to farm in Kenya.

During his service he was an active sportsman and an excellent horseman, playing polo. He won cups and medals as a lightweight boxer for the Corps and enjoyed golf to such an extent that he was a life member of numerous golf clubs in North Wales and president or captain at one time or another, of them.

Jimmy joined the Chester Branch and during his time he served the Branch with the same dedication and loyalty he had always shown, and even found the time to do a few tours as Branch Chairman.

Col Jimmy will be sadly missed by all his many many friends and the Branch's deepest sympathy is extended to his wife **Pat** on her sad loss.

Bevan–WO2 W. T. E. Bevan. It is with much sorrow that Harrogate Branch notifies the death of one of it's oldest and most respected members. **Bill Bevan** died peacefully and suddenly at home on 28 August 1995

Bill enlisted in 1933 and was taken PoW at the surrender of Hong Kong on Christmas Day 1941. He was being transferred to Japan on the *Lisbon Maru* when it was torpedoed by the USS *Grouper*. After rescue he was interned at Osaka, Japan, for the duration of the war.

The camp was liberated by the American 8th Army in August, 1945 and **Bill**, along with other Prisoners of War, refused immediate repatriation to care for those less fortunate than themselves. For his selfless conduct he was awarded a Letter of Commendation of the GOC US 8th Army.

Post war **Bill** served in Sweden, Austria and the UK completing his service at the AA College Harrogate. After his military service **Bill** continued to serve the Corps as an instructor in Technicians Wing.

He was a founder member of both the Harrogate and Hong Kong Signal Company Branches of the Association and contributed much time and energy to their success. **Bill** was also a founder member of the Corps Amateur Radio Society.

Bill served the Association with enthusiasm and distinction and richly deserved the awards of Honour Membership and 50 Year Badge.

To his widow **Thelma** and her relatives we extend our deepest sympathy.

Liversidge–Frederick James Liversidge who died on 29 July 1995, joined the Corps at the age of 17 in 1937. In 1938 he was posted to Egypt and when World War 2 started he was a Despatch Rider with the 'Reconnaisance Unit'–Long Range Desert Group and involved in several operations behind German lines. At one time he served with Field Marshal Lord Carver, when the latter was in the 8 Army Desert Group. He was wounded in Libya in 1942, and was evacuated to Durban but was soon back with his unit. He later served with the 7 Armd Div, for the D Day landings. After the war he retired from the army and worked with the Post Office. His son **Michael** followed him into the Corps serving from the 28 November 1963 to 10 May 1976, retiring as a full Corporal.

Rudd–Maj (Retd) **Alan Hugh Rudd**, Chartered Engineer, MIEE. It is with sorrow that the Brighton Branch of the RS Association report the death of the Branch Chairman, **Alan Rudd**.

In September 1939, **Alan Rudd** joined the Corps and was posted to Prestatyn. He became an officer cadet in 1940 and was commissioned into the Corps from 152 OCTU Catterick in 1940. He married his childhood friend **Betty** in 1941. He was then posted to Scotland where he was involved in Combined Operations with the Royal Navy. Following this **Alan** was posted to Ceylon and thence to India. Subsequently he joined 14 Army Air Formation Signals from 1942-45. He retired from the Army as Major in 1947. After successfully completing his degree course he went into industry where he and **Betty** travelled extensively, working in India, Lebanon, Syria, Cyprus, S Africa, Zambia and Kenya. On retirement he re-established his connection with the RSA, where he devoted an incredible amount of time and effort to the Association which culminated in his becoming chairman of the Brighton Branch this year.

He will be sadly missed.

REUNIONS

TASK FORCE BRAVO SIGNAL TROOP 1978-1981 (HOHNE GARRISON)

Ahoy! Fellow X-members of Task Force Bravo Sig Tp, January 1978 to December 1981. How about reminiscing with the old and bold and reliving those glorious days of 432/9's. Remember some of the names; **Joey Bluer, Davey Ward, Roger Smith, John Scullion, Fred Payet (Capt), Dave Longhurst (Maj), Geordie Gibson (WO2)** and many, many, more along the way.

Sgt Graham 'Pikey' **Perch** is trying to organise a Troop Reunion. Venue: The Union Jack Club (London). Date: 27 April 1996. Interested? Contact: **Sgt Perch**, 288 CTT, Fox Barracks, Liverpool Road, Chester, CH2 4BU. Tel Mil 755 2749, Civ: 01244 352749.

From: Sgt J. A. Cooper

Dear Sir

I'm trying to locate old friends from my Army days (1961/70). I served in Cyprus, Aden, Bahrain, Germany (Dortmund and Berlin) and the UK.

Some names to conjure with are:

Cyprus	–	**Mick Green, Pete Statham, Steve Pedley**
Aden/Bahrain	–	The **Hatton** Brothers
Germany	–	**Jim Reeves, Jackie Snaith, YofS Loates**
UK	–	'Paddy' **Paddison**, 'Smudge' **Smith**

Memories of Cyprus–The opening of the Harwood Club and The Beatles at RAF Ayios Nikolaos.

Yours faithfully
Sgt J. A. Cooper

42 Benson Close
Luton
Beds LU3 3QE

3 DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

At the kind invitation of **Lt Col I. Foxley**, the CO of 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt, 45 Club members travelled down to Picton Barracks, in Bulford Camp, on Friday 15 September to join with the Regiment in its Families' Weekend and Regimental Fete. The weather was not too promising but the welcome was as warm as ever. After settling into one's accommodation (beds ready made up) and a quick wash and brush up, it was back to the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess for our second coffee or tea plus sandwiches and biscuits. The PMC, **SSM Paul Sixsmith**, had a very familiar face and name so I asked him if he had a brother in the Corps. He grinned and replied 'No but my Dad was and he remembers you, he was a Sergeant with you in 4 Div in Herford'. At that point I started to feel old.

The CO and the RSM, **Steve Rook**, then arrived to bid us a formal welcome to the Regiment and give us a short briefing on the programme for the weekend which seemed to consist mainly of meals, buffets and meetings at the bar. It has become a tradition that those who come to these visits to the Regiment give up all diets and prepare to put on weight, the food is so good and plentiful that it would be a sin not to tuck in and enjoy. That evening, dispensing with the excuse of a 'Games Night', we just gathered in the Mess for a good old Social Evening which meant we had no interruptions to the talking or drinking except, of course, for the excellent buffet supper.

On Saturday morning a very fit looking party of Club members climbed onto the coach which was to take us down to the site of the old Carter Barracks where the Fete was to be held. Of Carter Barracks nothing remains but the Square which caused **Colin Spencer** to reminisce on the one and only time he attended a Drill Parade just to be able to flourish his 'Excused Drill' chit. It was a very *dreich* (Scottish word meaning it's not raining but it might as well be) day with a keen wind and low swirling clouds. The Fete was to be opened by the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwhistle CB CBE DL**, followed by a drop by the Red Devils, but though the plane flew over a few times the cloud ceiling was too low for them to jump so the Master opened the Fete by introducing the Band of the Royal Signals who performed in their usual immaculate fashion. During the Fete the Master presented the Reunion Club's 'Ernest Bayley Memorial Prize' to **Cpl M. A. Gingell** of 257 Sig Sqn who had been nominated as the soldier contributing most to the Regiment in the previous year. I shall leave it to the Regiment to give all the details of the rest of the Fete, suffice to say that the weather improved during the afternoon and the sun did shine, proof that the old adage about the sun shining on the righteous still holds good.

In the evening we were entertained in the Sergeants' Mess annexe by a band and a comedian, some of whose jokes I did not quite understand but one of the ladies explained them to me. During the evening **Harry** 'Pedler' **Palmer** (91 years young and still going strong) gave one of his famous harmonica recitals. The buffet, as usual, was superb.

Sunday morning saw us on parade, resplendent with medals, ready to march with the Regiment to Church when it was decided, to the disappointment of a few and the secret relief of many, that we should go to Church by coach. The Padre, who before coming to the Division had done a tour with the Scots Guards, held a warm up session before the Service during which he promised Heavenly retribution if we did not sing up strongly. The first Lesson was read by our Chairman, **Maj Derek Roberts** and the second by the Master after which the Padre gave one of the best sermons I have ever sat through. Most Army Padres are pretty good but I'd recommend him for Bishop any day.

The last event in our crowded visit was the Curry Lunch in the Sergeants' Mess annexe attended by the Officers, WOs and SNCOs and their families. It was touching to see the little girls behaving like little ladies and the little boys behaving, well like little boys. Our President, **Brig Bertie Brett**, on behalf of the Club thanked the CO and the Regiment for a very happy weekend. The Master made a short speech in which he reiterated his well known views on the Corps family of serving soldiers, old comrades and the younger generation coming along behind us. A fitting end to a cheerful family weekend.

A little snippet to think about. In the August issue of *The Wire* the news was given of the presentation of the Master of Signals Award to **Maj Gordon Schofield**. What you may not know is that makes the second time in five years that this prestigious award has gone to a Club Member.

The next Reunion is at the Victory Club, London on Saturday 23 March 1996. Further information can be obtained from **John Templeton** on 0181 654 8404.

4TH 'F' (BOYS) COMPANY ROYAL SIGNALS REUNION 28 SEPTEMBER 1995.

Fifty seven ex members of 'F' Company attended a reunion and buffet lunch at the Union Jack Club in London on 27 September 1995, including two who joined the original company in 1919, **Col J. F. Worth OBE**, and **Maj Jock Hunt**, real trailbreakers for Corps apprentice training and both with distinguished careers in the Corps. There were also members from the late thirties early forties period including **Capt Edgar Harrison OBE MC BEM, Bernard Burch, Lt Col Charles Weech** and **Dennis Machin**. It was most interesting to listen to their tales of Kemmel Lines Catterick when they and the Corps were very young. Some of their photographs may be of archival value especially if the Royal Signals Museum includes an apprentices 'corner' as has been suggested.

Our Chairman **Alan Ridgeon**, who initiated the search for 'F' Company colleagues, addressed the gathering and thanked them all for coming especially the three from Canada, the two from France and those who represent the early years of our Corps, to what we all agreed was a most enjoyable event.

He also thanked the members of the committee for all their hard work, and added that he regretfully had to resign for health reasons, but that **John Dadswell** had kindly agreed to fill the appointment.

Our new President **Bruce Beattie**, thanked **Alan** for his contribution to the success of the re-unions and then gave a short address before introducing the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE DL** as our principal guest of honour.

The Master later gave a most interesting talk about the present strength and order of battle of the Corps, followed by a popular question and answer session.

List of members who attended: **B. Band, P Barker, B. Beattie** (Presdt), **F. J. Betts, R. E. Blackman, A. Brown, R. G. Brown, B. Burch,. W. J. Callegari, E. A. Carne, K. Carr, D. J. Chetwynd** (Treas), **P. Clowson, H. W. G. Cooper, J. D. M. Dadswell** (Chmn), **V. L. R. Dugdale** (Sec), **A.C. Earl, J. E. D. Fairweather, H. Galloway, R. A. Graveling, P. Gunn, M. Ham, C. J. Hard, E. C. Harrison OBE MC BEM, W. H. Harrison, J. Hunt, C. Johnstone, P. W. Johns, L. S. Knight, R. G. Knight, N. Lane, D. Machin, P. N. Moore, E. D. Mullen, D. T. Neale, W. C. Offord, F. G. Pavey MBE, S. G. Pavey, T. E. Potts, V. Render, A. Ridgeon, K V Risby, C E Robbins, A N Sadd, E C Sanders, G Sheldrake, J. Sinclair, P. A. Smith, D. W. A. Smith, P. A. Smith, R. S. Todd, R. A. Warwick, J. L. S. Watkins, A. W. G. Weatherley MM, R. A. Webb, C. W. T. Weech, J. F. Worth OBE.**

Additional invited guests were **D. P. Herring, H. Naylor, J. London, A. French, and H. Craig.**

Please note that all 'F' Company ex members and their historical predecessors are welcome at these re-unions.

1ST AIRBORNE DIV SIGNALS OCA

The 1st Airborne Div Signals OCA held their 1995 Reunion 1/2/3 September. The Reunion was well attended, 108 members and wives sitting to dinner on the Saturday. At this event 'Hocker' **Spivey**'s memorable and witty toast to 'Absent Friends' was sadly missed, due to his death in June.

We were well supported by 216 Para Sig Sqn. Their presence makes our Reunion and our thanks are due to the Officers and men. The proposed parachute insertion was unfortunately cancelled, but the event was enlivened by the appearance of a Dakota in wartime livery, circling the 'Drop Zone' (memories).

The church parade on Sunday was led by 216 Para Sig Sqn, the salute being taken by **Maj Gen A. J. Dean-Drummond CB DSO MC** (Retd). At the present time, despite advancing years, it is intended to continue the Reunion–first held in 1948.

19TH SIGNAL REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

61 Members of 19 Sig Regt Association met for their third reunion luncheon at the Victory Services Club on Thursday, September 14th. **Col Colin Gilbert**, last Commanding Officer of the Regiment and President of the Association, proposed three toasts: 'The Queen', 'Our Colonel-in-Chief' and 'The Royal Corps of Signals during its 75th Anniversary Year'. Among the members present was **Brig Max Maxfield** who commanded the Regiment in 1965-67.

Mr George Brew, Chairman, in his short welcoming speech noted that membership of the association was increasing steadily and congratulated **Mr Fred Fordyce**, the Membership Secretary, for his diligent work in this respect.

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

XXXV

THE WINDS OF CHANGE

Many personality changes have taken place during the last few months and we have said our farewells to many long serving members both from the Regular and the Territorial element. The most significant change in any unit is that of the Commanding Officer and we said farewell to **Lt Col John Ewbank** and his family during early September. **Lt Col Ewbank** led the unit perhaps through one of it's most difficult periods–the long, hard and often unpredictable road of conversion to Ptarmigan. This involved a new establishment, re-equipment, a change in role and many trade conversions before being endowed with the final honour of being declared fully operational by Comd ARRC.

The CO was dined out at a special Officers' Mess Dinner held at Cateswell House on Saturday 2nd September. The Ptarmigan theme including subsets for each table was the brainchild of the QM, **Maj Barry Williams**. The Honourary Colonel, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander, CB, MBE** provided a most humourous career resume that deserved a standing ovation and was brought to a conclusion much too soon! The dinner was a black tie affair at which **Maj Chris Fidler**, late of 48 Sig Sqn (V), was also dined out. Chris provided more lighthearted relief by turning up in Mess Kit and has vowed to read dinner invitations more carefully in future.

The Regiment has extended a very warm welcome to our new Commanding Officer **Lt Col Richard Thurston** who joins the Regiment from Blandford. **Lt Col Thurston** assumed command on Fri 7th Sep 95 and we wish him a fruitful, happy and rewarding tour of duty. A special welcome is also extended to his wife **Angela** and their three children.

PERMANENT STAFF INTERCHANGE (PSI)

It seems to be a period when changes appear to be taking place almost on a daily basis and this is clearly the case amongst the Permanent Staff Instructor element. We have already said farewell to **SSgt Chris Hymas** (who thought he was going to be here forever). Chris leaves us on well deserved promotion and also leaves us with the memory that his fund raising ventures and accidents are now legendary. We have also said farewell to **SSgt Simon Hill** who leaves us on posting to 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt, to **SSgt Lance Thornton-Granville** on retirement, and finally to **Sgt Kevin Prince** on posting to UKLC. We wish them all well for the future and thank them for their valuable contribution and work during their tour. Their replacements and more include **WO1 Mick Doherty** and family fresh from 30 Sig Regt and straight into the No. 1 slot as our new NRPS MTWO. Next is our new RQMS, **WO2 Clive Sear** and his wife **Christine**. He is closely followed by a batch of high quality SPSI's in the shapes of **SSgt Tom Brand** and family, **Tom** joins 89 Sig Sqn from 7 Sig Regt. Next we have welcomed **SSgt Stan Lindon**. **Stan** joins 58 Sqn as their SPSI from 257 Sig Sqn and in hot pursuit is the new SPSI of 95 Sqn, **SSgt Bill Scoots** and his family. He is closely followed by **Sgts Chris Cheesemen** and **Barry Roberts** who join 89 and 58 Sig Sqn respectively. Finally, straight into the No. 8 slot is **Cpl John Duffy** who joins 58 Sig Sqn from 7 Sig Regt.

THE DASH TO RAISE THE CASH–PART 3

During the past few months the Regiment has continued its fundraising activities to raise cash for the Corps Museum and specific charities, on this occasion the Birmingham Children's Hospital. So far £3500 was raised by all the members of the Regiment. £1000 was donated to the Corps Museum Appeal. Then, as the remainder was to benefit Ward 1, in particular, of the Hospital, a presentation took place in the Ward itself. The cheque was presented to a delighted **Mark Norris** from Stoke on Trent. 9 year old **Mark** happily received the cheque despite still recovering from two major brain operations. All ranks in the Regiment wish him a speedy recovery.

ROUNDABOUT

The exceptional weather conditions during the Summer months were taken advantage of by most Squadrons who took time out to take personnel away on weekend adventure or other forms of leadership training or leisure pursuits. 48 and 89 Sqn joined forces and headed South East to Weymouth to the Royal Engineers Training Camp at Wyke Regis for some intensive adventure and leadership training during the weekend 18/20 August. Pursuits included Rock Climbing, Sea Canoeing, Windsurfing and some hair raising exploits on the Rigid Raiders kindly provided by a Combat Pioneer Platoon. Other arduous training included cycling organised by **Capt Ian Barnes**, a sea fishing competition organised by **Sgt Kevin Prince** who also arranged the Joint Combat barbecue and sunbathing contest. It has to be said that 48 Sqn's huge catch of 25 mackerel rather embarrassed 89 Sqn who only caught the sun!

CONGRATULATIONS

Special congratulations are extended to **Sgt Brad Hogg** and **LCpl Sally Lucas** both of 89 Sig Sqn on their recent marriage. Many congratulations are also extended to **Sig Stewart Harrison** of 95 Sig Sqn (V) on being selected as Top Student on his recent Recruit Course–he has now enlisted into the Regular Army. Congratulations also to **Lt Ashley Dillon** on his recent promotion and managing to get his packet to RAF Cosford via Newport! Finally to **Capt Dave Brough** and his wife **Anne** on becoming grandparents!



Proving the equipment at RAF Cosford



I thought I was going sunbathing at Weymouth!
LCpl Steve Rothwell getting stuck in at the Battleskills weekend



The Regiment says farewell to Lt Col John Ewbank



The new CO together with OC 89 Sig Sqn at RAF Cosford



After the presentation; Lt Col John Ewbank, Mark Norris and Sgt Sears



Why Hike! Go by Bike! Members of 48 Sig Sqn enjoying themselves at Weymouth



Don't make waves – members of 89 Sig Sqn trying not to look apprehensive in their Rigid Raider



The prize is the Bounty – members of HQ Sqn at Kingsbury Ranges

LETTERS

From: Lt Col (Retd) T. N. Skelly
Dear Sir

In the October *Wire* in the leading paragraph of 249 Sqn's article it states that the Bulford 'Kiwi' was dug by the New Zealanders, at Bulford after the *Second World War*.

I have in my possession a snap of my father, then Garrison Adjutant, on a medals presentation parade in 1919 with the 'Kiwi' in the background. For 'Second' substitute 'First'.

My parents were allocated a sub-standard quarter–a wooden barrack hut at Bulford–and my mother, a young Captain's wife with no experience of Army life, was greatly helped in furnishing the hut by the wife of a **Col Bradley**. The mother of **Peter Bradley**, one of our Masters.

Yours faithfully
Lt Col (Retd) T. N. Skelly

A grimace for WNW 249 Sqn–Ed.

From: Mr J. K. Paterson
Dear Sir

I was much intrigued with your report on page 320 of *The Wire*, October issue, regarding the matter of marching. As a very junior officer in Royal Signals at the STC Mhow, I thought I knew better than the Army and determined to show that marching non-stop was more effective than having regular breaks. At the time I was running the Junior NCO's course. So I took 50 boys for a walk. This was in 1943.

We covered 31 miles, in the hot weather, before being met by a truck with a most acceptable supper. The lads were having their supper, when I rashly offered the next day off to any who came back to Mhow with me after supper. This was sheer bravado! Expecting nothing but groans, I was astonished to have 17 volunteers! This meant that I had to do it too! After no more than 30 minutes' break, we set off, covering another 17 miles before doing a ceremonial march past the CO, something after midnight.

My feet were fine, but I had a mighty sore crotch from the sweating and chafing. I gave the boys one minute's PT in the morning and was summoned to the CO's office. **Col George Gudgeon** was great–he sent a special commendation with a copy of the reports of those who had done the second leg of the march to New Delhi, in case any of the 17 were posted!

Five weeks later I returned to an active unit once more–my first greeting being one of the 17 with, 'Christ, it's you, sir!'. I shall never forget **Cpl Ben Lyon**. After Kohima I was fortunate enough to be posted to No 1 Commando, where I really fell on my feet.

Yours faithfully
John K. Paterson

Les Fitayes
13640 La Roque D'Antheron, France

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Produced by the Publishers, Regimental Headquarters Royal Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8RH. (Telephone: Military System 737 2079 or STD 01258 48 2079)
Printed in Great Britain by Holbrooks Printers Ltd, Norway Road, Hilsea, Portsmouth, Hants PO3 5HX.
For advertising rates apply to: Combined Service Publications Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR (Telephone 01252 515891)

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